

## MALVERN WELLS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Malvern Wells Parish Council duly convened and held in The Village Hall, Wells Road, Malvern Wells on **Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January, 2015** commencing at 7.30pm

**Present:** Councillors Mrs H Burrage (Chairman) M Victory  
Mrs C O'Donnell B Knibb  
N Johnson K Hurst  
P Buchanan K Wagstaff

**Apologies for absence:** Parish Councillors S Freeman, S Atwell, A Hull, J Black, Mrs A Bradshaw and County Councillor Mrs Lucy Hodgson

**In attendance:** David Taverner (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer)

### **113/15 Declarations of Interest**

**a) Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests:** No such changes were notified.

**b) To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** The Clerk declared a pecuniary interest in *agenda item 7- payment of accounts-* regarding his claim for the reimbursement of administration expenses.

Cllr Mrs H Burrage declared a pecuniary interest in *agenda item 7 payments of accounts* regarding her claim for reimbursement of expenses relating to the carol concert.

**c) To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature:** There were none

### **114/15 To Consider Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011):** There were none

### **115/15 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2014.**

Members unanimously approved the minutes of the meeting which had been held on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and they were then signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

### **116/15 Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.**

The following changes were made to the meeting attendance register- Cllr N Johnson was added to the list of attendees and the

apologies for non- attendance by Cllr Mrs C O'Donnell were formally noted.

***Ref minute 111/14 10<sup>th</sup> December St Peters Closed Churchyard*** – it was noted that Cllr N Johnson had voted in favour of the proposal to pass on maintenance responsibility to the District Council and that Cllr K Hurst had abstained from the vote on that particular proposal.

The amended minutes were then unanimously approved by the Council and were then signed by the Chairman as a correct record of that meeting.

**117/15**      **Matters arising from the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings held on 26<sup>th</sup> November and 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014**

***Ref minute 111/14 10<sup>th</sup> December St Peters Closed Churchyard*** in response to a question from Cllr Buchanan the clerk advised that, following the Parish Council's formal request to Malvern Hills District Council to takeover maintenance responsibility for the Churchyard, an e - mail acknowledgement acceding to the request had been received . The Head of Legal services at MHDC had been asked to re-confirm that acknowledgement by letter in hard copy.

**118/15**      **Reports from Council Committees and Working groups**

**(a)** Report of the **Planning Committee** meetings held on **10<sup>th</sup> December, 2014** and **14<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**. Cllr Buchanan presented the reports of the two meetings which were **noted and accepted** by the Council.

**(b)** Report of the **Environment Committee** meeting held on **8<sup>th</sup> January, 2015**. The Clerk presented the report of the meeting Which was **noted and accepted** by the Council.

**(c)** Report of the **Finance & General Purposes Committee** held on **22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2015**. Cllr Johnson presented the report and the recommendations contained therein which were **noted and approved** by the Council.

## 119/15 Financial matters

### (a) Approval of the payment of accounts

The following accounts were approved for payment:-

Chq	Payee	For:	£ NET	£ VAT	£ GROSS
3191	A.L.B. Services	Fruitlands tree lights	760.00	152.00	912.00
3192	British Gas	Gas Supply to lanterns December Qtr.	1,283.88	256.78	1,540.66
3193	County Building supplies	Cemetery Materials	89.74	17.96	107.70
3194	Gabbs Solicitors	Land Registry Fees re Fruitlands Bridleway	71.00	-	71.00
3195	HMRC	PAYE & Nat insurance December Qtr.	976.40	-	976.40
3196	Malvern Wells Village Hall	Room Hire	74.00	-	74.00
3197	N Power	Cemetery Electricity	31.50	1.58	33.08
3198	Severn Trent Water	Cemetery Water	70.30		70.30
3199	SUMO Services Ltd	Cemetery Ground Scan	515.00	103.00	618.00
3200	Helen Burrage	Christmas Carol Evening Expenses	88.31	6.88	95.19
3201	David Taverner	Administration Expenses November,2014 to January,2015	605.34	37.45	642.79
3202	Mark Kershaw	Community Fund award	15.00	-	15.00
s/o	David Taverner	January Salary	1,396.77	-	1,396.77
3203	Steve Maund	Outdoor work Dec/January	1,239.92	-	1,239.92
3204	Martin Thomas	Cemetery work Nov/ Dec	384.32	-	384.32
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>7,601.48</b>	<b>575.65</b>	<b>8,177.13</b>

### (b) 2015/16 Parish Precept

The Clerk referred to the medium term financial plan report which had been presented to the Finance & General Purposes Committee at its meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

Members had previously considered the draft estimates for 2015/16 and had previously **resolved** to limit any increase in the level of the 2015/16 Parish Precept to be no more than the prevailing rate of the Consumer Prices inflation (CPI) rate appertaining on 1<sup>st</sup> January,2015. The CPI rate had subsequently fallen to 0.5% at that date.

Following minor changes to the calculation of the Council tax base by MHDC, a 0.5% increase would result in the 2015/16 precept levied at a sum of £77,560

Following discussion it was **unanimously resolved** that the 2015/16 Parish Precept should be set at £77,560.

### **(c) 2015/18 Grass Cutting contract**

At their meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Members of the Finance and General Purposes committee had considered three tenders for Council's 2015/18 grass cutting contract. The Committee had agreed to recommend that the Council should accept the tender of Steven Maund at a fixed price of £3,000 for each year of the contract.

The Council **unanimously resolved** to support the recommendation.

### **120/15 Cemetery matters**

#### **(a) Cemetery fees and Charges 2015/16**

At their meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Members of the Finance and General Purposes committee had considered the level of Cemetery fees and charges for 2015/16. In recent years steps had been taken to bring income received from those charges to more closely align with the annual expenditure incurred.

The Committee had agreed to recommend to Council that the individual 2015/16 charges should be increased by 5%, rounded up to the nearest £5. The Committee had also requested that the Cemetery working group should re-consider the criteria for cemetery charges made in respect of non-parishioners.

Council **unanimously resolved** to support the recommendations made.

#### **(b) St Peters Churchyard**

The Clerk reported that, on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 he had sent the Parish Council's formal request to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) to ask them to assume future maintenance responsibility for the Churchyard. An e-mail acknowledgement acceding to the request from their Head of Legal Services had subsequently been received. MHDC officers would be asked to underline the District Council's formal acceptance of the transfer.

### **121/15 Chairman's Communications**

#### **(a) Complaint re-appearance of the Lower Wyche Road and the surrounding area**

Following the complaint regarding the general appearance of the area of land running from Gordon Terrace, down the Old Wyche Road, to its junction with Lower Wyche Road, Malvern Hills Conservators had undertaken remedial works to cut back the previously overgrown grass verges. The County Council had been asked to carry out an inspection with a view to repairs being undertaken to the damaged roadside railings.

### **(b) Complaint regarding weed growth on Grundy's Lane**

The District Council had undertaken spraying during early October and Steve Maund had previously carried out leaf clearance and weed spraying aimed at preventing the pavements becoming slippery in wet weather. Further work would be carried out, with a view to making further improvements to the pavement surfaces.

Cllr Wagstaff again drew attention to the very poor state of the pavements between Daniels garage and the Wells Primary school. County Councillor Hodgson would be approached to ask whether funding for remedial works could be made available from her Divisional Fund budget.

Members also voiced concerns about the number of vehicles which were being partly parked on the pavements along the Wells Road causing obstructions for pedestrians. This matter would be raised with the local policing team for their attention.

### **(c) Summer Fete 2014**

The Chairman reported that a letter had been received from Mrs Sylvia Miles concerning the refreshments which had kindly been provided at the fete by Mrs Miles and the members of the Ledbury Inner Wheel club. Due to an oversight there had been no mention of the group's contribution in the report, concerning the summer fete, which had appeared in the December edition of the Wells News. The Chairman advised that she had subsequently sent a letter of thanks to Mrs Miles, expressing the Parish Council's gratitude for the refreshment facilities which had been provided and very much enjoyed on the day.

### **122/15 Gas lanterns maintenance report and new lanterns feasibility project**

At the Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November it had been resolved that:-

- (a) Approval be given to expenditure, not exceeding £1,200, on maintenance works to the two electric lamps in Watery Lane and to upgrade one to bring it to the same specification as the other.
- (b) Approval be given to undertake a feasibility study for the installation of 11 additional gas lamps to be sited in Wells Road. The initial costs of the feasibility study to be limited to £500 within a timescale of approximately six months from its commissioning date.

An initial meeting had been held with the District Council's Conservation officer to discuss the potential relocation of existing "redundant lamps". Further work on this issue would be undertaken by the gas lamps working group during the feasibility study.

Cllr Wagstaff voiced his strong concerns regarding the potential costs to the Council, not only in respect of the purchase costs of new lamps and their connection to the gas supply, but also with regard to the ongoing maintenance and gas consumption costs, which would both have a considerable impact on the Council's revenue budget in future years. Cllr Wagstaff asked that these costs

should be accurately quantified and fed into budget plans before any commitment to the development of new lamp installations was made.

### **123/15 Report of the Clerk on actions undertaken since the previous meeting**

#### **(a) Wells News**

The Clerk advised that deliveries of the winter edition had now been completed. Carolyn Ashworth, an administrator at the Wyche Primary School, had volunteered to take on the role of editor of future editions.

#### **(b) New play equipment – Assarts Road play area**

Further quotations for new play area equipment had now been received and a meeting of the Play and Open Spaces group was due to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> February with a view to selecting the precise detail of the new pieces of equipment to be purchased.

The aim was for work on the installation of any new equipment in the late Spring of 2015. Funding for the new equipment was due to be forthcoming from the release of Section 106 planning contributions currently held on behalf of the Parish by the District Council.

#### **(c) Christmas illumination schemes – Fruitlands Green and Jubilee Fountain Garden**

The Fruitlands green tree had been illuminated during the Christmas period and had been much admired and enjoyed by residents.

Lighting connection arrangements for the Jubilee Fountain Garden were now being established with a view to an illumination scheme for Christmas 2015.

Investigatory work would also be undertaken to see if it was possible to re-establish a running water resource from the Jubilee Fountain spring for help with the maintenance with the Jubilee Fountain Garden.

#### **(d) Peachfield Road Common play area project**

A further meeting with play equipment suppliers had been held at Peachfield road and a new scheme design was now being worked on by them to draw up an indicative scheme which could be established near to the central car park and football pitch area on the common. When this had been completed a new project presentation would then be submitted to the Malvern Hills Conservators Board for their consideration.

#### **(e) Community access defibrillator pad scheme (CADP)**

The Clerk advised that the defibrillator cabinet had now been ordered and was due to be installed at the Wells Primary school before the end of February.

The application to the British Heart Foundation for a grant funded defibrillators, under the CADP scheme, was being pursued. Councillors re-emphasised that they wanted to see two defibrillators obtained to be installed at the Wells Primary School and the Wyche Institute.

West Midlands Ambulance service had advised that they would be coordinating further training in the use of the equipment.

### **(f) Volunteer Litter picking in the Parish**

Councillor Knibb drew attention to the voluntary litter picking efforts which were being undertaken by a local resident, Mr Mark Kershaw, who for some time had been removing street litter in the Fruitlands and Peachfield Road areas

By way of recording the Council's appreciation for his efforts in this regard **it was agreed** that a letter of thanks should be sent to Mr Kershaw, on behalf of the Parish, together with a donation of £15 from the Council's community grants budget assist to him to help with the costs of new litter picking equipment.

### **124/15 Community events**

#### **(a) Carol service 12th December**

This event had again been very well attended and enjoyed.

The Wells Singers had lead the Carol singing and there had been seasonal stories and readings recalling Christmas during the time of World War 1. Canon Eric Knowles had lead prayers and given the address. There had been a very generously supported retiring collection in aid of "Positive Thoughts"- a Malvern Mental Health Support Group.

#### **(b) Summer Fete – Sunday 6h September.**

An inaugural meeting of the Events working group had been held to discuss the organisational requirements for the fete. The idea would be to build on the success of last year's event. Additional volunteer help was needed for pre-event organising and with help on the various stalls and events on the day. The working group would meet on a regular basis to keep event planning on track.

### **125/15 Assets of Community Value**

The right gives eligible groups the opportunity to identify and nominate assets that are of value to the local community and gives them a fair chance to make a bid to buy them on the open market if the owner decides to sell.

A community can use this right to buy a local asset like a village shop, community centre, library, children's centre or pub. The right covers private as well as public assets.

It was agreed that the Clerk should circulate further details for Members to consider those assets which are deemed to be valuable to the local community.

If the request was granted then this would effectively give the Parish Council or a community group a six month time frame on being notified of the sale of a particular asset to formulate a bid to purchase it.

### **126/15 Report of County Councillor**

#### **Report to Wells Parish Council from the County Councillor Lucy Hodgson for the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015.**

#### **County Council Budget**

The county will be agreeing the budget for 2015-16 in the next couple of weeks. The main highlight will be an increased in Council Tax of 1.94%. This will give the council around £4 million pounds which will be used to cover an overspend of £4 million for looked after children. Over the past year the number of children in

care has increased dramatically. Throughout the council saving will need to be made of around £25 million in year whilst the Council will still be spending a £1 million per day. As part of the budget package a number of important infrastructure projects will receive funding including the 3<sup>rd</sup> stage of the widening of the southern link road and as well a project looking at widening the A38 in Bromsgrove. There is also the pot hole funding from National government alongside a bid which will need to match funded for repairs to roads of over £6 million. Plans are also looked at to fund local members with some more money for pavement repairs across the county. All councillors will have new divisional funds which start in April.

### **Worcestershire County Council in line for three top national local government awards**

These awards recognise the Council's work on transforming the way it delivers services during a time of financial challenges posed by reducing funding levels. The council has beaten off competition from around the country to make the final shortlist in the Efficiency, Community Involvement and Transformation categories.

The Community Involvement submission focuses on the work of transforming the county Library Service with the council working with community groups and partners. Successful examples include the collaboration with Pershore Town Council, along with joint-working with Job Centre Plus and Malvern Hills District Council that has seen Malvern's Library; become even more of a community hub integrating more services under one roof.

The BOLD (Better Outcomes, Lean Delivery) programme and subsequent Future Fit plan, to meet the financial challenges posed by reduced levels of funding have been recognised through the Efficiency award nomination in their ambition and track record of delivery.

The Transformation shortlisting recognises the council's drive to promote flexible and mobile ways of working for staff, thereby reducing building costs.

The LGC stated it had received some 663 entries from over 200 organisations. Winners of the awards will be announced in March.

### **Changes to Mobile Library Service and Library Service at Home confirmed**

Following extensive consultation, and a review of the responses received from customers, Worcestershire County Council has confirmed changes to Mobile Library Services and Library at Home services.

From February 1 2015 the mobile library service will be delivered by one vehicle which will service 175 villages and Library Service at Home (LSAH) customers, with visits every 4 to 5 weeks.

Also From February 1 2015 the libraries service will operate one new mobile library vehicle fitted with Wi-Fi and meeting room space, instead of the three currently operating. This vehicle will service 20 routes with 267 stops taking in a total of 175 villages across the county. The length of time between visits will be increased to every 4 – 5 weeks.

Library Service at Home (LSAH) customers will now have access to library services through a combination of mobile library and volunteer delivery and the Calibre talking book service, by having help to visit a library or help to access on-line books and services. The Libraries Service will ensure that all Library Service at Home customers who want to receive this service can continue to do so.

In addition twenty four new locations identified by customers for community collections will be followed up, some of these will be within 3 miles of a fixed library point. As will the forty volunteers offering help via the consultation. Customers can also reserve items online and collect them when the mobile visits their area, at a cost of 75p per item.

The new proposals for the Mobile and Libraries at Home service have now been announced. All those affected by the changes in the service have been contacted by post and the new routes have been published on the county web site. Those affected are mainly users who live within 3 miles of a static library. Where it is possible alternatives will be offered to users. The new route starts on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

### **Other Highway Issues**

#### **Motorists reminded that new Lowesmoor junction traffic controls**

Motorists are being reminded that new controls limiting vehicle access at the Trinity Gate junction where Lowesmoor, City Walls Road, Sansome Street and St Nicholas Street meet will be employed to further enforce the long-standing and clearly signed Traffic Regulation Orders at the junction from Sunday (January 11).

The current orders limit access to emergency services, cyclists and buses throughout the day westbound (from Lowesmoor to St Nicholas Street) into the city and between 3.30pm and 6.30pm eastbound (from Sansome Street to Lowesmoor).

Although these orders have been clearly signed for more than a decade, some motorists have been ignoring the orders which has caused progressive rises in pollution levels in Lowesmoor from vehicle emissions. As a residential area, Worcestershire County Council (as is the case with all local authorities) is legally bound to act to manage air quality through the development and delivery of an Air Quality Action Plan. Monitoring surveys have shown that nitrogen dioxide levels in the area are well above legally defined limits and continue to deteriorate.

The new system, which uses the existing traffic signals, will only allow access for vehicles fitted with transponders. These communicate with the signal controls to trigger a green light as required. Specialist cycle detectors will also work in the same way when the technology goes live from Sunday.

General traffic, including taxis and motorcycles, will be prohibited access during the Traffic Regulation Order operating hours.

To alert motorists to the new enforcement measures, signs have been in place throughout the area since mid-December.

Nearly 10,000 more homes and businesses to benefit from broadband

Parts of Astwood Bank, Bishampton, Hanbury, Inkberrow, Romsley, Upton-upon-Severn and Wychbold are among the next areas to benefit;

Around 9,800 more homes and businesses are to benefit from the multi-million pound Superfast Worcestershire broadband roll-out of fibre optic broadband, partners Worcestershire County Council and BT announced today.

From this month, superfast fibre-based broadband will start to become available for the first time in communities served by telephone exchanges in Astwood Bank, Bishampton, Hanbury, Inkberrow, Romsley, Upton-upon-Severn and Wychbold.

In addition, high-speed fibre broadband will also 'go live' in some areas of Bromsgrove and Droitwich not already enabled by any commercial roll-out.

The first homes and businesses will be able to start connecting to faster fibre broadband during the month, and engineers from Openreach – BT's local

network business - are expected to complete the upgrades in these areas by the end of June 2015.

Anyone wanting to follow the progress of the Superfast Worcestershire roll-out should log onto: [www.superfastworcestershire.com](http://www.superfastworcestershire.com) or look out for updates on Facebook.

It's an 'opt in' service, but because the network is being installed by Openreach it is 'open', so residents and businesses wanting to upgrade have a choice of who they take their fibre broadband from, with more than 140 fibre broadband providers now operating in the UK

Once an area has been upgraded, local people will have access to superfast broadband with download speeds of up to 80 megabits per second (Mbps) and uploads of up to 20Mbps\*.

During the Superfast Worcestershire roll-out, more than 720 kilometres of fibre optic cable and around 350 new street-side cabinets will be installed to connect people to the new network across the partnership area.

### **County Council's Phase One of Tenbury Town Centre improvement scheme set to start January 12**

The first phase of a much-anticipated County Council scheme to enhance Tenbury Town Centre will start next week.

Following public consultation last year plans, drawn up with input from the Tenbury Area Partnership and Town Council, are to become a reality in Market Street with the first works beginning at the Cross Street end on this Monday January 12.

The project, set for completion by Easter, is being carried out by contractor, Ringway Infrastructure Services, and has been planned to kick off following the festive period to help traders.

Footpaths will be re-laid first using sandstone and blue block paving materials, as agreed during the consultation, ahead of carriageway resurfacing and installation of new features to enhance the attractiveness of the area which include new bins and planters.

Works will progress over the coming weeks and the scheme will continue on the north-east side of Market Street towards the Crow Corner junction before swapping sides, heading back towards Cross Street.

Temporary traffic signals will be in operation at the junction of Cross Street/Market Street and Church Street for a short period of time to allow for safe working and some night-time road closures (6pm until 6am) will be required in late February. When necessary, everything will be done to keep any inconvenience to a minimum with motorists being kept up-to-date through both static and mobile message signs on routes into the town.

A 7.5 tonnes vehicle weight restriction (with the exemption of emergency vehicles and buses) will be in place but will be lifted between 7.30am and 9am and again later in the day from 3.30pm to 5pm to allow for deliveries.

Keeping residents and businesses informed throughout the improvement scheme is a key priority. To help a liaison officer will be making regular site visits to answer questions or queries whilst work is taking place and contractor, Ringway, will have a permanent presence through a rented shop in Market Street offering anyone the opportunity to find out more and view plans.

The dedicated website [www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tenbury](http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/tenbury) will also be regularly updated with the latest information.

**Finally** I understand that I have opened up a debate based on the County Council's re launch of its Love Food Hate Waste Programme. A question has

been asked as to why food waste collection is not carried out by any district council in Worcestershire. Even though county is responsible for waste disposal it is the district council that is responsible for waste collection. Wychavon did collect food waste until May of 2014 but take up was very low and the costs for the council became prohibitive. On the Love Food Hate Waste Web site there is a section on Community Composting. If the parish is interested in looking into this then an officer will come and talk to the council to see what can be done.

**127/15 Report of District Councillor**  
**Notes for Wells Parish Council meeting**  
**Report for Malvern Wells Parish Council 28<sup>th</sup> January 2015**  
**From Cllr Chris O'Donnell District Councillor for Wells Ward & Parish Cllr**  
**for Wells Ward**

Counties Showground events

Attended meeting held in December they would like to be invited to the AGM (they only hold one meeting a year) – they have been sorting out ditches around the showground and these have now been sorted out for this next year. They are monitoring the noise level and now have equipment around the showground to make sure the noise is kept to a good level. The Showground is the perfect venue for a range of corporate events for indoor and outdoor shows with camping and caravan facilities.

The 'National Young Show Stars Challenge' – which is being held in partnership with the Three Counties Agricultural Society at the Malvern Showground on 2 April 2015

Next major event - RHS Malvern Spring Festival 7th – 10th May

Appointment of Jack Hegarty

Is going well and he is settling into his new role as Chief Executive.

**Jack Hegarty, Chief Executive at MHDC said** "I wholeheartedly understand both councils desire to find new shared efficient ways of working whilst preserving the unique identities of both councils and district areas. This will be critical to the success of this arrangement."

0% Council Tax rise is good news for residents

MHDC today announce their draft budget that will go before Council in February. A number of proposals are set to benefit their residents following the announcements.

The biggest, having the most impact on residents is a 0% rise in Council Tax, for the second time in four years, which will help the pockets of all taxpayers in the district.

The main way MHDC has achieved this is through further efficiencies and raising income; namely their cost effective leisure contract, the joint Chief Executive role and private sector partnerships e.g. the arrangement with Civica for revenues and benefits.

Get into the groove with Dance Fitness

Malvern Hills District Council is challenging 14-25 year olds to become fitter and healthier by signing up to a new Dance Fitness course.

Through Sport England's Sportivate scheme, and working with the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire and Dancefest, Malvern Hills will

deliver a six week Dance Fitness course.

Dance Fitness is a course looking to provide aspects of modern dance that will help improve fitness. The course will cost just £10 for all six sessions and will be starting on Monday 23 February 2015. The sessions will take place at Sport Dyson Perrins from 3.30pm-4.30pm. All abilities are welcome and no dance experience is needed.

#### Father Christmas letters help Acorns

As previously mentioned this was part of the December 'Christmas in Malvern' events for 2014, children were able to post their letters to Father Christmas when they purchased a special £1 stamp. As well as posting their letter they also received a personal reply with a small gift from Father Christmas direct from the North Pole.

In total **£184** was raised for Acorns Children's Hospice.

Planning applications brought before SADMIC for Malvern Wells & Little Malvern  
Woodend Farm outline planning application was passed as both Malvern Wells and Welland councils had no objections and there were no objections from neighbours.

### **128/15 Report of the elected conservator - Cllr S Freeman**

#### **Report to Malvern Wells Parish Council from Cllr. Simon Freeman 28 January 2015 Malvern Hills Conservators**

1. Since my last report I have attended the following meetings:

Board of Conservators on 11 December 2014  
Chairman's Workshop on 16 December 2014  
Land Management Committee on 8 January 2015

2. **The Board of Conservators** considered, amongst others, the following matters:
  - (a) Election of officers - Chairman Helen Stace re-elected unopposed; Roger Cousins elected Vice Chairman.
  - (b) A presentation of the Conservators' Facebook and Twitter presence.
  - (c) Membership of Committees and outside bodies for the forthcoming year - I will continue to be a member of the Land Management and Governance Committees and now also a member of the Recreation Advisory Panel.
  - (d) Reports from the Committees (Land Management, Finance & General Purposes & Governance).
  - (e) Appointment of Cllr. Chris O'Donnell as MHDC's representative on the Board.
  - (f) Approval of budget.
  - (g) Springs on Malvern Hills - different readings from measuring equipment used by Worcestershire CC and Herefordshire Council resulting in water from some springs being recorded as being unfit for human consumption and not others.

3. **Chairman's Workshop** was convened to discuss the recommendations of the Land Management Committee on future management of Castlemorton Common including steps to encourage/increase grazing. A detailed report was to be prepared on the financial implications of the Board becoming giving incentives to commoners and local farmers to increase the number of grazing animals and steps to secure the safety of animals by the installation of cattle grids and electric fencing or electronic enclosure.
4. **Land Management Committee** considered, amongst others, the following matters:
  - (a) Election of officers – Chris Rous and Roger Cousins elected Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively.
  - (b) Presentation of fixed point photographs showing the improvement/deterioration in the environment of the Malvern Hills over a period of years.
  - (c) Presentation on alternative provision for visitor access to the Malvern Hills specifically to permit motorised wheeled access for persons with limited mobility. Committee accepted that existing arrangements provided by Conservators' staff fulfilled the current level of requests from the public.
  - (d) Introduction of effective monitoring of graziers usage of land and adjustment of payments as required.
5. **Cable car proposals** which have received coverage and comment in the local press have not yet been formally discussed at either Board or Committee level. Apart from environmental considerations, there are perceived fundamental legal obstacles to such a scheme. The issue is to be discussed at a Chairman's workshop on 28 January 2015.

#### **129/15 Reports from representative on other bodies**

- (a) **Malvern Hills CALC** – Cllr Knibb-there was nothing to report
- (b) **Malvern Wells Village Hall Management Committee** –it was noted that Ian Burrage had been appointed as Vice Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee.
- (c) **Malvern Hills CAB** - Cllr Johnson - there was nothing to report
- (d) **The Wyche Institute** – Cllr Mrs Bradshaw - there was nothing to report.

**130/15 Confidential item (publication restricted)**

**Under the Local Government Act 1960 it was unanimously resolved that the public and press be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the item due to be considered. The reason being the consideration of land purchase.**

An opportunity had arisen for the Council to consider the purchase of a plot of land which was for sale at Holywell Park, Wells Road.

The guide price for the full plot had been set at £150K.

The vendor's agents had been advised that it was highly unlikely that permission would be given for residential development of the site.

The site could, however, potentially be used for things such as recreational open space, memorial garden, car parking, allotment provision etc. by the Parish council.

It was **resolved** that the Council should attempt to list the site as an Asset of Community value. The Clerk was asked to liaise with the District Council in this regard.

If this was not possible consideration should be given to the Council placing a bid for at least part of the plot surrounding the site of the War Memorial.

There being no other business the meeting the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

Minutes approved - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, 2015

Approved.....

**Cllr Mrs Helen Burrage- Chairman of the Council**