**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at Earls Croome Village Hall on Tuesday 21st November, 2017**

**Apologies** An apology was received from Jonathan Prior.

Following the resignation of Philip the chairman and in the absence of Jonathan the vice-chairman, the members elected a chairman for this meeting. Margaret proposed that Penny be elected as the chairman, Robin seconded this and all were in favour.

**Those Present** Penny, Margaret, Robin, Mark, Paul Middlebrough, Jeremy Owenson, Malcolm our lengthsman, and members of the public Sue Millward, Paul Ferns, Andy Dallibar, Janet Ball and the clerk.

The chairman asked the members of the public if they wished to speak and Sue said they had come to talk about the varying speed limits along the A38 and in particular the stretch of the road that passes Newlands Lea and the dangers they experience on a day to day basis. A lengthy discussion then took place in which it was highlighted that the lay-by in front of the garden centre was used by these residents as an escape lane although the owner of the garden centre had said it belong to him. Andy Dallibar said that he had been in touch with the highways department and that black cables were being installed across the road in the new year. Paul responded and said that he shared their concern about the varying speed limits together with other parish councils along the A38, namely Severn Stoke and Ripple and he suggested that representatives from each area should get together with appropriate reps from the C C to discuss this situation. He will look into this and get back to the clerk.

**Co-option on to the Parish Council** Following the advertisement of a vacancy and notification to MHDC no request has been received for an election. We can therefore go ahead and advertise that we will be co-opting to fill the vacancy. A notice will be put on the board and the website and application forms will be given to anyone interested, and co-option will take place at the first meeting in the new year.

**Declarations of Interest** Penny asked members to be aware of this and make any necessary declarations as the meeting progressed.

**Minutes of the last Meeting** These were unanimously agreed and signed by the chairman.

**Village Hall** The village hall is now complete and a very successful Cheese & Wine evening to mark the opening was held on Saturday 29th October when a grand total of £1,425 was raised towards the roof replacement cost. We have now received the final invoices from the developer Ian Deparis Restorations for £15,702.14 and £2,173.34 from David Symonds Associates, the cost for professional services managing the project, and it was agreed that these amounts should be paid once confirmation has been received from the insurance assessor. Penny thanked Paul our County Councillor for his generous donation from his fund.

**Trees** As agreed Chris Arnold the tree surgeon came and looked at the oak tree by the village hall and various other trees in the parish. He suggested various work on the oak tree at a cost of £500, but Mark felt that we should first seek the opinion of an arborist. He proposed this, seconded by Margaret and all were in favour. It was also agreed to arrange a meeting when all members including the chairman can go and inspect the other trees mentioned in the quote from Chris Arnold.

**Highways** We have received no information about a visit from Hannah Davis and Paul said he would ask her to contact us and fix a date. He also added that the date of 5th December had been suggested for a lunchtime meeting to talk about other roads in the Upton area. It is also planned to do something about the junction of the A4101 and the A38 and Paul said it could be a roundabout, although this would involve the purchase of land, or it could be smart traffic lights. He said we could write in support of this to the leader of the C C Simon Gearty.

There has also been a delay in the works on the A4104 to raise the road because they have encountered major problems with the utilities, in as much as things have had to be located. It has now been agreed that no work will start before Christmas. Paul also said that the Carrington Bridge will be doubled in size and this will commence in 2019 with completion in 2020 .

We received information about a run that the National Trust will be organising on New Years Day and it planned to go down one side of Dunstall Common and back up the other and the members agreed that we should confirm that we have no objection to this but it would be done at the entrants own risk.

**Parish Paths** Malcolm said that he had done a few hours on footpaths but there would probably be more to do as the winter approached and he would inform the clerk once the work was complete.

**Lengthsman Scheme** This continues to work well. There has been a change in the administration team and it has been suggested that spot checks may take place on the work carried out.

**Commons**

**Marsh Common** Pollution – It was suggested that we check on this when we inspect the trees. New bye-law signs have now been fitted.

**Dunstall Common** We have written to Steve and thanked him for tidying the edges of the common. The ragwort situation was discussed and maybe the only solution is to continue to pull it but next year also we need to concentrate on Marsh Common.

**Planning**

**Waste Transfer Site** Jeremy said that they have been granted a little more time to continue to use the car park. We are not sure what has happened regarding the extension to the site, but a hessian screen seems to have been erected so that visibility is obscured to this area.

**Cemex** Paul reported that Cemex have been digging some trial pits with a view to extending the site, and also that it has been agreed that a rowing lake is feasible.

**Traveller’s Site** We have received notification of plan 17/01659/FUL which is to extend the period of time that was given at the appeal for them to comply with various conditions regarding landscaping and removing roadways etc. They are asking for the period to be extended to February 2018, MHDC planners have no objection to this and it was agreed that we will also raise no objection.

**Bluebell Farm 17/00553/FUL Proposed Live/Work Unit** This application was unanimously refused and the clerk and Penny attended the meeting and the clerk spoke for the council. Penny spoke to Jeremy and said we would like the opportunity to discuss planning with him and we will contact him to arrange a private meeting with him and members of the parish council.

**Cabinet on A4104** After persuing the matter regarding the erection of a wooden structure around a cabinet on the A38 by the crucifix we have been told that this is operational land and Western Power did not need permission for this. It was agreed that the clerk will write to them on this matter.

**Transparency Code** The clerk attended a training meeting on this subject on 7th November and is compiling an asset register for approval at the next meeting and investigating other items that we need to publicise.

**Defibrillator** The clerk has received an e-mail from Mike Brooks who is the new clerk to Hill Croome regarding the possibility of them sharing our defibrillator. Charlotte said that she thought that it was a public amenity available for everyone to use but she thought it was too far away to be of any clinical benefit to them. She took the e-mail and said she would contact him.

**Precept** We have received notification that we will need to let MHDC have information regarding our precept requirements by 31st January, 2018 for the next financial year. A financial assessment will be undertaken before the next meeting.

**Cheques**

1. Malcolm Tomkins. 7 ¾ hours October. £93
2. Calc Clerk’s Training Course £30
3. British Legion Poppy Wreath £17
4. Mrs A Smith. Vouchers for Phil £30
5. Ian DeParis Restorations £15,702.14
6. David Symonds Associates £2,173.34

**Dates for Meetings Next Year**  23rd January, 27th March, 22nd May, 24th July, 18th September and 20th November, 2018