**Minutes of the meeting of Earls Croome Pariah Council held at the village hall on Tuesday 23rd July, 2019**

**Apologies** An apology was received from Mark Smith, and Jeremy Owenson.

**Those Present** Penny, Margaret, Robin, Charlotte, Jonathan, Tom, Malcolm, Paul, and about 12 parishioners.

**Presentation by PCSO Linda Pawley on Neighbourhood Watch & Protecting Personal Property** The chairman introduced Linda who had attended our A G M on 21st May and Linda proceeded to give a talk concerning all aspects to do with neighbourhood watch and protecting personal property. She gave information about the Community Messaging Service, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Upton Parish Noticeboard and the On the Beat Newsletter which is issued quarterly. More information can be obtained from the website concerning Neighbourhood Watch at” ourwatch.org.uk”. Linda also advised on protecting personal property and a question and answer session followed which was very varied and interesting. Many leaflets were taken by the residents and the chairman thanked Linda very much for coming and talking to us.

**Declarations of Interest** There were none to declare.

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

**Highway Matters** Paul reported that two areas along Quay Lane had been identified where “Beware of Pedestrian” signs could be erected and he had informed the clerk of the details. He continues to receive complaints about speeding traffic and the noise from traffic along the A38. It may be that at some time he refers this back to the Safer Road Partnership and another wire is put in place. There is also a new initiative about noise. He mentioned that Hill Croome now have two flashing speed signs, one at each end of the village. The Crucifix footpath to remain on the agenda. The possibility of requesting a 20 m.p.h. sign in Quay Lane was mentioned and it was decided to discuss this again at a separate time. Paul said that next year is the 75 year anniversary of the end of the 2nd World War and if we thought of marking the occasion he would offer some funding.

**Library Consultation** Paul said that there had been a Pier Review of the Library Services and of the £800,000 saving needed all but £200,000 had been found. Paul said that Upton, Pershore and Broadway Libraries all had trusts in place and the libraries were run by a local management team. He felt sure that no significant changes would be needed other than some local fundraising to cover the cost of the librarian’s salary.

**Rural Transport Consultation** A further consultation on this is in place until September. We have received various documents including a list of meetings at bus stops across the county and a 7 page questionnaire. This seemed like a repeat of the last consultation and it was felt that no one would complete the questionnaire. Paul urged the council to reply stating the points that we had raised in the questionnaire completed last autumn. He said there was still money in the budget to be spent on school transport and rural transport.

**Parish Paths** We have a possible £450 to spend on our paths and Malcolm has the work in hand that he usually undertakes on the footpaths.

**Trees** Malcolm has done a great deal of work on the trees in the parish and particularly with regard to ash dieback that is affecting many of the trees on Marsh Common. Malcolm invited Wade Muggleton from the C C to come and look at the trees and he gave a report of his findings which has been passed to all councillors. Malcolm is also attending a workshop at the Woodland Trust on Friday 26th July to deal with Ash Dieback, unfortunately no one was able to accompany him. We have also sought the opinion of Chris Arnold our tree surgeon, and if trees need to be taken down it may be that we can have an agreement that the wood is taken in lieu of the cost of felling. Malcolm has also submitted a plan to replant some trees to replace some of the ones we will lose, and initially this would be at the rate of about 6 per year for the first two or three years. Jonathan thanked Malcolm for all his hard work on this plan and said that we should ultimately be looking at a plan for the next 5 years. Malcolm said he would give more details concerning the first phase of the planting regarding location, type of trees and costing, and would continue to prepare some of the sites identified. We must also be aware that maintenance of the trees once planted will be of the utmost importance. Malcolm has said that he would be happy to contribute £200 to the scheme. Margaret also said that she and Bob would match this and Paul said he would be happy to contribute from his ward budget.

**Lengthsmans Scheme** This continues to go very well and we are ever grateful to Malcolm for keeping the parish looking so tidy.

**Commons**

**Marsh Common** This common has been cut by Steve under the same arrangement as last year.

**Dunstall Common** Likewise this has also been cut. It was mentioned that this area had not received the C.C. metre cut this year. Paul said this is still in progress and should be undertaken soon. Unfortunately ragwort is now beginning to appear but Malcolm is keeping it under control. Margaret said that although the clerk wrote to Croome Estate the path across Castle Field had not been sprayed out. It is now due to be combined so would be pointless to mention this again. However, we do need to send a reminder about cutting the hedge and leaving the specimen trees.

**Smithmoor Common** Following the replacement of the posts we need to go and look at this common and Sunday morning at 10.00.a.m.was agreed. Johnathan will bring his Land Rover and transport everyone. We discussed the future management of the common and it was suggested that may be we might find someone to graze sheep on it. Malcolm said that the brambles along the track on the right-hand side are encroaching, and we will need to particularly look at this when we visit.

**Planning**

**Application 19000016/CM Digaway & Clearaway** The County Council are still awaiting the details of the acoustic fencing material to be used to replace the 2metre wall already approved. There will be no further planning meeting until September.

**Application 18/01862/FUL Elgar Inn – 2 residential apartments** This has been refused.

**Cemex** There is to be a liaison meeting next week on Tuesday 30th July, at 2.30.p.m. at the Memorial Hall and the clerk and Mark will attend.

**S.W.D.P** We have been informed that the SHELAA report is due soon, and this will outline land no being taken forward for development. In November a further public consultation for 6 weeks will take place when sites to be allocated for housing and development will be considered, which resulted from the “Call for Sites”.

**Nathan Tomkins Trust** The Marquees have now been purchased at a cost of £1,622.40. and they were first used at the Rounders Match on Saturday 13th July. Jonathan thanked everyone who had helped with the erection and taking down of the marquees. Particular thanks go to Brian Burns who has marked all the pieces and produced a manual to follow when erecting the marquees. They are to be kept in Jean Bloomfield’s garage and she will monitor the booking of them. We received £700 from the trust, the V A T which we can recover is £270.40. Brian needs to buy some more hammers and the Parish Council will pay for these. This will leave a sum of about £700 outstanding. The Village Hall Committee had agreed that the profit from the cheese and wine could be used. However, after a discussion and particularly as Vince explained the village hall might need money to solve the bee problem, Penny proposed that the Parish Council contribute £200 and the village hall committee be asked for £500. This was seconded by Robin and everyone was in agreement.

**Insurance Update** The marquee have been added to the Parish Council’s insurance policy and this will represent a future increase in the premium of between £10-£12.

**Audit** Because our income this year falls below £25,000 we have been able to submit basic details to the auditors and apply for an exemption of a full audit which we had last year. This has been accepted by the auditors, but all other documents relating to the audit still have to be produced and displayed on the County Council website, and they are now in place.

**Cheques**

Two cheques were written at the meeting:-

1. Charlotte Bloomfield (Wel Medical) Defib Pads £74.28
2. Malcolm Tomkins lengthsman hours June 12 ¾ £153.00

**Defford Mill** Margaret said that she had spoken to the new owners of this site which once belonged to Countrywide. The owners are Britewells of Hereford and they informed her that they are looking at improving the signage and also the speed limit.

**Donkey Lane** Robin said that along the initial part of this bridleway from the A38, people were throwing dog-poo bags in the hedge. The clerk will contact MHDC and ask for signs to be erected.

**Date of the Next Meeting**  Tuesday 24th September, 2019 at 7.30.p.m.