

**HINDLIP, MARTIN HUSSINGTREE AND SALWARPE
PARISH COUNCIL**

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**Minutes of the Meeting of Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council
held at 7.30pm on Monday 21st November 2022**

PRESENT: Cllr. P. Oakley Cllr. M. Armitage, Cllr. J. Clarke, Cllr. B. Meddings Cllr. A Thomas, Cllr. A Phillips, Cllr. J. Brodrick, Cllr. D. Luscombe, Cllr.A Thawley

IN ATTENDANCE E Gallagher (Clerk).
District Councillor N. Wright (left 7.50pm)
District Councillor T Miller
County Cllr. M. Bayliss (arrived 8.20pm)

Ms. R Bradley Tree Warden (left 7.30pm)

Residents of the Parish (Martin Hussingtree – left 7.20pm)

No	Minute	Action
1.	Apologies Cllr. J. Hill	
2.	Declarations of Interest/Code of Conduct i) To Declare any Dispensations/Interests Cllr. Hughes – Dispensation extended by the Chairman for a further 6-month period (until end of office - May 2023 Elections). Cllr. A Phillips – Non -Pecuniary neighbour declaration – W/22/07156 Drury Lane Former Poultry Buildings Cllr. D. Luscombe – Non-Pecuniary – Withdrawn application W/22/07156 Temporary Stairlift Salwarpe Grange ii) To note the Code of Conduct and requirements of the Transparency Regulations Noted: The Parish Council now classified intermediate category with greater than £25,000 turnover. iii) To note the Right to Record meetings: Noted. iv) To confirm any necessary update to the Register of Interests No update. v) To note security and privacy of information under the General Data Protection regulations. Noted.	
4.	Minutes The Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 th July 2022 were approved as being a correct record and signed by the Chairman. It was noted that this meeting had been rescheduled as a result of extreme hot weather conditions. (The regular meeting had originally been scheduled for 16/07/2022). The rescheduling had resulted in a low level of attendance with multiple Member apologies. It was also noted that the meeting scheduled for the 19 th September 2022 was cancelled as an act of respect for the Period of Mourning and the State Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II	
5.	Chairman's Report a) Proposed Installation of Litter Bins at Copcut Rise and Salwarpe Village Hall	

	<p>The Chairman was experiencing difficulties in scheduling a site meeting with the Street Scene and Amenities Officer. The aim of the meeting would be to agree locations for the siting of two litter bins. It was agreed that an order should be submitted as soon as the meeting had taken place and locations had been agreed.</p> <p>b) Defibrillator Update A defibrillator recall notice had been received regarding defective software. The defibrillator had been collected on 13th September 2022 and returned on 20th September 2022. Two weeks after its return it was discovered that the defibrillator had a flat battery. A new battery was supplied free of charge by the UK importer and the defibrillator appeared to be in full working order. A member of the Village Hall Committee had agreed to monitor battery levels on a weekly basis for a 4-week period after which monitoring would return to a monthly basis.</p> <p>c) Remembrance Day Wreath Laying The Remembrance Day Ceremony at the site of Salwarpe Memorial was attended by sixteen individuals. Councillor A. Thomas laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council and Mrs J. Thomas laid a wreath on behalf of all parishioners.</p> <p>d) Elections 2023 – Assessment of Councillors Stance of Standing for Re-election The majority of Councillors had declared their intention to Stand for re-election. It was agreed however that efforts should be made to attract new councillor interest. It was decided that a notice should be placed in the December/January Community Magazine publication. Posters would be placed in notice-boards and attempts would be made to liaise with residents of Copcut Rise in an attempt to encourage new interest in the role.</p> <p>e) New District Ward - North Claines & Salwarpe (See also appx 1 to the Minutes) The Local Government Boundary Review of Wychavon District Wards final recommendations included the creation of the new Ward of North Claines and Salwarpe. The Commission also proposed to accept the Parish Council's recommendations that Copcut Rise should be sited within the new Ward of North Claines & Salwarpe. The new arrangements would come into force at the local elections of 2023 (subject to parliamentary approval).</p> <p>It was agreed that efforts should be made to further integrate the residents of Copcut Rise with residents of the Salwarpe Parish. Communication had taken place between the clerk and a resident of Copcut Rise in which the resident had offered suggestions for integration. It was agreed that this email should be shared with all members of the Parish Council (subject to resident permission) and the suggestions made should be explored and where possible actioned. It was also suggested that the Village Hall may play a part in the integration and the Copcut community should be informed of forthcoming events. The clerk agreed to contact the resident with details of a planned Barn Dance which was scheduled to take place on the 21st January 2023 with a view to this event being posted on the Copcut Rise Facebook page and shared between the Copcut WhatsApp group. In addition, the County Councillor informed the meeting that grants would become available for Parish events organised to celebrate the King's Coronation which could play a part in funding the organisation of a celebratory event to include all residents.</p>	<p>Chairman</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Deputy Chair Report No report</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Councillor Reports</p> <p>a) Staffing Committee Grading Review -Clerk/RFO - Cllr. B. Meddings The Staffing Committee had met, via Zoom, on the 17th November 2022 for the annual performance and grading review of the clerk. The clerk later joined the meeting and a candid discussion took place. Councillors were asked to consider recommendations resulting from this meeting. Councillor Phillips proposed that the Staffing Committee recommendations were approved in full. This was seconded by Councillor Clarke and unanimously passed. The clerk's regrading would be back-dated to the 1st October 2022 with any underpayment to be reclaimed in November/December salary.</p> <p>b) Site Meeting 27/07/2022 -Speeding Issues on Rural Lanes - Martin Hussingtree - Cllr. A. Thomas A successful site meeting had resulted in painted signage on the affected portion of Ladywood Road. This as yet did not appear to have had any effect on reducing speeding traffic. County Councillor Bayliss agreed to discuss and organise a speed audit involving speed monitoring strips.</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>County Cllr. Bayliss/ Highways Engineer</p>

	<p>If the resultant evidence suggested a problem, a road speed reduction could be applied for and a VAS could be sited. VAS cameras could not however be positioned on national speed limit roads. He suggested, that from evidence gained, moveable cameras proved to be the best deterrent. Councillor Bayliss confirmed that a VAS had been ordered, and would be gifted to the Parish Council (possibly to be shared with North Claines Parish). It would be for the Highway Engineer to decide upon its site/s. Councillor Bayliss agreed to contact the Highways Engineer for a progress update on the order.</p> <p>c) Site Meeting 27/07/2022 -Speeding Issues on Hindlip Lane - Hindlip - Cllr. M. Armitage After a successful meeting, Councillor Bayliss acknowledged that this was a challenging site with no pavement or safe verges. This had been discussed with the Highway Engineer who had then agreed to speak with colleagues for ideas on how to improve safety for pedestrians along this route. The results of this discussion would be triaged and distributed to other relevant bodies. Speed strips had been laid for traffic monitoring. The County Councillor suggested that the hedge at the junction of Court Farm be cut back as an initial safety measure.</p> <p>d) Car Boot Sale - Hindlip - Cllr. M. Armitage The boot sale had not been held over the winter period. Previous parking issues had been resolved.</p> <p>e) Junction at Martin Hussingtree – Accident Black Spot – Cllr. A Phillips Several accidents had occurred at this black-spot since the last Parish Council meeting, many of which were as a result of drivers speeding to beat traffic light signals. One of these accidents involved a van whose driver lost control resulting in a collision with barriers situated on Martin Green. Damaged posts belonging to the Parish Council (caused by this accident) had since been replaced from Parish Council funds in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1. County Councillor Bayliss offered to research the history of accidents at this location with a view to discuss with West Mercia Police colleagues. He confirmed that the road was classified as a trunk road and therefore subject to limitations. He did however agree to investigate whether the introduction of a speed reduction would be possible if the evidence backed this suggestion.</p> <p>f) Risk Assessment The annual risk assessment had been carried out by the clerk and Councillor Phillips on the 8th November (issue 8) and it had been agreed that there was no increased risk when compared to previous assessments. The meeting discussed the assessment and after discussion was asked to consider approval of this latest version of the Risk assessment. Councillor Thawley proposed acceptance, this was seconded by Councillor Armitage and unanimously agreed. The clerk was asked to publish this version on the council’s website.</p> <p>g) Ragwort – Hindlip – Cllr. J. Brodrick Ragwort had been reported along the A449, Hindlip Lane, Pershore Lane and Sixways Island. Councillor Brodrick believed that the Highways Department were confusing the 50-metre rule which the Authority chose to apply to ragwort with that of the wildflower policy. He described his attempts to action the eradication of the weed as a laborious process without success. County Councillor Bayliss agreed to investigate and speak to the Highways Engineer about this issue.</p> <p>h) Court Farm – Continuation of Works - Cllr. J. Brodrick The Enforcement Officer had visited the site and had discussed the following applications with the owner: - 20/01740/CU - Change of use of redundant building to 3No. holiday lets 21/00997/FUL - Change the use of the existing detached redundant outbuilding</p> <p>As a result of this investigation, the Enforcement Officer confirmed that the owner was fully compliant with the appeal decision. No enforcement action was therefore deemed to be necessary. The owner also confirmed that there was no future intention to breach the decision and confirmed that the redundant buildings would continue to remain ancillary to the main property.</p>	<p>County Cllr. Bayliss/ Highways Engineer</p> <p>Closed</p> <p>County Councillor Bayliss</p> <p>Approved Clerk</p> <p>County Councillor Bayliss</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Salwarpe Village Hall Committee Report - Cllr. D. Luscombe Councillor Luscombe gave a report on behalf of Cllr. Hill and the Village Hall Committee. He asked the meeting to be aware of two items of note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Barn Dance, organised by the Village Hall, would be held on the 21st January 2023. Tickets were available at £20 per ticket. These could be obtained from the Village Hall booking secretary. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A notable 50 percent increase in general bookings for the Hall had taken place. 	
9.	Reports by District & County Councillors	
a)	Rural Grants – District Councillor N Wright Large scale grants (£890,000) were available for rural businesses. £270,000 would be available in the first year.	
b)	South Worcestershire Development Plan (to 2041) - District Councillor N Wright Public consultation was open until 13 th December 2022. There was however no information regarding community or resident meetings. Councillor Meddings agreed to contact officers based within the Planning Policy Team to find out more information and update the Parish Council with any relevant details. It was expected that the new Plan would be published in the early part of 2023	
c)	Elections - District Councillor N Wright Elections were due to be held in May 2023. Cllr Wright confirmed that the Parish Council would continue to receive the support of two District Councillors. Councillor Wright presented his report at 7.40pm (out of sequence and by agreement of the Chairman) and left the meeting at 7.50pm	
d)	County Boundary Review - January 2023 – District Councillor T Miller The meeting was informed of the possibility of re-drawn parliamentary boundaries. Further information to follow.	
e)	Pulley Lane Junction – District Councillor T Miller & County Councillor M, Bayliss The County Assessor had not passed the A38 Pulley Lane Junction as being fit for purpose. The Developer was in the process of discussing modifications to the scheme with their consultants. Further assessments could not go ahead until this process had been completed. There had been a great deal of lobbying and activity to reduce Pulley Lane's speed from the National Limit to 40mph. The police were in support of this reduction. County Councillor Bayliss informed the meeting that a stage 4 safety audit was due to be carried out by professional road safety auditors who would review and make recommendations for improvements. VAS cameras could possibly be a consideration. Improvements would be funded by the Developer. Other recorded issues involving surface water at the junction were discussed.	
f)	Persistent Flooding and Drainage - Salwarpe – District Councillor T Miller & County Councillor M, Bayliss? Problems with flooding and drainage at Copcut Lane and Salwarpe Village had been reported to Highways on multiple occasions. These reports had rarely been actioned and the incidents of flooding were worsening. District Councillor Miller informed the meeting that the County had purchased two extra jetting vehicles but as there was a shortage of HGV drivers their use was restricted. County Councillor Bayliss agreed to campaign for a regular maintenance jetting process to be introduced for Salwarpe and surrounding areas.	
g)	Budget - County Councillor M, Bayliss The County Council was currently considering its budget for 2023 and the following facts were disclosed. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County Council employees would receive on average a 5.5% pay increase • Major issues with adult and social care were ongoing • Pressures on the budget meant potential problems in maintaining planned programmes • Potential increase to council tax was likely • Roads would be a priority in the new budget • Infrastructure projects – increased costs had resulted in almost doubling most capital projects. This had resulted in a strain on future budgets. 	
h)	Education - County Councillor M, Bayliss Government funding was available to help two-tier systems. Droitwich schools pyramid would likely remain a three-tier system	
i)	Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner County Councillor Bayliss had been appointed to the role of Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner.	

	<p>One of his main intentions would be to concentrate on the impact of burglary and theft on people's well-being.</p> <p>County Councillor Bayliss requested that the clerk send him a list of his actions from the minutes</p>	Clerk (Sent 22/11/22)
10.	<p>Progress on items from Previous Minutes</p> <p>Item 9(a) Screening Application 22/000009/SCR – No planning application received (to date)</p>	
11	<p>Finance</p> <p>a) Review and ratification of payments made and received since the last meeting (see Appendix 1)</p> <p>b) Approved</p> <p>c) Report on Year-to-Date Expenditure Compared to Budget</p> <p>d) Approved</p> <p>e) Monitoring Officer Confirmation of Accuracy of Payments</p> <p>f) Confirmed</p> <p>g) To Note Purchase of Mobile Phone for Parish Council Use by the Clerk</p> <p>h) Noted</p> <p>i) External Audit Completion</p> <p>j) Notice published</p> <p>k) Finance Committee Precept Meeting</p> <p>l) Arranged for 9th January 2023</p> <p>Councillor Thomas left the meeting 9.15pm</p>	<p>Approved</p> <p>Approved</p> <p>Confirmed</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Arranged</p>
12.	<p>Planning Consultations - Appendix 2-4</p> <p>a) Planning Applications</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>b) Enforcements and Appeals</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>c) Temporary Granted Permissions</p> <p>Noted</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
13.	<p>Councillor Reports and Items for Future Agendas</p> <p>a) Copcut Rise Integration – Councillor Armitage</p> <p>b) Provision of Additional Bus Shelters – Councillor Phillips</p> <p>In abeyance awaiting transport policy decisions</p> <p>c) Investigate Potential to Purchase Amenity Land – Councillor Armitage</p> <p>d) Maintenance of Notice Boards –Councillor Phillips</p> <p>Some noticeboards were in need of re-varnish.</p>	<p>Under consideration</p> <p>In Abeyance</p> <p>Chairman/ Clerk</p>
14.	<p>Items Carried Forward for Noting</p> <p>a) Defibrillator</p> <p>Renewal of Battery due November 2021. (ii) Pads expiry date July 2022 (iii) Warranty of AED expiry April 2023.</p> <p>b) Memorial Land. Possessory Title 2024. Possessory title to be finalised with Land Registry.</p> <p>c) Pensions Regulator. Auto enrolment compliance. Re-declaration made 6th March 2020. Next redeclaration due March 2023.</p>	
17.	<p>Date of Next Meeting</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parish Council was scheduled for the 16th January 2023 7.00pm in the Main Hall of Salwarpe Village Hall</p>	

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Signed..... Date

Chairman

Public Question Time - 7.00pm – 7.20pm

Five residents of Martin Hussingtree attended the meeting to discuss application number W/22/01756 (Drury Lane Former Poultry Buildings). Residents initially asked the Chairman to clarify the meaning of 'outline' in a planning application. Discussion then centred around speeding traffic, non-compliance with directional signs and HGV traffic along the Lane. The consensus view of the attendant residents was that a 30mph limit should be set and white lines and directional signage should be introduced. The Chairman explained the difficulties involved in applying for and introducing a 30mph limit on this type of derestricted Lane. Concern was expressed regarding the absence of a footpath and the narrow width of the Lane. Residents perceived problems in the event of two large vehicles attempting to pass and the increased traffic the development would attract. There currently was no limit to the size of vehicular traffic and a suggestion was made that a limit should be set. The Chairman informed the residents that this was a brownfield site which had consent for commercial use. Sterling Business Centre was fully operational and the application site had previously been approved for commercial use. Councillors felt that the development of housing at this site would present less of a vehicular problem than a development for commercial use. The Chairman recommended that each resident sent an individual response to the planning officer in respect of this application. If necessary, the Parish Council would request a site visit by the Planning Committee before the application was presented to them at the Planning Committee Meeting.

Parish Tree Warden – Ms. R. Bradley – 7.20pm -7.30pm

The Tree Warden had provided a comprehensive report which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting (appx 2). Discussion took place on how the role could be developed. Ms. Bradley suggested attempting to forge links with other relevant organisations. Councillors agreed to assist with expenses should the Tree Warden wish to enrol for any tree related courses. Ms. Bradley asked whether Councillors had access to historical maps and photographs of the parishes to visualise how the area had developed over the years. Councillor Meddings suggested that this might form part of the Parish Council's next Community Magazine submission. Councillor Phillips offered to send the Tree Warden the report which had been drafted by National Networks in association with Worcestershire Wildlife Centre. The clerk agreed to forward relevant email details to Councillor Phillips.

Police Report – None

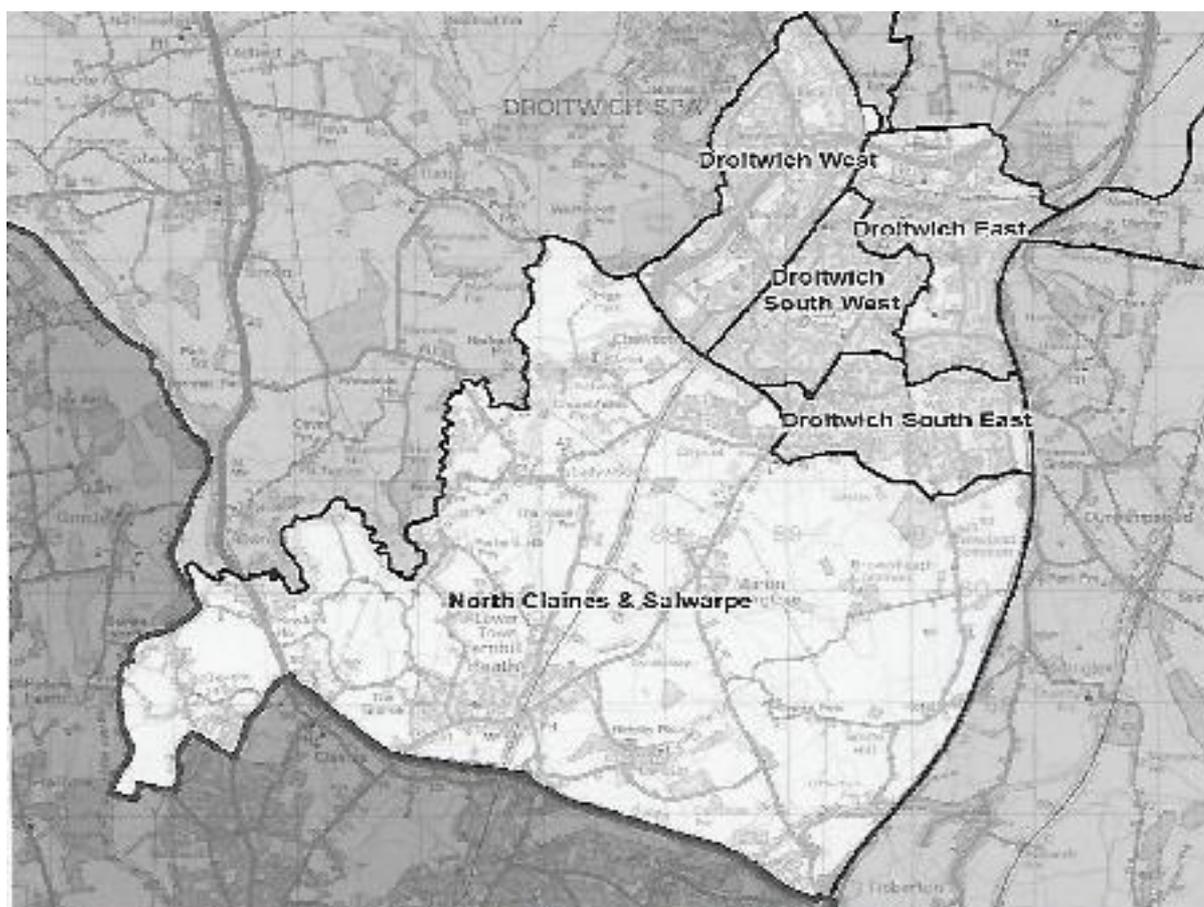
HINDLIP, MARTIN HUSSINGTREE & SALWARPE PARISH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSION ELECTORAL REVIEW OF WYCHAVON DISTRICT WARDS

FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE NEW ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

NEW WARD OF NORTH CLAINES & SALWARPE (including the parishes of Hindlip and Martin Hussingtree)

Droitwich Area map:



Ward name	Number of councillors	Variance 2027
Droitwich East	2	-5%
Droitwich South East	2	5%
Droitwich South West	2	9%
Droitwich West	2	-11%
North Claines & Salwarpe	2	4%

New Ward Area: – and its conterminous parish boundaries.
North Claines parishes:- Fernhill Heath & surrounds, Hawford, Bevere.
Salwarpe parishes:- Salwarpe, Martin Hussingtree, Hindlip

Recommendations

The Local Government Boundary Commission's final recommendations meets the statutory criteria to:

- 1) Deliver electoral equality for electors.
- 2) Reflect community interests and identities.
- 3) Promote effective and convenient local government.

The Commission has carefully considered all the submissions in the area and no specific proposals were received for which of the Droitwich wards Copcut Rise should be placed in. However, the removal of the Copcut Rise area from North Claines & Salwarpe ward would, in the absence of any consequential changes, leave the ward with 19% fewer electors per councillor than average

– well beyond the bounds of good electoral equality.

It is proposed to adopt the submission put forward by Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council for Copcut Rise to remain within Salwarpe ward, noting that the parish council was undertaking numerous activities to integrate the relatively new development into the life and community of Salwarpe parish.

In the light of the significant disruption it would cause to neighbouring wards and the mixed evidence regarding the community identity of Copcut Rise, we are not persuaded to alter our draft recommendations for this area and we confirm our recommendations for North Claines & Salwarpe ward as final.

Implementation of new arrangements

Having completed its review of Wychavon, the Commission's recommendations must now be approved by Parliament. A draft Order – the legal document which brings into force the recommendations – will be laid in Parliament. Subject to parliamentary scrutiny, the new electoral arrangements will come into force at the local elections in 2023.

LGBCE Electoral Review
Report by Councillor B. Meddings
16th September 2022

Appendix 2

Progress Report for Hindlip, Martin Hussingtree & Salwarpe Parish Council Meeting 7pm on 21st November 2023

Introduction

My position as Volunteer Tree Warden was approved at the Parish Council Meeting on the 25th July. I completed the required on-line induction course with Wade Muggleton on 18th August 2022 so have been in role approximately 2 and a half months.

The Role (Job as described in the role description)

1. Working in the local community safeguarding trees by carrying out informal surveys to provide early warning of threats of disease, decay and vandalism and other issues of concern
2. Link person to advise or respond to simple issues around communities on behalf of the parish council land liaison on tree issues with Worcestershire's Greenspace Officer.

In terms of 'safeguarding' trees one of my early priorities has been to try to establish the location of tree preservation orders (TPO's) within the parishes and to check on their welfare.

The previous tree warden's file (thank you Barbara & Elizabeth for this) contains useful paper copies of TPOs up to 2007/8. I have however been told by Nick McGowan Tree and Landscape Officer Wychavon and Malvern District Council that there is a problem in being able to obtain a more up to date map. Although Wychavon has a mapping system showing all the TPOs, "*the mapping software is licenced, copy righted and interactive*". Because of this Wychavon "*are unable to share the information it holds*". Nick McGowan has told me I can ring him directly with any questions about any TPO locations but clearly this is difficult not knowing where they are in the first place.

From the paper maps and TPO copies passed on from the previous Tree Warden it would appear that **Hindlip Parish** has / had 2 TPOs for individual trees although one of these, a lime tree at Manor Court House is indicated as having been felled in 2006/7. The other individual TPO is an oak tree near to the Pershore Lane Bridge. There are groups of trees, areas and woodland marked around Hindlip Hall and Court Farm. For **Martin Hussingtree** there is just one individual tree TPO, the veteran oak on the Green, plus the group of trees by the Pershore Lane, Droitwich Road traffic lights and an 'area' behind The Green. **Salwarpe** parish is shown as having 2 individual tree TPOs however one of these trees, a Pine tree on Newland Lane I have been told by the property owner was never subject to a TPO. An order was served on 20th November 1979 but not confirmed within the 6 month period so effectively expired. The 2nd, an oak, is located along Copcut Lane and now lies within the Copcut Rise development. Also recorded as TPOs are a group of trees (pine and an oak) on Copcut Lane and the woodland / areas of Oakley Wood off Pulley Lane, Copcut Rise and High Park.

Having visited and photographed all the individual tree / groups of trees all bar one appear to be in reasonably healthy condition and free from disease. The one tree which is showing some damage is the pine tree on Copcut Lane (see photo below). The damage at the base of the tree trunk could be historical and linked to previous cattle / deer grazing. The damage is about a metre high.



Pine Tree Copcut Lane with 2nd photo showing damage at the base

Contractors on the Copcut Rise development appear to have maintained pre-existing trees (as I can remember). There are some issues with new plantings (a lot of the new trees haven't survived). There is also an issue with residents cutting through to Copcut Lane via unofficial paths. There appears to be only one path to the lane which is right at the bottom close to the railway bridge.

Highlights

The new meadow planting on The Green at Martin Hussingtree was a delight this summer, sadly the replaced oak tree new plantings suffered because of the drought conditions developing mildew but hopefully with the actions taken by a local councillor and a contractor they will be able to thrive next year.



Another highlight was the discovery of what might be an ancient oak tree in the High Park area whose girth would appear to indicate it may be over 500 year old. A local resident told me how various owls have made it their home over the years.

I have also come across remnants of what were once larger areas of orchards in Martin Hussingtree i.e. back of Cherry Orchard Nursery plus a single tree (apple) on the Pershore Lane verge.

I also came across a line of old apple and pear trees on the side of the field boundary along Newland Lane.

Tree Planning Applications

I have been alerted to 2 planning applications in the conservation areas of Martin Hussingtree and Salwarpe. There was 'no objection' by Wychavon on 14.09.22 to application W/22/01749CAN. This was to remove a Deodar cedar at Orchard Cottage with a

recommendation that a replacement tree was planted. As can be seen from the photo to the left this tree was not healthy and 2 similar adjoining smaller trees appeared to have died. This tree has been recently felled. The property owner appears to be doing some underground work currently near to where this tree was.



*Deodar Cedar
Martin Hussingtree
Tree removed
November 2022*

application for tree works, the removal of the conifer tree at Salwarpe Court which had “*outgrown its position and was restricting the growth of the nearby poplar tree*” (W/22/02196/CAN) also received ‘no objection’ from Wychavon Planning along with reducing the height of a nearby conifer hedge (27/10/22) . There is a similar recommendation for a replacement tree. At the moment this work hasn’t started



*Salwarpe Court Conifer and nearby Poplar tree.
National Tree Week 26th to 4th December*

This event takes place every year and this year is taking place from the 27th November to 4th December. It marks the start of the annual winter tree planting season and its aim is to encourage the public to appreciate the beauty and importance of trees in our environment and lives as well as plant trees.

I am not aware of any publicity or local events being held to celebrate this.

As part of National Tree Week the Tree Council are focusing this year on “**Hidden Connections**” looking at the complex activity below the ground which is so vital to trees. They are running 2 free on line tree talks;

Monday 28th November 7pm “Demystify the tangled world of tree roots”

Thursday 1st December 7pm “Trees and Fungi Working Together” – A Remarkable Relationship”

www.treecouncil.org.uk

I would value parish councillors views on whether this event is something as a parish we might want to look at publicising for next year.

Branching Out Fund

This is a fund to help local groups with the funding of tree / hedge planting projects. Applications this year opened on 18th July and close 4th December but the website indicates this grant may be available after 4th December if there is enough interest and if this is the case will readvertise. Needs to be strong community involvement and ideally involve children and young people.

Again would value any ideas, thoughts e.g. has this grant has been used before, are there any possible projects in the parishes that might benefit from this funding opportunity.

Tree Warden Role

I would value obtaining councillors views, ideas, on how they see role of Tree warden and how it might be developed, publicised. What has been useful for the council previously.

Rose Bradley

Volunteer Parish Tree Warden

24.11.22