

MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS

MEETING OF THE BOARD

14 January 2010 7 pm

Elgar Room The Council House Malvern

Present:- Mrs S Adeney, Mr R Hall-Jones, Dr T Hunt, Mr M Morgan, Mr A Myatt, Mr B Pilcher, Mr R Roberts (Chairman), Mr C Rouse, Dr B Smith, Mr C Smith (Vice Chairman), Mr P Tuthill, Mr D Watkins, Mr P Watson, Mr B Wilcock.

In attendance:- Director, Admin Officer, Conservation Officer, Finance Assistant, 5 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr R Chamings, Mr M Cordey, Mrs J Kelly, Mrs B Nielsen, Mr A Phillips, Mr J Smith, Mrs H Stace, Mr M Soley, Mrs S Theftford, Mr P Watts, Mr W Watts.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS. None.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS. Mrs R McNally asked the following question:

"Having no lottery funds awarded for St Ann's Well at present and given the current economic situation with no recovery in sight but cuts to public services and more job losses looming, do you still intend to ask for money from Worcestershire County Council for the St Ann's Well scheme as this would seem unlikely, so will that lead to the closure of St Ann's Well café when the tenancy ceases, for the foreseeable future?"

The Chairman replied that there were other grant sources the Conservators were exploring. However it was not essential to obtain grants. There was a capital account Conservators could use to fund capital works.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Mr C Rouse declared an interest in matters concerning the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. On the proposal of the Vice Chairman, seconded by Dr Hunt, it was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 November 2009 should be **CONFIRMED** and **SIGNED** as a true and correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING.

6.1 12.1 Lime Tree Avenues on Link Common. The Conservation Officer reported that he was in discussion and was hopeful that the matter would be settled to the Conservators' satisfaction.

6.2 12.3 Higher Level Stewardship Scheme. Applications for the Southern Hills and Castlemorton Common had been submitted and a decision was awaited from Natural England.

6.3 12.4 Toposcope. The new toposcope plate had been installed.

6.4 13.2 Worcestershire County Council Contribution. In answer to a question, the Director advised that he would be attending the meeting with Mrs Nielsen and would ensure that a full history of this contribution was sent to the Chief Executive and Mrs Nielsen prior to the meeting.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

7.1 LAND MANAGEMENT. Mr Rouse presented the report of the meeting held on the 3 December 2009 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr Pilcher and **CARRIED**.

7.2 ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCES. Mr Wilcock presented the report of the meeting held on the 10 December 2009 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Dr Smith. The report, including those items taken in committee was **CARRIED**.

8. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

8.1 Malvern Spa Association. Mr Roberts reported on two events that had taken place since the last meeting, i.e. Christmas Party with entertainment by the Colla Voce singers and a celebration of the recommencement of bottling spring water at Holy Well. Forthcoming events were a meeting on the 26 January to decide the theme for this year's Well Dressing and on the 23 February a talk on The Holy Wells of Gloucestershire by Brian Torode.

8.2 Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee. Dr Smith reported that there had been no meeting of the JAC since the last Board Meeting. The next meeting was taking place on the 12 February 2010.

9. URGENT BUSINESS.

9.1 Telephone Boxes on MHC Land. The Vice Chairman advised that he had been approached by a member of the public who was concerned that three public telephone boxes might be removed from Conservators' land. It was **AGREED** to place this matter on the Agenda for the next meeting of the Land Management Committee.

10. INFORMATION.

10.1 Management Report. The Director presented his report which was **NOTED**.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by the Vice Chairman, it was **AGREED** that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the matter to be discussed was confidential.

The meeting closed at 7.31 pm.