

MEETING of the **BOARD** of the **MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS** held at The Committee Room, The Council House, Malvern on Thursday, 8 September 2005 at 7 p.m.

Present:- Mr. M. Angell, Mr. M. Cordey, Mr. R. Hall-Jones, Mr. A. Macmillan, Mr. D. Masters, Mr. J. Mills, Mr. A. Myatt, Mr. A. Phillips, Mr. B. Pilcher, Mr. J. Plant, Mrs. P. Raven, Mr. R. Roberts, Mr. C. Rouse, Mr. P. Rumney, Dr. B. Smith (Chairman), Mrs. S. Thetford, Mr. R. Thomas, Mr. J. Tretheway, Mr. W. Watts, Mr. B. Wilcock, Mr. R. Witcomb.

In attendance:- Director, Administrative Officer, Conservation Officer.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. S. Adeney, Mr. J. Raine, Mr. S. Try, Mrs. J. Wildin.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

2.1 On behalf of members the Chairman welcomed Rob Havard who had recently been appointed to the post of Conservation Officer.

2.2 The Chairman advised that the AONB's new Manager, Paul Esrich, would be taking up his post on Friday, 9th September. This was **NOTED**.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS.

3.1 Mr. R. C. Dawe asked three questions:-

- I. Were Board members duped into supporting the prosecution brought against him to further their vendatta against him?
- II. Were Board members made aware of all the facts of the case , i.e. a letter from the Director giving Mr. Dawe approval to be on the common at Hollybed to feed and tend his stock, told of the likely cost of the prosecution and that the police, solicitors and some Board members strongly advised against it?
- III. Were Board members made aware of all the financial and physical help in managing the commons over the last 20 years by Mr. Dawe and his fellow commoners in the area?

In reply the Chairman confirmed that (I) Board members had been made aware of the facts before voting on the decision to prosecute. (II) Although all letters were available in the office, this letter would not have been singled out for members. Whilst it was accepted that there were commoners rights attached to Mr. Dawe's property, the Conservators' role is to protect the land under their management and keep it as an open space for the enjoyment of the public. If an individual's actions were damaging the land and putting at risk members of the public, it was their duty to prosecute. The Conservators were not advised either by the police or their solicitors not to go ahead with the prosecution. (III) Board members were made aware of the financial contributions from Mr. Dawe. There has never been a vendetta against him. The decision to prosecute was not made lightly but after taking into account the full facts, including witness statements.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. On the proposal of Mr. Pilcher, seconded by Mr. Roberts, it was **AGREED** that subject to the addition of the word "retrospective" in the proposal under item 11.3.1, the Minutes of the meeting held on the 14 July 2005 should be **CONFIRMED** and **SIGNED** as a true and correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING.

6.1 6.1 Hearing Loop System. Mr. Roberts advised that representatives from the RNID were now visiting on Monday, 12 September 2005. This was **NOTED**.

6.2 8.2 Welfare of Livestock. In response to Mr. Masters' queries with regard to provision for the livestock should it become necessary to take them off the Hills, the Director advised

that these would be answered in a report to the Land Management Committee. This was **NOTED**.

6.3 11.3.1 British Camp Improvements. Members were advised that in view of Mr. Masters' concern that the work at British Camp was contrary to the Malvern Hills Acts, a letter, together with a plan of the works, had been sent to DEFRA. This was **NOTED**.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

7.1 ACCESS & INFORMATION. Mr. Roberts presented the following report of the meeting held on the 21 July 2005 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Tretheway.

MEETING of the **ACCESS & INFORMATION COMMITTEE** held at Manor House on Thursday, 21 July 2005 at 2 p.m.

Present:- Mrs. S. Adeney, Mr. J. R. Mills, Prof. J. Raine, Mr. R. Roberts (Chairman), Dr. B. Smith, Mr. R. Thomas, Mr. J. Tretheway.

In attendance:- The Director, Administrative Officer and Mrs. S. Thetford.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr. W. Watts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Prof. Raine disclosed a personal interest in item 6.

3. LINK TOP. Members made a site visit to Link Top to meet with Mr. John Wallace of the Malvern Hills Highways Partnership and Mr. Duncan Rudge of Malvern Hills District Council who explained three options for dealing with the increased traffic arising from the development of North Site. As this involved the Conservators' land they wished to have an indication of the Conservators' views before progressing the matter further. From the schemes presented members preferred option 2, but without the pavement. This would reduce the amount of Conservators' land required and protect existing Lime trees. In any event members felt that the most direct route for pedestrians would be the slope by the shops. However, it was generally agreed that instead of a piecemeal approach members would prefer that the opportunity was taken to rationalise the design of the whole of the highway network in the area to retain and extend the green areas.

4. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS. None.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 19 MAY 2005.

5.1 4.1 Great Malvern Centre Partnership Meeting. It was **PROPOSED** by Mr. Tretheway, **SECONDED** by Dr. Smith and **AGREED**, that the Chairman should be the Conservators' representative on the Great Malvern Centre Partnership.

6. APPLICATION FOR EASEMENT AT 107 GUARLFORD ROAD, MALVERN. Following a site visit members considered the application and **AGREED** on the **PROPOSAL** by Mr. Tretheway, **SECONDED** by Mr. Thomas, to refuse the application, as whilst sympathising with the applicant, this was a personal access problem and of no concern to the Board.

7. THREE COUNTIES SHOW. The Chairman reported that the Conservators' stand at the 2005 show had been outstanding. The excellent location and the weather had meant that over the three days a record 1040 people had visited. The main theme had been the Heritage Lottery Fund schemes but also included a 3D contour model of the Hills, the toposcope plate, computer displays and old photographs of the Hills and Malvern. The St. Ann's Well match funding donations had brought in over £142. The organising sub-committee had consisted of Richard Thomas, ex Conservator Dudley Brook and himself. A record 13 Conservators had helped man the stand, together with the Director and the staff of the AONB office, and on the Saturday Suzanne August and Ann Miller, had given spinning demonstrations using fleece from the sheep on display. There had also been an official visit by the Chairman of Malvern Hills District Council, Valerie Myatt. The points raised by the public had been followed up. This was **NOTED**.

8. ANNUAL TOUR TO ASHDOWN FOREST CONSERVATORS. The Director presented his report on the visit which was **NOTED**. It was felt that in view of the close similarities of the two organisations permanent contact with staff and Conservators should be maintained and it was hoped to arrange a return visit to Malvern soon.

9. GUIDED WALKS. The Chairman stated that he would like to see some direct contact with the public to spread the message as to what we do and why we do it. He therefore invited members to consider his suggestions for holding walks for the public with specific aims. This was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that the Committee should sit as a working party at 4 p.m. on the 15 September 2005 to consider the matter in detail.

10. INFORMATION.

10.1 Water Features. On the **PROPOSAL** of Dr. Smith, **SECONDED** by Mr. Thomas, it was **AGREED** that the Architect should be asked to make a presentation at a committee meeting and the Director would try and arrange for this to take place at the Land Management Committee on the 4 August 2005.

10.2 Hillside Cottage, West Malvern. The Director advised that the proposed purchaser of the property had sent in plans for an extension to the property upon which she would like the Conservators' views. This was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that the Director and local member to respond.

On the **PROPOSAL** of Mrs. Adeney, **SECONDED** by Mr. Thomas, it was **AGREED** that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the matters to be discussed were confidential.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.23 p.m.

Arising.

7.1.1 3. Link Top. It was confirmed that any application involving change of use or disposal of Conservators' land at Link Top would require the consent of the full Board. This was **NOTED**.

The report, including item 11 taken in committee, was **CARRIED**.

7.2 LAND MANAGEMENT. Mrs. Thetford presented the following report of the meeting held on the 4 August 2005 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Roberts.

MEETING of the **LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE** held at Manor House on Thursday, 4 August 2005 at 2 p.m.

Present:- Mr. J. G. Plant, Mr. C. Rouse, Dr. B. G. Smith, Mrs. S. Thetford (Chairman), Mr. J. A. Tretheway, Mr. J. Webb, Mr. R. Witcomb.

In attendance:- The Director, Administrative Officer, Mr. R. Roberts, Mr. R. Thomas, Mr. B. Wilcock and seven members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs. P. Raven, Mr. A. J. Phillips.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS. None.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2 JUNE 2005.

4.1 4.1 Geraldine Road/Barnards Green Road and Poolbrook Road/Barnards Green Road Junctions. DEFRA has granted permission for the sale of these areas to Worcestershire County Council for the adjustment of boundaries to facilitate highway improvements. This was **NOTED**.

4.2 5. British Camp Improvements. The Director advised that the work had commenced on the construction of the path on the south side of British Camp. Archaeologists had been present throughout and the work was on schedule. English Nature had given its consent to the stone to be used, a sample of which was shown to members and the width of the path was confirmed at 1.5 metres. The stone was also being used to repair paths elsewhere on the Hills. This was **NOTED**.

4.3 7. Management Plan Review 1. It was confirmed that the paper had been produced in booklet form and had been available at the Three Counties Show. This was **NOTED**.

4.4 14. Management of Stock on the Hills. Members **AGREED** that this paper could now be made public.

5. ST. ANN'S WELL GARDENS AND WATER FEATURES AROUND THE HILLS. Consultant, Keith Gotobed and AONB Officer, David Armitage, gave a presentation on those Heritage Lottery funded projects situated on Conservators' land:-

- **St. Ann's Well landscaping.** This work would include rebuilding the lower pond and reinstating the cascade, landscaping the upper terraces and replacing tables and chairs with those in the Victorian style, resurfacing the access road and reinstating steps to the Octagon Room. Tenders had now been received and varied between £160,000.00 to £62,500 (budget figure £48,000.00) and members comments were invited as to whether the scheme should be scaled down to keep the work within the budget or to raise the additional money from Conservators' funds. In view of the high profile of this scheme, it was **PROPOSED** by Mr. Tretheway, **SECONDED** by Mr. Witcomb and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to go ahead with the full extent of the work and that the Administration & Resources Committee be asked to fund the £22,000.00 required.
- **Water Features.** These included refurbishment of the spouts at Lower Wyche, Westminster Bank, Hayslad, Eilerslie, Barnards Green and North Malvern and Weavers Well (between Lower Wyche and Wyche Road) and the Willow Spring (Walwyn Road, Upper Colwall).

Apart from the proposed work at Hayslad and Westminster Bank which Mr. Gotobed would be producing drawings for presentation at a future meeting of the Committee, members **NOTED** the refurbishment to the remainder of the spouts and springs would be clearing undergrowth, regravelling plaques and repairs to the structures and railings where necessary.

6. CASTLEMORTON MANAGEMENT PLAN. The Director presented the draft scoping exercise which was the first stage in preparing a Management Plan for Castlemorton. This had been prepared by the AONB Project Officer as part of the Heritage Lottery funded projects. This was **NOTED** and it was **AGREED** that the Director would pass on comments that horse training was not permitted on Conservators' land and it was the policy to keep notices to a minimum.

7. LITTER BINS. Mr. Plant stated that in reading the report of the visit to the Ashdown Forest Conservators he noted that they did not have litter bins. In view of the cost to the Board of emptying and disposing of the contents of bins he **PROPOSED**, **SECONDED** by Mr. Tretheway that the Mill Pond was used as a trial area by decommissioning the three litter bins and encouraging the public to take their litter home. This was **AGREED**.

8. SITE MANAGEMENT OF SWINYARD & GULLET AREA. The Director presented his report explaining the problems being experienced in this area during the summer months. He reminded members that the Swinyard car park had been constructed ostensibly for aesthetic reasons. It had been decided however to include a solar-powered parking meter, the first time a meter had been placed on the Commons. Having spoken to the Wardens, it had been suggested that to try and alleviate the problem car parking charges be suspended on busy weekends. Following discussion it was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** to suspend car parking charges at all times at Swinyard and to review the situation at the meeting of the Committee on the 6 October. The recommendation to place stones on the verges of the road leading to the Gullet was **AGREED**.

9. INFORMATION.

9.1 Tripartite Meeting. The report of the meeting held on the 13 June 2005 between Castlemorton Common Association, Castlemorton Parish Council and the Conservators was circulated to members and **NOTED**.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.09 p.m.

Arising.

7.2.1 4.2 British Camp Improvements. It was **AGREED** that Mrs. Thetford would organise a site visit for members to view the new path constructed on the south side of British Camp.

7.2.2 5. St. Ann's Well Landscaping. It was **NOTED** that the disparity between the budget and the lowest tender figure was due to the fact that six years had elapsed since the original application to the Heritage Lottery had been lodged.

7.2.3 6. Castlemorton Management Plan. In answer to a question, the Director advised that although the AONB was preparing the Management Plan using funds from the Heritage Lottery Grant, any proposed actions resulting would require the consent of the Conservators. This was **NOTED**.

7.2.4 7. Litter Bins. Mr. Plant reported that the scheme had been in operation for three weeks and was working well. This was **NOTED**.

7.2.5 8. Site Management of Swinyard & Gullet Area. The Director advised that following implementation of the recommendations a report would be made to the next meeting of the Committee. This was **NOTED**.

The report was **CARRIED**.

7.3 ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCES. Mr. Wilcock presented the following report of the meeting held on the 25 August 2005 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr. Angell.

MEETING of the **ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCES COMMITTEE** held at Manor House on Thursday, 25 August 2005 at 7 p.m.

Present:- Mr. M. Angell, Mr. R. F. Hall-Jones, Mr. P. E. Harling, Mr. A. K. C. Macmillan, Mr. A. Myatt, Mr. P. Rumney, Dr. B. G. Smith, Mr. J. A. Tretheway, Mr. B. A. Wilcock (Chairman).

In attendance:- The Director, Administrative Officer, Conservation Officer, Financial Assistant, Financial Consultant, Mr. R. Roberts, Mrs. S. Thetford.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr. M. Cordey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS.

3.1 The Chairman introduced the newly appointed Conservation Officer, Rob Havard and welcomed him to his first meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20 JUNE 2005.

4.1 6. Byelaw Offences. The Administrative Officer reported that the cost of the recent prosecutions against Mr. Richard Dawe and Mr. Tom Wilkes had amounted to £4,893.45 and £2,923.25 respectively. Mr. Wilkes had appealed against the conviction and although the Appeal was dismissed, Mr. Wilkes' fine was reduced from £250.00 to £150.00. However the Crown Court ordered that he paid £150.00 towards the Conservators' costs of the Appeal in addition to the £250.00 that he was ordered by the Magistrates Court to pay towards the Conservators' costs of the original prosecution. These payments must be made at the rate of £5.00 per week. This was **NOTED** and it

was **AGREED** to write to Sir Michael Spicer, MP drawing attention to the costs involved in bringing prosecutions. The Administrative Officer drew attention to a letter received from a resident of Castlemorton thanking the Conservators for supporting the community in bringing the prosecution against Mr. Wilkes.

4.2 7.2 Committees. Mr. Macmillan advised of his intention to raise the subject of the committee structure in six months' time. This was **NOTED**.

5. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS. The Financial Consultant presented the Management Accounts for the three months ended 30 June 2005 which were **NOTED**.

6. VAT INSPECTION. The Financial Consultant reported on a satisfactory VAT inspection which was **NOTED**.

7. FORWARD STRATEGY 2005/2015. Dr. Smith presented his thoughts on the Forward Strategy, which he had prepared taking into account members' views following discussion on the draft Forward Plan in April 2005 and recommended that in order to develop this an informal discussion by Conservators should be organised. This was seconded by the Chairman and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**. Following discussion it was **FURTHER AGREED** that prior to the meeting a series of headings would be prepared. This draft would be circulated and finally agreed at a working party of the whole Board. The Strategy needed to be agreed within six months to ensure that it was in place before the new Management Plan.

8. LAND REGISTRY. On the proposal of Mr. Hall-Jones, seconded by Mr. Tretheway, it was **AGREED** to accept the Land Registry's offer and that a budget of £1,500.00 should be met from reserves. This would be subject to the straightforward cases, i.e. where there was a good root of title, proceeding as soon as possible, but where there was reasonable doubt the matter in the first instance should be referred to a working party. The working party would comprise the Chairman of the Board, Mr. Myatt, Mr. Hall-Jones, Mrs. Thetford, Mr. Wilcock and a local member for the area concerned.

9. ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR ST. ANN'S WELL GARDENS. The Administrative Officer advised that the lowest tender received by the AONB for the landscaping work was £62,500.00 (budget figure £48,000.00). Following a presentation at the last Land Management Committee meeting, members felt that in view of the high profile of the scheme the work should not be scaled down and that the Administration & Resources Committee be asked to fund the £22,000.00 required. It was therefore recommended that the £22,000.00 was taken from the Gift Account which currently had a balance of £77,839.00. This was **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED**. Members asked that a suitable recognition of the source of the funds be recorded.

10. AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS. It was **AGREED** that item 4.7, Financial Reports, should be deleted from the order of business for the Board as the accounts were now considered by the Administration & Resources Committee.

11. INFORMATION.

11.1 Wardens. The Director reported that Richard Vale had successfully completed his six month probationary period as Warden.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Arising.

7.3.1 4.1 Byelaw Offences. In answer to a question, the Chairman advised that the decision to write to Sir Michael Spicer MP was to draw his attention to the disproportionately small amount of costs a defendant was required to pay when found guilty.

The Director advised that his decision to recommend prosecution was dependent on the degree of severity of the Byelaw offence and the number of complaints from the public. This was **NOTED**.

7.3.2 7. Forward Strategy 2005/2015. The Chairman advised that the informal discussion by Conservators would take place on Thursday, 22 September 2005 at 7 p.m. This was **NOTED**.

7.3.3 9. Additional Funding for St. Ann's Well Gardens. Mr. Wilcock advised that the Gift Account was an accumulation of money given over the years for the betterment of the Hills and both committees had felt it was particularly appropriate to use this to enhance St. Ann's Well. A suitable recognition of the source of the funds would be recorded. This was **NOTED**.

The report was **CARRIED**.

8. URGENT BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE.

8.1 Meeting held on 4 August 2005. The Chairman presented the following report of the meeting held on the 4 August 2005 which was **NOTED**.

MEETING of the **URGENT BUSINESS SUB-COMMITTEE** held at Manor House on Thursday, 4 August 2005 at 1 p.m.

Present:- Mr. J. Mills, Mr. R. Roberts, Dr. B. Smith, Mrs. S. Thetford, Mr. R. Thomas, Mr. J. Tretheway, Mr. W. Watts, Mr. B. Wilcock, Mr. R. Witcomb.

In attendance:- The Director and Administrative Officer.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr. R. Stockton.

2. LAND OFF CHASE ROAD, UPPER COLWALL, MALVERN. Members considered the acquisition of two areas of unimproved meadow with frontage to Chase Road to be sold by auction on the 25 August 2005 as follows:-

Mineral Water Field approximately 2.56 acres
Glenwood Paddock approximately 1.17 acres

Members were reminded of the land acquisition policy and noted that neither of the areas was adjacent to existing Conservators' land. It was, however, within close proximity to the Hills. Because of the relatively small areas involved the land would have no major landscape impact, was not readily seen from the Hills and as far as public access was concerned, these were two separate fields divided by a footpath. The views of the Operations Manager, Shepherd and Mr. Rouse had been sought who had felt it would not be particularly useful for sheep grazing as it was too small an area to be viable.

The advice of a Chartered Surveyor had been obtained and he had valued Glenwood Paddock in the region of £10,000.00 and Mineral Water Field £28,000.00. He noted that both were in a neglected state and required considerable attention in order to bring them up to a satisfactory standard, the boundaries and trees had been neglected, the land contained a number of pernicious weeds and some drainage works at the point of access would be necessary to contain the watercourse which ran between the two properties. Furthermore the exact line of the boundaries was unknown and the access point would involve cross rights which might have maintenance obligations over the private driveway which served the property.

Whilst it was noted that Colwall Parish Council supported the Conservators' purchase of the land to preserve it as open space, it was outside the development area.

Following discussion, it was **PROPOSED** by Mr. Tretheway, **SECONDED** by Mr. Roberts, that the Board did not put in an offer for the land. This was **CARRIED** by 7 votes to 2.

8.2 Meeting held on 5 September 2005. – Taken in committee.

9. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

9.1 Great Malvern Town Centre Partnership. Mr. Roberts reported on a meeting of one of the Partnership Task Groups he had attended. He was impressed with the enthusiasm of the parties involved and their wide ranging future plans. Two examples of their achievements were the removal of chewing gum marks from pavements and the excellent floral displays in the town. This was **NOTED**.

9.2 Malvern Spa Association. Mr. Roberts was pleased to report that the HLF funded work of renovation of St. Ann's Well and the Clock Tower was expected to start in the next month. He advised that the latest Spa newsletter was carrying an item regarding Jacobs Fountain. This was a bronze sculpture of four water babies by Richard Goulden, originally mounted on a white marble plinth and situated in the centre of the Pump Room. Since the renovation of the Theatre complex it was situated in a corner of the Malvern Theatre's restaurant. In view of the history and significance it had to many people, the Association would like to see it restored to its original position and were looking for support from the public. It had originally been paid for by public subscription as a permanent memorial to a much loved local GP, Dr. Henry Jacob, a former Chairman of the Council in the 1920s and a tireless campaigner for the public ownership of what later became the Winter Gardens and Priory Park. This was **NOTED**.

9.3 Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee. The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the JAC had been arranged for the 23 September 2005. This was **NOTED**.

10. URGENT BUSINESS. None.

11. INFORMATION.

11.1 Management Report. The Director presented his report as follows:-

MANAGEMENT REPORT

DATE: 8 SEPTEMBER 2005

CONTACT WITH OUTSIDE BODIES

Director

- Met with Hadrian's Wall Officer to look at proposed new path at British Camp
- Met Sight Savers regarding sponsored walk
- Met Jim Knight, MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Environment
- Filming on the Hills for Countryfile with John Craven
- Met Ed Gallagher, Council member for English Nature

Conservation Officer

- Meeting with Environment Agency
- Meeting with Will Leaper, Colwall Tree Warden
- Site meeting with Colwall Parish Clerk
- Site meeting with Jerry Ross, Arboricultural Consultant
- Meeting with Keith Barnett (Botanist)
- Grazing meeting with Peter Garner, Operations

Operations Manager

- Assisted with guided walk with the Royal Forestry Society

Wardens

- Met with Police regarding motor vehicle crime in beauty spots
- Attended Worcestershire Wardens Event and helped at talk by Bill Oddie

FIELD STAFF

- Strimming and mowing main hill paths and Commons
- Litter clearing

- ❑ Ditch clearing
- ❑ Bracken rolling at Ballard Land, Chase Road
- ❑ Picnic bench erected at British Camp
- ❑ Speed ramp at north entrance to West of England Car Park
- ❑ Began path restoration programme with repairs to path behind St. Ann's Well and Westminster Bank
- ❑ Moved cattle to east side of North Hill
- ❑ Gathered sheep for weaning
- ❑ Rebuilt and replaced circular seat around tree at junction of Old Church Road/Walwyn Road
- ❑ Attended illegal traveller encampment at Townsend Way

TRAINING

Nicky Quinn attended 2 days training in botanical surveys with ecologist at Castlemorton

WARDENS

- Byelaw incidents:-

Fly tipping	16
Abandoned vehicles	3
Camping	9
Illegal fires	6
Off road driving	8
Unauthorised signs	2
Unauthorised skips	2
Unauthorised parking	5
Vandalism	1
Cars for sale on the Common	4
Unauthorised work by utilities	6
Mountain boarders	3
Encroachments	2
Dogs chasing sheep	1
- Beacon Newsletter produced
- Ongoing meetings with army forces re low level training exercises on MHC land
- Youth Offending Service continue to clear bracken at Purlieu field
- Malcolm Brown completed induction as a Voluntary Warden covering British Camp area
- Arranged next 6 months Conservation Days
- Held Conservation Day clearing paths – 16 volunteers attended
- Strimmed car parks

ADMINISTRATION

- 5 Planning applications looked at and comments made on 2
- The Board's seal was attached to an agreement with Wychavon District Council relating to Liveability Fund

Arising.

11.1.1 Sheep Numbers. The Conservation Officer reported that sheep numbers were currently 197 ewes, 26 yearling ewes, 36 lambs and 4 rams.

11.1.2 Travellers. The Director reported that there had been a further illegal encampment at Newland.

11.1.3 Path Restoration Programme. Mr. Macmillan advised that the path south of St. Ann's Well was muddy and needed attention.

11.1.4 Beacon Newsletter. Mrs. Thetford wished to place on record her appreciation for this excellent newsletter and her remarks were endorsed by Mr. Tretheway.

11.1.5 Cattle. Mr. Masters expressed concern that commoners cattle had been in a fenced off area with the Conservators' cattle and also felt that the time of the Field Staff should not

be spent on the grazing project but that the work should be carried out by casual staff. It was **AGREED** to refer this to the Land Management Committee.

11.1.6 Clevelode. Mr. Masters passed on the thanks of the residents of Clevelode for the mowing carried out by the Field Staff.

The report was **NOTED**.

11.2 HIGHWAY WORK AT HALL GREEN. In answer to a comment from Mr. Masters, the Director advised that following Mr. Masters' concern at recent highway works which had resulted in the removal of a ditch, the Warden had carried out investigations with a representative from the Highways Department who had stated that all water would now channel into a single drain. In the circumstances any problems occurring in the future would be taken up with Highway Authority.

11.3 HASTINGS POOL. Mr. Masters reported that the duckweed had returned to the pool.

12. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. On the proposal of Mrs. Thetford, seconded by Mr. Wilcock, it was **AGREED** by 19 votes with one abstention that Dr. Smith should be elected Chairman of the Board for the year from 1 November 2005.

13. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD. On the proposal of Mr. Roberts, seconded by Mr. Pilcher, it was **AGREED** by 19 votes with one abstention that Mr. Tretheway should be elected Vice Chairman of the Board for the year from 1 November 2005.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Wilcock, it was **AGREED** that the remainder of the meeting should be taken in committee as it contained confidential information.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.