

MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS

MEETING OF THE BOARD

8 January 2009 7 pm

Priory Lodge Hall Avenue Road Malvern

Present:- Mrs S Adeney, Mr R Chamings, Mr C Cheeseman, Mr M Cordey, Mr R Hall-Jones, Dr T Hunt, Mrs J Kelly, Mr M Morgan, Mr B Pilcher, Mr C Rouse, Dr B Smith, Mr C Smith, Mr J Smith, Mrs H Stace, Mr R Roberts (Chairman), Mrs S Thetford, Mr R Thomas, Mr P Tuthill, Mr D Watkins, Mr P Watson, Mr W Watts, Mr J Webb.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mr A Myatt, Mr B Wilcock.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

2.1 Website. The Chairman advised that the new Malvern Hills Conservators' website (www.malvern hills.org.uk) was up and running. This was **NOTED**.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS. None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Mr M Cordey declared an interest in item 11

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. On the proposal of Mr C Smith, seconded by Mr P Watson, it was **AGREED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13 November 2008 should be **CONFIRMED** and **SIGNED** as a true and correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING.

6.1 12.2 Tyres on the Common adjacent to The Homestead, Clevelode Lane, Guarlford. The Director reported that the tyres had been removed from Malvern Hills Conservators' land by the Environment Agency. This was **NOTED**.

6.2 15. Urgent Business – Land Acquisition. Taken in committee.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

7.1 LAND MANAGEMENT. Mrs Thetford presented the report of the meeting held on the 27 November 2008 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr Pilcher and **CARRIED**. In presenting the report Mrs Thetford drew attention to the Annual Report that had been circulated to members, in particular the item on the work carried out by the volunteers and recommended that members' grateful thanks for their work was relayed to them. This was **AGREED**.

7.2 ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCES. In the absence of Mr Wilcock, Mr J Smith, Vice Chairman, presented the report and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr Hall-Jones.

Arising.

7.2.1 10. Budget and Service Delivery. Attention was drawn to the discussion that had taken place on legacies and donations. This had resulted in some good ideas coming forward to encourage more donations into the Gift Fund. This was **NOTED**.

The report, apart from item 16 was **CARRIED**.

8. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

8.1 Malvern Spa Association. Mr Roberts advised that the Association had recently held two successful events, a talk on dowsing and the Christmas Party. He also reported that the leaflet on the Springs and Spouts of the Northern Hills had now been published.

8.2 Great Malvern Town Centre Partnership. Mr Roberts reported that there had been no meetings in the previous two months.

8.3 Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee. Dr Smith advised that there had been no meeting since his last report.

9. URGENT BUSINESS. None.

10. INFORMATION.

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

Arising.

10.1.1 Mr Pilcher advised that he was making enquiries of increasing the water for stock on the Hills by use of hydraulic pumps. This was **NOTED**.

10.2 Mr Ralph Storer, deceased. Mr Hall-Jones reported the recent death of past Chairman of the Board, Mr Ralph Storer. This was noted with regret.

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr C Smith, it was **AGREED** that the remainder of the meeting should be taken in committee as the business to be considered was confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL – NOT FOR PUBLICATION

TAKEN IN COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON THE 8 JANUARY 2009

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON THE 8 JANUARY 2009.

6.2 15. Urgent Business – Land Acquisition – Coombe Green Common. Dr Smith felt that for clarification and accuracy it should be noted that the land was withdrawn as the landowner was not in agreement with the sale because of the views of some local inhabitants. This was **NOTED**.

6.3 15. Urgent Business – Land Acquisition – Severn Trent Land at British Camp. In answer to concern expressed by several members at the issues involved in taking over the reservoir, the Director advised that at this stage the Board had only expressed an interest following Severn Trent's approach and that the matter would come before the Board before proceeding further. This was **NOTED**.

7.2.1 16. Waste Storage Facility. It would **AGREED** that the working party should comprise Mr Roberts, Mr Rouse, Dr Smith, Mrs Thetford and with his agreement, Mr Soley.

11. INVESTMENT POLICY. As agreed at the last meeting of the Board, the Financial Consultant had arranged for two presentations in order for members to receive professional independent advice on investing the Board's funds.

Presentations were received from Investment Managers, Brewin Dolphin and Lloyds Private Banking Division. Following the presentations, which included question and answer sessions, members **AGREED** that the matter should be referred to the next meeting of the Administration & Resources Committee with a recommendation that a working party be set up to take the matter further.

The meeting closed at 10 pm.