

MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS

MEETING OF THE BOARD

14 May 2009 7 pm

Present: Mr R Chamings, Mr C Cheeseman, Mr M Cordey, Mr R Hall-Jones, Dr T Hunt, Mrs J Kelly, Mr M Morgan, Mr A Myatt, Mr A Phillips, Dr B Smith, Mr C Smith, Mr J Smith, Mrs H Stace, Mr R Roberts (Chairman), Mr M Soley, Mrs S Thetford, Mr R Thomas, Mr P Tuthill, Mr D Watkins, Mr P Watson, Mr B Wilcock.

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

Mr Frank Hill, Chairman of the local group of the Campaign to Protect Rural England, gave a presentation on the history, structure and aims of the organisation that had been in existence for over 80 years. He explained its involvement in campaigning at national, regional and local levels on issues of building development and planning which included the current South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy. On behalf of members the Chairman thanked Mr Hill for his interesting and enlightening presentation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs S Adeney, Mr B Pilcher, Mr C Rouse, Mr R Stockton, Mr P Watts, Mr W Watts.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT.

2.1 It was with great sadness the Chairman announced the death of Worcestershire County Council representative, Mr Jeremy Webb. Jeremy first joined the Board in 2003 and had been Vice Chairman of the Land Management Committee. He had a great interest in the Hills and his thoughtful, sound judgement would be sadly missed.

2.2 Cleeve Common Conservators. Any members who wished to meet representatives from Cleeve Common Conservators on the 7 July and had not yet submitted their name were asked to contact the office as soon as possible.

2.3 Countryfile and Countrywise. The Chairman on behalf of members congratulated those members of staff who had recently appeared in the television documentaries.

2.4 Three Counties Show 19-21 June. The Chairman asked those members who would like to help on the stand to let him have their return slips as soon as possible.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS. None.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST. None.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES. Subject to amendment of the matter arising from item 8 line 4 to read *....which was not a listed public company* in place of "which was a limited company", it was **AGREED** on the proposal of Mr C Smith, seconded by Mr Morgan, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 12 March 2009 should be **CONFIRMED** and **SIGNED** as a true and correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING.

6.1 7.1.3 Well Dressing 2009. It was reported that the bifurcating spout had been refitted and working well. This was **NOTED**.

6.2 9.1 Malvern Spa Association. On the proposal of Mr Tuthill, it was **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to Dr John Harcup and Mr Lionel Butcher congratulating them on their excellent talk on "Well Dressing and Darwin".

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS.

7.1 LAND MANAGEMENT. Mrs Thetford presented the report of the meeting held on the 2 April 2009 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr C Smith.

Arising.

7.1.1 6. Higher Level Stewardship – Castlemorton and Southern Hills. The Chairman advised that following a comment made at the meeting he had enquired whether a hovercraft had been developed to travel over the common and had been told that although it might be possible it would require a large machine costing about £100,000.00 to purchase. This was **NOTED**.

7.1.2 7. Track to Marlbrook Farm, Castlemorton. The Director advised that in view of the damage being caused by vehicles driving onto the common to avoid potholes in the track, it was in everyone's interest for resurfacing work should be carried out as soon as possible and advised members of costings using stone (£6,000) and road planings (between £1,400 and £2,600). Although the policy guidelines for overground easements stated $\frac{3}{4}$ " grey chippings to dust, the track was being used to service a business as a riding stables, with up to thirty vehicles visiting the property in a day, he felt that road planings would be the practical solution in this instance.

On the proposal of Mr Chamings, seconded by Mrs Thetford, it was **AGREED** by 17 votes to 1 with 2 abstentions, that subject to the agreement of Natural England, the occupier of Marlbrook Farm be permitted to repair the track with road planings.

7.1.3 12. Higher Level Stewardship – Castlemorton and Southern Hills. Taken in committee.

The report, excluding items taken in committee, was **CARRIED**.

7.2 ADMINISTRATION & RESOURCES. Mr Wilcock presented the report of the meeting held on the 9 April 2009 and moved its adoption. This was seconded by Mr Myatt.

Arising.

7.2.1 4.2 Byelaw Offence. The Director reported that the appeal due to be heard on the 24 April had been postponed as one of the Board's witnesses was unavailable on that day. A new date was awaited. This was **NOTED**.

7.2.2 12. St Ann's Well Lease. Taken in committee.

The report was **CARRIED**, excluding items taken in committee.

8. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES.

8.1 Malvern Spa Association. Mr Roberts reported that the latest newsletter now being circulated contained details of all the restoration work carried out to the Wells. He also reported on another successful Well Dressing Weekend full details of which could be found on YouTube under *Well Dressing Malvern 2009*.

8.2 Great Malvern Town Centre Partnership. Mr Roberts reported that together with the Director he had attended a meeting to consider the future direction of the Town Centre Partnership and its relationship to High Street Malvern when lively ideas for the future had been discussed.

8.3 Malvern Hills AONB Joint Advisory Committee. Dr Smith reported on the launch of the new AONB Management Plan and supplementary documents. The next meeting of the JAC

was to be held on Friday, 22 May when matters to be discussed would include the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy, Views from the Hills document and a study of listed buildings.

9. URGENT BUSINESS. None.

10. INFORMATION.

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

On the proposal of the Chairman, seconded by Mr Hall-Jones, it was **AGREED** that the remainder of the meeting should be taken in committee as the matters to be discussed were confidential.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.