

LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Thursday 3 June 2010 4 pm Manor House Malvern

Present:- Mr D C Baldwin, Mr R J Chamings, Mr C Cheeseman, Dr T R Hunt, Mrs J M Kelly, Mr B J M Pilcher, Mr J Plant, Mr R G Roberts, Mr C A Rouse (Chairman), Mr C T Smith, Mrs H Stace, Mrs S Thetford.

In attendance:- The Director, Conservation Officer, Administrative Officer, Mr P Watson and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE. Mrs S Adeney, Mr A J Phillips, Mr W Watts.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Mr C Rouse declared a personal interest in matters relating to the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

3. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS. The Chairman welcomed Mr David Baldwin to his first meeting of the Committee.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1 APRIL 2010.

4.1 7. Surface Repairs on Car Parks and Bridleways. Further research had revealed that an anomalous situation existed with regard to the maintenance of the track from Chase Road to The Kettle Sings in that MHC had historically contributed towards the cost of its maintenance. In the circumstances the Director had agreed with the owner that MHC would pay 60% of the cost and this would be included in the budgeting for the other surface repair works currently being carried out.

The Director reported that the repair work to the tarmac track to the Worcestershire Beacon had commenced.

4.2 11. Community Woodland Townsend Way. It was reported that the wooden signs had now been erected.

5. APPLICATION FOR AN EASEMENT TO SERVICE A NEW PROPERTY TO BE BUILT IN THE GARDEN OF 19 POOLBROOK ROAD. In presenting her report the Administrative Officer reminded members of the new policy guidelines and recommended that members accept that this is a case where on a purely without prejudice basis that would be considered on its merits but a decision would be withheld until full details of the application were known.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to permit the architect, Mr D Greenhill, to present further information. Mr Greenhill advised that whilst firm details were not yet available he was looking at minimum impact on the immediate surroundings. In particular he was hoping to have all the turning for both properties on site and to use the existing gravel track across the Common. Furthermore this would be an eco bungalow set back in the garden of the existing property which would be barely visible from the Common.

The meeting was reconvened.

*It was proposed by Mr Chamings, seconded by Mr Roberts, and **UNANIMOUSLY AGREED** that the recommendation should be **ADOPTED**.*

6. LOWER PURLIEU/MATHON TRACK. The Conservation Officer reported on the site visit carried out prior to the meeting which had pinpointed several steps that could be taken

to improve the accessibility on foot by the placing of sleepers and stone. He would also look into the suggestion of diverting the water from the lower path. He recommended that the funding for this work, which would entail re-making the track and would cost no more than £5,000.00, be taken from the Parliamentary Fund.

*On the proposal of Mr C Smith, seconded by Mr Chamings, it was **CARRIED** by 8 votes, with one against and one abstention, to recommend to the Administration & Resources Committee that a figure no higher than £5,000.00 be taken from the Parliamentary Fund to pay for the remaking of the track. The condition of the track would be reviewed next winter.*

7. APPLICATION FOR EASEMENT AT MALVERN RETAIL PARK TOWNSEND WAY MALVERN. In presenting her report the Administrative Officer advised that MHDC needed more time to look at the proposal but were not dismissing it at this stage.

*In view of this and the further research required, it was proposed by Mr C Smith, seconded by Mr Pilcher and **CARRIED** with one abstention, that the matter was deferred and the applicants asked to give an undertaking at this stage to pay the Board's legal costs in any event.*

8. COMPARTMENTAL GRAZING ON THE HILLS. Following a question raised at the last Board Meeting the Conservation Officer presented his report summarising the legal position regarding the grazing compartments on the Hills.

*On the proposal of Mrs Stace, seconded by Mr Baldwin, the paper was **ENDORSED** by 10 votes to two against.*

9. SCRUB CLEARANCE AND WORK PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR. This presentation was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.

10. BARN AT MORTON GREEN. The Director advised that he had had a request from the new owners of Bakehouse Barn to enter into a licence to use a barn, situated adjacent to their property on common land owned by MHC at Morton Green. As part of the agreement they would pay for re-roofing and installing new doors. Following advice the draft Licence suggested a term of 25 years with an annual rent of £100.00. The owners of Bakehouse Barn will be responsible for any insurance or other costs.

11. INFORMATION.

11.1 Sustainable Development Fund. The Director reported that MHC had been awarded £7,348.00 of the £10,000.00 requested in the application for grant aid from the fund for path works. He had initially obtained three quotations but in view of the complexity of the works it had been decided to employ a contractor at £250.00 a day to carry out excavation work and investigations into the drainage channels and help in producing a methodology statement so that the contract can be put out to tender for the path improvement work.

11.2 Mill Pond. Because of geese nesting the work had been postponed for a couple of weeks. The notice board to be erected at the site was made available for members.

11.3 Circus on Malvern Link Common. Permission had been granted for John Lawsons Circus to hold a circus on Malvern Link Common from the 24th/27th June 2010.

The Chairman proposed, seconded by Mrs Thetford, that the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the fact that the nature of the business to be transacted was confidential and involved the financial or business affairs of a particular person. This was **AGREED** with 2 abstentions.