

10 March 2016

MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS ORDINARY MEETING OF THE BOARD

**Council Chamber, Avenue Road, Malvern
Thursday 10th March 2016, 7:00 pm**

Present: Mr R Bartholomew, Ms C Bovey, Mr S Braim, Mr D Bryer, Mr M Cordey, Mrs P Cumming, Mr M Davies, Dr P Forster, Mr A Golightly, Mr R Hall-Jones (Chairman), Mr D Hawkins, Mr R Madden, Mrs C O'Donnell, Mr J O'Donnell, Mr C Penn, Professor J Raine, Mrs G Rees, Ms S Rouse, Mr C Rouse, Ms H Stace, Mr D Street, Mr P Watson, Mr T Yapp.

In attendance: Director, Community and Conservation Officer (CCO), Conservation Officer, Deputy Conservation Officer, Finance and Administration Manager, Secretary to the Board, 2 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr D Baldwin, Mr S Freeman, Mrs S Stewart, Mr J Michael.

2. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 2.1 The Chairman introduced Duncan Bridges, MHC's new Director.
- 2.2 The Chairman gave the dates for Land Management Outdoor Meetings
 - 23.03.2016 4.00pm Hollybed Common
 - 24.05.2016 4.00pm Thirds Wood
 - 23.08.2016 6.00pm TBC
- 2.3 A Pensions Briefing would take place on 21.06.2016 Open Space, Upper Interfields, 10am – 3pm. Everyone was urged to attend. It was likely that a Special Board meeting would be called on 5 July 2016, to make a decision on the future of the pension scheme.
- 2.4 The contract had been awarded for the rebranding. There would be a Board member workshop in April, followed by another workshop to select a design in July. It was hoped to bring the matter to the FA & R Committee in August.

3. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was a question from Dr G Crisp:

“In his response to a planning application the Director, Mr Bound, stated on 19 October 2015 that the Conservators own verges on Chance Lane; will the board confirm that they are committed to ensuring that these verges are restored to their condition before unauthorised works were carried out on them?”

The Chairman responded that there was a planning application for an agricultural access across a verge in Chance Lane which was refused by Malvern Hills District Council on 20th January 2016. In this Board's response to this application, it stated the Conservators wrote to Mr Wilesmith (who was the owner of the land adjoining) on 27 March 2014 and 7 May 2014 informing him that Malvern Hills Conservators owned the land in questions. As it was

understood there might be a legal dispute over this ownership it would be inappropriate to comment further in public beyond saying that this Board had a clear record of defending its rights and ownerships and he had no reason to believe it would not continue to do so.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr C and Ms S Rouse declared an interest in matters relating to the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETING

On the proposal of Mrs Rees, seconded by Mr Rouse it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2015.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

There were none.

7. LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

7.1.1 On the proposal of Mr Rouse, seconded by Dr Forster, the **ACCURACY** of the minutes of the meeting held on 21.01.2016 was agreed.

7.1.2 On the proposal of Mr Rouse, seconded by Mr Golightly, the **ACCURACY** of the minutes of the meeting held on 22.02.2016 was agreed

7.2 Matters arising

Mr Watson suggested checking that safety signage in North Quarry was adequate.

7.3 On the proposal of Mr Rouse, seconded by Mr Golightly it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the resolution set out at item 7 in the minutes of the meeting of 21.01.2016. On the proposal of Mr Rouse, seconded by Mr Golightly it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt both sets of minutes.

8. FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

8.1 On the proposal of Mr Cordey, seconded by Mr O'Donnell, the **ACCURACY** of the minutes of the meeting held on 11.02.2016 was agreed.

8.2 Matters arising

There were none but Mr Cordey commented that it had been a positive meeting.

8.3 On the proposal of Mr Cordey, seconded by Mr Madden, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to amend the resolution at minute 8 to add the words, "carried forward into the next financial year if necessary".

On the proposal of Mr Cordey, seconded by Mr O'Donnell it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the minutes and the resolutions (as amended) contained in them.

9. GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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- 9.1 On the proposal of Prof Raine, seconded by Mr Bryer, the **ACCURACY** of the minutes of the meeting held on 28.02.2016 was agreed.
- 9.2 Matters arising
Prof Raine had now joined the working group looking at possible revisions to standing orders. Mr Hall- Jones expressed his thanks to the Governance Committee for taking on a huge job in relation to the review for the Charity Commission Scheme.
- 9.3 On the proposal of Prof Raine, seconded by Mr Bartholomew it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the minutes.

10. TO APPROVE LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

On the proposal of Mr Rouse, seconded by Mrs O'Donnell, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to:

- a) Approve the executive summary of the Land Management Plan
- b) To approve and adopt the Land Management Plan 2016 – 2021.

Ms Stace, endorsed by Mr Hall- Jones, asked a vote of thanks be recorded to the Conservation Officer for all the work which he had put in to preparation of the plan. Mr Hall-Jones said that the plan was a living document which would be reviewed on an annual basis. He also thanked all the Board members for their input.

11. TRAMPER UPDATE

The CCO reported that there had been a route assessment, and Highways were involved in discussions to provide dropped kerbs for the road crossing. Insurance was still proving problematic but it was hoped that this would be resolved. Fundraising was ongoing. Ms Stace asked that Highways take into account, when considering the position of the dropped kerbs that water floods down Beacon Road during rain storms.

12. MANAGEMENT REPORT

A written report had been circulated. The Director thanked everyone for his introduction to the organisation. In response to a question, the Director said that there had been an officer review of the operation of drones on the Hills. People were coming onto the land and flying them without authority. Mr Watson expressed his concern about the effect of drones on horses and their riders. The problem with water use at British Camp toilets had now been resolved. The Secretary to the Board confirmed that 34 Wyche Road had been sold subject to contract.

13. URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

14. INFORMATION

- 15.1 Malvern Spa Association -No report
- 15.2 AONB Joint Advisory Committee - No report
- 15.3 Wildlife Panel – Written report circulated.

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All the groups that carried out wildlife rerecording on the hills were represented on the panel.
Mr Hall-Jones thanked the Wildlife Panel for their very helpful report.

15.4 Recreation Advisory Panel - No meeting has taken place

15. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

No items requested.

16. CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

On the proposal of Mr Cordey, seconded by Mr Street it was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public for discussion of item 17 on the agenda on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the exempt or confidential nature of the business to be transacted (legal /commercially sensitive matter).

CONFIDENTIAL

MINUTES RELEASED

17. BUSH LANE

The Secretary to the Board reported on the ownership of Bush Lane.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

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