

12 March 2015

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MALVERN HILLS CONSERVATORS MEETING OF THE BOARD

Council Chamber, Avenue Road, Malvern
Thursday 12th March 2015, 7:00 pm

Present: Rev'd C Attwood, Mr D Baldwin, Mr R Cousins (Vice-Chairman), Mr S Freeman, Mr S Ginn, Mr A Golightly, Mr R Hall-Jones, Mr D Hawkins, Mr T Johnson, Mr R Madden, Mr B Pilcher, Prof J Raine, Mrs G Rees, Mr C Rouse, Ms H Stace (Chairman), Mr D Street, Mr T Yapp, Mrs S Young.

In attendance: Director, Secretary to the Board, 1 member of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Mr R Chamings, Mr M Cordey, Mr J Roskams, Mr R Morton, Mr P Tuthill, Mr P Watson.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Rouse – Higher Level Stewardship scheme.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

4.1 The Chairman welcomed Tony Johnson.

4.2 Update on Board vacancies The by-election in Link Ward would take place on 26 March. There were 5 candidates.

4.3 Any other matters Linda Churchill would be leaving on 13 May after 12 years working for MHC. Lisa Curtis had been appointed as the new Financial Assistant.

5. MINUTES OF THE LAST BOARD MEETINGS

Subject to a minor amendment, on the proposal of Mr Cousins, seconded by Ms Stace, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the meeting of 11 December 2014 be signed as a **TRUE** and **ACCURATE** record. Again subject to minor amendments, it was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Special Board Meeting held on 12 February 2015 be signed as a **TRUE** and **ACCURATE** record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE BOARD MEETINGS

Rev'd Attwood wished to put on record that the Special Board meeting was an example of a really good public meeting. He felt it was wonderfully chaired and brilliantly prepared and he wished to say "Thank You". Ms Stace said that she was proud of how the matter was dealt with by the Board of Conservators.

7. MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES

7.1 LAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JANUARY 2015

7.1.1 Mr Rouse presented the minutes of the meeting held on 8 January 2015. The **ACCURACY** of the minutes was **AGREED**.

7.1.2 Mr Rouse asked whether there were any matters arising. Mr Pilcher asked whether MHC and in particular the Fixed Point Photography project could make use of drones? Mr Hawkins said that the Disabled Ramblers Association was not representative of the average disabled person. It was difficult to take an adult up the Beacon in a wheelchair. He felt MHC should do something to help transport disabled people up the Beacon. The Director said that there were various options which could be investigated in the short term, but that it was also worth looking at extending MHC powers to licence such an operation. The Disabled Ramblers Association had confirmed that the Beacon could be accessed in a standard mobility scooter. Other points made included checking with disabled people's groups to ensure any actions considered were what they wanted and giving more publicity to the existence of the easy access paths. Ms Stace asked the Recreation Advisory Panel to consider the issues.

The Director confirmed that Hayslad spring was now working properly.

7.1.3 On the proposal of Ms Stace, seconded by Mr Cousins it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the minutes and the recommendations contained in them.

7.2 FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 FEBRUARY 2015

7.2.1 Mr Street presented the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2015. Subject to a minor amendment, the **ACCURACY** of the minutes was **AGREED**.

7.2.2 Mr Street confirmed that a meeting had been arranged for 19 March with the manager of the pension fund at County Hall and the Actuary. Mr Pilcher asked whether a charge had been made for pre-planning advice in relation to St Ann's Well.

7.2.3 On the proposal of Mr Madden, seconded by Ms Stace, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the minutes and the recommendations contained in them.

7.3 GOVERNANCE

Rev'd Attwood said that there had been no meeting, but one had now been scheduled for 30 April 2015.

8. SPRINGS ON MHC LAND

The Director had ascertained that Worcester Regulatory Services had themselves put warning signs up about water quality when necessary. He had E mailed them to say that MHC were happy to proceed on the basis that Worcester Regulatory Services would put up signs on the springs if they felt it was necessary.

9. INFORMATION

9.1 Malvern Spa Association

There was a short written report. The theme for the well dressing was “Rivers of Life”

9.2 AONB Joint Advisory Committee

There had been no meeting.

9.3 Wildlife Panel

There was a short written report.

9.4 Recreation Advisory Panel

There had been no meeting.

10. URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

11. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

There were no other items.

12. It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public for the discussion of items 12 and 13 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 (staffing issue and commercial sensitivity)