

Parish Of Alfrick And Lulsley Appendices - Minutes of the Meeting of the Council 20/10/2009

Appendix -a Questions for members of the public.

None

Appendix-b Reports. County & District Councillors, Parish Paths Warden, Parish Tree Warden et al.

C Smith - County Councillor

My outstanding personal highways maintenance grant has been divided among the Parish councils with an additional £1000 available to this parish.

The County Council is under financial pressure to make savings of £45m in the next three years and some is expected to come from capital allocations to highways. I will keep the council informed of this as the matter progresses.

Cllr A Warburton (District Councillor) reported:

The MHDC Medium Term Financial Plan is currently under review with ambitious targets to keep MHDC proportion of Council Tax as low as possible, however as income from investments, down by £80k, and local economic activity has reduced in the poor economic climate it is likely that council tax will have to rise to meet this shortfall.

Parish Paths Warden - Cllr G Lowe

The footpath up to the wood, from opposite the Lulsley Hill road, has been cleared by volunteers and is now much easier to walk. Another path crossing the steep sided Broad Dingle a short distance below the lake, now has steps on the eastern side, making access less risky, but the footbridge still needs a new hand- rail. Between Folly Farm and Lulsley Lake a number of paths including bridleways have had the waymarking checked and replaced where needed.

The Parish Tree Warden

A planning application has been submitted by the Parish Tree Warden on behalf of the Parish Council to Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) to allow work to be carried out on some of the trees at the Jubilee Plantation, all of which carry Tree Preservation Orders. If the application is agreed then several of the trees on the southern boundary will be pruned and restructured while one tree at the centre of the plantation will be felled. This is likely to be the first of a number of applications to MHDC to allow further work at the plantation which has been unmanaged for a number of years.

The importance of hedgerow trees is being highlighted by several conservation organisations. They are of benefit in a number of ways including: as shelter and shade for livestock, to provide a habitat for many species of wildlife, to screen unsightly developments, to protect privacy and to provide a source of fuel. Without hedgerow trees our countryside would be bleak indeed. DEFRA is developing a scheme to provide financial incentives for farmers to increase the number of hedgerow trees and it is to be hoped that some landowners in the parish will take this opportunity to increase the bio and landscape diversity of their land.

Alfrick and Lulsley Village Hall Committee

Cllr B.J.Fishwick reported

The deadlock over the electricity supply pole has finally been broken. The contractors (Speller & Metcalfe) will start on site on 2nd November with work on trenching for the underground cable done on 9th November and the pole moved/power reconnected on the 11th/12th November.