

Parish Of Alfrick And Lulsley Appendices - Minutes of the Meeting of the Council 16/09/2008

Appendix -a Questions for members of the public.

The large size of the trees in the Jubilee plantation, the general state of the ground and the leaf-fall onto house guttering in the autumn was raised again by three residents. The chairman noted that the Tree Preservation Orders on all the mature trees in the plantation prevented any substantial felling or cutting back and the council was restrained as to what could be done. It had been the council's policy to keep the area as a wild-life habitat and to leave the undergrowth as such whilst maintaining a pathway around the perimeter but the council would reconsider the situation following the report of the Parish Tree Warden.

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

In sending his apology for absence Cllr C Smith (County Councillor) had sent the following report;

Firstly I am sorry that I am unable to attend tonight as I am out of the country all of this week. The only thing that I need to inform you about is that I am continuing with my campaign to get extra funding to resurface our rural roads. Many of you will by now have received my latest leaflet that highlights the fact that the proposal to spend up to £3.5 million purchasing Hartlebury castle could in fact provide over 33 miles of repaired and resurfaced rural roads across the county. I have followed this up by taking Trish Haines our new County Council chief executive around the whole Link Division to highlight the state of our rural roads. When she asked me what my number one priority was and what I thought should be the County Council's top priority I said without hesitation that it should be the resurfacing and repair of our rural roads and that the residents of our rural areas deserved a better deal where road maintenance was concerned.

D Hughes (District Councillor) reported;

The District Council was reviewing the effects of the recent floods; as far as he could ascertain there were no properties flooded in this parish but he would be interested to know if this was correct. A major project is underway to assess the causes and impact of the 2007 flooding and a special team had been set up to do this. All parish councils were being asked to make a report for this. (The clerk had done so already)

On Friday 19th September there was a special joint consultation and conference at the Bank House, Bransford to look at the needs of rural areas and consider the allocation of funds to projects. All councils were asked to send a representative.

Parish Footpath Warden's Report - G Lowe

There is a new Parish Paths Co-ordinator at WCC who is looking to discuss how the parish uses the P3 allocated fund and is also planning a special effort on Lulsley paths in 2009. This may lead to the need to split the P3 funding as the special project work is an alternative to the P3 funding. A new bridge is now in place over the brook at the Knapp and Papermill reserve but there is some concern over the design which could result in flooding due to debris building up on the structure and this will be reviewed. Work will start on repairing the Pivany Bridge in the next few weeks.

Parish Tree Warden's Report - D Bradley

Preliminary visit to Jubilee Plantation, Alfrick. 25th July 2008

I carried out this visit on 25th July 2008 prior to a planned meeting with Chris Lewis Farley, David Hughes and Geoffrey Brewin on 1st August at the plantation. The meeting results from the July parish council meeting which was attended by one of the householders adjoining the plantation who made a plea for some thinning to allow more light to his property.

The plantation and the ground between it and the road are covered by Tree Preservation Orders which means that only work that has been approved by MHDC can be carried out. The width of the protected swathe to the road needs to be clarified.

The trees were planted in 1978 to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee, the oldest and youngest villagers each planted a tree and the remainder by every child in the village school which was soon to close. The plantation has around 30 trees including dawn redwood, London plane, box elder (ash-leaved maple), lime, cherry, hornbeam, birch and sycamore. I saw two nest-boxes.

I note that previous tree wardens have attempted to survey the plantation. A thorough survey is very difficult because of the overgrown nature of the plantation. I found the area to be impenetrable with the ground covered in ivy with prolific growth of nettles and brambles and many young saplings of sycamore, ash, field maple, horse chestnut and elder. One area is

impassable because of a large loosely spreading *Leylandii* bush. There is ivy growing up many of the trees which could increase the risk of damage to trees and therefore to surrounding properties during winter months. A few of the trees are pretty poor specimens. The wire netting fence at the rear of the plantation has not been repaired.

In my view, the plantation causes inconvenience, by reducing the light, to only one dwelling (the one behind the wall). I was therefore somewhat surprised to notice that there were a number of large trees in that garden which were also contributing to shading of the property. It could be that those trees also are protected.

The narrow path which is the only access to the plantation is fairly free of vegetation, probably because of the shady conditions brought about by the fences, trees and walls on both sides. Indeed, I would suggest that much could be done to reduce shading in the area if some of these garden trees, mainly *Leylandii* type, were to be felled. There is evidence that some large *Leylandii* trees in the adjacent garden have recently been cut down.

It is important to determine whether the trees between the plantation and the road are protected because much could be done to increase the light to the adjacent properties without resorting to felling any of the plantation trees.

In July 07, Adrian Hope, arboriculturist, recommended removal of the outside row of trees nearest to the garden wall over the next five years in a rolling programme of maintenance. This would be to avoid damage to the wall and to provide more light to that particular property. I believe that removing those trees will not reduce shading to any great extent and if it does it will be only temporary as the remaining trees would react to additional space and light.

The plantation is not much of a village amenity at present, indeed, how many people know of its existence? However, it could become one if it were managed correctly. If this were done, it is likely that more people would visit the plantation. Is that what the adjacent householders want? It could become a sanctuary, a calm natural space or a place for mischief.

The future of the plantation needs to be debated. In the meantime, the undergrowth and self-sown trees should be cleared or tidied up; this can be carried out without the need for MHDC approval. I note from the notes of a visit by Chris Lewis-Farley in March 2007 that he saw no need for any pruning, removal of overhanging branches, shaping or thinning at the Jubilee Plantation.

Derek Bradley Tree Warden, Alfrick & Lulsley Parish 25 July 2008

Jubilee Plantation Meeting 1400 hrs 1st August 2008

Those present: Chris Farley-Lewis, MHDC
 Geoffrey Brewin, Clerk to Parish Council
 David Hughes, MHDC councillor
 Derek Bradley, parish tree warden

This meeting resulted from the July parish council meeting which was attended by one of the householders adjoining the Jubilee Plantation in Alfrick who made a plea for some thinning to allow more light to her property – “Field End”. The meeting was held at the plantation and lasted some 75 minutes.

The plantation and the ground between it and the road are covered by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) which means that only work that has been approved by MHDC can be carried out.

Chris Farley-Lewis was already familiar with the plantation, having visited it in March 2007 with the previous tree warden, David Fowler.

The key question with respect to the plantation is what do the Parish Council and the parishioners wish for this area and what, if any, limitations were placed on its use when it was transferred to Parish Council responsibility. Possibilities include a) retaining it as a wildlife area with limited access and b) carrying out considerable clearance in order for the area to be more accessible to parishioners. This needs careful consideration.

The plantation was surveyed in some detail. Chris Farley-Lewis thought that there would not be a problem in pruning or even felling some of the trees if a sensible proposal was submitted to him. It has to be said that this is contrary to his view in March 2007. Because this is such a small area he said that management was vital if the plantation were not to deteriorate. He indicated some trees that could be removed or trimmed and also some interesting saplings that ought to be retained. New saplings are not covered by the TPO. The emphasis was on plantation and wildlife management rather than on increasing the light to surrounding properties although this would probably result from such management.

The plantation is to the north of "Field End" so that shading by the plantation is not as great as it might be. It was felt that shading to the property could be considerably reduced if conifers along the access path and in the garden of Watcombe could be removed. Indeed a couple of the trees have recently been removed.

The next step is to propose a course of action to the Parish Council Meeting in September 08. My proposal is that much, but not all, of the undergrowth and self-seeded saplings be removed so that a full survey can be carried out. The survey would lead to the PC drawing up a plan to fell or prune certain trees in order to benefit the plantation as a whole and to develop the area as agreed by the PC in consultation with parishioners. This plan would be submitted to MHDC along with the necessary forms in order to obtain authorisation to carry out the work. Particular saplings would be identified, labelled and protected prior to any clearance of undergrowth.

With regard to any working parties: Worcestershire CC has agreed that Tree Wardens are classed as County Council volunteers and so fall under the WCC insurance. There is a free half-day course for tree wardens on working with or leading other volunteers. Hence it may be possible for a volunteer working party to tackle the initial clearance under the tree warden's leadership.

Derek Bradley Alfrick & Lulsley Tree Warden 1st August 2008

CLr B Fishwick reported on the Alfrick and Lulsley Village hall Committee Meeting - Monday September 1st 2008

Building Sub-Committee Report

The refurbishment plans have been submitted to Malvern Hills District Council and have received approval from the Planning Authority. The village hall committee is grateful to the Parish Council for both their endorsement of the application and for the financial support.

The second stage of the application for Lottery funding has now been made and the bank details of the village hall supplied as requested. A decision is expected by the end of March 2009. In the meantime other funding opportunities will be pursued now that planning approval has been obtained.

Tennis Court Repair.

This has been an agenda item for some time and after discussion it was agreed that due to the uncertainties surrounding the impact on the tennis court of the hall refurbishment project it would be best to defer any upgrading of the playing surface. It was therefore decided that this item would be reconsidered at the April 2009 meeting. In the meantime temporary repairs to the outer fencing would be carried out after the Alfrick Show and any opportunities for funding which may arise would be considered.

Village Show (Sept 6th)

The hall has been booked for this event from Wednesday 3rd to the day of the show. All other arrangements are in place.

Fundraising/Events.

Village Show. 6th September.

Vinyard Tour. To be booked, late September or early October.

Race Night. To be booked, possible dates 18th October/1st November.

Opera Dudes (Shindig). 15th November.

Hansel & Gretel (Shindig). 30th January 2009

50/50 Auction. 14th March 2009

Further events are in planning and will be considered at the next meeting.

AOB.

Brian Fishwick and Richard Steele have applied for places on a "Consultation Conference" at the bank House Hotel on 19th September, brought to our attention by Geoffrey. The conference claims to be about giving money to rural community projects.

Discussions have taken place with Suckley Village hall Committee about the possible use of their hall if and when ours becomes unavailable due to the refurbishment.

Date of the next meeting. Monday 6th October 2008.

The Parish of Alfrick and Lulsley Appendix -c 16/9/2008

Survey of Access to Dental Services

A questionnaire was circulated to all households in the last part of July with a request to be returned by 31 July. In the event 42 questionnaires were returned. This represents about 14% of households in the Parish. The number of persons in those households amounts to 84.

Analysis of households

	1 adult	2 adults	3 adults	1 adult + 2 children	2 adults + 2 children	2 adults + 3 Children	3 adults + 1 Child	Total
Households	10	26	2	1	1	1	1	42
Persons	10	52	6	3	4	5	4	84

Current access to services

- 40 persons (47.6% of respondents) are registered with an NHS service
- 40 persons (47.6% of respondents) are registered with a private service
- 4 persons (4.8% of respondents) are not registered with any service

Location of services accessed by number of persons

Location	Bromyard	Malvern	Worcester	Birmingham	Stratford	Lichfield	London
Persons	7	33	32	2	2	3	1

Satisfaction rating by NHS/private practice

Rating	Excellent	Good	Average	Poor	Very Poor
NHS practice	9	17	10	3	1
Private practice	13	24	3	-	-

Comments/Suggestions

- 13 households would support establishment of a practice at Knightwick for a variety of reasons e.g. convenience, less travel and fuel consumption
- 10 households would like to see more NHS services, particularly for children, and 1 respondent states that any service developed at Knightwick should be an NHS service
- 3 households state that they would not move to a new service in view of their satisfaction with current services
- 3 households drew attention to the expense of private practice
- Other comments included pleas for dentists to spend more time with their patients, to keep to appointment times, to be more widely experienced in dental work

Conclusions

- The low response rate would indicate that the provision and/or quality of local dental services is not a high priority for the majority of parishioners. It is doubtful therefore whether there is a strong enough case to be made for provision of a service based at Knightwick. Only 13 out of the 42 respondents supported specifically such a development.
- The level of satisfaction with services currently accessed is generally good or excellent i.e. 79% of respondents. Only 5% of respondents considered services to be poor or very poor.
- Satisfaction with private practices is higher than for NHS services i.e. 92% of those registered with private practices rated the service excellent or good compared with 65% in respect of NHS services

Next Steps

It is recommended that the following actions be taken by the Parish Council:

1. To communicate the results of the survey to the parish.
2. To send the results of the survey to the South Worcestershire Primary Care Trust as information that may be helpful in the planning of local dental services