

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7th November 2018 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte, Cllr R Lawrence, Cllr P Davies, Cllr C Green, Cllr N Walker

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk); Mr C Rouse & Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust)
Mrs Sam James (Footpaths Officer)

Apologies for absence - none received

Co-option of new Councillor - The Council considered an application to fill the Councillor vacancy from Mrs A Malsbury, and agreed to co-opt her onto the Council at the next meeting in January 2019. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies

DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI) or other DISCLOSABLE INTERESTS falling within the terms of para 12(4)(b) of the Code of Conduct.

Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - No requests had been received by the Clerk relating to any items on the present Agenda

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting for Public Question Time/Participation.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- (a) No public questions received
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – The CSO had reported to the Clerk that a burglary had taken place at West Malvern Cricket Club on 12th September. This was linked to similar burglaries at Eastnor and Brockhampton Cricket Clubs.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr David Baldwin and Mr Chris Rouse reported to the Meeting. The presence of wild boar had been reported approximately seven to eight miles away from South End Hill. A close eye was being kept on the situation as wild boar can do a great deal of damage. Around 100 people had attended a Land Management Meeting to voice their disapproval of potential development along the Guarlford Straight in Barnards Green. MHT had not yet decided about granting an easement permission for a developer to access land in this area. MHT have to look at all aspects and make a decision in the best interests of the Trust. Other Land Management matters to be raised are badger activity at Castlemoreton Common, fencing at the Gullett Quarry, conservation of winter scrub on the hills. Other matters under review include the refurbishment of the Manor House, staff terms and conditions and the possibility of section 106 money to spend on the Townsend Way woodland trail.
- (e) **Footpaths P3 Scheme 2018/19** - Mrs Sam James reported to the meeting. Local supporting parishioners were walking and reviewing footpaths or parts on an ongoing basis. Ted Stewart was looking at 7 stiles across the parish that were unstable or had failing footplates or parts. As agreed at the August Parish Council meeting, it was hoped that by the end of the financial year the full combined PC and BB/Hfds Council budget would be used up to ensure the footpaths would be in as good a condition as possible, as this current year was the final year of the P3 scheme. It was imperative that landowners with footpath issues i.e. repairs, maintenance, contact her so that Mathon PC could use all the grant available. Way markers for footpath MA13 had

been completed on 4th November. The Rights of Way Team Leader at Balfour Beatty (BB) had confirmed that “Permissive Paths” were not a legal right of way – although landowners were allowing the public to use a route across their land, they might have no intention for the route to become public and should have a notice to that effect, or should have way markers showing it as a permissive route.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th August 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 8th October 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies

63/18 MATHON PARISH HALL

Nothing to report on the Hall at the moment. The Clerk had been advised to place the Parish Map on the Council Asset Register. The Council agreed a valuation figure of £100.

64/18 FINANCE

To consider payment & approval of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk’s Salary - October/November - £348.60 (net) Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (b) Hall Hire fees - £104.00. Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr P Davies
- (c) Clerk’s Expenses – March – September 2018 - £185.14. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Green
- (d) Clerk’s Office/overheads – April-Sept 2018 - £70.00 Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (e) Clerk’s salary review 2019/20 - The Council approved the Clerk’s salary to be upgraded to SCP 28 (pro rata salary £2,752 p.a.) from 1st April 2019. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (f) The Council approved the half year Accounts to 30th September 2018. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies
- (g) Precept - the Council considered the draft precept figures prepared by the Chairman and the Clerk. After a discussion, the Council agreed a Precept figure of £7,622 for the year 2019/20, taking into account that the P3 Scheme for footpaths would no longer be in place. Cllr N Walker suggested that the Council formulate a policy for Footpaths Maintenance starting in April 2019. This was agreed by the whole Council. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

65/18 REPORTS

The Clerk had been asked by a member of the Village Hall Committee if the Parish Council Notice Board by the Cliffe (for which she holds a key) could be kept unlocked. Non keyholders had taken to putting posters/notices for display through her letterbox to be posted onto the Notice Board. This was proving time consuming and unworkable when she and her husband were away. An offer had also been made to her for “sprucing up” the Notice Board. Whilst the Council appreciated the offer, it was concerned that the oak board should only be oiled, not varnished. They were also not keen on the notice board being unlocked as there should be some control on what was displayed. The Chairman Cllr S Harte agreed to look into this.

66/18 VILLAGE GREEN (Rundlemead)

As Minuted in the previous August Meeting, the Council had agreed to a Network Access Agreement for Gigaclear to install ultrafast broadband across the Village Green (underground) as the Parish Council own the land. However, following on from this Agreement Gigaclear had installed a very large cabinet in the middle of the village green. This cabinet **had not been included** in the agreement signed by the Council, so in response to protests by parishioners, the Council held a site meeting with Gigaclear on 10th October 2018. Gigaclear accepted they were at fault and verbally agreed to move the cabinet to a more discreet site marked out by local residents, which was east of the village green towards the brook bridge. The Clerk reported she was still waiting for a new Agreement and written confirmation of the relocation of the cabinet, and was asked to keep chasing for this.

67/18 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Hackney Cross/Ditch by Stubby Pleck - Ref: CAS-658355-V4M1C4 - this had now been forwarded on to the Asset Team at BB by Neil James.
- (b) Culvert blocked near to the tennis club in Harcourt Road - BB had requested that the landowner be approached to clear a blocked ditch. Cllr S Harte to action
- (c) Overhanging trees – Harcourt Road - Cllr S Harte had spoken to the landowner concerned.
- (d) Partially blocked brook/possible sewage leak – rear of the Cliffe. Cllr S Harte to continue to investigate.
- (e) Blocked road gully from Pitts Cottage to Half Acre. Ref: CAS-700096-YOB 4P9- this has been re-reported along with other blocked drains.
- (f) Potholes along West Malvern Road. Some of the potholes had been filled in.
- (g) Warning posts at Rose Farm lying flat on the ground – this has been dealt with

68/18 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing further to report at the moment.

69/18 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

70/18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Mathon PCC

71/18 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman Date

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