

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 2nd SEPTEMBER 2015 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr R Lawrence, Cllr P Davies

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk),

Public Attendance – Mr T Ainscough

Apologies – Cllr N Walker, Cllr C Green, Mr David Baldwin (Malvern Hills Conservators)
Mr Geoff Fielding (Footpaths Officer)

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.
No requests had been received by the Clerk relating to items on the present Agenda (Sec 33 of the Localism Act 2011)

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- (a) **Public questions** – Mr T Ainscough raised the problem of Himalayan Balsam flowers, growing along the road towards Cradley, opposite Overley & Netherley Drives and near to the bridge. These flowers tend to grow alongside streams, and should be removed as they very quickly smother any other vegetation. The Council agreed to look into the matter.
- (b) **CSO/Police** – The Clerk had received a response from the CSO re speeding in the country lanes in and around Mathon. The speed limit is set at the national speed limit of 60 mph. Drivers should not be reaching this speed due to the narrowness of the lanes, the number of blind spots and the numerous farm vehicles using the lanes. This limit is very difficult to police. However, he had copied the Clerk's e-mail to Bob Haynes who is a traffic management advisor for West Mercia in the hope that we might be able to get further advice on this matter. The Clerk was asked to look into the possibility of Herefordshire Highways putting up warning signs for dangerous bends.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Footpaths** - No Report from Mr Geoff Fielding as he was away on holiday. The Chairman reported that both he and Geoff Fielding had spoken to Ted Stewart about the requirements of the new P3 scheme run by Balfour Beatty (BB). It was proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence that Mathon Parish Council sign up to this new scheme. The Chairman and the Clerk then signed a contract between the Parish Council/BB/Herefordshire Council.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 29th July 2015 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

1276 ACTIONS TAKEN FROM LAST MEETING

None to report which were not covered by the Agenda.

1277 REPORTS

The Clerk reported that the Council needed to re-appoint Mr David Baldwin as the Parish Council representative on the Malvern Hills Conservators Board. This appointment would commence on 1st November 2015 for four years i.e. until 2019. It was proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte that Mr David Baldwin be appointed as Mathon Parish Council's representative on MHC Board. The Clerk also reported that the Mathon Parish Council website was now up and running – www.mathonparishcouncil.co.uk

1278 MATHON PARISH HALL

Parish Map - The Chairman, Clerk and Mr T Ainscough reported that Louise Vaile had now cleaned the Parish Map, new backing board had been put in place, and it had been rehung back onto the wall. However, the Council needed to look at the long term future for the map as the work done by Louise Vaile would only keep it in good condition for a few years. After some discussion, the Council felt that the Map was a very important part of Parish history, and if at all possible, should be retained by the Parish and be on display. Mr T Ainscough stated that the Parish Hall would be willing to help with funding for the present and possible future work on the Map, and offered to investigate the costs of a dehumidifier/cabinet in which to house the map. It was proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr P Davies that Mr T Ainscough investigate the cost of the various options available. The Clerk to contact Louise Vaile to see if she could suggest suitable suppliers.

1279 FINANCE

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary August/September 2015 - £302.40 (net) - Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (b) Ogilvie Vale Conservation – second half of fee – £271.50. Already agreed at the last meeting. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (c) HMRC PAYE July/August/September 2015 - £113.40. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (d) Mi-Frame – Conservation backing board for Parish Map - £60.00 Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (e) The Clerk reported that the Parish Council Accounts for 2014/15 had been approved by the external auditors Grant Thornton. The Clerk to send a letter of thanks to Mr Hugh Wagstaffe for his help with the internal audit. There was no audit fee payable as the precept was under £10K.

1280 PENSION ENROLMENT

Although the Clerk had received a further reminder from the Pension Regulator about the need to register a pension scheme and enrolment, the staging date was not until March 2016. The Clerk explained the difficulties she had encountered with registering a scheme for Suckley Parish Council, and recommended that this matter be left until nearer the staging date to avoid misunderstandings with the Pension Provider.

1281 PLANNING

As requested, the Clerk had contacted Herefordshire Planning re Planning App No P150163 – Tree House Farm, Moorend Cross. She had received a response from the Enforcement Officer that this would be looked into.

1282 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Clerk reported that Herefordshire Council was planning to carry out a Community Governance Review (CGR) in 2016/17. This Review would be looking into aspects of grouping or de-grouping parish councils, altering boundaries, and amending the number of parish councillors per parish council. HALC & Herefordshire Council were looking for any initial thoughts on these matters. The Clerk was

asked to respond stating that Mathon Parish Council wished to remain as it was, and was not looking for any changes to be made to boundaries or councillor numbers.

1283 HIGHWAYS

Mr T Ainscough reminded the Council that the verge between Overley and Netherley junctions was still in a state of collapse. Warning posts needed to be put in place, as there might be a litigation/liability issue.

1284 CLIFFE ARMS

The Clerk had sent yet another e-mail to Sarah Lowe, but so far no response.

1285 CLUSTER GROUP

The Chairman reported that another meeting would be held shortly.

1286 COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Clerk to advertise this in the newsletter and on the new website. The Council hoped to co-opt a new member at the November meeting.

1287 CORRESPONDENCE - The Council noted the correspondence.

1288 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept for 2016/17

1289 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 4th November 2015 at 7.30 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date

