

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

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

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr Chris Rouse & Mr David Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust)

**Apologies for absence:** Cllr P Davies, Cllr T Ainscough

**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
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – No crime to report, but the PCSO David Alexander recommended that residents leave lights on in the darker evenings when their property is empty.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr Chris Rouse & Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting. Work on the new Governance of the Trust was proceeding, including the proposal that Board Member numbers be reduced from 29 down to 12. (6 by nomination and 6 by Committee) Elections onto the various committees would be taking place very shortly. A risk assessment strategy had been done which would improve the management and operation of the Trust.

### **The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr S Harte. The Minutes of the Parish Council Planning Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

### **1435/17 FOOTPATHS**

No report due to the absence of Cllr T Ainscough.

### **1436/17 REPORTS**

The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to an e-mail from Herefordshire Council re litter problems and the setting up of litter picking teams in various parishes. The Council acknowledged that Mathon did have some litter problems, but these were mainly kept under control by local residents removing litter in their areas of the Parish.

### **1437/17 PARISH HALL**

Cllr S Harte (Treasurer) reported that a meeting of the Management Committee would be held on 5<sup>th</sup> December. No further reports yet on the Parish Map, due to the absence of Cllr T Ainscough.

### **1438/17 FINANCE**

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - October/November 2017 - £337/10. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr N Walker
- (b) Clerk's Office – Apr – Nov 2017 - £70.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (c) Clerk's Expenses – March – Sept 2017 - £93.07. Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr C Green
- (d) Hire Fees – Mathon Parish Hall - £108.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence
- (e) Clerk's Salary Review 2018/19. The Council agreed to the Clerk's salary being upgraded to SCP 27 (£12.56 per hour) for the year 2018/19 (commencing April 2018) in line with the terms of her contract of employment. This equated to £217.66 per month (gross) - an increase of £1.60p per week. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Green.
- (f) The Half Year accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were approved. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte.
- (g) Precept 2018/19. The Council considered the Precept/budget for 2018/19 which had been prepared by the Clerk and the Chairman. After some discussion, the Council agreed a Precept for 2018/19 of £7,468. This was an increase of 2.4%. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr N Walker.

### **1439/17 GRANTS**

The Council considered the grant of £1,350 which had been budgeted for in 2017/18 for the Parish Hall. After considerable discussion, the Council decided to ring fence this money for the future conservation and security of the Parish Map. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Green.

### **1440/17 PLANNING**

- (a) Tree House Farm – Ref 170173/185376. The Clerk had received confirmation from Herefordshire Council that this planning application had been approved (subject to conditions)

### **1441/17 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Despite some patching and repairs, potholes were again in evidence. The Clerk had requested the resurfacing of the road. Ref: CAS-643465-J8G3K1. She would, however, put in another complaint to Herefordshire Council re potholes.
- (b) Problem of water by Mill House coming up out of the drain (possibly a blocked gully) - This had now been dealt with.
- (c) Overhanging hedge on the left hand bend in Harcourt Road at Mathon Lodge. This location was in Worcestershire and the Clerk had contacted the West Malvern Clerk. He had reported back that the landowner had agreed to cut the hedge back.
- (d) Ditch at Hackney Cross – Cllr C Green had requested that the ditch opposite their side of the road from Hackney Cross could be cleared. The water was not getting away, sits in the road and backs up in the field. Clerk to report this to Neil James.
- (e) The Clerk had contacted Neil James at the request of the Chairman re the A4103 road closure. This had resulted in an increased amount of traffic travelling through Mathon to try and find their way around. Cllr S Harte (Chairman) was concerned that at the back drive to Mathon Court there is very little road verge, and the road is on the edge of a stream. If vehicles go off the edge of the road, they would land up in the stream. He requested that the verges/vegetation be trimmed back from Cradley and along the Netherley Road. The Clerk had forwarded this request.

### **1442/17 CLIFFE ARMS**

Nothing to report at the moment

**1443/17 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**1444/17 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

None proposed

**1445/17 NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday 3<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2018 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date



