

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 2nd NOVEMBER 2016 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr T Ainscough, Cllr N Walker , Cllr C Green, Cllr P Davies
Cllr R Lawrence

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Mr David Baldwin and Mr Chris Rouse (Malvern Hills Conservators)

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 any 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) No questions
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – No Report.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Conservators** – No Report

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th September 2016 were approved and signed.
Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

1371 ACTIONS TAKEN FROM LAST MEETING - (all covered by the Agenda)

1372 FOOTPATHS/P3

Cllr T Ainscough reported that the problems with footpaths near Overley and Hackney Cross had now been resolved. Brambles needed removing at the stile near to Moor End Cottage. A number of people were walking the footpaths for him and reporting back on any problems.

1373 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) Parish Map - As previously reported, due to the redecoration of the hall, the Parish Map needed to be removed from the wall and had slipped inside its framework. Cllr T Ainscough had arranged for a folio storage facility to be used at Cradley Village Hall as it was important for the map to be kept flat. He was planning to get the map moved to Cradley in the next two weeks. He had received numerous letters of support from local people and organisations (including the Parish Council) which he would be using to apply for a Lottery Fund Grant. He and David Armstrong were in the final stages of completing the application.
- (b) Hall building & fabric - the refurbishment of the hall had been completed. All necessary risk assessments were in place.

1374 FINANCE

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - October/November 2016 - £313.38 (net) - Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr N Walker
- (b) Footpaths P3 work – Mr E Stewart - £304.00 Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr C Green
- (c) Clerk's Expenses – April – September 2016 - £122.00. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green
- (d) Clerk's Salary Grade – 207/18. It was proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr N Walker that the Clerk's salary be upgraded to SCP 26 from 1st April 2017 in line with the terms of her contract of employment. The NJC had published the new pay scales in advance for April 2017. SCP 26 was £12.16 per hour. This equated to £210.77 per month/£2,529 p.a.
- (e) P3 Grant – amended Scheme for 2017/18. The Clerk, Chairman and Cllr T Ainscough reported to the meeting. The amended scheme for 2017/18 had now been published by Balfour Beatty (BB)/Herefordshire Council. The P3 option set out a mandatory contribution from the Parish Council of £15 per each km of footpath in the parish, with BB/Hfds Council contributing £50 per km of footpath. After some discussion, it was agreed that Mathon did not require the full grant of £1,924 (29.6 km x £15 = £444 plus 29.6 x £50 = £1,480). It was resolved that the Parish Council apply for a grant from BB/Hfds Council of £1,000 plus a £300 contribution from the Parish Council – making a total budget of £1,300.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (f) Precept 2017/18. The proposed Precept for 2017/8 which had been prepared by the Chairman and the Clerk had been circulated to all members of the Council. After some discussion and in view of the P3 scheme contribution required (as above) the Council resolved to set a precept for 2017/18 of £7,289. Excluding the footpaths contribution of £300.00 this was an increase of 3.2%. Including the footpaths contribution this was an increase of £516.00 (7/6%) from 2016/17. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (g) Accounts to 30th September 2016 - these had been circulated by the Clerk to all Council members. The Accounts were approved. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.

1375 PLANNING

- (a) Tree House Farm - The Clerk had previously circulated an e-mail from Mr Steve Davies re access and use of buildings. The owner had been in contact with highways and a speed and topographical survey was being carried out to endeavour to provide a safe access. The owner did not appear to be contravening the agricultural planning permission that exists for the dwelling. The Council instructed the Clerk to write again to Mr Tansley, the Planning Officer (or a representative) inviting him/her to the next meeting of the Parish Council on 4th January 2017 to explain the planning rules and the workings of Planning Services in relation to this application as previous planning decisions/rules were being blatantly ignored.

1376 BT PAYPHONE

The Clerk reported on the request via Anthony Bush for a decision re the BT Payphone at the Cliffe. BT were in the process of removing BT Payphones which had a history of not being used and the Payphone at the Cliffe was on the list. After some discussion the Council resolved to object to the removal of the Payphone on the grounds that the agricultural seasonal workers in the parish need this facility as an emergency phone if there is no mobile phone signal, or landline working on site. The mobile phone and internet connection in Mathon was absolutely dire. The phone box at the Cliffe, its location and number was issued to workers as part of their Health & Safety Induction course.

1377 HIGHWAYS

- (a) The damaged signpost at Hackney Cross had been repaired.
- (b) Very bad potholes at Stockton Farm. These had been reported to Hfds Council/BB Ref No CAS 595024-W6D2H2 and work had now been done.
- (c) It was noted that the hedge at Tree House Farm on the verge side had been cut

1378 CLIFFE ARMS

The Clerk reported that she had sent a letter to Mr T Hayes advising him on the correct procedure to take in the future re fly tipping.

1379 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

1380 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 4th January 2017 at 7.30 pm. The Clerk to e-mail future dates of meetings in 2017.

..... Chairman

..... Date

