

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13th JANUARY 2016 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr Geoff Fielding (Footpaths), Mr David Baldwin (Malvern Hills Conservators)

Public Attendance – None

Apologies – Cllr T Ainscough, Co Cllr Tony Johnson, 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) **PCSO/Police –** The new PCSO Joe Barson attended the meeting to introduce himself to the Council. Since October 2015 there had only been two minor RTC's in Mathon, which remained a very low crime area. He advised that the Clerk contact Mr Ian Connolly the new Safer Roads Advisor regarding speeding issues in the Parish.
- (b) **Herefordshire Councillor -** No Report
- (c) **Malvern Conservators –** Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting on the five year Land Management Plan being developed, which was open for public consultation. There had been an incident of a dog attacking a member of the public on Castlemoreton Common, and unfortunately the dog had to be put down. The scrub clearance programme was well under way, and was the best way to maintain the natural habitat of the hills. A suburban tree management policy was also being put in place to ensure the health and safety of the trees and the public. A number of complaints had been received about the actions of some mountain bike riders on the hills. Specific waymarked routes were being developed for bike riders to use.
- (d) **Footpaths -** Mr Geoff Fielding reported that due to the recent heavy rain, the footpaths were very difficult to walk. He had picked up branches and rubbish on the paths as and when he walked them. The ditches behind the Cliffe Arms had become blocked. He and Ted Stewart were up to date with the maintenance plan, but further work was scheduled to the end of March. However, it was unlikely that the full grant would be spent by the end of the financial year as work had not started until October. However, the Council should still be able to obtain a full grant for 2016/17. He was still waiting for stock he had ordered to be supplied by Balfour Beatty (BB).

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2015 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 18th November 2015 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

1304 ACTIONS TAKEN FROM LAST MEETING

None to report which were not covered by the Agenda.

1305 REPORTS

The Clerk reported that Balfour Beatty (BB) planned to hold parish briefing meetings on 3rd and 4th February. Cllr C Green was planning to attend one of the meetings.

1306 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) Parish Map - Cllr T Ainscough had sent an e-mail to the Clerk. He was now working with Miles (Mi-Frame). The contractors he had contacted mainly in Southern England were not prepared to travel to view the map and provide a fixed price quotation. To transport the map to each contractor to provide a quote would be prohibitively expensive.
- (b) Defibrillator - The Clerk reported that funding was available for a defibrillator through Heartstart who also provided training courses in how to use it. Perhaps it might be possible to obtain one and fix it to the outside of the village hall. However, it was agreed that a more central point would be at the Cliffe Arms, and it could be installed in the phone box, if the Council decided to adopt it for £1.00. It was agreed to discuss this again at the next meeting in March.
- (c) Other Reports – Cllr S Harte reported that the Village Hall Committee had held its AGM. Cllr T Ainscough had agreed to remain as Chairman, and he had agreed to remain as Treasurer. Mr David Armitage agreed to be Secretary for the following year, with the assistance of Cllr C Green. It was important that the Committee found new members. The hall floor had been refurbished, and a replacement front door with wheelchair access was being considered.

1307 FINANCE

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - December 2015/January 2016 - £302.40 (net) - Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte.
- (b) HMRC PAYE (Oct/Nov/Dec) £113.40 Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (c) Ted Stewart – Footpaths November 2015 – £120.00 - Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr C Green.
- (d) SLCC subscription for 2016 - £77.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (e) Hadley Brothers – maintenance & strimming work - £220.00. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr N Walker.
- (f) The Clerk reminded the Council that External Audit procedures would be changing from April 2017. The Audit Commission had now ceased to exist and new arrangements would be put in its place requiring the set up of a SLB (Sector Led Body). NALC would be working in partnership with the SLCC to procure, deliver and manage audit contracts to start from April 2017. The SLB would appoint auditors for all those authorities opted in. Authorities who opt out of these arrangements would have to inform the SLB by 31st March 2016. The Clerk recommended that the Council did not opt out and they would then automatically be included in the new arrangements for the next five years. The Council agreed to this. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.

1308 TRANSPARENCY CODE – Grant Applications

The Clerk reported that she had applied for a grant towards the cost of setting up the Parish Council website. This was now being processed. Cllr P Davies was interested to know how many hits the website had received since its introduction. The Clerk to report back on this at the next meeting.

1309 PENSION ENROLMENT

Action was not required until after the staging date in March 2016.

1310 PLANNING

The Clerk reported on the response she had received from Herefordshire Planning enforcement. The owners of Tree House Farm had been advised to cease the use of the access, pending the outcome of a further planning application they were making. The Parish Council was informed that the access was still being used, with potentially more people using the driveway as part of the buildings had been made into apartments. The Council’s understanding was that these buildings should only to be used for agricultural occupancy. The Clerk was asked to contact the Enforcement Officer about this.

1311 HIGHWAYS

- (a) The verge between Overley and Netherley junctions - state of collapse. Warning posts had been erected, but in the wrong place. The Clerk had contacted Neil James - an order was being processed for the bollards to be placed correctly within the next 28 days.
- (b) Potholes – very bad potholes along Harcourt Road, opposite The Hollies Post code WR13 5PG. Also between Mathon Church and the T Junction to Moor End Cross. Cllr S Harte to let the Clerk have a grid reference for this.

1312 CLUSTER GROUP

The Chairman reported that a Cluster Group meeting had been held in November at Mathon Parish Hall. Discussions had centred on Parish and Neighbourhood Plans. Parishes would be included in a Herefordshire Area Plan if they did not have a Parish Plan in place. The next meeting was due to be held in March.

1313 CORRESPONDENCE - The Council noted the correspondence.

1314 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Defibrillator

1315 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 2nd March 2016 at 7.30 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date

