

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 3rd AUGUST at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr T Ainscough, Cllr R Lawrence. Cllr N Walker

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr David Baldwin (Malvern Hills Conservators), Mr Chris Rouse (Malvern Hills Conservators), PCSO David Alexander, West Mercia Police

Apologies for absence – Cllr C Green, 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.
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** – PCSO David Alexander reported to the meeting. No crime to report for Mathon, but there had been a number of shed break-ins in Ledbury and on the outskirts. A new local Police Officer – Paul Smith – would be replacing Ian Johnson. If anyone wanted to register for neighbourhood watch bulletins, information on how to do this was on the West Mercia Police website.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Conservators** – Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting, together with Mr Chris Rouse (Chairman of the Land Management Committee). A rebranding exercise was under way for the Conservators and Consultants had been brought in to advise on changes needed. These included redoing the website, possibly a new name with new letterheads/logos etc. The new Director will be called the Chief Executive Officer next year. The number of representatives on the Board might also be reduced. Money was also being spent on upgrading St Anne's Well. More cattle were now on the hills. No drones would be allowed without the permission of the Conservators.
- (e) **Footpaths** - Cllr T Ainscough (as Footpaths Officer) reported to the meeting. As previously reported, no money was now available to purchase materials, and the P3 grant had to be used for this. He was looking into various suppliers. There was a shortage of materials at the moment, but eventually a site for materials storage would have to be found. The M23/Little Knoll End problem had now been solved. (The Clerk had received the legal paperwork for footpaths MA18 (part) and MA23 (Part) Diversion relating to Rundlemead, a copy of which was given to Cllr Ainscough). A team of volunteers had been put together to walk the footpaths in the parish, including Samantha James and Chris Hook. It was proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte that Footpaths be moved into the main Agenda of the meeting.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 4th May 2016 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.

1350 ACTIONS TAKEN FROM LAST MEETING - (all covered by the Agenda)

1351 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) Parish Map - Cllr T Ainscough reported that due to the redecoration of the hall, the Parish Map had to be removed from the wall. The map had now slipped inside its framework, and needed repositioning. He was hoping to obtain grants from the Big Lottery Fund/Herefordshire Heritage Fund and others to raise the £6,500 needed to keep the map in its best condition within a dehumidified framework. The Parish Council might have to find some funding, but hopefully no more than 10% of the total.
- (b) Hall building & fabric - as reported above, the whole hall had been redecorated, the access ramp modified, and a new front door had been installed. The rear doors were being refabricated. The next work to be done would be the outside of the building.
- (c) A Big Coffee Morning to raise money for MacMillan Cancer support would be held in September.

1352 FINANCE

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - June/July 2016 - £313.38 (net) - Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (b) Footpaths P3 work – Mr E Stewart - £420.00. Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr N Walker.
- (c) Rotary Print – renewal of website hosting - £72.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (d) CPRE Subscription - £36.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence
- (e) **Annual Audit Return for Accounts ending 31st March 2016.** The Clerk reported that the External Auditors had approved the Audit Return. The Clerk to write to Mr Wagstaffe thanking him for his help as internal auditor.

1353 PLANNING

- (a) Tree House Farm - The Clerk reported that a request for further information had been received from Mr Davies. This had been duly sent, and he was now following this up. The Clerk to keep chasing for action to be taken.

1354 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Blocked road gully opposite the Mill House – Ref No CAS-570953-F2V1Y7. The Clerk had contacted Neil James who had sent in a report. This had been circulated to all Councillors. It was suspected that the source of the water might be from a pool at Mathon Court. No problems with this at present
- (b) The damaged signpost at Hackney Cross had been reported to Neil James by the Clerk. This was still outstanding for repair. Clerk to chase.
- (c) Potholes Harcourt Road & Lane – Ref CAS-55472-P4J3K9 – these had still not been repaired, but were on the shortlist. Clerk to chase again.
- (d) Hackney Cross - as previously reported, the standard of the repairs was very bad. The Clerk to chase this up again and get grid references from the Chairman, as Neil James was querying the location.
- (e) New complaint - very bad potholes at Stockton Farm. The Chairman to obtain grid references for the Clerk.

1355 NOTICE BOARD

The Clerk reported that she had received a request from a parishioner asking for the Council to replace the notice board opposite the Old Bell in Harcourt Road. The Board was falling to pieces and was virtually unusable. The Council agreed that this was not a Parish Council responsibility.

1356 CLUSTER GROUP

The Chairman reported that no further meetings had been planned, and the Group had closed down.

1357 CLIFFE ARMS

As requested, the Clerk had written to Mr T Hayes regarding the current status of the building – but so far no response. The Clerk was asked to write again to Mr Hayes to ask about any future plans for the Cliffe.

1358 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

1359 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Updated Financial Regulations

1360 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 7th September at 7.30 pm

..... Chairman

..... Date

