

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 3rd JANUARY 2018 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte, Cllr C Green, Cllr R Lawrence, Co Cllr T Johnson

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

Apologies for absence: Cllr P Davies, Cllr T Ainscough, Cllr N Walker - Mr C Rouse (MHT)

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.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - Co Cllr T Johnson reported on forthcoming changes being brought about by Central Government reducing the amount of Council Tax/Business Rates that can be retained by the County Council. This will result in a 30% deficit by 2020 which will have a serious effect on the Council's budget. At the present moment Adult Social Care takes up 3% of Council Tax, as Herefordshire has a high number of elderly people living in the County. Nationally there is a huge problem recruiting social workers for children, and many Authorities rely on agencies. However, Herefordshire Council has managed to reduce their costs by training up their own staff. Hereford University is going very well, and has agreed to be an "Accountable Body" which ensures they spend the Government Grant of just over £25M in accordance with the terms. A pilot scheme for taking on students will start in September 2018, gearing up to full admissions by the following academic year. The sale of smallholdings has raised about £25M so far, and it should get to nearer £40-£50M when all sales have been completed. The Council will be taking advice on how best to use the c£50M to maximise revenue for the Council. The inner city link road has just been completed, with the Fire/Police/Ambulance central co-ordination being stationed on a co-location on the ring road.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting. Fortunately a lot of tree felling had taken place on the Hills before the snow fall, but all the car parks had to be closed. However, this did not stop a large number of people visiting and enjoying the snow on the hills. St Anne's Well had now been completely refurbished, and will be opened by the new CEO of Malvern Hills Trust. The Trust will be introducing Highland Cattle on the Callow End area of the Hills. Mr Chris Rouse had now stepped down as Chairman of the Land Management Committee.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st November 2017 were approved and signed.
Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.

01/18 FOOTPATHS

The Council noted the Public Path Creation Order for Section 26 Public Footpath MA29.

02/18 REPORTS

The Clerk drew the attention of the Council to the change of the laws relating to Data Protection which would come into force in May 2018. One of the requirements was for the Council to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO) which could not be the Clerk. She was seeking further advice and information on this matter.

03/18 PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte (Treasurer) reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Hall Committee would take place at the end of January. No further reports yet on the Parish Map, due to the absence of Cllr T Ainscough.

04/18 FINANCE

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - December 2017/January 2018 - £357.90 (net) Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (b) Clerk's pay adjustment for November 2017 - £82.40. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (c) HMRC PAYE – (Oct/Nov/Dec 2017) - £33.60. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.
- (d) ICO (Data Protection Registration Fee) - £35.00. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (e) Rotary Print – Website Renewal (£11.99) and hosting (£108.00) – total £119.99. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (f) Hadley Brothers – Mowing/Maintenance/Strimming - £220.00. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.

05/18 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Harcourt Road - The Clerk had requested the resurfacing of the road. Ref: CAS-643465-J8G3K1. She had received an e-mail from a Harcourt Road resident regarding trees encroaching on the road, particularly yew trees which projected quite significantly into the highway on a blind bend. The Chairman agreed to visit the site and decide which County this was in.
- (b) Ditch by Stubby Pleck - The Clerk had received an e-mail from Neil James who would be investigating this problem.
- (c) Cllr S Harte (Chairman) was concerned that at the back drive to Mathon Court there was 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 and perhaps markers put in place. The Clerk had forwarded this request to Neil James, but the Chairman and Clerk to report this on the Hfds Highways map/website.
- (d) The Clerk & Chairman to report to Hfds Highways map re the culvert, pipework and ditches near to the tennis club in Harcourt Road which appeared to be blocked. Water was flowing across the road.

06/18 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing to report at the moment

07/18 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

08/18 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None proposed

09/18 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

