

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 6th SEPTEMBER 2017 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte, Cllr P Davies, Cllr R Lawrence

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr Chris Rouse & Mr David Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust)
Co Cllr Tony Johnson (plus one member of the public)

Apologies for absence: Cllr N Walker, 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** – One incident to report – overnight on Monday 7th August a blue New Holland tractor was damaged while parked in a field at Rookrow Farm. The back and side windows were smashed and the ignition damaged.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - Co Cllr Tony Johnson reported on the consultation/proposal that the West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner take control of the Fire Services in Herefordshire, Worcestershire & Shropshire. This would ostensibly save £4M. The proposal had not been welcomed by the areas concerned and a consolidated report was being put together which would be sent to the Police & Crime Commissioner Mr John Campion. Co Cllr Tony Johnson also reported that Herefordshire Council had been in dispute with Amey (the contractors prior to Balfour Beatty). A High Court hearing had now found in favour of an £8M settlement due to Herefordshire Council. The sale of smallholdings by the Council would be completed by next week, resulting in around £44M of income. Co Cllr Johnson's view was that the bulk of this money should be used to generate permanent income for the Authority in order to lower Council Taxes – possibly by building and renting out student accommodation for the new Hereford University as well as other options. No decisions had yet been made. Another £5M had also been granted to the Authority for major road improvements, with the Western bypass being a critical part of the traffic plans for Hereford. The plans for the University were going well, starting next year with 350 students.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr Chris Rouse & Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting. Lots of money was being spent on the refurbishment of St Annes Well, which was a listed building. Unfortunately people were still jumping into the Gullet Quarry, despite fencing and notices pointing out the dangers. A governance meeting would be held at the end of September. The discussions about reduction of board members was continuing, and would have to go out to public consultation.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26th July 2017 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

1425/17 FOOTPATHS

No report due to the absence of Cllr T Ainscough. The Clerk reported that she had finally received the P3 Contract from Balfour Beatty.

1426/17 REPORTS

The Clerk reported on the changes to the Data Protection Legislation – she would be attending a training course.

1427/17 PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte (Treasurer) reminded the Council that the Hall Committee needed to attract more members to help run the hall for the future. No further reports yet on the Parish Map.

1428/17 FINANCE

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - August/September 2017 - £336.40 (adjusted by 90p) Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies
- (b) HMRC – PAYE for July/August/September 2017 - £126.00. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (c) The Clerk reported that the External Auditor (Grant Thornton) had approved the Annual 2016/17 Return for Mathon Parish Council.

1429/17 PLANNING

- (a) Tree House Farm – Ref 170173/185376. The Clerk had requested an update from Herefordshire Council on this application. Mr Steve Davies, the Planning Enforcement Officer had replied “the application is still being considered by the planning officer, who has been awaiting comments from the highways officer following requests for further drawings from the applicant’s highways consultant demonstrating the visibility that can be achieved from the junction.”
- (b) Construction of Eco House – land at Bank Farm, Croft Bank, Malvern Ref 163784
Following a request from the Chairman, the Clerk had found the decision relating to the above planning application (which had been opposed by the Parish Council). However, Herefordshire Planning had approved the application (with conditions).
- (c) The Clerk agreed to produce a schedule at the year end of all planning applications received in the year showing the Council’s comments, together with the decisions of Herefordshire Planning.

1430/17 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Potholes by the entrance to Rooks View, Moorend Cross. These had already been reported.
- (b) Overhanging trees below Knell cottages, alongside the stream. - still outstanding..
- (c) Potholes in Harcourt Road. Some had been repaired. The Clerk had requested the resurfacing of the road. Ref: CAS-643465-J8G3K1
- (d) Problem of water by Mill House coming up out of the drain (possibly a blocked gully) - the Clerk had reported this. Ref No: CAS-644134-C8C4K8
- (e) Overhanging hedge on the left hand bend in Harcourt Road at Mathon Lodge. The Clerk to see if this was within the Herefordshire or Worcestershire County border.

1431/17 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing to report at the moment

1432/17 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs. One letter from Ledbury Council re Neighbourhood Plans.

1433/17 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Precept 2018/19

1434/17 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 1st November 2017 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

