

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 9th January 2019 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk); Mr C Rouse & Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust)

Apologies for absence - Mrs Sam James (Footpaths Officer)

Co-option of new Councillor - The Council co-opted Mrs A Melanie Malsbury onto the Council. Mrs Malsbury signed the official declaration of acceptance of office.

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 received
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – Nothing to report.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr David Baldwin and Mr Chris Rouse reported to the Meeting. A lot of time and effort was being put into the restructuring of the Board including the updating of Acts of Parliament before the Trust could move ahead with its plans. The cost of this would be in the region of £145K. The Precept would be increasing by about 4%. A lot of remedial and maintenance work was needed for various structures including bus shelters and walls. The Purlieu had been greatly improved.
- (e) **Footpaths P3 Scheme 2018/19** - The Council reviewed the P3 situation to the end of the financial year (31st March) when funding for the P3 scheme by Herefordshire Council would stop. It was agreed to issue a statement via the CMS Newsletter to all landowners in the parish, inviting them to contact the Footpaths Officer – Sam James - reminding them that any requests for help with new gates/stiles/strimming etc would need to be activated before the end of March, whilst the Council still had some funding available.
- (f) **Mathon PCC** - Cllr N Walker gave a short presentation to the Council on the important role the church plays in the Parish. The church has been at the centre of the Mathon community for over 1000 years and still plays a vital part in the lives of many village families. It also attracts lots of visitors from outside the parish, many of them walkers – and bell ringers from all over the country who come to ring the peel of 6 bells. However, despite the excellent management of the church by the PCC, the Annual Accounts averaged over six years have shown a loss of ca £4K per annum which is unsustainable. The PCC was seeking financial support from parishioners, preferably on a regular basis, however small the amount, to secure the future of this important village asset. A leaflet had been circulated around the parish explaining the situation, and giving details of the Parish Giving Scheme whereby donors could arrange to contribute by direct debit. The church would then receive the additional Gift Aid contribution within days rather than having to wait the usual 12 months.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 5th December 2018 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

01/19 MATHON PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall would be taking place on 23rd January. They were hoping to recruit some new members onto the Committee. He would speak to Tom Ainscough about the Parish Map./

02/19 FINANCE

To consider payment & approval of Accounts as follows :-

- (a) Clerk's Salary – December 2018/January 2019 - £348.20 (net) Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr N Walker
- (b) P3 Footpaths Invoice – Mr E Walker - £532.20 Proposed by Cllr R Lawrence and seconded by Cllr C Green
- (c) ICO – Data Protection Fee - £40.00. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green
- (d) HMRC – PAYE – Oct/Nov/Dec 2018 - £130.60 Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr R Lawrence.
- (e) Hadley Bros – Maintenance & Strimming work - £220.00 (paid but to be approved). Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr N Walker

03/19 REPORTS

Parish Council Notice Board - Cllr S Harte had taken up the question of the Parish Notice Board with Margaret Ainscough, the booking secretary of the Village Hall, who was a key holder. The Council opposed the idea of the Parish Notice Board being kept unlocked, but agreed that Mrs June Cutler could be appointed as another key holder. Mr T Harrison had agreed to improve the notice board by oiling the wood.

Parish Council Website – The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by Rotary Print, who manage the website for the Parish Council. Due to an admin error by Rotary, the Council had not been charged for posting notices onto the website since it started in 2015. However, from January 2019 Rotary proposed to invoice the Council for any future postings, at a charge of £55.00 per hour (plus VAT). The annual cost would be in the region of £165 (3 hours x £55) plus VAT, but would depend on the number of postings made. The hosting charge for the year would also be increasing from £90 to £120 per annum (plus VAT). The Council agreed to these new charges. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.

04/19 VILLAGE GREEN (Rundlemead)

The Clerk confirmed that the large green cabinet had been removed from the centre of the village green (as agreed with Gigaclear). She was, however, waiting for details of a new agreement and some idea as to when the cabinet would be installed on the proposed new site.

05/19 PLANNING

The Council considered the following planning applications:-

- (a) App No: 184469
Site: Half Acre, Mathon, WR13 5NX
Proposal: Variation of condition 2 of planning permission 170773 (demolition of existing chalet bungalow and erection of replacement dwelling) - change from natural blue slate to Marley antique clay plain tiles

Grid Ref: OS 373815,245588
App Type: Planning Permission

The Council discussed this application, and agreed that the following comments be sent to Hereford Planning Services by the Clerk - *The surrounding properties to this new build all have slate roofs. The Parish Council would prefer the original style of a slate roof rather than red clay tiles.*

- (b) App No: 184331
Site: Netherley Farm, Mathon WR13 5LW
Proposal: Access into field from public highway to be created. This would involve creating a hole in the existing boundary hedge and putting in a culvert for the stream which runs along the boundary to flow under the new access. The access area will be about 10m long (from road into the field). It will be 4m wide at the field end, widening to about 8m at the road end for improved visibility.
Grid Ref: OS 374436,245446
App Type: Planning Permission

The Council discussed this application, and agreed that the following comments be sent to Hereford Planning Services by the Clerk – *To allow access at the proposed location will destroy the stream bank and cause flooding. This road is already susceptible to flooding, and this action would make it worse. The Council suggests that moving the access point to a higher level, towards Rose Farm, would be a better solution.*

- (c) App No: 184537
Site: Weobley Cross Cottage, South End Lane, Mathon WR13 5PB
Proposal: New detached garage with home office above
Grid Ref: OS 374228,244672
App Type: Full Householder

The Council discussed this application, and agreed that the following objection and comments be sent to Hereford Planning Services by the Clerk - *Mathon Parish Council strongly object to this application. In its present form the proposed garage building is not in keeping, is completely out of proportion and is far too high. It vastly exceeds the size and usage of garages in the surrounding area.*

06/19 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Hackney Cross/Ditch by Stubby Pleck - Ref: CAS-658355-V4M1C4 - this had been forwarded on to the Asset Team at BB by Neil James. Nothing further to report at the moment.
- (b) Culvert blocked near to the tennis club in Harcourt Road - BB had requested that the landowner be approached to clear a blocked ditch. Cllr S Harte to action
- (c) Partially blocked brook/possible sewage leak – rear of the Cliffe. Cllr S Harte to continue to investigate.
- (d) Blocked road gully from Pitts Cottage to Half Acre. Ref: CAS-700096-YOB 4P9- this had been re-reported along with other blocked drains. So far, no work had been done.
- (e) Cllr C Green reported the ongoing problems of potholes by Rooks View Drive, together with the road surface lifting further down the road. A proper repair was needed, not just filling in. The Clerk and Cllr C Green to e-mail Neil James about this (again).

07/19 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing further to report at the moment.

08/19 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Clerk reported that due to 2019 local elections taking place on 2nd May, this limited the time available for the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Council Meeting. The Clerk and the Chairman therefore suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting be held on 24th April. After some discussion, the Council agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting prior to the Annual Council Meeting on 15th May.

09/19 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

10/19 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

11/19 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 6th March 2019 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman Date

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