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MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.00 pm – 15th May 2019

Held at Mathon Parish Hall

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr N Walker.

Chairman's Annual Report to 31st March 2019

Planning - This year the Council considered nine planning applications, ranging from a polytunnel to extensions, listed building consent and erection of garages. The Council also had a field access application which was subsequently withdrawn, but no doubt will be presented again. The Council has been concerned about the height of the garages and also the size of them. However, these have been passed by Herefordshire Planning albeit with modifications and conditions. A barn conversion application was strongly objected to by the Council as a great deal of work had been done improving the building prior to the planning application for conversion. This application was, however, refused by Herefordshire Planning.

Precept - In November 2018 the Council set a precept for 2019/20 of £7,622. This covers the cost of running the Parish Council, providing a grant to the P.C.C. towards the upkeep of the churchyard, which in 2018/19 was £1,000. It also provides money for the upkeep of the village green and areas by the church. Thanks go to Ron Hadley for all the effort he puts in to keeping these areas clean and tidy.

This past year to end March 2019 has been the last in which the Council received a grant from Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty (BB) for the maintenance and upkeep of the parish footpaths. This work has been overseen by Samantha James who volunteered to be our Footpaths Officer. Our thanks to her for all her efforts especially as footpaths issues can become difficult at times. The strimming and general maintenance of the footpaths was carried out by Ted Stewart who sadly passed away at the beginning of March. Our condolences and sympathies go to Mary and her family. Ted's knowledge of the parish will be greatly missed.

During the year Fibre Optic cabling began to be laid through the village. As part of this process, the Council agreed to cabling and a chamber to be put under the village green, but what was installed was a very large green cabinet above ground in the middle of the village green. Several Councillors and the Clerk met with Giga Clear on site and they agreed to remove the chamber and resite it nearer to a verge at the end of the green, in a much less conspicuous position.

At the beginning of the year compliance with GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) 2018 became mandatory. Our Clerk has strived to keep the Council up to date with this implementation as the year has progressed, and we are now GDPR compliant.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors for attending our meetings throughout the year and our Clerk – Diana Taylor – who has to deal with the ever increasing burden of regulations that apply to Parish Councils.

Public Question Time - No questions raised

Close of Meeting – the Chairman thanked all those present and closed the meeting.