

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte, Cllr N Walker, Cllr P Davies, Cllr C Green, Cllr K Perkins, Cllr C Green

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust), Co Cllr T Johnson

**Apologies:** Mrs Sam James (Footpaths)

### **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.**

*Cllr M Malsbury declared an interest in Planning item 12(a) on the Agenda – Planning application No 193591.*

**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) Public questions - none
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – PCSO David Alexander had e-mailed “Nothing to Report” to the Clerk.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - Co Cllr Tony Johnson reported to the meeting that the new administration was settling in. In August a decision had been made to pause and review the Hereford Bypass & Southern Link Road schemes. This decision was called in by the General Scrutiny Committee in September who recommended a reconsideration of this August decision. A further decision was then made giving due regard to the recommendations. This now included the continuation of some project development activity already scheduled for the Southern Link Road (subject to funding) and the completion of a number of assessments and reports already under way for the Hereford Bypass, with a commitment to consult widely during the review. More resources were being diverted into childrens’ health and wellbeing. The LEP Board (which is a combined partnership) now decides the order of priority for funding of the new University of Hereford. Superfast broadband was being rolled out throughout Herefordshire, but the last phase of development was the most expensive.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)** - Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting. Both Chris Rouse and Co Cllr Tony Johnson had been appointed to the new MHT Board. David had been appointed Chairman of the Recreation & Advisory Panel, and was a member of the Land Management Committee. Concern had been expressed about the future reduction of Board Members. A Good Neighbours Guide had been produced by MHT which sets out the work of MHT and how everyone can help to keep it special and look after the landscape.
- (e) **Footpaths P3 Scheme 2019/20** - No Report

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Green.

**68/19 MATHON PARISH HALL** - Nothing to report on the Hall at the moment.

(a) Parish Map - Cllr N Walker reported that he had spoken to Geoff White, who had suggested that a copy of the map be laminated and framed which would make it suitable for display in the Parish Hall. The cost of this would be in the low hundreds. Cllr Walker would be speaking to Tom Ainscough about this proposal. In the meantime, the original map would remain in the Cradley archives.

**69/19 FINANCE**

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - October/November 2019 - £415.86 (net) Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (b) DWT – September salary adjustment due to change of tax code - £46.80 (paid but to be approved) Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury
- (c) Noted that cheque No 543 approved at meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> September payable to HMRC for PAYE had been cancelled under the instructions of Mrs M Griffiths (Payroll administrator) due to tax code change
- (d) HALC – Herefordshire Clerks Election Meeting – 26/03/19 - £36.00. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr N Walker.
- (e) Rotary Printers Ltd – updates to website (Aug/Sept) - £45.60. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte
- (f) DWT – Clerks expenses Apr-Sept 2019 - £261.73. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies
- (g) DWT – Clerks Office – Apr-Sept 2019 - £70.00. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury
- (h) Mathon Parish Hall hire - £134.00. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury
- (i) Clerks Salary Review – 2020/21. The Council approved the Clerk's salary from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to be set at the new SCP 23 rate (NALC Scale 2019). The Council also agreed to increase the Clerk's hours by half an hour per week, which on SCP 23 in 2020 would increase her annual salary (gross) to £3,283.00 p.a. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Green.
- (j) The Half Year Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 were approved by the Council. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr Malsbury
- (k) Precept 2020/21 - The Clerk had circulated the proposed precept to all Cllrs. After some discussion, the precept was set at £7,998 for the year 2020/21.

**70/19 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Hackney Cross/Ditch by Stubby Pleck Ref No CAS-658355-V4M1C4 – *(this has now been resolved)*
- (b) Blocked road gully – between Pitts Cottage to Half Acre (Ref: CAS 700096-YOB 4P9) Cllr S Harte to investigate
- (c) Blocked ditches – South End Lane (Ref: 11074337) The Clerk had received an e-mail from Herefordshire Highways stating it was not their responsibility. *(it would appear that it is the landowners responsibility – Clerk to clarify this)*
- (d) Bollard request for grass triangle at South End Lane. (Clerk reported this request to Balfour Beatty (BB) but they were not able to help, as the triangle did not fit the criteria for the supply of bollards/verge markers.
- (e) Ongoing problems with Potholes at the entrance to Rooks View at Moored Cross. Clerk to report this to BB/Hfds Highways (again).

**71/19 REPORTS**

Cllr M Malsbury reported that she would be attending the Herefordshire Green Network - Great Collaboration workshop in the Feathers Hotel, Ledbury on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

### **72/10 CLIFFE ARMS**

The Clerk reported that the proposed planning application for conversion of “former public house” to form two dwellings and erection of one detached dwelling in original garden (Ref Nos 192023/192024) had been **Refused** by Herefordshire Planning Dept. She was still waiting for the results of the ACV application made by the Parish Council.

### **73/19 PLANNING**

Cllr M Malsbury left the meeting.

The Council considered the following (revised) planning application :-

- (a) App No: 193591  
Site: The Barn, adjacent Tadpole Cottage, South End Lane, Mathon WR13 5PB  
Proposal: Conversion of former threshing barn to residential unit  
Grid Ref: OS 374170,244679  
App Type: Planning Permission

The Council considered this application and agreed that most of their previous objections to this application were still relevant. The Clerk to send the following comments to Herefordshire Planning :-

*There does not appear to be any real change of plan from the previous application. The Council would like to restate a number of its previous comments of 9<sup>th</sup> October 2018 :-*

*The Council's view is that this building is not the original Threshing Barn, because despite the fact that some original timbers have been included in the reconstruction, it is effectively a “new build” on the footprint of the threshing barn, and as such the Council would expect to be looking at a retrospective planning application by the owners of this new building. This might hopefully discourage others who want to convert their outbuildings in the Parish from taking the route adopted by this applicant.*

*The Council would draw the Planning Department's attention to their own comments on previous applications in 2004/2005 “that the barn is of little architectural or historic merit and not therefore considered worthy of conversion” and “the degree of rebuilding necessary to facilitate the proposed conversion would render the proposed development tantamount to a new residential development” and finally “there is evidence of barn owls and bat species in the building.”*

*The Council is concerned about the way this “conversion” has taken place, with wildlife surveys (bats/barn owls etc.) not being undertaken until after an advanced level of work was completed.*

*The Council would also like the concerns voiced by neighbours relating to potential water/drainage problems to be dealt with.*

**74/19 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

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