

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2020 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte, Cllr N Walker, Cllr C Green, Cllr K Perkins, Cllr M Malsbury

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust), Mrs Sam James (Footpaths)

**Apologies:** Cllr P Davies, Co Cllr T Johnson

**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 – None declared.

**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** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)** - Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting. The newly elected Board was now in place. New members had been allocated to Committees, and were attending workshops to gain a better understanding of the workings of the Trust with 3,000 acres under its control.
- (e) **Footpaths** – Mrs Sam James reported to the meeting. She circulated a comprehensive list of questions & answers arising from the Parish Footpath Officers meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. A number of walkers had requested a larger footpaths map to be displayed on the notice board in the Parish Hall car park, and she agreed to follow this up with BB/Herefordshire Council. A metal gate under the bridge downstream from Badgers was causing an obstruction. She agreed to speak to the landowner concerned and report back to the Council. The new owner of The Barn at the back of Mathon Lodge was having problems with walkers/dog owners using the field adjoining the footpath. Mrs Sam James had discussed with the landowners the possibility of re-routing the footpath, but in the first instance the Council suggested that signage asking dog owners to keep their dogs on a lead and under control be put up by the landowners. Mrs Sam James circulated a template of a plate in memory of Ted Stewart. Cllr Sam Harte to speak to Mary Stewart about this and the site of the stile where it could be placed.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr C Green.

### **01/20 MATHON PARISH HALL -**

The AGM of the Hall Committee would be held at the beginning of February – date yet to be agreed.

- (a) **Parish Map** - Cllr N Walker reported that he had spoken to Geoff Wright again who had made enquiries re copying and laminating the Map. The original map would have to be scanned in sections, pieced together and then laminated. No-one was sure how clear the finished product would be due to the age of the original Map. The cost would be in the region of £500 plus VAT. After some discussion, the Council agreed that Cllr N Walker continue looking into this project, with a budget of £500 plus VAT. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.

## **02/20 FINANCE**

To consider payment of Accounts:-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - December 2019/January 2020 - £415.86 (net) Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury.
- (b) HMRC – PAYE – Oct/Nov/Dec 2019 - £64.20. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury.
- (c) Rotary Printers Ltd – updates to website – Oct & Dec 2019 - £87.60p. Proposed by Cllr K Perkins and seconded by Cllr S Harte.
- (d) ICO – Data Protection Fee - £40.00. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr N Walker.

## **03/20 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Blocked road gully – between Pitts Cottage to Half Acre (Ref: CAS 700096-YOB 4P9) - this is now clear
- (c) Blocked ditches – South End Lane (Ref: 11074337) A fallen tree was blocking one of the ditches at South End Lane, and the Clerk had received clarification from BB/Hfds Council that the landowners were responsible for clearing ditches. After some discussion, the Clerk was asked to write to the landowner asking for the tree to be removed.
- (d) Ongoing problems with Potholes at the entrance to Rooks View at Moorend Cross. Clerk had reported this BB/Hfds Highways (again) Ref: 11077041 and had been informed the problem had been fixed. However, as usual the fix had proved to be temporary and potholes were visible again. The Council agreed with Cllr C Green that three fixes in the last 12 months was not value for money, and the problem should be tackled properly with major re-surfacing being the best solution, particularly as Cllr C Green had offered to contribute towards this work. Cllr C Green would be speaking to Paul Hunter about this in the absence of Neil James who was away on sick leave.
- (e) Potholes – in the middle of Mathon opposite Badgers - Ref: 11077041 – The Clerk had reported this, and it was on the schedule for repair.
- (f) Potholes – outside the Moat – Clerk to report these to BB/Hfds Council.
- (g) Bio Diversity - The Clerk had circulated an e-mail from BB/Hfds Council regarding verge maintenance in the coming year to improve the biodiversity of roadside verges. The general practice had been to cut roadside verges twice a year in May/June and again in August/September, but if Parish Councils requested, the first cut could be omitted, and verges cut once a year in August/September. After some discussion, the Council asked the Clerk to write requesting two cuts per year, the first in June and the second in September.

## **04/20 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.

## **05/20 CLIFFE ARMS**

The Clerk reported that the ACV application put forward by the Council had been declined – due to its not meeting the definition of Land of Community Value in Section 88 of the Localism Act 2011. To

meet this requirement, the Asset needed to have been in recent use (i.e. within 5 years) and as the Cliffe had been closed for such a long time the application had failed. The Clerk reminded the Council that she

had been informed of this back in 2011 when she had first approached Herefordshire Council about listing the Cliffe, but the Council had been encouraged to re-apply by CAMRA and the ACV Community Assets Co-ordinator at Herefordshire Council. She was continuing to liaise with Mark Haslam of CAMRA and the Planning Department in Herefordshire.

**06/20 PROPOSED COMMUNITY BUS ROUTE**

The Clerk had circulated an e-mail to Cllrs from Community Action Ledbury regarding a proposed Community Bus Route from Ledbury heading up to British Camp, through Malvern Wells into Malvern, through the Wyche Cutting and down into Colwall. From there heading off through Mathon then Cradley, Bosbury and back into Ledbury. This service to run once a week. The Clerk was asked to publish details of these proposals in the CMS Newsletter.

**07/20 PLANNING**

The Council considered the following planning application :-

- (a) App No: 194284
- Site: West Park Farmhouse, Croft Bank. Malvern WR14 4DX
- Proposal: Single storey side extension. Replacement of front porch with larger porch. Replacement of conservatory with oak-framed rear extension. New pitched dormers to front roof. Alterations to windows and replacement windows. Timber cladding to front gable and brickwork walls rendered over.
- Grid Ref: OS 375611,245709
- App Type: Full householder

The Council considered this application and agreed that they had *no objections to it*. The Clerk to inform Herefordshire Planning.

**08/20 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**09/20 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

- (a) Report from Cllr M Malsbury re the Great Collaboration Workshop – 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020
- (b) Code of Conduct/Financial Regulations

**NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2020 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date





