

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via Zoom) PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 9th SEPTEMBER 2020 at 7.30 pm.

Present:- Cllr S Harte, Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr P Davies. Cllr K Perkins

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Co Cllr Tony Johnson

Apologies: Cllr N Walker, Mrs S James (Footpaths), Mr D Baldwin & Mr C Rouse (Malvern Hills Trust)

Due to the current coronavirus situation, Government legislation states that there is no lawful requirement to hold an Annual Council Meeting this year. All appointments agreed at the 2019 Annual Council Meeting or subsequent meetings held in 2019/20 year will remain in place until the start of the new Council year in April 2021.

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 P Davies declared an interest in Agenda Item No 13(c) Planning Application No 202665 – Wakelands, Croft Bank, Mathon WR13

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** – PCSO Nick Ashby had e-mailed the Clerk reporting “No crime” in Mathon.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - Co Cllr Tony Johnson had forwarded a report from the CEO of Herefordshire Council which the Clerk had circulated to all Cllrs. He drew the Council’s attention to the decision of the current administrators of Herefordshire Council to stop the Western ByPass round the City. The County Council is required to build 30,000 houses by 2031 - 10,000 in Hereford City and the rest spread around the county. Had the ByPass gone ahead as previously planned, it would have released building land, but the Council now has to find building land elsewhere to meet its target figure. Co Cllr Tony Johnson also reported on the proposed new changes of planning regulations, including the requirement for Herefordshire County Council to hold a 5 year supply of building land. At the moment its supply was 3.9 years. Neighbourhood Plans put forward by Parish Councils might also be affected. The Covid 19 situation was still well under control.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)** - No further report from David Baldwin as the next meeting of MHT Board was later this week. He would report on this at the November meeting. Clerk to check on renewing David Baldwin’s appointment to MHT in November.
- (e) **Footpaths** – Mrs Sam James – nothing to report at the moment.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

33/20 RISK ASSESSMENT SCHEDULE

The Council noted the revised Risk Assessment schedule which included NALC Covid 19 advice re face to face meetings as requested by Cllr M Malsbury.

34/20 - MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st July 2020 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 29th July were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 6th August were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

35/20 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) **Parish Map** - No update available on the Parish Map due to the absence of Cllr N Walker
- (b) **Parish Hall** - Cllr S Harte reported that due to Coronavirus restrictions, the Parish Hall still remained closed. The Hall had received a £10K grant from Herefordshire County Council as part of Central Government's assistance scheme.

36/20 FINANCE

The following payment of Accounts as per cheque list signed by the Chairman (attached to the Minutes) was approved :- Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury

Cheques for approval at this meeting :-

- (a) D W Taylor – Clerk's Salary – August/September 2020 - £503.96 (net)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates, hosting & domain renewal - £267.00; & Website Accessibility Audit - £342.00
- (c) HMRC PAYE – July/August/September 2020 - £64.80
- (d) CPRE subscription 2020/21 - £36.00

37/20 GRANTS/DONATIONS

Mathon Parish Hall Grant – first half - £250.00. At the Council Meeting on 1st July 2020, the Council had agreed to defer the payment of this first half grant, and to review the situation at the September meeting. In view of the generous grant received from Herefordshire Council to the Parish Hall, the Council decided not to pay this part of the Parish Council grant at the moment.

38/20 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY AUDIT – Mathon PC website

The Clerk had circulated to all Cllrs the Recommendations made by Rotary Print after their audit of the website. The website was mostly compliant, but the 4 recommendations to upgrade compliance to a higher level would cost in the region of £1,225 plus VAT. The Accessibility statement (which was obligatory) would cost around £220.00 plus VAT – making a total estimate of £1,445.00 plus VAT. Whilst agreeing to the cost of the Accessibility Statement, Cllrs M Malsbury and P Davies queried the necessity of the 4 extra recommendations. The Clerk to speak to Louise Manser at Rotary Printers to clarify the situation.

39/20 PLANNING

- (a) **For information** - App No: 201888 – 191879 – Rookrow Farm, Mathon. Proposal: Extension to the existing packing area and proposed new fridge area. **This application has been Withdrawn.**

For consideration at this meeting:-

(b) App No 202536
Location: Thumpers Patch. Mathon, WR13 5PD
Proposal: New Manege
Grid Ref: OS 373635,244264
App Type: Planning Permission

The Council considered this application and had no objections to it.

(c) App No 202665
Location: Wakelands, Croft Bank, Malvern WR13 5NZ
Proposal: Demolition of existing conservatory to side and erection of two storey extension to side plus window and first floor level to side.
App Type: Full Householder

As Cllr P Davies had previously stated an interest in this application, he left the room. The Council considered this application and had no objections to it.

40/20 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Potholes – below Wheatcroft towards Hackney Cross – HC Ref: CAS-754845-K9H2P0 – BB Ref: 11084835. This work is still outstanding.
- (b) Blocked culvert – water running downhill the full width of the road between Burford Farm and Dobbins Farm on the Colwall Road before Ham Green. HC Ref: CAS-754847-T8C5V0 – BB Ref: 11084836. This work has been referred to drainage. (No further update available)
- (c) Possible trees at risk in Harcourt Road (reported to Clerk by HW). Cllr S Harte to have another look at these trees.
- (d) Potholes in Harcourt Road – Clerk has reported to BB/Hfds Council. Ref: CAS-773413-V9Y3W9. Neil James had been out to look at Harcourt Road (his e-mailed report had been sent to Cllrs). The Council noted that some work had been done, but overall the state of the road was still unsatisfactory.
- (e) The Clerk had received a complaint about the size and speed of vehicles along Mathon’s narrow country lanes, with a request that Herefordshire Highways be asked to impose a 30 mph speed limit. The Council noted that speeding issues in the parish had been well documented in the past, but Highways had never agreed to a speed limit as it was not a built up area and had no accident record.

41/20 CLIFFE ARMS – Planning Apps 201982/201983

The Clerk reported that to date 146 representations had been made to Herefordshire Planning re the Cliffe Arms, including the very strong objections made by the Parish Council. Mark Haslam was putting together a response from CAMRA, and a decision would be taken by the end of September.

42/20 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

43/20 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - Precept 2021/22

NEXT MEETING DATE - 4th November 2020 at 7.30 pm (via Zoom)

..... Chairman

..... Date

