

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via Zoom) PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 at 7.30 pm.

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte, Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr P Davies, Cllr C Green, Cllr N Walker

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

**Apologies:** Cllr K Perkins, Mrs S James (Footpaths)

**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 – No Declarations made**

**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 numerous reports from Herefordshire Council covering Covid management/statistics and other matters, which the Clerk had circulated to all Cllrs. Co Cllr Johnson informed the Council that the present Chief Executive would be leaving the Council in April 2021, as well as the Director of Public Health. Both had done an outstanding job, with the Covid levels being the 8<sup>th</sup> lowest in the country. He would be writing to the Minister regarding charging points for electric cars. Charging points were not run by one organisation, which will cause problems in the future when electric cars will be more commonly used. He was also writing to the North Herefordshire MP Bill Wiggin regarding the access to a proposed development for 625 houses in Ledbury. Only one access to the site on the Bosbury/Ledbury road was proposed, which would cause significant traffic problems not only to Ledbury but also to Bosbury, Wellington Heath, Coddington, Mathon and Colwall. Virtually all residents of these villages would be affected. The Council asked the Clerk to send a supporting letter on this issue from Mathon Parish Council to Bill Wiggin.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)** - No report
- (e) **Footpaths** – Mrs Sam James – nothing to report at the moment. She wished to stand down as Footpaths Officer due to work and other commitments. After some discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact Cllr Kate Perkins to see if she would be prepared to take on this role.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

#### 44/20 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2020 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

#### 45/20 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) **Parish Map** - Cllr N Walker gave an update report on the Parish Map. Jeffrey White had prepared four backing sections, and would be putting the map together at his home. John Perkins would be delivering the map, but a date was needed for putting it into place in the hall, perhaps early December. Cllr S Harte to speak Margaret Ainscough about this.
- (b) **Parish Hall** - Cllr S Harte reported that due to Coronavirus restrictions, the Parish Hall still remained closed, as the amount of Covid related work required to open it was still quite onerous. A meeting of the Parish Hall Committee would be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

#### 46/20 FINANCE

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

#### **Cheques for approval at this meeting :-**

- (a) D W Taylor – Clerk’s Salary – October/November 2020 - £503.56 (net)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates – September/October 2020 - £36.00
- (c) Rotary Printers Ltd – Website Accessibility Statement - £264.00
- (d) D W Taylor – Clerk’s Office April – September 2020 - £70.00
- (e) Hadley Brothers – Mowing & Strimming 2020 season - £220.00
- (f) D W Taylor – Clerk’s expenses – March – September 2020 - £158.27
- (g) Hadley Brothers – replacement cheque No 580 for invoice 61 – 01/05/20 - £220.00 (cheque 567 cancelled)
- (h) **Clerk’s Salary Review** - The Council reviewed the Clerk’s salary for the year beginning April 2021 in line with NALC salary award agreement dated August 2020. The Clerk would be on the new SCP 24 scale with a further half hour per week (as previously agreed in 2019), which would equate to 5 working hours per week. Gross pay would be £3,874 per annum (£322.83 per month). Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr N Walker.
- (i) **Half Year Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020**. These had been circulated to all Cllrs. The Council approved the Accounts - Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (j) **Precept/Budget 2021/22** - A proposed budget for 2021/22 had been compiled by the Clerk and the Chairman totalling £8,449.00. However, they recommended that the precept be kept at the 2020/21 level i.e. £7,998.00 with the Council using its reserves to combat any shortfall. This was unanimously agreed by the Council. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

#### 47/20 PUBLIC ACCESSIBILITY STATEMENT – Mathon PC website

After consultations with the Clerk and Cllr M Malsbury, a final version of the Accessibility Statement had been agreed with Rotary Print. This had been circulated by the Clerk to all Cllrs. The Council formally approved this Statement, which had been posted onto the Mathon PC website. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury.

#### 48/20 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Potholes – below Wheatcroft towards Hackney Cross – HC Ref: CAS-754845-K9H2P0 – BB Ref: 11084835. Response from Neil James had been circulated to Cllrs – *Matt Heeley & Paul Hunter had already raised a number of carriageway defects (10 in total) in the middle of*

February 2020 prior to the above enquiry. The Velocity Patcher was tasked with carrying out an inspection of the whole road in August this year with a view to addressing any pothole defects it came across

- (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. Response from Neil James had been circulated to Cllrs – *Again this issue was raised by Matt Heeley and as a consequence the Enquiry was re-assigned to the Drainage Team South but it would appear that due to a lack of communication the Drainage Team haven't actioned this yet.* The Clerk was asked to chase Neil James for action as soon as possible

**49/20 PLANNING**

For consideration at this meeting:-

- (a) App No 203527  
Location: 2, Burfords Farm House, Mathon WR13 5PH  
Proposal: Rebuilding of extension at west gables of farmhouse which is currently derelict.  
Grid Ref: OS 374812,244576  
App Type: Full Householder

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

**50/20 CLIFFE ARMS – Planning Apps 201982/201983**

The Clerk confirmed that Herefordshire Planning had REFUSED the above applications. Mark Haslam had also asked Herefordshire Planning to arrange for an enforcement officer visit the Cliffe Arms to confirm its current use as a pub, albeit a closed one. (This had now been done)

**51/20 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**52/20 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA** - None raised

**NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30 pm (via Zoom)

..... Chairman

..... Date



