

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via Zoom) PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on Wednesday 6th JANUARY 2021 at 7.30 pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk) Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust)

Apologies: None received

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 will remain in place until the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 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, but asked the Clerk to draw the attention of the Council to an increase in “bogus” telephone scams targeting the elderly and vulnerable. .
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report to the meeting. However, Co Cllr Tony Johnson contacted the Clerk & Chairman after the meeting to report that Herefordshire Schools had been rated as top in the West Midlands and Herefordshire Council had obtained £2M to be spent on Class C & U roads in the County.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)** - Mr D Baldwin reported to the meeting following his e-mailed report which had been circulated to all Cllrs. As with most organisations MHT had to adjust to a new way of operating to ensure that all business could be undertaken without too much of a hiccup. At the last Board Meeting Mick Davies and Sarah Rouse were respectively re- elected unopposed as Chair and Vice-Chair. David was a member of the Land Management, Staffing and the Recreation & Advisory Panel. Work had continued with the Trust’s Governing Acts, and a dialogue was in progress with the Charity Commission and the Government DCMS concerning their S73 scheme. It may be that a Private Bill would be the preferred route for the Trust to explore. Ash dieback had established itself on Trust land with many of the trees in poor condition, some in a dangerous state which would lead to them being felled before they became unstable. The Accounts of the Trust had been presented and were in a healthy condition. Some of the income generated had been from increased car parking during the summer months. During the Christmas period the charges income showed a 50% increase. Work on the Land Management Plan continues. Some of the projects recently completed or currently ongoing included structural work on the British Camp ramparts, major pond restoration at Castlemoreton,

hedge laying, Manor House improvements, restoration of access paths from Gardners to Thirds Wood and an update in interpretation boards. Some of the major expenditure had been for a new field staff vehicle, a newly purchased cut & collect machine and power tools. The most expensive project would be a new sewerage system for the British Camp toilets.

- (e) **Footpaths** – Following the resignation of Mrs Sam James as Footpaths Officer (due to work commitments) the Clerk had been asked to contact Cllr K Perkins to see if she would be willing to take on this role. Cllr K Perkins agreed to do this (subject to her own work commitments).

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

01/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th November 2020 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Council Planning Meeting held on 9th December were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury.

02/21 ACTIONS TAKEN (not covered by Agenda)

The Clerk reported that as requested at the last meeting she had e-mailed Bill Wiggin, MP for North Herefordshire re the limited access for the Ledbury Viaduct housing development. (copied to Robert Jenrick). She had received an e-mail from both acknowledging the points made which would be taken into consideration.

03/21 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) **Parish Map** - Cllr N Walker gave an update report on the Parish Map. Due to the continued closure of the Parish Hall and Covid restrictions the Parish Map remained in Cradley (still in parts) in the care of Jeffrey White. A decision had been made to leave the map where it was until restrictions are lifted and it can be transported to the Hall for re-assembly. The Council endorsed this decision.
- (b) **Parish Hall** - Cllr S Harte reported that at a meeting of the Parish Hall Committee on 11th November, the decision had been taken to keep the hall closed. This had proved to be the correct decision in view of the increased Coronavirus restrictions now in force.

04/21 FINANCE

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

Cheques for approval at this meeting :-

- (a) D W Taylor – Clerk’s Salary – December 2020/January 2021) - £503.96 (net)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates – November/December 2020 - £24.00
- (c) HMRC – PAYE – Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 - £64.80
- (d) ICO – Data Protection Fee to January 2022 - £40.00

05/21 REPORTS

The Clerk reported that she had received an e-mail from Herefordshire Council (forwarded to Cllrs) confirming support for the BT phone Box at The Cliffe to remain open. This had yet to be agreed with BT.

06/21 HIGHWAYS

- (a) 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. As previously reported, this work had been referred to drainage. The Clerk had e-mailed Neil James yet again re the lack of action on this matter. Cllr P Davies reported that it was now a serious cause of concern. It was becoming impossible to get through the water unless wearing wellingtons. The Clerk to contact Neil James again stressing the urgency of the situation.
- (b) Cllr M Malsbury reported that tarmac was being eroded at the edge of the stream near Stockton. She agreed to report this directly to Herefordshire Highways.
- (c) Cllr C Green confirmed that she had e-mailed Neil James re potholes/driveway at Rooks View, but so far no response.

07/21 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing to report at the moment.

08/21 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

09/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - None raised

NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.30 pm (via Zoom)

DRAFT

..... Chairman

..... Date

