

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL (via Zoom) PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 at 7.30 pm.

*(rescheduled from 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021)*

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte, 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:** Co Cllr Tony Johnson, Cllr M Malsbury

**Due to the current coronavirus situation, Government legislation states that there is no lawful requirement to hold an Annual Council Meeting in the Council year 2020-21. 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** – No Report received.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - Co Cllr Tony Johnson had sent the Clerk a number of items for information and/or comment. (1) Growing concern at the rising nitrate levels in the county water courses because of the implication of restrictions by the Environment Agency on house building. (2) It appears that Herefordshire & Shropshire between them have 25% of all intensive chicken sheds in the UK – about 38M birds. That's a lot of muck for disposal which is particularly high in ammonia and nitrates, potentially filtering into rivers. (3) Current discussions between Malvern Hills Trust/Worcs Co Council and Colwall PC about the significant increase in visitor parking on the Malvern Hills and the consequent traffic flow problems.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust (MHT)** - Mr D Baldwin reported to the meeting following. Ironically, the increase in visitor numbers to Malvern Hills had resulted in an increased income from car parking charges. However, the footpaths on the hills had suffered and repair work would have to be undertaken in the near future. A Board Meeting had been held in January. A new member of the Board had been appointed – Dr Ellie Chowns (a Green Party County Councillor). The Trust had been kept extremely busy – especially on the governance aspect of MHT – dealing with GDPR; privacy policy; and the private bill to go through parliament to update the Malvern Hills Act. The MHT Community & Conservation Officer was dealing with a wide range of tasks, including overseeing contractors, estate & land management, press releases and monitoring hunt activities.
- (e) **Footpaths** – The Clerk confirmed that she had now obtained 2 copies of a footpaths map which also showed the Parish boundary. She had sent a copy to Cllr K Perkins. Mathon PC had also signed up to the Herefordshire P3 Scheme (for Footpaths).

## **The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

### **10/21 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

### **11/21 MATHON PARISH HALL**

- (a) **Parish Map** - No change from the situation as reported by Cllr N Walker at the January Meeting. i.e. 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.
- (b) **Parish Hall** - Cllr S Harte reported that the next meeting of the Parish Hall Committee would be held on 17<sup>th</sup> March at 8.00 pm (via Zoom). The Committee was in the process of ensuring that Covid regulations were in place for when the hall re-opened.

### **12/21 FINANCE**

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

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

- (a) D W Taylor – Clerk’s Salary – February/March 2021 - £503.56 (net)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates – January 2021 - £24.00
- (c) HMRC – PAYE – Jan/Feb/March 2021 - £64.80
- (d) Clerk’s Office - October 2020 – March 2021 - £70.00
- (e) Clerk’s Expenses – October 2020 – February 2021 - £138.61
- (f) HALC subscription – 2021/22 - £365.94
- (g) The Council agreed the internal audit statement, to be signed by the Chairman
- (h) The Council approved the appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2020/21 Accounts – Duffy Regan & Co, St Johns, Worcester.

### **13/21 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 S Harte reported that the Locality Steward Neil James had made two site visits – one in January and one in February, and had raised a ditching job plus 3 blocked gully defects.
- (b) Potholes at Rook Row - Cllr C Green confirmed that she and Neil James had been in discussions about these potholes. Neil James had taken photos of the potholes in question, and would be going back to the County Council to try and find an equitable solution.
- (c) Tarmac erosion at the edge of stream near Stockton - It was noted that Neil James had made an inspection of this and a report dated 22/01/21.
- (d) Cllr K Perkins reported a blocked gully near to Mathon Church on the Cradley to Colwall Road. The Clerk to report this to Herefordshire Highways.

### **14/21 ANNUAL COUNCIL & ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – May 2021**

The Chairman and Clerk reported that NALC had advised that if possible these meetings should still be held via Zoom rather than face to face. This meant that both meetings would have to be held before 6<sup>th</sup> May as this was the cut-off point for Zoom meetings allowed by Government Regulations (at the moment). The Council agreed to hold both meetings via Zoom on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May, starting at 7.00 pm.

**15/21 CLIFFE ARMS**

Nothing to report at the moment.

**16/21 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**17/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA** - None raised

**NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May (via Zoom) – Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00 pm followed by Annual Council Meeting at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman ..... Date

DRAFT



