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MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

7.00 pm – 5th May 2021
(via ZOOM)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr K Perkins and Mr David Baldwin (MHT)

Chairman's Annual Report to 31st March 2021

This was the first Annual Parish Meeting since 2019 as both the Annual Parish and Annual Council Meetings were unable to be held in 2020 due to the Coronavirus restrictions in place. Parish Council meetings continued to be held via Zoom throughout the year but this would be coming to an end after 6th May 2021.

Covid 19 - A Covid outbreak occurred in Mathon during 2020, but this was dealt with by Herefordshire Council and brought under control.

Planning - This year the Council considered 12 planning applications, including a re-application from the owner of the Cliffe Arms, which had to be held virtually via Zoom (unlike the first application held in the Parish Hall which attracted a large number of parishioners, all of whom objected to the application and signed a petition). Despite the limitations of the meeting, parishioners were made aware of the situation and over 85 objections were lodged with Herefordshire Planning. The application was refused for the second time. No Appeal has been made against this refusal. A contentious agricultural planning development for a proposed agricultural building, which effectively created a barn over a previously approved Menage was brought to the notice of the Council by concerned parishioners. The Council queried the use of this building, but it was approved by Herefordshire Planning for the storage of fodder and agricultural machinery. A planning application for a new ménage site was subsequently submitted to the Council.

Precept - In November 2020 the Council set a precept for 2021/22 of £7,998.00 (the same level as 2020/21) as the Council was holding sufficient reserves for any future spending.

As Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty no longer offer a grant for footpaths maintenance, this has now become the responsibility of landowners. BB/HC will supply stiles/gates etc. but they have to be fitted by the landowner concerned, with Neil James the Locality Steward being the contact for this. Mrs Samantha James retired from her role as Footpaths Officer, but this has now been taken up by Cllr Kate Perkins. Our thanks to both Sam and Kate for their footpath work.

Thanks are also due to Ron Hadley who has maintained our open spaces and village green throughout the year.

Finally, thanks to all Councillors who have attended our Zoom meetings and to our Clerk, Diana Taylor, for steering us through Zoom during the pandemic year.

Public Question Time - No questions raised

CLlr Nick Walker thanked the Chairman for guiding the Council through difficult times.

Close of Meeting – the Chairman thanked all those present and closed the meeting.