

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 14th JULY 2021 at 7.30 pm.

At rear of Mathon Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Co Cllr T Johnson, Mr Chris Rouse (Malvern Hills Trust)

Apologies for absence – Cllr K Perkins, Cllr C Green, Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust)

Cllrs were reminded of the need to update/complete their Register of Interests form.

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 N Walker declared an interest in Agenda Item No 9 as he was a Churchwarden

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) Public questions – none
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – No Report
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - Co Cllr Tony Johnson reported that at the moment the majority of Herefordshire Council staff were still working from home, with some having to self isolate. This had caused some problems with response times. Herefordshire rivers had been highlighted in the media as having very high levels of pollution. New housing developments which exacerbate or create unacceptable levels of pollution in river catchment areas can be denied planning permission. However, Herefordshire Council has a ten year house-building target to meet set by central government. These targets remain unchanged by the fact that some areas of the county cannot be developed whilst river pollution remains high nor are the targets reduced to account for the areas of the county which are designated as AONBs. As a consequence, more house-building pressure falls on our market towns and other areas which are not in affected river catchment areas. In addition, as the Hereford by-pass project was not going ahead, land which would have been created for building was now not available, putting further pressure on house-building in other areas. The Council was also having problems with agreeing valuations with landowners for the compulsory purchase of land following the completion of the City Ring Road
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Although David Baldwin was unable to attend the meeting, he had sent in a report. Due to Covid protocols MHT had been struggling to find venues for meetings which could accommodate a full Board meeting with public attendance. It was hoped to hold hybrid meetings (i.e. meetings in person but with an on-line transmission to allow the public to observe). Meetings with providers of these facilities were taking place with a view to programming some meetings from the end of July/early August. The Board was still awaiting answers to some questions raised regarding the Mill Lane Easement Application which was holding up progress of

- the matter. An Easement Application had also been received to serve a single existing residential property on the west side of the hills by the Wyche Free Church. An Ash Tree survey had been undertaken in mid-June. Ash dieback disease had produced another suite of trees with safety concerns – totalling about 50 trees. A working group paper would be presented to the next Board Meeting. Following completion of the purchase. Vehicular access to the Purlieu site had been secured and plans were under way for improving fencing and access on the site. Mr Chris Rouse reported that MHT was trialling livestock movements using collars on the animals and GPS tracking.
- (e) **Footpaths** - Cllr K Perks had e-mailed the Clerk an update on footpath issues in the parish. She had investigated the concerns raised about a stile on footpath MA15 and found the stile to be sturdy and safe. She had spoken to the landowner of the stile on the MA8 footpath who had agreed to fix the problem and make the stile climbable.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

33/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 5th May 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

34/21 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) Parish Map – still being held in Cradley, but now the hall was re-opening Cllr N Walker would be making arrangements for it to be transported back to the hall and put in place.
- (b) Cllr S Harte reported that the Parish Hall would be re-opening and it was hoped that the Coffee Club would be starting again.

35/21 GRANTS/DONATIONS

The Council approved the grant of £1,400 to Mathon PCC following legal advice received from Mr Roger Taylor of Wellers Hedleys. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

36/21 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 :-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - June/July 2021 - £572.26 (net) (tax code adjustment)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates – May/June 2021 - £48.00
- (c) Rotary Printers Ltd – Website: Hosting & renewal from 01/08/21 - £174.00
- (d) HMRC – PAYE for April/May/June 2021 - £100.60
- (e) PCC Mathon – Graveyard maintenance grant 2021/22 - £1,400 (see Min 35/21)

37/21 REPORTS

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Gigaclear re providing new topsoil for the green after further trench work had been completed for Superfast broadband.

38/21 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Blocked culvert – water running downhill the full width of the road between Burford Farm and Dobbins Farm. Ref: 11084836. Still outstanding (reported to drainage team) Neil James had raised a ditching job plus 3 blocked gullies. It was noted that some work was being done in this area by Balfour Beatty.
- (b) Tarmac erosion at the edge of stream near Stockton (reported by Cllr M Malsbury). Neil James had inspected. Cllr M Malsbury reported that the warning signs were still in place.

39/21 CLIFFE ARMS

A Plan of Action following legal advice was considered by the Council. The Clerk to make further enquiries.

40/21 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

41/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

(a) Queen's Jubilee Green canopy 2022 – a tree planting project. (*Cllr N Walker*)

42/21 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 1st SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30 pm.

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

DRAFT

