

# **MATHON PARISH COUNCIL**

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte, Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr K Perkins, Cllr N Walker

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr Chris Rouse (Malvern Hills Trust)

**Apologies for absence** – Cllr P Davies, 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.**

**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 crime in the area to report
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr Chris Rouse reported re Malvern Hills Trust (MHT) together with the report sent in by Mr David Baldwin. MHT was taking on more staff, including a new Foreman. £400K had been spent on Townsend Way in Malvern. Ash die back disease was a continuing problem to be dealt with. The Annual Meeting of the Trust would be held in Pershore to accommodate all those wishing to attend, and provide audio/visual links. Work continues on seeking a private Act of Parliament to comply with the Charity Commission's request to update and consolidate MHT Acts. A new and revised social media policy would be under discussion at the next meeting. An external meeting/walk has taken place at Gullet Quarry and the southern hills where the Conservation Officer outlined the work being undertaken. Officers and staff have been covering a range of duties recently including work in connection with land acquisition; recruitment and revised working arrangements for staff; finalisation of the Land Management Programme; the launching of a new memorial bench scheme; dealing with public enquiries and Board Member queries; various radio interviews and 20 press releases. These are just a few of the many types of work undertaken. Mr C Rouse confirmed that a Jubilee Beacon would be erected on the hills for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
- (e) **Footpaths** - Cllr Kate Perkins reported that she had dealt with the problem at footpath MA42.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

### **43/21 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

#### **44/21 MATHON PARISH HALL**

- (a) Parish Map – Cllr N Walker reported that the Map base was now ready to be fixed onto the wall in the Parish Hall. It was suggested that it be fixed on the opposite wall to the History of Mathon photographs.
- (b) Cllr S Harte reported that the Parish Hall had now re-opened and a few groups had started to use it again.

#### **45/21 FINANCE**

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

- (a) Clerk's Salary - August/September 2021 - £578.46 (net)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website update – July 2021 - £12.00
- (c) HMRC – PAYE for July/Aug/Sept 2021 - £100.80
- (e) CPRE subscription 2021/22 - £36.00

#### **46/21 REPORTS**

The Clerk reported that she had contacted Ron Hadley re the new topsoil for the green, but it had still not been delivered. She had chased Giga-Clear again via e-mail.

#### **47/21 PLANNING – DELEGATED POWERS**

The Clerk had circulated a note to all Cllrs re Planning Delegation to the Clerk. This is allowed under Sec 101 of the Local Government Act 1972. Various options can be agreed for the Clerk to consult with Cllrs to obtain their views on a planning application without holding a Council Planning Meeting. After a discussion, the Council agreed that in the case of non-contentious applications the Clerk will arrange for relevant documents to be e-mailed to the Cllrs who should then contact/e-mail the Clerk with their comments as soon as possible in order for the Clerk to determine the Council's response within the prescribed consultation period. Decisions made under delegation will be reported to and minuted at the next Parish Council Meeting. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

#### **48/21 QUEEN'S JUBILEE GREEN CANOPY**

Cllr N Walker reported on a national project to Plant a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee in celebration of the Queen's 70 years of service to the nation. The Council agreed to discuss this further at the next meeting in November.

#### **49/21 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Blocked culvert – water running downhill the full width of the road between Burford Farm and Dobbins Farm. Ref: 11084836. Cllr S Harte agreed to visit this site and see if any further work need to be done.
- (b) The Hacketts – water flowing down to the Hacketts off the road/hills. Mr D Baldwin had raised this problem via the Clerk as MHT felt this was a Herefordshire Highways problem, not theirs. Cllr S Harte to investigate further
- (c) Cllr N Walker raised the problems of overhanging trees and hedges obscuring sightlines. He had received a complaint from a parishioner re a problem hedge. The Clerk had contacted Neil James, the Locality Steward, who had suggested the Council contact the landowner initially. If this did not have the desired effect, the Clerk to report the issue via the HC website for further action to be taken. The Council agreed that it would be advisable to have a protocol in place to deal with these issues, as there were a number of problem areas in the parish. The Clerk to draft a template for consideration.

**50/21 CLIFFE ARMS**

Nothing definite to report at the moment.

**51/21 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**52/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

(a) Precept – 2022/23

**53/21 NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

DRAFT



