

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 5th JANUARY 2022 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk)

Apologies for absence – Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr K Perkins, Cllr C Green, Mr D Baldwin (Malvern Hills Trust), Mr Chris Rouse (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 report
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report – CEO Herefordshire report had been e-mailed to Cllrs
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - A Report had been e-mailed to the Clerk from Mr David Baldwin re the recent activities of the Trust, together with a phoned in report to the Clerk from Mr Chris Rouse. Following the recent elections of the Trust, Mick Davies continues as Chair, supported by Cynthia Palmer as Vice-Chair. There were two resignations from the Trust – Gwyneth Rees and Sarah Rouse. A Paper had been produced on the issuing of licences for trail hunting. This was currently suspended until Officers could monitor and produce their findings. The information presented was that the hunts had consistently failed to comply with the conditions of the licence. It was therefore agreed to indefinitely suspend all issuing of licences for trail hunting purposes on Trust land. On the topic of the The Private Bill (as reported at the previous meeting) it was also agreed that on the basis of the Governance Committee Working Group's report, it was expedient in the interests of the charity to proceed with a Parliamentary Bill to make the proposed governance changes (subject to a review as outlined and discussed). An update on the Risk Management Schedule by the CEO reported that although there had been good news from the RPA (Rural Payments Agency) he did not feel it was appropriate to reduce the risk level until the money had been received. On the Land Management front, staff had applied for two grants schemes and successfully received grant offers. It was therefore decided to allow the CEO expenditure of up to £3K for planting activities as a contribution from MHT.
- (e) **Footpaths - MA 37** - The footpaths officer Cllr Kate Perkins had e-mailed all Cllrs re footpath diversion of MA37. The Clerk had also circulated a submission by the landowner re this diversion. After some considerable discussion, the Council agreed to defer any decision until the Footpaths Officer could join a meeting. The Clerk was asked to set up a zoom advisory meeting for this purpose.

- (f) **Footpaths – MA 3** - The Council considered this diversion proposal, and the Clerk was asked to send the following response to the Duchy of Cornwall, New Barn, Dewsall, Hereford :- “ It seems to be quite a long diversion. It would benefit from being more direct.”

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

66/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3rd November 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

67/21 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) Cllr S Harte reported that the Parish Hall had now re-opened, but so far no regular bookings were in place other than for PC Meetings. The Coffee Chit-Chat Shop was closed until 22nd March.

68/21 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 S Harte and seconded by Cllr P Davies :-

- (a) Clerk’s Salary - December 2021/January 2022 - £578.46 (net)
(b) ICO Data Protection Fee - £40.00
(c) HMRC PAYE – Oct/Nov/Dec 2020 - £100.80

69/21 DELEGATED POWERS

The Clerk had circulated a note to all Cllrs re delegation of Decisions/Actions required between scheduled meetings of the Council. After a discussion, the Council agreed to adopt the following Scheme of Delegation :-

- (i) Decisions/Actions required between scheduled meetings of the Council are delegated to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and Councillors – OR – via virtual advisory meetings.
(ii) Decisions/Actions made under this delegation will be reported to and Minuted at the next Council Meeting.

However, the Clerk can still decide that an extraordinary meeting of the Council be called to deal with any urgent matter.

70/21 HIGHWAYS

- (a) The Clerk had received a complaint re flooding at Burford/Dobbins Farm locality. Neil James to be informed.

71/21 CLIFFE ARMS - Nothing definite to report at the moment.

72/21 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

73/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - none raised

74/21 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 2nd March 2022 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

