

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 3rd NOVEMBER 2021 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

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

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

Apologies for absence – Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr K Perkins, 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** - A Report had been e-mailed to the Clerk from Mr David Baldwin re the recent activities of the Trust. Nominations for the election of a new Chair and Vice-Chair for the Trust had been undertaken, with a decision to be made at the November Board Meeting. David Baldwin had elected to stay on the Land Management and Staffing Committees as well as the Recreation Advisory Panel. A working group Governance Committee had been set up back in February to report on the costs/benefits of making changes via a Private Bill, and a workshop had been convened to outline and explain all the relevant details to Trustees. Land Management visits on the hills had enabled all Trustees to view the work carried out by staff and volunteers. Work will be carried out by contractors at British Camp, St Anne's Well and the trough at Barnards Green. The Conservation Manager had been dealing with tree safety and the ash dieback disease, taking up two grants, one for £23,000 which will see 56 trees planted in Malvern Town and another for £11,231 which will see new hedgerows and trees planted on land near Colwall. He had spent many hours dealing with Western Power over their contaminated land clean up operation on Swinyard Hill. The Community & Conservation Officer had also been busy, publishing the 2021 Annual Review, assisting with the ash die back, safety work and winter tree inspection. They also continue to monitor the ponds restoration works and the cattle that graze on the hills and commons, as well as working on the land to control Japanese Knotweed in several areas of the Hills. Field Staff have been doing the last of the cuts, removing diseased trees and strimming vegetation and hedges. The daily task of litter collecting and rubbish bins emptying never ends, and with increased visitor numbers does not look like diminishing.
- (e) **Footpaths** - No Report

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

55/21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr S Harte. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 27th September 2021 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr C Green.

56/21 MATHON PARISH HALL

- (a) Parish Map – Cllr N Walker reported that the Map had now been completed and had been fixed onto the wall in the Parish Hall. Jeff White had done an excellent job in putting together the copies of varying size sections to cover the whole parish area of the original map. The Council voiced its appreciation of the skill and hard work involved to provide such an outstanding result. It was agreed that a letter of thanks from the Council be sent to Jeff White, together with cheques for his materials costs and a donation towards the Cradley Heritage Centre (via the Cradley Village Hall account).
- (b) Cllr S Harte reported that the Parish Hall had now re-opened, but so far no regular bookings were in place.

57/21 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 P Davies :-

- (a) Clerk's Salary - October/November 2021 - £578.46 (net)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates – Aug/Sept/Oct 2021 - £60.00
- (c) Clerk's Office – Apr – Sept 2021 - £70.00
- (e) Clerk's Expenses – March – September 2021 - £183.86
- (f) Parish Map – J White £215.57 (material costs) & Cradley Village Hall - £200.00 (for Cradley Heritage Centre donation)
- (g) Half Year Accounts to 30th September 2021 were considered and approved. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr N Walker.
- (h) Precept 2022/23. The Council considered the budget for 2022/23 and the recommendation from the Clerk & Chairman that the precept remain at the same level as 2021/22 i.e. £7,998. This was unanimously approved by the Council. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr C Green. The Clerk to notify Herefordshire Council.

58/21 REPORTS

- (a) The Chairman drew the attention of the Council to the increase in Covid infection rates in the area and it was agreed that guidelines should be drawn up for Council meetings to try to reduce any risks involved. These are as follows :-
 - (i) Whilst these guideline measures are voluntary and based on personal choice, it is recommended that all Councillors, the Clerk, outside representatives invited to attend the meeting and members of the public wishing to attend, should take a lateral flow test within 24 hours prior to the meeting.
 - (ii) Socially distanced tables & chairs to be arranged in the hall
 - (iii) Unless exempted, masks to be worn when entering/leaving or moving around in the hall, but to be removed when sitting/speaking.
 - (iv) To use the hand sanitiser provided when entering and leaving the building

The above guidelines to be put on the Agenda for each meeting until further notice.

- (b) Village Green - The Clerk reported that she had chased Giga-Clear yet again re topsoil for the village green. This had been ongoing since March, and she was not optimistic about getting a result.

59/21 PLANNING – DELEGATED POWERS (Sec 101 Local Govt Act 1972)

Planning Application :-

App Ref: 213416
Location: Southend Farm, South End Lane, Mathon WR13 5PB
Proposal: Installation of solar PV Panels on the roofs of two buildings at Southend Farm
Grid Ref: OS 373838,244834
App Type: Planning Permission

Using delegated powers approved at the Council meeting on 1st September 2021, the Clerk had sent the following comments to Herefordshire Planning Services :-

“Mathon Parish Council supports this application and has no comment to make”

60/21 QUEEN’S JUBILEE GREEN CANOPY

Cllr N Walker suggested planting a sweet chestnut tree to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. The Council agreed to this idea, subject to finding a suitable location for the tree. To be reviewed at the next meeting in January 2022.

61/21 HIGHWAYS

- (a) The Council agreed a template of a letter which would be sent to the landowner should a highways complaint be made to the Council.

62/21 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing definite to report at the moment.

63/21 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

64/21 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

None raised

65/21 NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 7.30 pm.

..... Chairman

..... Date

