

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 1st NOVEMBER 2022 at 7.30 pm. In Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte, Cllr C Green, Cllr P Davies. Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr K Perkins, Cllr N Walker

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr D Baldwin & Mr C Rouse (Malvern Hills Trust)

Apologies for absence : Co Cllr Tony Johnson

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 – No Declarations made.

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** – A report had been received by the Clerk. Data from the 1st October to date showed that there had been a theft from a garden shed. A couple of catalytic converters had been stolen in the Ledbury area (not in Mathon) but this type of theft had spread force wide. An alert had been sent out on the messaging service.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor - No Report**
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - David Baldwin & Chris Rouse reported to the meeting. A high number of meetings had been held recently including the Annual Meeting. A small herd of Highland cattle were now grazing on the hills to help conserve the grass land and flowers. A sheep had been killed by a dog near to St Annes Well, this was the third incident in a week. It was essential for dog owners to keep their dogs under control. The Trust was looking for a part time (20 hours per week) financial administrator. Tenders were going out for the appointment of Auditors. Due to the increased use of the car parks and the hills during Covid serious erosion had taken place around the hills. The Trust had appointed a firm of Consultants to undertake an erosion survey and their recommendations would be brought back to Committee. The Black Hill car park was being extended.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

63/22 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th September 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Council Planning Meeting held on 4th October 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green. However, Cllr N Walker pointed out that the comments sent to Herefordshire Planning had not included the Council's concern about the size of the proposed detached garage with home gym/office and store Ref App No 222822. (though this had been included in previous comments re an earlier application

at The Granary, Moat Farm). The Clerk to circulate draft comments to all Councillors prior to sending them to Herefordshire Planning Services.

64/22 FOOTPATHS - Cllr K Perkins reported to the meeting. Ramblers had raised an issue re rotting wooden steps on MA13. She had spoken to the landowner concerned and to Herefordshire Council. Hoople (contractors to Herefordshire Council) were going to replace both sets of steps. Nothing further happening yet re the stile/gate replacement on Footpath MA 44. Footpath MA 5 – Cllr Perkins had been contacted by a ramble group re a fence which had been erected across this footpath. She had reported this to Herefordshire Council who are looking into the matter

65/22 MATHON PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte reported that 2023 would be the centenary year for the Parish Hall, and an event celebrating this would be taking place. The Herefordshire Victoria County History Trust would be holding a meeting at the hall on 28th November at 7.00 pm to discuss their plans for a book on Mathon and to ask for help with their research.

66/22 CLERK'S SALARY REVIEW – 2023/24

The Council approved the increase to SCP 26 grade for the Clerk's salary 2023/24. The new pay rates for 2022/23 had yet to be agreed, but any increase should be backdated from April 2022. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

67/22 FINANCE

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

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk's Salary - October/November 2022 - £583.40 (PAYE deducted)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates August/September/October £96.00
- (c) D W Taylor – Clerk's Expenses - April-September 2022 - £158.00
- (d) **The Accounts to 30th September 2022** were approved by the Council. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (e) **Budget & Precept for 2023/24** - A draft Budget had been prepared by the Clerk and Chairman and had been circulated to all Cllrs. After considerable discussion, the Council agreed to increase the Precept for 2023/24 to £8,601.00 (an increase of £603 p/a from the 2022/23 precept). This equated to £2.50 per elector per annum. It was noted that the precept had not been increased since 2020/21. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green. The Clerk to notify Herefordshire Council.

68/22 OPEN SPACE SITE ASSESSMENTS

The completion date for this survey had been extended to 11th November. The Clerk and Chairman to complete the form for categories of open space in the parish.

69/22 RURAL SETTLEMENT HIERARCHY – REVISED AUDIT

The Council considered the audit tables composed by Herefordshire Council in relation to Mathon. The Clerk to send an amendment re road infrastructure to include a short stretch of the B4220 in Mathon which was a B road missing from the audit.

70/22 CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III – 6th May 2023

The Council discussed ideas for celebrating the above event. The possibility of combining a coronation event with the centenary of the parish hall was also suggested. The Clerk to ask for suggestions from parishioners via the CMS newsletter (to be e-mailed to the Clerk or by contacting any of the Parish Councillors).

71/22 HIGHWAYS

(a) Jubilee Tree Planting – Cllr C Green offered a site for the planting of the sweet chestnut Jubilee Tree. This would be on Rookrow land alongside the MA11 footpath. The tree to have a commemorative plaque.

72/22 CLIFFE ARMS - Nothing definite to report at the moment.

73/22 CORRESPONDENCE - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

74/22 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - None raised

75/22 NEXT MEETING DATE - Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall.

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

DRAFT

