

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

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

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk)

**Apologies for absence :** Cllr N Walker, Co Cllr Tony Johnson, Mr D Baldwin & Mr C 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 – 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. No reported incidents in Mathon, but there had been a big increase in shed break-ins locally. Articles on this will be appearing in Parish News Letters, together with security advice.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor - No Report**
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - The Chairman Cllr S Harte read out the notes he had made via a telephone report from Mr Chris Rouse. The car park at Black Hill was going to be extended, and parking charges would be increased. Stobbles (stakes) were being put in place to prevent people parking on hills and commons. The Old Hills to have parking meters. Repairs and improvements to St Annes Well and the Trough in Barnards Green had been done. Erosion control trials were being carried out on the hills pathways.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

### **01/23 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury.

**02/23 FOOTPATHS** - Cllr K Perkins reported to the meeting. She had received a complaint that a gate needed fixing on footpath MA34 in Harcourt Road. Cllr Perkins was not always sure of who was the landowner/contact for certain areas of footpaths in the parish, and in some situations felt it might be better for the Parish Council to send a letter to a landowner re stile repairs/replacement. The Clerk had circulated an e-mail from a Cradley parishioner re a stile at the bottom of Bluebell Wood on the footpath between Cradley and the Wood exit on the road to Moor End Cross. The stile was in a general state of decay, and repairs/replacement were needed. As there was some uncertainty as to exactly where and which stile was the problem, the Clerk was asked to send the parishioner a part copy of the footpaths map

together with a photo of what might be the stile in question (taken by Cllr Perkins) for him to confirm the location. The Clerk had circulated a letter and Diversion order from Herefordshire Council re MA3 (Part) Mathon at Hollings Hill Farm. The only comment the Council wished to make was that the diversion path was rather a long detour.

### **03/23 MATHON PARISH HALL**

Cllr S Harte reported that the next Parish Hall Committee Meeting would be held on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

### **04/23 FINANCE**

The following payment of Accounts as per cheque list signed by the Chairman (attached to the Minutes) was approved. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr C Green :-

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk's Salary - December 2022/January 2023 - £583.40 (PAYE deducted)
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates November 2022 - £12.00
- (c) HMRC – PAYE – July/Aug/Sept 2022 – replacement cheque £124.14
- (d) HMRC – PAYE – Oct/Nov/Dec 2022 - £123.80
- (e) ICO (Information Commissioner's Office) – Data Protection Fee renewal January 2023 - £40.00
- (f) The Clerk outlined the details of new pay rates for backdated pay 2022/23 (SCP 25) and salary for 2023/24 (SCP 26).

### **05/23 CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Council had discussed the possibility of combining a Coronation event with the centenary of the Parish Hall at the previous November meeting. As this would be an item for discussion at the Parish Hall Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January. The Council felt it was advisable to await the outcome of that meeting. Should the Council decide to purchase Coronation Mugs it was agreed that, if possible, priority should be given to a local supplier.

### **06/23 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Jubilee Tree Planting – Cllr C Green reported that she had ordered a metal guard to go round the sweet chestnut Jubilee Tree with a brass commemorative plaque fixed onto the guard. This would be planted on Rookrow land alongside the MA11.
- (b) Pot Holes - A complaint re potholes at the approach to Rook Row Farm had been circulated to Cllrs. The Clerk to advise the Cradley parishioner re the steps being taken by Rook Row Farm owners to try to deal with this ongoing problem, including offering to contribute towards the cost of resurfacing the approach area to their farm. Numerous reports had been sent to Balfour Beatty/Herefordshire by the Parish Council requesting that this lane be totally resurfaced, rather than just filling in potholes.
- (c) Potholes – Cradley/Mathon junction. The Clerk to report these to Herefordshire Council. The Chairman to liaise with the Clerk re exact location.

**07/23 CLIFFE ARMS** - Nothing definite to report at the moment. However, the Clerk reported that she had received a phone call from a BT engineer re the telephone kiosk. He had been trying (unsuccessfully) to contact the co-owner of the Cliffe re the kiosk as it was on privately owned land rather than public land. BT wished to remove the kiosk due to non-use in recent years. He would be e-mailing the Clerk in the near future.

**08/23 CORRESPONDENCE** - all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs.

**09/23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - Donations**

**10/23 NEXT MEETING DATE** - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall.

..... Chairman

..... Date

DRAFT



