

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 7th MARCH 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr C Green, Cllr P Davies, Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr N Walker

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

Apologies for absence : Cllr S Harte

Vice-Chairman Cllr C Green chaired the Meeting

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** – No report had been received by the Clerk.
- (c) **Herefordshire Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr D Baldwin and Mr C Rouse reported to the meeting. A new Finance Manager has been appointed. A trial evening car parking scheme with a reduced parking price of £3 for parking 6.0 pm – 11.0 pm will be starting on 1st April, with a review in 2024. Parking charges per day up to 6.0 pm will be £5.25. The Old Hills will also have parking meters. The recent Boundary Commission changes to Wards/parishes in the Malvern area are causing problems for the Trust, as it is still controlled by the Conservators Acts of Parliament. Harriet Baldwin MP has written to Department of Levelling Up - Housing & Communities, and has tabled a parliamentary question. The Trust has purchased a further five pieces of land, totalling around 24 acres. These are Colwall Coppice, West Field, Norbridge Field, Stone Pit Field and Swine Pit Rough. A new Lambing building has been completed. Management Reports cover a wide range of activities within the Trust such as IT/Land Registry enquiries/Defra/Severn Trent/Repairs to gates & posts/tree planting/litter collection/fly tipping. Some Mountain bikers are still causing problems by not sticking to the designated tracks for cyclists to use. The next Board meeting will be held on 9th March.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

12/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17th January 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr P Davies. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 9th February were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

13/23 FOOTPATHS

The Council considered the proposed diversion order for Footpath MA 9, and had no objections to it. The Clerk read out the response from Cllr K Perkins re Footpath MA15 – stile at the bottom of Bluebell Wood. Cllr P Davies raised a query regarding Footpath MA12 re steps & stile. The stile had been repaired, but steps still waiting for Balfour Beatty to action. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr K Perkins re a footpaths update.

14/23 MATHON PARISH HALL - No Report

15/23 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 - February/March 2023 - (PAYE deducted and including back pay from 1st April 2022 scale increase) - £775.60
- (b) Rotary Printers Ltd – website updates January/February 2023 - £108.00
- (c) HMRC – PAYE – January/February/March 2023 - £123.80 (**to be confirmed**)
- (d) HALC subscription/affiliation fee 2023/24 - £425.82
- (e) D W Taylor – Clerk's expenses – October 2022 – February 2023 - £92.99
- (f) D W Taylor – Clerk's Office – Oct 2022 – March 2023 - £70.00
- (g) Mathon Parish Hall (Planning Meetings 2022/23) - £50.00
- (h) The Council approved the appointment of Duffy Regan & Co. Worcester as the Internal Auditors for the Council's financial year ending 31st March 2023. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr N Walker.
- (i) The Annual Finance Overview for 2022/23 was considered and approved. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (j) AONB donation – to be reviewed at a future date.

16/23 CORONATION EVENT – MAY 2023

The Council had discussed the possibility of combining a Coronation event on 8th May with the centenary of the Parish Hall at previous Council meetings. However, due to a lack of resources, the proposed outside Barbeque would not be taking place.

17/23 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS – 4th MAY 2023

The Clerk issued nomination papers to all Cllrs for completion and delivery by hand to the Electorate Dept at Hereford Town Hall by 4.0 pm on 4th April.

18/23 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Pot Holes - potholes at the approach to Rook Row Farm. Cllr C Green reported that some pot holes had been filled in. However, meetings with Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty were ongoing re a financial contribution to resurfacing the approach area to Rook Row Farm. Pot Holes at the junction of C1162 and the road to Hackney Cross had been reported, but so far no action had been taken by BB/Herefordshire Council.
- (b) Hedge fronting The Badgers – the Clerk reported on the current situation and was asked to send a letter to the party concerned prior to any further action the Council might take.
- (c) Any other Highways issues - Cllr P Davies reported a number of potholes along Harcourt Road, near to the Tennis Courts. Clerk to report this to BB/Hfds Council.

19/23 CLIFFE ARMS - Nothing definite to report at the moment.

20/23 CORRESPONDENCE – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

21/23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - None raised

22/23 NEXT MEETING DATE - **Tuesday 16th May 2023** at 7.00 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall.
Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00 pm followed by Annual Council Meeting at 7.30 pm. Date had been changed due to Elections on 4th May.

..... Chairman

..... Date

DRAFT

