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MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7.00 PM – 16TH MAY 2023

HELD AT MATHON PARISH HALL

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Cllr N Walker, Chris Rouse (MHT)

Chairman's Annual Report to 31st March 2023

This past year was the last of our current 4 year term. It has been a quiet year, but fortunately our meetings have all been held in person (rather than Zoom meetings as in previous years)

There have been fewer (only six) planning applications in the year. However, one was for a large agricultural building, made up of 5 applications. There were 2 extensions, 1 solar panel array, and 1 new build. These have all been approved. The other was a reconsultation for drainage and landscaping for use of land for seasonal workers accommodation which is still awaiting a decision.

In November 2022 we set an increased precept for 2023/24, having kept it the same for the previous 2 years. This covers our running costs and insurance, Council grants, Clerk's salary and expenses and maintenance of open spaces/cutting the green. As in other years Ron Hadley has cut the green and kept it tidy plus other maintenance work on behalf of the Council and I would like to thank him for all the extra time he puts into this.

Councillor Kate Perkins is our Footpaths Officer and liaises with local landowners and Herefordshire Council/Balfour Beatty (BB) Locality Steward over problems that arise. Thanks to her for doing this work which at times can be rather time consuming.

We nominate to two outside bodies – Mathon Parish Hall and Malvern Hills Trust (MHT). David Baldwin is our representative on MHT and he together with Chris Rouse who is a Mathon elected member to the Trust, make regular reports to the Council. Both these positions are up for re-election in November 2023. I am the nominated Council representative for Mathon Parish Hall Committee.

Our meetings in the past year have also been attended by Co Councillor Tony Johnson who due to ill health has now retired. Our thanks to him for all his support to the Council over many years. Following the elections held on 4th May he was replaced by Ward Councillor Helen Heathfield.

Highways problems – mainly potholes and blocked culverts causing water to run over and flood the roads, and usually in the same areas, are regularly reported to Herefordshire Highways/BB for action.

Unfortunately, there is still no definite news regarding the Cliffe, which remains a constant item on the Council's Agenda.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who give up their time to keep the Council going, and for all being successfully re-elected on 4th May elections.

I would like to end by saying “thank you” to Diana Taylor our Clerk for her continued hard work to keep us up to date with rules and regulations and for maintaining the smooth running of our Parish Council.

Public Question Time - No questions raised

Close of Meeting – the Chairman thanked all those present and closed the meeting.

DWT/SH/16/05/23