

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 5th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

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

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

Apologies for absence : Cllr C Green

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** – e-mail to Clerk from Nick Ashby, West Mercia Police. Nothing to report for Mathon, but this was the time of year where shed break-ins start increasing. Information and advice on this is available from West Mercia Police website, or a personal visit can be arranged.
- (c) **Herefordshire Ward Councillor** - Cllr Helen Heathfield – reported her concern that the Government is stopping the regulations re environmental controls on housebuilding. This would obviously have an impact on pollution in Herefordshire. The River Wye Action Plan will be coming out from DEFRA shortly. A positive report on Herefordshire Council’s children and adult social care had been received.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr David Baldwin & Mr Chris Rouse reported to the meeting. David Baldwin reported that elections to the Trust Board would be held on 1st November, when 11 trustees would be elected. A bracken removal programme was under way. “Rolling” the bracken crushes it and creates space for other plants species to grow, and helps to broaden the range of wildlife to flourish on the hills. The Trust had used a horse called Frenchie to pull the roller rather than machinery. This has a lower environmental impact and Frenchie could reach difficult parts of the land that machinery could not. On 15th August Malvern Rotary Club had offered free LandRover Experience trips up to the Beacon for people unable to walk up there. The Charity Commission had now given permission for the release of some MHT funds to obtain a new Act of Parliament (replacing the various Acts of Parliament presently in place – some dating back over 100 years) to modernise the running and regulation of MHT. Mr Chris Rouse voiced his disagreement with MHT for embarking on this action, and was concerned as to the huge amounts of money likely to be spent on getting a Private Members Bill through Parliament.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

53/23 NOMINATION OF TRUSTEE TO MALVERN HILLS TRUST

The Council had been contacted by MHT asking for one nomination to the Board of MHT from November 2023 to 2027. It was proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies (and unanimously endorsed) that Mr David Baldwin be nominated as the representative for Mathon Parish Council. The Clerk to notify MHT accordingly.

54/23 FOOTPATHS

Cllr K Perkins agreed to contact Herefordshire Council yet again re Footpath MA 12/13 re problems with the steps.

55/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4th July 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 25th July 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

56/23 MATHON PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte reported that the next meeting of the Committee would be later this month.

57/23 FINANCE

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

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk's Salary - August/September 2023 - (PAYE deducted) - £604.40
- (b) The Business Supplies Group (formerly Rotary Print) – website posting/updates/domain renewal - £187.18
- (c) HMRC PAYE – July/August/September 2023 - £204.80
- (d) Grants/Donations – PCC Mathon – second half of graveyard maintenance grant - £700.00

The Council considered the quotation received from TBSG re website Plugins & Maintenance (£185) The Council felt more clarification was needed and Cllr M Malsbury offered to compile a list of questions for the Clerk to raise with TBSG.

58/23 EV CHARGE POINT LOCATIONS

The Clerk had forwarded an e-mail from Herefordshire Council to all Cllrs re this subject. The Council agreed that at the moment there was no suitable location for an EV charging point (or points) in the parish.

59/23 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Hedge fronting The Badgers. This hedge had now been cutback to the boundary edge as requested.
- (b) Blocked culvert – Burford to Ham Green – this had been reported to Highways (Ref: FS 525502749)
- (c) Blocked culvert – Hackney Cross - this had been reported to Highways (Ref: FS 525504276)
- (d) Bridge near entrance to Overley – BBV Ref 11141020. A parishioner had reported that a fallen tree and barriers surrounding this area of stream/bridge had been displaced. The Clerk had contacted BB on an emergency basis, and Neil James had attended. The barriers are now back in place and notes have been made about the fallen tree for the team to carry out remedial works.
- (e) Any other Highways issues – none reported

60/23 CLIFFE ARMS - Nothing further to report at the moment.

61/23 CORRESPONDENCE – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

62/23 MATTERS FOR FUTURE AGENDA - Precept 2024/25

63/23 NEXT MEETING DATE - Tuesday 7th ~November 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

..... Chairman

..... Date

DRAFT

