

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

**Present:-** Cllr P Davies, Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr N Walker, Cllr C Green

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

**Apologies for absence :** Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr K Perkins

**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.
- (c) **Herefordshire Ward Councillor** - Cllr Helen Heathfield – although present at the meeting, due to illness she was not able to make a report.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr David Baldwin & Mr Chris Rouse reported to the meeting. David Baldwin thanked the Parish Council for his nomination to the Board on behalf of the Council. Following the November elections there were a number of new Trustees, with the next Board Meeting being held on 16<sup>th</sup> November. The Trust was losing Duncan Bridges (Chief Executive) who was moving to a new job. The Secretary to the Board would also be leaving, and a new Secretary has been appointed. The Finance & Admin Manager had also resigned. An Audit had been undertaken by AZTES with no adverse matters to report. The Trust had purchased a piece of land in Evendine Lane. With new Trustees and new teams in place, the Trust was looking forward to the future.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

### **64/23 FOOTPATHS**

Cllr K Perkins had sent an e-mailed report re footpaths to the Clerk. She had e-mailed PROW at Herefordshire Council twice since the September meeting re footpaths MA12/13 and about the fence that had been erected across the Footpath MA5. She had walked both footpaths, and e-mailed an update to PROW Herefordshire. So far she had only received a response to say that her e-mail would be forwarded to the PROW Inspector.

### **65/23 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr N Walker.

**66/23 MATHON PARISH HALL**

Cllr S Harte reported that a Committee meeting had been held two weeks ago. The next meeting of the Committee would be the AGM in February 2024. The proposal for a “Pop Up Pub” in the hall starting in April 2024 would be on the Agenda.

**67/23 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 C Green :-

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk’s Salary - October/November 2023 - (PAYE deducted) - £604.40
- (b) D W Taylor – Clerk’s Expenses – March – September 2023 - £113.49
- (c) The Business Supplies Group (formerly Rotary Print) – website posting/updates/domain/ plug-ins - £318.00
- (d) Mathon Parish Hall – Hall Hire 2023/24 - £94.00
- (e) M Griffiths – payroll – April 2022 – March 2023 - £95.00
  
- (f) Accounts to 30<sup>th</sup> September were approved by the Council and signed by the Chairman. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr N Walker
- (g) Clerk’s Salary Review 2024/25 - The Council approved the increase to SCP 27 for the Clerk’s salary 2024/25. The new pay scales for 2024/25 had yet to be agreed, but any increase should be backdated from April 2024. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.
- (h) Precept for 2024/25. The Council considered the proposed figures prepared by the Clerk and the Chairman, and agreed to a precept figure of £9,076.00 for the year 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr N Walker and seconded by Cllr P Davies.

**68/23 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Blocked culvert – Burford to Ham Green – this had been reported to Highways (Ref: FS 525502749) and was still blocked. The Clerk to contact Neil James.
- (b) Blocked culvert – Hackney Cross - this had been reported to Highways (Ref: FS 525504276) and was still blocked. Cllr C Green to e-mail Clerk and the Clerk to contact Neil James.
- (c) Damage to advisory sign at junction of lane to Rook Row Farm and B4220. (Ref: 11142182). Neil James had ordered a new sign.
- (d) Any other Highways issues – none reported

**69/23 CLIFFE ARMS** - Nothing further to report at the moment.

**70/23 CORRESPONDENCE** – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

**71/23 NEXT MEETING DATE** - Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

..... Chairman

..... Date





