

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 9th January 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

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

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr D Baldwin – (Malvern Hills Trust)

Apologies for absence : Cllr K Perkins, Mr C Rouse (MHT)

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** - No Report .
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr David Baldwin reported to the meeting. MHT elections were held in November 2023. The Trust now has a new Secretary - Alison Marlow – and a temporary CEO starting in March 2024 – Helen Stace. Duncan Bridges has left the Trust to take up a new job. The Trust is still trying to recruit a new admin assistant. Wardens for the Trust are now in place. David Baldwin is now a member of the staffing committee. In November 2023 the Malvern Hills AONB Partnership was re-branded as the Malvern Hills National Landscape Partnership. National Landscapes are designated AONB areas. Over 85% of MHT land is in the AONB area. The Donkey Shed has been fully restored but yet to have an official opening

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

01/24 FOOTPATHS

Nothing to report on Footpaths at the moment

02/24 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th November 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr N Walker. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 4th December 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 18th December 2023 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

03/24 MATHON PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte reported that the Parish Hall AGM would be held on 6th February

04/24 MALVERN HILLS NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSULTATION (Renewable Energy)

The Clerk had circulated details of this consultation to all Councillors. As this was quite a lengthy document, the Councillors agreed to e-mail the Clerk if they had any comments to make before the deadline of 28th February.

05/24 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 M Malsbury:-

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk’s Salary - December 2023/January 2024 - (PAYE deducted) - £639.14
- (b) D W Taylor – Pay-Scale increase from April 2023 to November 2023 - £138.76
- (c) The Business Supplies Group (formerly Rotary Print) – website posting/updates - £72.00
- (d) Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) – Data Protection Fee - £40.00
- (e) Herefordshire Council – Election Charges for 4th May 2023 Elections - £153.46
- (f) HMRC – PAYE – Oct/Nov/Dec 2023 - £243.80
- (g) D W Taylor – Clerk’s Office – April – September 2023 - £70.00
- (h) HALC/NALC – subscription fees for 2024/25 - £484.28

- (i) **Donations** – to consider a donation to Malvern Hills AONB. After some discussion, the Council agreed to defer this until the Annual Council Meeting to be held in May.

06/24 HIGHWAYS

- (a) Blocked culvert – Burford to Ham Green – this had been reported to Highways (Ref: FS 525502749) and was still blocked. The Clerk had contacted Neil James and Highways again re this problem. An e-mail had been received by the Clerk from Highways confirming that action would be taken and the new reference was FS-CASE-563770686 .
- (b) Blocked culvert – Hackney Cross - this had been reported to Highways (Ref: FS 525504276) and was still blocked. The Clerk had e-mailed Neil James again, but so far no response.
- (c) Any other Highways issues – none reported

07/24 CLIFFE ARMS - Nothing further to report at the moment.

08/24 CORRESPONDENCE – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

09/24 NEXT MEETING DATE - Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

..... Chairman

..... Date

