

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr P Davies, Cllr M Malsbury

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk)

**Apologies for absence :** Cllr K Perkins, Cllr N Walker, Cllr C Green,  
Mr C Rouse & Mr D Baldwin (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/Presentations**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- (a) **Public questions** – none
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – No crime to report
- (c) **Herefordshire Ward Councillor** - No Report
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr D Baldwin had e-mailed a short report for the meeting, mainly covering the health & safety risks of swimming in Gullet Quarry and general advice when visiting the hills. Physical barriers to restrict access to the quarry were installed following the tragic deaths of two young men who drowned in the quarry lake in 2023. Despite the warnings, some people have continued to breach the safety fencing. The main risk is cold water shock which increases the chances of drowning. There is also risk of rock falls as the quarry face is unstable. In September the Trust will be carrying out habitat management works on the Old Hills in Callow End. The focus will be on freeing the large oak trees, thinning the woodland and removing dense stands of invasive sycamore. This will bring more sunshine to the woodland floor and benefit a variety of wildlife. During very hot weather the Trust is asking visitors to leave the BBQ at home, they are not permitted on the hills as a tiny spark could result in a wildfire that gets out of control. Disposable BBQ's are particularly problematic as they can be windblown and cause damage to vegetation underneath. No swimming in Gullet Quarry (as previously stated); follow the Countryside Code; plan ahead, and stay hydrated; never leave dogs in vehicles.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

#### **48/24 FOOTPATHS**

A number of footpaths access issues had arisen in the recent months, and Cllr K Perkins had e-mailed the Clerk with follow up details. Cllr S Harte reported that MA5 is on Hollings Hill, it then crosses the main road (Ledbury) and becomes the MA4 on Tree House Farm land and then onto Rook Row Land to Hackney Cross. The hedge on the road has grown across MA4. Cllr K Perkins reported in her e-mail re Footpath/bridleway from Harcourt to Brockhill. There are several pathways running between these two roads. The one opposite and just above the turning for Mathon Lodge is a bridleway and is in West Malvern (WM535). The one down a track just below the bridleway is a footpath (MA36) and although she hadn't walked it recently, it had always been clear and easy to walk along. The remaining pathways are between Mathon road and Brockhill road and are all footpaths in Colwall. The query re the footpath behind Ron Hadley's field she thinks is about MA25, leading onto MA22. Where this footpath joins the road just above Oldlands was very overgrown and she had chopped back the brambles and the hedge so this is now passable with care. Kate had submitted a claim to replace a stile with a footpath gate to Malvern Hills National Landscaped (formerly AONB) after a member of the public sent her a letter saying he was struggling with a new stile. This would allow access to MA37 without having to climb a stile. She has not yet heard back from them. The Council considered the Diversion Order re MA9 and had no comment to make.

#### **49/24 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July May 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

#### **50/24 MATHON PARISH HALL** - Nothing to report at the moment

#### **51/24 FINANCE**

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

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk's Salary - August/September 2024 - (PAYE deducted) - £621.40
- (b) FolcraTech (*formerly Business Supplies Group*) – website posting/updates - £144.00
- (c) HMRC – PAYE – July/August/September 2024 - £275.40
- (d) D W Taylor – Clerk's Office – April – September 2024 - £70.00

#### **52/24 GRANTS/DONATIONS**

The second half year graveyard grant to PCC Mathon for £700.00 was approved. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury.

#### **53/24 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Pot Holes at Hackney Cross (Ref FS Case 595343953) – marking out has been done, but this work was still outstanding.
- (b) Blocked Culvert along West Malvern Road – (Ref FS Case 595345623) - still very silted up. This has been reported to the Land Drainage Team.
- (c) South End Lane – verge cutting and blocked ditches. Ref BB 11162348 (blocked ditches). The Clerk had received an e-mail from Herefordshire Highways stating that the issue raised was either not at the intervention level to take action, or was not within their responsibility.

**54/24 CLIFFE ARMS**

Nothing to report at the moment

**55/24 CORRESPONDENCE** – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

**56/24 NEXT MEETING DATE** - **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall**

..... Chairman

..... Date

DRAFT



