

# MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

**Present:-** Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr P Davies, Cllr M Malsbury, Cllr K Perkins. Cllr C Green,  
Ward Cllr Helen Heathfield

**In attendance:** Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr D Baldwin (MHT)

**Apologies for absence :** Cllr N Walker, 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/Presentations**

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

- (a) **Public questions** – none
- (b) **PCSO/Police** – No crime to report
- (c) **Herefordshire Ward Councillor** - Ward Cllr Helen Heathfield reported she would be attending the Malvern Hills National Landscape JAC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November. A new management plan was being proposed. She would also be going to a Drainage Board meeting, which covered both the Severn and the Wye rivers. She confirmed that the C1177 in Mathon was going to be totally resurfaced in November.
- (d) **Malvern Hills Trust** - Mr D Baldwin reported to the meeting. A lot of press cover had been generated regarding the proposed MHT governance changes and a lot of misinformation had also been circulating around the area. The MHT had conducted a public consultation where all the main proposals had been talked about. MHT had employed an independent market research consultancy, followed by a working group, who had prepared all the reports and provided topics for discussion. All responses following the consultation had been considered. 27<sup>th</sup> November was the submission date for the changes/amendments to the governing Acts of Parliament, but it could take up to two years or more for it to come to fruition. David Baldwin confirmed that MHT was a Charity not a public body. The Clerk referred to an e-mail from MHT asking if Deborah Fox (Chief Executive of MHT) could attend a future meeting of the Council to give an update and overview of the situation. The Council agreed that the March Meeting or maybe the Annual Parish Meeting in 2025 would be suitable dates for this.

**The Chairman re-opened the Meeting**

### **58/24 FOOTPATHS**

Cllr K Perkins - Nothing further to report since her last e-mailed report in September. The Clerk had circulated the new PFO scheme which covered all aspects of the (voluntary) Footpath Officer's duties and responsibilities required by Herefordshire Council. Due to her full time job, Cllr K Perkins felt unable to carry on as the official Footpaths Officer for the Council, but would continue to walk the footpaths and do some cutting back when she could.

### **59/24 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr M Malsbury. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr C Green.

**60/24 MATHON PARISH HALL** - Nothing to report at the moment

### **61/24 FINANCE**

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

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk's Salary - October/November 2024 - (PAYE deducted) - £715.20 (included backdated pay from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024)
- (b) FolcraTech (*formerly Business Supplies Group*) – website posting/updates - £96.00
- (c) Mathon Parish Hall hire – 2024/25 - £120.00
- (d) D W Taylor – Clerk's Expenses – March – September 2024 - £80.60
- (e) The Half Year Accounts to 30th September 2024 were approved. Proposed by Cllr K Perkins and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (f) A draft precept for 2025/26 had been prepared by the Clerk and the Chairman. This included a salary scale upgrade to SCP 28 for the Clerk from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. The Council considered and approved the precept figure of £9,749 for the year 2025/26. Proposed by Cllr S Harte and seconded by Cllr C Green.

### **62/24 HIGHWAYS**

- (a) Pot Holes at Hackney Cross (Ref FS Case 595343953) – work on this would be covered by the resurfacing of C1177 (see Ward Cllr Heathfield's report)
- (b) Blocked Culvert along West Malvern Road – (Ref FS Case 595345623) - still very silted up. This has been reported to the Land Drainage Team. Cllr S Harte to monitor.
- (c) South End Lane – verge cutting and blocked ditches. The Clerk had received a further e-mail from Mr J Critoph regarding these two issues. She had reported them again to Herefordshire Highways. Verge Cutting - Ref: FS Case 655542531. Blocked ditches – Ref FS Case 658095443.
- (d) Flooding across the road near to Brook House – the Clerk had reported this to Highways Ref: FS Ref: FS Case 658097597.
- (e) Cllr K Perkins reported a blocked drain & gully near to the Church. Chairman and Clerk to liaise and send a report to Highways.
- (f) Cllr C Green reported a further highway issue – water hanging on the road off the B4214. Clerk to liaise with Chairman re exact location and send in a report to Highways.

**63/24 CLIFFE ARMS**

Nothing to report at the moment

**64/24 CORRESPONDENCE** – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

**65/24 NEXT MEETING DATE** - Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

..... Chairman

..... Date

DRAFT



