

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 7th January 2025 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr P Davies, Cllr K Perkins. Cllr C Green

In attendance: Mrs D Taylor (Clerk), Mr D Baldwin & Mr C Rouse (MHT)

Apologies for absence : Cllr M Malsbury

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

01/25 RESIGNATION - The Chairman reported that he had received and accepted the resignation of Cllr N Walker (with effect from 7th January 2025). Cllr Walker and his wife would be moving away from the Parish in January. The Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Walker who had worked tirelessly for the Council since his appointment in November 2001. The Clerk to send an official letter of thanks to Mr Walker (in addition to the signed card already given to him).

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 gave a report to the meeting from Deborah Fox, the CEO of Malvern Hills Trust. The Trust deposited its Parliamentary Bill on 27th November 2024. An eight week public consultation had been taken during the summer of 2024 followed by an intensive period of considering and analysing nearly 500 pieces of feed back from members of the public and organisations. This in turn helped to inform the Trust's decision making process. Changes were then made to the draft bill, some of which included – having a Trustee as a named point of contact with each local area; improving the drafting of the proposed general power to address concerns as to how it could be used; removing the provision to allow fencing for animal health reasons; a six month break period between taking down temporary fencing for grazing; strengthening the language of the Bill to reflect concerns about licensing activities on its land which could lead to commercialisation. The petitioning period runs to 6th February. Anyone with questions or concerns is urged to talk to the Trust staff – e-mail: info@malvernhills.org.uk The Bill can be viewed on the Parliamentary website or a hard copy can be purchased from the MHT Office.
There has also been a noticeable increase in sheep worrying with some devastating consequences after a pregnant sheep was attacked by a dog. Livestock worrying is a criminal offence. Dogs should always be kept under close control and on a lead where grazing cattle and sheep are known to be. Tree safety works are also under way, and each year a third of the trees near to highways, properties and car parks are inspected by a professional independent tree inspector. The Trust is also asking for donations to help support the response to tree disease.

Mr C Rouse (MHT) re-confirmed his view that the consultation period should have been over a 12 months period.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

02/25 MALVERN HILLS BILL

The Chairman confirmed that he had received a copy of the Bill from MHT.

03/25 FOOTPATHS

Nothing further to report since the last meeting. However, the Council was still looking for a footpaths officer. The Clerk to include this in the CMS newsletter.

04/25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th November 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr K Perkins. The Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on 10th December 2024 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

05/25 MATHON PARISH HALL - Nothing to report at the moment

06/25 FINANCE

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

- (a) D W Taylor - Clerk's Salary - December 2024/January 2025 - (PAYE deducted) - £644.00
- (b) FolcraTech (*formerly Business Supplies Group*) – website posting/updates - £120.00
- (c) Information Commissioner (ICO) Data Protection Annual Fee - £40.00
- (d) HMRC - PAYE for Oct/Nov/Dec 2024 - £301.80
- (e) R Hadley – Open Space/Village Green maintenance - £250.00

07/25 HIGHWAYS

- (a) 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.
- (b) South End Lane – verge cutting and blocked ditches. The Clerk had received a further e-mail from a resident regarding these two issues. She had reported them again to Herefordshire Highways. Verge Cutting - Ref: FS Case 655542531. Blocked ditches – Ref FS Case 658095443. Clerk had also e-mailed Ward Cllr Helen Heathfield re verge cutting.
- (c) Flooding across the road near to Brook House – the Clerk had reported this to Highways Ref: Ref: FS Case 658097597.
- (d) Blocked drain & gully near to the Church. This has now been fixed. Ref: FS Case 663288641
- (e) Water hanging on the road off the B4214 – 3-400 metres from its junction with the B4220.. This has been reported to Highways – Ref FS Case 663288641
- (f) C1177 – from the B4220 – hedges overgrown - to where the gas pipe goes under the road
- (g) Blocked culvert - Ham Green to Burford Farm House water running down the road continuously during wet weather
- (h) Just below Stockton to Mathon Court back drive – hedge needs cutting back. This is understood to be Herefordshire Council's responsibility. The farmer owns the hedge the other side of the stream
- (i) Water appears to be foaming on the stream below the sewerage works, which serve West Malvern which are situated on the road to Bank Farm, Mathon, off the Mathon to West Malvern Road U66409

08/25 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing to report at the moment

09/25 CORRESPONDENCE – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

10/25 NEXT MEETING DATE - Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

..... Chairman

..... Date

