

MATHON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 at 7.30 pm in Mathon Parish Hall

Present:- Cllr S Harte (Chairman), Cllr P Davies, Cllr C Green, Cllr M Malsbury,
Cllr M Meir (after co-option)

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

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/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, The Parliamentary Bill was going on apace. After its first stage, it then has to go a Select Committee. A new member of staff had been appointed – Sarah Jordan – who is the Land & Property Manager. A new post has been created – Marie Dipple has joined the staff as the new Community & Conservation Officer bringing the total number of MHT staff to 22, with 6 being part time. The Trust also relies on a large number of volunteers who take part in everything the Trust does for the hills. Due to ever increasing costs and overheads, fees have had to be increased for the coming year from 1st April. Car parking fees will increase from £5.50 to £6.00 for a day ticket, evening tickets will be increased to £3.50 from £3.20. Malvern residents tickets will be increased to £8.00 from £7.50. Annual tickets will be increased to £55.00. The levy for 2025/26 has increased by 6%. Due to the Parliamentary Bill taking up so much work, the current Land Management Plan has been extended to 2027, when a new plan will be presented. Following a query from Cllr M Malsbury, Mr Baldwin agreed to look into what appeared to be commercial foraging for wild garlic/plus other wild plants on the hills. The Council agreed to invite the CEO of MHT to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 6th May at 7.00 pm.

The Chairman re-opened the Meeting

11/25 AMENDMENT TO MATHON PC STANDING ORDERS

Following advice from HALC, the Council agreed to amend the Standing orders – page 10 – Meetings to read :- Unless Standing Orders provide otherwise, voting on a question shall be by show of hands. *Voting by written ballot may be undertaken for appropriate business such as co-option.* (additional wording amendment in italics). Proposed by Cllr C Green and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

12/25 CO-OPTION OF NEW COUNCILLOR

The Clerk had circulated the application from Mr Matt Meir re the Councillor vacancy. Mr Meir was unanimously voted onto the Council and signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office, prior to taking his seat with the Council.

13/25 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.

14/25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7th January 2025 were approved and signed. Proposed by Cllr P Davies and seconded by Cllr S Harte.

15/25 MATHON PARISH HALL

Cllr S Harte reported that the AGM had been held on 25th February. The Quiz Night had been postponed until September.

16/25 VERGE CUTTING 2025/26

The Clerk had circulated an e-mail to Cllrs re the number of verge cuts required in the parish for the coming year. After some discussion, the Council agreed that two cuts were necessary. The Clerk to inform Herefordshire Council.

17/25 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Council considered the following applications :-

(a) App No 250351
Location: Church Farm, Mathon WR13 5PW
Type: Planning Permission
Proposal: Change of use of an area of agricultural land (paddock) to facilitate the construction of a new timber framed double garage within the ownership of Church Farm
Grid Ref: OS 373355,245782

The Council considered this application. The Clerk was asked to submit the following to Herefordshire Planning :- *Mathon Parish Council has no objections, and supports this application.*

(b) App No 250461
Location: Overley Farmhouse, Mathon WR13 5LW
Type: Full Householder
Proposal: Single storey side extension to north and south sides
Grid Ref: OS 373939,246319

The Council considered this application. The Clerk was asked to submit the following to Herefordshire Planning :- *Mathon Parish Council has no objections, and supports this application.*

18/25 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 - February/March 2025 - (PAYE deducted) - £644.70
- (b) FolcraTech – website posting/updates - £96.00
- (c) HMRC - PAYE for Jan/Feb/March 2025 - £284.40
- (d) D W Taylor – Clerk's Expenses – Oct 24 – February 2025 - £101.10
- (e) D W Taylor – Clerk's Office – Oct 24 – March 2025 - £70.00

- (f) Mathon Parish Hall Hire (Planning Meeting 10 Dec 2024) - £10.00
- (g) HALC subscription fee 2025/26 - £530.10
- (h) For information – Lloyds Bank charges – 10 Jan to 9 Feb 2025 - £6.25
- (i) Appointment of Internal Auditor - the Council agreed to appoint Duffy Regan & Co – Worcester as internal auditors for the year end accounts 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr M Malsbury and seconded by Cllr P Davies.
- (j) The Finance Overview for 2024/25 had been circulated to Cllrs by the Clerk. This was signed by the Chairman.

19/25 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. She would be including this in the response re verge cutting to Herefordshire Council
- (c) Flooding across the road near to Brook House – the Clerk had reported this to Highways Ref: Ref: FS Case 658097597. Still outstanding.
- (d) 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. - This is still outstanding
- (e) C1177 – from the B4220 – hedges overgrown - to where the gas pipe goes under the road The hedges have been trimmed back.
- (f) Blocked culvert - Ham Green to Burford Farm House water running down the road continuously during wet weather. Ref: FS682937800 Nothing to report. The Clerk to contact Neil James
- (g) 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. Reported to Highways – Ref FS 682936168. No action yet.
- (h) Stream has foaming at various times below the sewerage works which serve West Malvern where it runs alongside the road. Clerk has contacted Neil James, but no response so far. The Clerk to contact Severn Trent and to liaise with the Chairman re reference points.

20/25 CLIFFE ARMS

Nothing to report at the moment

21/25 CORRESPONDENCE – all relevant correspondence had been e-mailed to Cllrs

22/25 NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday 6th May 2025. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7.00 pm followed by the Annual Council Meeting at 7.30 pm. in Mathon Parish Hall

Other Future Meeting dates in 2025 – 1st July – 2nd September – 4th November

..... Chairman

..... Date

