

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Chair: Peter Baranek

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MINUTES of a meeting of the Matlock Bath Parish Council held on Wednesday 20th May 2020 at 6.30 pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Nick Grayshon, Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Dave Mowle, Cllr Jennifer Nettleship, Cllr Michael Wilderspin, Julie Baranek (Clerk)

A Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

B Report from Police Representatives

There was no Police representative present.

C Report from County Council

A report from our County Councillor, was circulated to Councillors.

News from DCC can be accessed on their website.

Derbyshire has come out in favour of schools reopening.

The 'R' rate for Derbyshire was 0.7 (as at 20th May 2020).

D Report from District Council

A report from Cllr Garry Purdy was circulated with the agenda.

Cllr Purdy reported that there was a lot of concern for Matlock Bath in light of the eased lock down measures and with the return of visitors. The Chief Executive of DDDC has received assurance from the Divisional Commander that regular attention will be paid to Matlock Bath. Residents are advised to contact the Police if they witness any areas of concern. There is also a form on the Derbyshire Police website where any transgressions can be reported. It is expected that the opening up for cafes, restaurants, public houses and hotels will be July but this will depend upon any second wave of coronavirus.

Together with other Derbyshire leaders, Chief Executives and representatives of Industry, Commerce and Tourism, Cllr Purdy will be joining a monthly cabinet meeting with a view to establishing how best to get the economy of Derbyshire up and running but with safety at the foremost.

DDDC, like all other Local Authorities is suffering financially with the high cost of dealing with Covid 19 and also the loss of income. Some financial help from Government has been received. Car parks are now open and charging again. Public toilets remain closed.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Cllr Purdy takes part in at least two/three separate webinars each week when he is able to press either a Government Minister and/or Senior Officer of Government on issues of concern.

DDDC has recently engaged a Climate Change Consultancy company called Clear Lead following a tendering exercise. The Climate Change Working Group held their first virtual meeting on 15th May. The brief of the company is to investigate and advise the Authority as to how it can reduce its carbon footprint to zero by 2030. Once their work is complete, DDDC will follow the action plan and engage also with Derbyshire University who have offered to help.

Cllr Joyce Pawley's report was circulated to all Councillors.

Social Distancing and Visitors – In view of the large influx of visitors to Matlock Bath, Cllr Pawley reported that she had been in constant contact with DDDC Officers over this situation and has been assured that the Local Resilience Forum is discussing what moves to make. A suggestion of putting concrete blocks along both sides of the A6 to close off the parking on the Parades and to prevent parking on riverside but as yet no response has been received.

Green Bin Waste – DDDC has recently agreed the formation of an Emergency Committee to make decisions on behalf of full Council during this crisis. This Committee will be deciding whether or not to allow the Green Bin Service to resume at this meeting on 21st May.

Clerk's Note: It has been decided to commence green waste collections from 1st June.

Public Toilets – Public toilets will remain closed until the safety of DDDC's employees can be guaranteed. If toilets were to open they would have to be cleaned after each visit to the toilet to keep visitors safe. However, the opening of the toilets would put employees at risk if they were asked to clean toilets during this crisis even if they have PPE.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Council Meeting

Before the meeting began, Councillors paid tribute to Cllr Trevor Bowmer, who has sadly passed away. Trevor will be sorely missed by the Parish Council.

01.05.20 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Heather Kemp.

02.05.20 **Declaration of Members' Interest**

Councillors were asked to consider the need to declare an interest in any matters on the agenda and the register was made available for them to do so. Cllr Mowle declared an interest in Item 05.05.20(d) Facilities Committee/Sports Area. Cllr Baranek declared an interest in 05.05.20(e) Finance/Clerk's Appraisal.

03.05.20 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th March 2020 be approved and were signed by the Chairman.

04.05.20 **Clerk's Report on On-going Matters**

- **Overhanging Trees on Clifton Road** – The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by a resident who was concerned about overhanging trees from Gullivers on his property. Gullivers were unable to take any action in view of the lockdown. After consulting with the Countryside Officer at DCC a meeting would be held on 20th May to ascertain whether the trees are dangerous.
- **Potholes on Upperwood Road** – The Clerk reported that DCC has confirmed that the potholes were filled on 20th April. Cllr Mowle acknowledged that some potholes had been filled but not all of them. The Clerk was asked to contact DCC again.
- **Impact of Government Guidelines on Matlock Bath** – The Clerk reported a number of residents had sent in their concerns regarding the impact the return of visitors will have on the village. The main concern from the residents was that businesses in the village were opening and inevitably would attract visitors. It was evidenced on one weekend that visitors were not socially distancing or even attempting to and with the number of visitors coming, residents were not able to exercise safely and felt trapped in their own homes. Concern was also expressed over the fact that visitors could bring into the village the virus and put the residents' health at risk. Although it was agreed that under the Government guidelines, some businesses could open, it was questioned whether others who had opened, were allowed to. In addition, some businesses were also not following the 'take away' rule. A letter based on these concerns has been sent to Derbyshire Dales District Council, Derbyshire County Council and MP, Sarah Dines. DCC has confirmed that the letter has been passed on to the relevant department. Sarah Dines MP, has sent a joint statement with the Chief Executive of the Peak District National Park regarding visitors to the National Park. DDDC has yet to respond. The letter also offered suggestions on how the village could be 'adapted' to alleviate some problems.

It was agreed that the letter and responses received should be put on the website.

After discussion it was agreed that a letter should be sent to all businesses along the Parades expressing the strength of feeling in the village should they open. In addition that if they are permitted to open, they should make sure that customers adhere to the Government guidelines regarding social distancing. It was also agreed to thank those businesses who have not opened for not doing so.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

It was also agreed to issue a letter to residents outlining what the Parish Council has done to help alleviate the problems in the village and to encourage individuals to report to the Police and other relevant authorities of any problems.

- **Bowling Green** – The Clerk reported that Matlock Bath Bowling Club had been in contact regarding the opening of the bowling green. The British Crown Green Bowling Association has suggested that bowling clubs could resume provided they adhered to restrictions. One of the restrictions is that clubs have to obtain permission from their landlords. It was agreed that Matlock Bath Bowling Club could open provided that they adhered to the strict regulations outlined by the Association and that should these restrictions be violated, consent would be withdrawn.

Cllr Nick Grayshon left the meeting.

05.05.20

Committees

(a) Activities Committee

Art and Photography Competitions – There was nothing further to report. A decision on whether the activities planned would go ahead would be made at a future meeting.

- (b) Communications Committee** – It was reported that the Summer edition of the Newsletter would be produced but only if the printers and the deliverers were available. Cllr Helen Keay and Cllr Michael Wilderspin offered to help with the delivery.

(c) Environment & Conservation Committee

Florals – The Clerk reported that no further information had been received from the local resident who had offered to maintain the planters this year in view of the lockdown. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to contract Plantscape to provide and maintain the planters along the Parades. It was agreed to review the positions of the planters to ensure that they were not blocking the pavements. The planters will be delivered on 3rd July.

Public Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Agreement – It was **RESOLVED** to continue to participate in the Public Rights of Way Minor Maintenance Scheme operated by DCC.

(d) Facilities Committee

Sports Area – It was reported that the quotations received for the renovation of the sports area had been circulated to the Facilities Committee. After discussion it was agreed to accept the lowest quotation.

The Clerk reported that a response from DDDC regarding the new lease had been received. Unfortunately the current situation has not allowed matters to progress on this one as quickly as they had hoped. Due to more urgent property issues which are having to take priority at present, they are unable to draw up a new lease for the sports area. However, they have confirmed that provided the land is not required for the District Council's own purposes (unlikely), in accordance with the Asset Management Plan, DDDC would be able to recommend the grant of a new 21 year lease for Committee approval. Although rent would have to be reviewed, it would still remain on an undervalue basis. DDDC has also offered the opportunity to consider a Community Asset Transfer of the site to the Parish Council.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

After discussion it was agreed to obtain legal advice and a Heads of Terms Letter before pursuing the renovation.

Benches – Councillors discussed the siting of further benches in the village. It was agreed that 5 or 6 benches (depending on space) should be installed on North Parade, opposite Jubilee Bridge. A further bench will be installed on Upperwood. It was agreed that a plaque should be fitted in memory of Cllr Trevor Bowmer called “The Bowmer’s Bench”. It was suggested some kind of planter also be installed so flowers could be left. Cllr Dave Mowle agreed to pursue this further, the cost of which will be met by the Parish Council.

(e) **Finance Committee**

Insurance – It was **RESOLVED** to renew the Parish Council’s insurance for 3 years.

Clerk’s Appraisal – It was **RESOLVED** to sign off the Clerk’s Appraisal. Wet signatures will be obtained at the next available face-to-face meeting.

Standing Orders – It was **RESOLVED** to amend the Standing Orders in line with Government guidelines temporarily during the pandemic.

Grants – It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Matlock Bath Playgroup to a maximum of £442. It was agreed that all invoices should be sent from the suppliers to the Clerk for payment.

Payments – The following payments were **RESOLVED**:

DALC	£335.86
Twigg	£5.22
DDDC	£10.00
Crowe Pie Marketing	£40.00
Brian Wood	£60.00
HMRC	£67.74
Clerk, Salary, April 2020	£927.69
Clerk, Expenses, April 2020	£111.52
NEST	£120.92
Clerk, Salary, May 2020	£927.69
HMRC	£67.74
NEST	£120.92
Carol’s	£35.00
Came & Company	£829.34
Wish Computers	£140.00
Crowe Pie Marketing	£40.00
TOTAL	£3828.64

(f) **Planning**

Parking Proposals – It was reported that DCC would be drawing up plans regarding the parking proposals discussed at a site meeting in January. The plans would also include restrictions on Upperwood Road before the ‘gap’.

Application 20/00179/PD3C, 2 North Parade – Notification of Prior Approval for Use of Premises as Pizza Restaurant – It was reported that a letter had been sent to the Planning Officer outlining the concerns of the Parish Council regarding this notification. To date no response has been received.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Planning Decisions – The following decisions by DDDC were noted:

T/20/00040/TCA – 37 Steps, Orchard Road – Tree Works – Granted
20/00232/FUL – Holy Trinity Church – New Handrail – Granted
20/00233/LBALT – Holy Trinity Church – New Handrail – Granted

(g) **Climate Advisory Group**

It was reported that a workshop had been held in March at DALC to discuss climate emergency. Peter Dargavel had attended on behalf of the Parish Council. As a result, DALC has set up a regular, online meeting for designated 'Environmental Champions' from as many Parish and Town Councils in Derbyshire as possible. It was agreed to send a representative to these meetings.

06.05.20 **Annual Governance Statement 2019/2020**

The Annual Governance Statement for 2019/2020 was approved.

07.05.20 **Audit for 2019/2020**

It was reported that the Internal Audit had been completed with no problems.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign off the Annual Return for 2019/2020 and to send to the External Auditor.

08.05.20 **Annual Report**

A copy of the Annual Report for 2019/2020 was sent out with the agenda. It was **RESOLVED** to accept and publish this report and include it in the next Newsletter.

09.05.20 **LEADER Grant**

It was reported that although the lecterns had arrived, the fingerposts were still at the suppliers due to the lockdown. They will be installed as soon as possible.

10.05.20 **Closer Working Meetings**

It was reported that the May Closer Working Meeting was cancelled. However, issues will be e-mailed through to DDDC as they arise.

11.05.20 **Urgent Matters/Matters for the Next Agenda Raised in Public Participation, District Council, County Council or Police Report**

There were no urgent matters.

12.05.20 **Correspondence/Publications/Information Received**

The following were circulated to Councillors:

DCC – e-mail re road closures for tree works x2

E-mail from resident re transport proposals – reallocating road space in response to Covid 19

DDDC – various updates on coronavirus – put on website

E-mail from resident re quad bike in Derwent Gardens – passed to DDDC and Police

The following items were noted:

E-mail from Learyay re training courses available – put on website

E-mail from DCC re updates on services

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Notes from DALC meetings

E-mail re Keep Britain Tidy – postponed until September

E-mail from resident re increase in visitors

E-mails from residents re changes to Government guidelines and impact on Matlock Bath

E-mail (copies) from residents to DDDC and DCC re visitors to Matlock Bath

13.05.20

Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that future meetings will be held as follows:

Wednesday 15th July 2020

Wednesday 23rd September 2020

Wednesday 25th November 2020

Wednesday 13th January 2021

Wednesday 24th March 2021

Wednesday 26th May 2021

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.