

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Chair: Peter Baranek

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DRAFT MINUTES of a meeting of the Matlock Bath Parish Council
held on Wednesday 15th July 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Nick Grayshon, Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Louise Moran, 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

Cllr Irene Ratcliffe reported that a meeting between DCC Officers, the Parish Council and herself would be held on 16th July to look at possible social distancing measures for Matlock Bath.

She further reported that she had agreed to meet with the Chair and Clerk to discuss enforcement issues in Matlock Bath.

Cllr Michael Wilderspin reported that the drains on Clifton Road had not been cleaned and needed attention.

D Report from District Council

A report from Cllr Garry Purdy was circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Purdy reported that the travellers had been in the area since November of last year for personal medical reasons. Whilst an eviction order was granted, it could not be served due to the medical reasons. A further eviction order was applied for and whilst it was granted, this coincided with lockdown and as a result they could not be moved. As soon as restrictions were lifted, they were evicted and instructed to move to their original camp at Rowsley. As a result of abuse they were receiving in Rowsley, the travellers moved of their own accord to Temple Road Car Park.

Currently a report is being prepared to be presented to an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council (DDDC) to consider four sites that could become a permanent travellers site. Full details will be made public at the time the agenda is published. It is hoped that the meeting will take place soon. None of the proposed sites are in Matlock Bath.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Due to pressure from complaints, an eviction order is being sought. In the meantime, DDDC will continue to pay regular visits to the car park to ensure that the site is kept clean and tidy and to deal with any complaints arising.

It was reported by the Clerk a number of people had complained about the travellers especially the litter and mess in the car park – all of which have been passed to DDDC. The Police have also had to attend an incident at the school.

It was reported that there are two groups of travellers on Temple Road Car Park which may be the reason for the complaints. Noise has been an issue which normally would not be a problem with this particular group of travellers.

Cllr Purdy further reported that DDDC is still dealing with many aspects of covid 19 regulations which have kept officers extremely busy. There are still some very small pockets of covid 19 outbreaks in Derbyshire and the message is still very relevant for people to take care, keep their social distance and wash their hands regularly. Whilst, there have been occasions of kindness at the beginning of the pandemic with people volunteering, it has been witnessed more lately certain extremes of anti-social behaviour since the regulations have been relaxed with incidents throughout Derbyshire Dales of mass littering and toileting in public places. This has placed extra strain on the already stretched Green and Clean Team.

Cllr Purdy reported that he had met remotely with the new Communities Chief Inspector, Katie Andrews, when he strengthened the need for the Police to respond to incidents when reported.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Council Meeting

01.07.20 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Heather Kemp. The Clerk further reported that Heather had tendered her resignation, this was accepted by Councillors. The Clerk was asked to send a thank you to her for her work whilst on the Parish Council.

02.07.20 **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 Baranek declared an interest in 05.07.20(e) Additional Payment to Clerk.

03.07.20 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th May 2020 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 1st July 2020 and were signed by the Chairman.

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

- **Anti-Litter Posters** – The Clerk reported that the group of residents who had been litter picking had requested that banners be put round the village to deter people from dropping litter. The Clerk showed an example of the banner. She further confirmed that she had made contact with DDDC Planning for their views and these had been passed on to the residents. Further information would be passed to DDDC Planning so a final decision could be made. Councillors confirmed that they did not feel it appropriate to have their logo on the banners as the banners were not a Parish Council initiative.

***Clerk's Note:** A decision has now been made on the banners. DDDC will allow them to be put up for a maximum of 14 continuous days only.*

- **Communication with MP** – The Clerk reported that she had sent a number of letters to the MP, Ms Sarah Dines, outlining the concerns of residents. Despite being invited to meet with Councillors and our residents, this offer has not been taken up. Councillors expressed disappointment over this.
- **NALC Guidance on Holding Council Meetings** – The Clerk reported that the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had advised that face-to-face meetings could be resumed but only if the business could not be conducted remotely. Councillors agreed to continue with remote meetings until further guidance was available.
- **Civil Enforcement Matters** – The Clerk reported that she had spoken at length to DCC regarding civil enforcement who had agreed to look at duty rotas and days/times enforcers are in the village.

It was reported that over the weekend of 11th/12th July, 10 tickets were issued; 8 were for over-staying and 2 for vehicles parked on yellow lines. In addition, over the period 2019/2020, 163 notices were issued. This does not reflect the problems witnessed by residents. Councillors felt that enforcers were not doing their job effectively. It was agreed a meeting should be arranged with Cllr Irene Ratcliffe to discuss this matter further.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Pavement Licences** – The Clerk reported that DDDC would be taking over responsibility for pavement licences (café licences) from DCC for which there will be no charge. The Parish Council has asked if it can be either a consultee for the applications or notified when applications are submitted so they can comment. It is hoped that the siting of A boards and other advertising material will be taken into consideration when applications are reviewed.
- **Street Furniture** – The Clerk reported that an Inspector had visited the village to look at obstructions on the highway.
- **Leave the BBQ at Home** – The Clerk reported that a request for a donation to the “Leave the BBQ at Home” initiative had been received. Councillors agreed that since this was not an issue in Matlock Bath, no donation could be given.

05.07.20

Committees

(a) Activities Committee

Art and Photography Competitions – It was **RESOLVED** to cancel this year’s Art Competition due to the pandemic. It was felt it would be difficult to display the work for voting purposes because of social distancing. It was, however, **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the Photography Competition as this could be moved to online.

Councillors agreed to make final decisions about Remembrance, Seniors Lunch and Singing Round the Tree at its meeting in September.

(b) Communications Committee – It was **RESOLVED** to build a new website to incorporate accessibility. It was further **RESOLVED** to vire funding for this from the Election Contingency budget head.

(c) Environment & Conservation Committee

- **Footpaths** – It was reported that Footpath 2 had been cleared.
- **Florals** – It was confirmed that the floral towers were out but two of the planters had to be put in new positions to allow better social distancing. It was confirmed that they will be watered at 7.00 pm in order not to disturb residents during the night.

The Clerk reported that our current suppliers will sell the ‘used’ planters to us so that in future the Parish Council can take over responsibility for planting and maintenance. The Clerk was asked to contact the supplier to negotiate a lower cost for the planters as they were not our preferred black. The purchase of the planters will ensure that we have florals all year round.

(d) Facilities Committee

- **Sports Area** – It was **RESOLVED** not to rent out the sports area this year due to the social distancing measures. The Clerk was asked to contact Valley View to see if a more definite start date for the renovation could be identified.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Benches** – It was reported that maintenance for the three benches on Riverside would now have to be undertaken by the Parish Council. One bench has been renovated and the remaining two will also need to be done. A quote for this renovation will be available shortly.

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase further benches to be sited on North Parade (number dependent on funds left in the budget).

Cllr Dave Mowle reported that arrangements for the “Bowmers Bench” on Upperwood were in hand.

(e) **Finance Committee**

- **Insurance** – The Clerk reported that the Insurance has had to be increased to take into account the lecterns and fingerposts. There would be no increase in the premium this year.
- **Clerk’s Appraisal** – The Clerk reported that the annual return had been sent off to the External Auditors. The report will be available for the September meeting.
- **Payments** – The following payments were **RESOLVED**

Cathy Cresswell	£35.80
Crow Pie Marketing	£40.00
Pre School Playgroup (grant)	£75.00
Twiggs	£6.42
Matlock Print	£370.00
HMRC	£67.74
Clerk, Salary, June 2020	£927.69
Clerk, Expenses, June 2020	£137.33
NEST	£120.92
David Russell (300278)	£12.49
Derwent Treescapes	£1,560.00
Derbyshire Dales Design & Print (grant)	£120.00
HMRC	£67.74
Clerk, Salary, July 2020	£927.69
Plantscape	£1062.00
NEST	£120.92
Crow Pie Marketing	£40.00
TOTAL	£5691.74

- **Delegated Responsibility for Clerk** – It was **RESOLVED** to exercise the Council’s power under Local Government Act 1972 Section 101 to delegate responsibility to the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer to undertake anything expedient and necessary to ensure the continuous business of the Council and to deal with undertakings in order to prevent Council from incurring liability until revoked by resolution of the Council. This will be done in consultation with Committee Chairs. This will not include financial matters as they are already approved under budget heads. Anything outside of budget heads will go to Full Council for approval as usual.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Additional Payment to Clerk** – Councillors agreed that an additional payment should be made to the Clerk to reflect extra hours undertaken in the past few months during the covid 19 crisis. The Clerk asked that this be deferred until September. It was therefore **RESOLVED** to make a payment which would be agreed by Finance Committee.

As Cllr Peter Baranek had declared an interest in the item, he did not participate in any of the discussion or decision.

- **Grants** – The Clerk reported that a grant application had been received to cover the cost of the annual support of the defibrillator. Unfortunately, the application does not satisfy the grants policy. It was therefore agreed that the applicant request that Heartbeat Trust readdress the invoice to the Parish Council for payment.

(f) **Planning**

- It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Committee's decisions for the following applications:

T/20/00070/TCA – Works to Trees – Myrtle House, 162 Dale Road – No objection

T/20/00083/TCA – Works to Trees – 140 Dale Road – No objection

T/20/00084/TCA – Works to Trees – 4 Clarence Terrace – No objection

T/20/00085/TCA – Works to Trees – 4 Clarence Terrace – No objection

20/00431/FUL – Creation of 2 parking spaces – Land Known as Commonwood, St Johns Road – Objection for the following reasons:

- Although the application may be creating 2 parking spaces, at least 2 will be lost on St Johns Road to allow access to this area so overall there is no benefit through this development.
- The stability of the land currently appears very poor with evidence of weather erosion.
- Currently the site is screened from the A6 below the site. The trees are deciduous and therefore for at least 6 months the site will be visible. Even walls built using local stone will have a detrimental effect on the aesthetics of the area. Such a large area of stone would not blend in well with the hillside.
- As the site currently has no off road access, any development of the site will seriously impede access to the residential properties on St Johns Road. There is no alternative vehicle access to these properties.

- **Planning Decisions** – The following decisions from DDDC were noted:

20/00128/FUL – Holy Trinity Parochial Church Hall – Conversion to holiday lets – Granted

T/20/00070/TCA – Works to Trees – Myrtle House, 162 Dale Road – Granted

- **Enforcement – ENF/20/00085 – 178-180 South Parade** – It was noted that following an investigation by DDDC, there had been no breach.

(g) **Climate Advisory Group**

It was reported that the Committee will meet on 23rd July 2020 by Zoom.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

06.07.20 **LEADER Grant**

- **Winter Lighting** – It was reported that the contractors had been to sort out the ongoing problems with the lighting. All lights should now be working except for half the lights on one of the trees for which the fault cannot be located.

Pillar 2 on Lovers' Walk has no power and this has been reported to DDDC who are sending their electricians to look at this problem.

- **Lecterns/Fingerposts** – It was reported that these had now been fitted and have been favourably received.

07.07.20 **Government Funding for Social Distancing**

It was reported that the Parish Council will meet with Officers from DDDC and Cllr Irene Ratcliffe to discuss possible measures which could be introduced in Matlock Bath.

***Clerks Note:** Following this meeting, the Parish Council is asking all residents to send in their comments on the solutions offered. All details are on our website.*

08.07.20 **WW1 Exhibition in Memorial Shelter**

It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a plaque and dedicate the exhibition to Charles Beresford.

09.07.20 **Anti-Social Behaviour**

The Clerk reported that she had spoken on many occasions to the Police and DDDC regarding the anti-social behaviour experienced in the village especially in the car parks. Although the Police will attend any incidents reported by the general public, they feel that DDDC should make their car parks inaccessible to 'boy racers' which would stop the problem of them congregating there in the first place. Another suggestion by the Police is to introduce a Public Space Protection Order to deal with the long term ongoing anti-social behaviour. DDDC has agreed that this could be discussed at senior level in the future. Councillors agreed that we should push for this to be introduced.

The Clerk further reported that she was making investigations regarding a noise camera. She was awaiting information from the Police and had also written to our MP to see if it could be something introduced in Matlock Bath. A trial was held at various locations around the country last year.

Cllr Nick Grayshon left the meeting.

10.07.20 **Community Speed Watch**

It was **RESOLVED** to take part in the Community Speed Watch programme. The Clerk reported that 8 volunteers so far had signed up to take part.

11.07.20 **Adoption of Matlock Bath Station**

It was reported that due to the pandemic and the subsequent lifting of restrictions, it had not been possible for adopters aged over 70 to work on the station. Although one volunteer had offered to plant up, it had not been possible to obtain bedding plants. However, DDDC has a surplus of plants and were offering them to community groups. If the Parish Council is successful in obtaining these plants, they will be put in the barrels at the station.

***Clerk's Note:** The Parish Council has managed to secure a number of plants from DDDC and will be planted up shortly.*

Cllr Michael Wilderspin left the meeting.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

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

There were no urgent matters.

13.07.20 **Correspondence/Publications/Information Received**

The following were noted:

Circulated to all Councillors:

Copy of e-mail from resident re flooding on A6 Dale Road
E-mail from DCC re closure of Temple Road
E-mail from DCC re closure of South Parade
E-mail from DCC re closure of River Derwent Bridge
E-mail from DDDC re arrangements for bank holiday weekend
E-mail from Chief Superintendent on overview of Police during coronavirus
Letter from DDDC Chief Executive re lifting of lockdown measures
E-mail from MP – Press Release requesting visitors and bikers to respect residents
E-mail from resident – thanks for all the excellent work during virus x2
E-mail from Chair of Gorge Parish Council re measures during virus
E-mail from business owner re lifting of restrictions
E-mail from Paddle Peak re litter
E-mail from DDDC re rendering benches by Riverside as unusable
E-mail from DDDC re travellers
E-mail from DDDC re visitor message
E-mail from DDDC re news update – litter
E-mail from DCC re posters on bus shelters
Copy of e-mail sent to MP from Cllr Joyce Pawley and response
E-mail from DDDC re update on Clean & Green Team capacity
E-mail from DDDC re cancellation of illuminations
E-mail from resident re noise nuisance
E-mail from Derbyshire Police re disturbance
E-mail from DCC re posters on bus shelters re social distancing
E-mail from DDDC re annual electoral registration canvass changes
Copy of E-mail from DDDC re 2 meter ruling
E-mail from Cllr Purdy re travellers
E-mail complaint from local resident re litter and attitude of business owner
E-mail from resident re speed and noise of traffic x2
Various e-mails from residents re travellers x6

Noted:

E-mail from resident re flashing speed sign – passed to DCC
E-mail complaint from resident re anti-social behaviour in car park, speeding motorbikes, parking on side roads – passed to DDDC and DCC
E-mail from resident re new chimney/flue for business
E-mail from resident re dangerous tree in Derwent Gardens – passed to DDDC
E-mail from resident re furniture outside business x2– passed to DDDC
E-mail from resident re litter picking – provided litterpick
E-mail from resident re repainting of business and providing food units – passed to DDDC
E-mail from resident re scaffolding on St Johns Road – contacted DDC
E-mail from resident re suspending parking bays to assist social distancing
Various e-mails from residents re measures for social distancing and lifting of restrictions
Copy of e-mail from resident re overhanging vegetation on Brunswood Road
E-mail from Citizens Advice Bureau – Impact Report
E-mail re Tiny Forests
E-mail to District Councillors from residents re travellers x4

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

13.07.20 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 23rd September 2020.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.