

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Chair: Peter Baranek

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MINUTES of a meeting of the Matlock Bath Parish Council
held on Wednesday 23rd September 2020 at 7.00 pm via Zoom

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

A Public Participation

There two members of the public attending. Neither wished to speak.

B Report from Police Representatives

There was no Police representative present.

C Report from County Council

Cllr Irene Ratcliffe reported that the Watery Lane site in Ashbourne, which had been identified as a possible temporary/permanent site for the travellers some time ago, is no longer a viable option.

Cllr Ratcliffe confirmed that pavement licence responsibility had moved from DCC to DDDC. However, the legislation is such that it is not County Council's job to enforce. DDDC also do not have the powers to enforce. She added that no business in Matlock Bath had applied for a licence.

D Report from District Council

Cllr Joyce Pawley reported that the Police Crime Commissioner has arranged a meeting with the County Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, the Police and the Parish Council to discuss the matters of concern in the village. It appears that there is a lot of 'passing the buck' as to whose responsibility some of the issues are.

Cllr Pawley reported that there is currently an electoral review which will reduce the number of District Councillors. Matlock Bath will lose 1 District Councillor. However, she is pushing that the Masson Ward takes in Bolehill in order to keep the two District Councillors. Details can be found on the DDDC website.

Cllr Pawley reported that she had met with the Chief Executive expressing concern over the travellers and the effect they are having on Matlock Bath. She felt that even if a new permanent and/or temporary site was provided, if the travellers did not want to go there, they would come back to Matlock Bath. As a result of the meeting, she has received positive news regarding barriers on Temple Road Car Park. Further discussions and investigations cannot be undertaken, however, until the family had moved to the designated temporary site.

Cllr Pawley reported that a temporary and permanent site has been identified in Tansley. However, Tansley residents are heavily disputing the site. An application will have to go through Planning and works/services will need to be installed as there is currently no electricity or sewage. She estimated this will take at least 10-12 weeks or probably longer.

Cllr Nick Grayshon asked if the family could be moved to the top car park to allow visitors to park on the lower level. Cllr Pawley agreed to ask whether this was possible but stressed that DDDC has no right to move them and have to ask the family if they would.

Cllr Pawley reported that the fencing around the family was put in at the request of the family themselves.

Cllr Pawley confirmed that following the eviction of the travellers (with the exception of the family) DDDC operatives had cleaned the area. However, she had received a report from a witness who saw one of the travellers defecating in the car park.

Cllr Louise Moran reported that the Police seemed to be 'pussyfooting' around. Some children in the village had witnessed indecent exposure by the travellers in the well. Police have spoken to one but no statements have been taken. It was felt that witnessing travellers defecating on the car park is not taken seriously. Cllr Pawley totally agreed.

Cllr Pawley reported that the Chief Executive had spoken to the Headteacher of the school who said she was not concerned about the children whilst they were in school but understandably the parents are. Cllr Moran said that the travellers had been leaning over gate harassing the children whilst in school. Cllr Pawley said she would ask the Chief Executive to ask the Police why nothing has been done.

Cllr Helen Key asked if the Council carried out risk assessment of the car parks before they are moved. Cllr Pawley responded and said that DDDC had not moved the travellers, they had moved at their own risk so no assessment would have been done.

The Clerk asked why there were 8 caravans still on Temple Road Car Park. Cllr Pawley reported that the other family were seeking homeless status. There is also one caravan where the occupant locked himself in and would not come out. The bailiffs were therefore unable to move the caravan due to health and safety. The bailiff's order has been extended to 25th. Should he still not come out there will be a review. Joyce said she would speak to the relevant officer concerning this.

Cllr Pawley confirmed that in Derbyshire Dales Local Plan, 9 pitches are needed on the temporary site. This would accommodate the family but no visitors.

It was reported that residents want to see barriers on Temple Walk and also Station Car Park. Cllr Pawley explained that an officer had been to various conferences to look at options. However, as the number of encampments on Station Car Park averaged out at 2 a year it was not cost effective to spend hundreds of thousands of public money on barriers.

Cllr Peter Baranek reported that he had spoken to a coach driver who had said that he had seen plenty of car parks like Station Car Park with different devices. Joyce agreed to take this forward but could offer no promises.

The Clerk asked, on behalf of a number of residents, how the costings are for the daily/weekly and final clean up of Temple Road Car Park. Cllr Pawley said that costings were being produced and she would ask the Chief Executive if the figures could be released to the Parish Council.

The Clerk asked what the latest situation is with regard to Station Car Park. Cllr Pawley said that the courts were running late – and eviction of the travellers could take between 8-10 weeks. She added that there was no national legal structure to help move them. She further added that she will be getting in touch with local Labour Councillors whose areas have the same problem to get a co-ordinated campaign to get the law changed at national level.

Cllr Pawley reported that a PSPO could be introduced but that this would need to be enforced and DDDC only has 2 enforcers to cover the whole of the Derbyshire Dales.

Cllr Pawley reported that the 'Pally Pond' will be drained and professionally cleaned to remove the rubbish and excrement in it. It will then naturally re-fill from the spring.

Cllr Moran asked if it would be possible to have CCTV.

Cllr Pawley finished by reiterating that she wants to hear from residents about problems and will answer all e-mails received.

Cllrs Joyce Pawley and Irene Ratcliffe were thanked for attending the meeting.

Cllr Garry Purdy, although was expecting to attend, sent his apologies as he had been held up by other over-running meetings.

01.09.20 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dave Mowle.

02.09.20 **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.

03.09.20 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th July 2020 and the Extraordinary Meeting on 25th August 2020 were signed by the Chairman.

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

Filming in Wapping Nature Reserve – The Clerk reported that a filmmaker based in Wirksworth had enquired as to whether it would be possible for them to film in the Reserve. This was **RESOLVED** by Councillors.

Noise Camera – The Clerk reported that the Minister for Roads, Buses and Places had responded regarding the noise camera. The Minister had said that the outcome of the trial, which took place last year, is currently being considered including whether it could lead to more targeted and efficient enforcement. The technology has the potential to be used to identify excessively noisy vehicles, however there are still difficulties which need addressing. Further developments and testing will be required before it could be recommended for wider scale roll out. The Clerk confirmed that she would keep in touch with the Police when there is news that it can be rolled out.

Community Payback Scheme – The Clerk reported that DDDC was seeking approval from the Council to set on a Community Rehabilitation Company that runs Community Payback Schemes. The range of work undertaken could include clearance, gardening, weeding and planting etc. The Clerk further reported that she had passed on areas which the Parish Council felt could be improved such as Derwent Gardens and Memorial Gardens. Unfortunately, at the Council meeting, the item was deferred to a future meeting due to lack of time to discuss it.

Traveller's Choice 2020 – The Clerk reported that the Peak District Mining Museum has been awarded the Traveller's Choice 2020 Award by TripAdvisor. This award is given to the top 10% of places globally who have received consistently high reviews.

Overnight Camping in Woods – The Clerk reported that she had received reports of people camping in the woods which was causing a noise nuisance to some residents. In addition, one resident had their jam money jar stolen from her honesty jam stall as well as some jam. Councillors felt that they were not in a position to do anything but to advise residents to report the noise to Environmental Health and/or the Police and the stolen money and jam to the Police.

Communication from MP Office – This was a late item to the agenda but just to report that a member of Ms Dines' department had been asked to make contact with Parish Councils in the Derbyshire Dales to ask how things were 'on the ground' and if they could help with anything. The Chair reported that he had outlined many issues and also pointed out that the Parish Council had requested to meet with Ms Dines on several occasions but no offer had been taken up.

Clerk's Note: Since the meeting, Ms Dines has made contact to arrange a meeting with the Parish Council to discuss all outstanding issues. This meeting will be held at the beginning of October.

05.09.20

Committees

(a) Activities Committee

Seniors Lunch – It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the current situation with Coronavirus to cancel this year's event. Councillors hoped that something could be arranged for 2021 perhaps at Easter.

Singing Round the Tree – It was **RESOLVED** that in view of the current situation with Coronavirus to cancel this year's event.

Remembrance – It was **RESOLVED** that the usual programme at Remembrance could not be held this year due to the situation regarding Coronavirus. It was agreed, however, that Councillors will attend on the 8th November at 11.00 am to lay wreaths on behalf of the residents and children of the village and observe a 2 minutes silence. The Clerk agreed to circulate appropriate wording to Councillors to agree for publication in the Autumn Newsletter.

Photography Competitions – It was reported that this year's event would go ahead online. It was agreed that the deadline should be extended to 1st November which would include half term. Once the entries have been shortlisted, online voting could open on 7th November and close on 13th November. The results could then be announced on 15th November.

(b) Communications Committee

Accessibility Statement – A draft Accessibility Statement was circulated with the agenda. The Clerk reported that the Statement explained which parts of the website are not currently accessible. The new website once complete will be accessible and the statement would be amended to reflect this. Councillors confirmed that the Accessibility Statement should be published on the website according to new regulations.

Newsletter – It was reported that the next Newsletter would be going to print by 25th September and would be delivered to residents by 4th October.

(c) **Environment & Conservation Committee**

Rose Garden – It was reported that a volunteer was needed to look at the Rose Garden in Memorial Garden. This would be advertised in the Autumn Newsletter.

Ash Trees – It was reported that some numbers have been sprayed on Ash trees mainly in Derwent Gardens and along the A6. DDDC has confirmed that they all have symptoms of Ash dieback disease. They will rapidly die and become dangerous at which point DDDC will remove them.

It was suggested that the trees in the Nature Reserve should be checked for Ash dieback disease. Cllr Peter Baranek and Cllr Louise Moran agreed to identify the trees in the reserve and mark them.

Meadow – It was reported that Derbyshire Wildlife will clear the meadow next month.

Weeds – It was agreed that there should be no change to the current management of weeds by DDDC.

(d) **Facilities Committee**

Sports Area – It was reported that the contractors will be on site to start the renovation at the end of October. No specific date has been given. She also reported that there are some trees overhanging the area and would contact DDDC to ask that these are pruned before the renovation work starts.

War Memorial – It was reported that the war memorial will be cleaned again shortly.

Benches – A quote of £700 has been received to renovate the three benches on Riverside. This was accepted. The work will start on 25th September. The renovations will include making the benches two sided so will accommodate people both sides. They will be set in concrete to make them secure.

(e) **Finance Committee**

Annual Return/External Auditor – It was reported that the Annual Return had been returned by the External Auditors. No problems were reported. All information has been put on the website.

Renewal of SLCC Membership – It was **RESOLVED** to renew the SLCC membership.

Annual Support for Defibrillator – It was **RESOLVED** to meet the annual cost for support of the defibrillator on North Parade for this year.

National Salary Award 2020-21 for Employees – It was noted that a national salary award has been given to employees.

Payments – The following payments were **RESOLVED**

Clerk, Expenses, July 2020	£57.56
Clerk (New Keyboard)	£29.99
Clerk (Zoom)	£28.78
Quiller (Defibrillator)	£162.00
Spotless	£120.00
Crow Pie Marketing	£40.00
Matlock Print (plaque)	£30.00
Clerk (winter plants)	£149.79
Derbyshire Dales Design & Print (grant)	£192.00
Twiggs	£10.00
HMRC	£67.74
Clerk, Expenses, August 2020	£78.61
Clerk, Salary, August 2020	£937.76
PKF Littlejohn (external auditor)	£360.00
NEST	£110.85
Hot Graphix (plaques)	£26.00
Crow Pie Marketing	£40.00
HMRC	£142.73
Clerk, Salary, September 2020	£1042.33
SLCC (membership renewal)	£161.00
NEST	£117.39
Plantscape (purchase of planters)	£720.00
Clerk Expenses, September 2020	£88.72
Clerk (Zoom)	£28.78
Crow Pie Marketing	£150.00
Poppy Appeal	£50.00
TOTAL	£4942.03

(f) **Planning**

Applications – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Planning Committee's recommendation of **No Objection** for the following applications:

20/00554/FUL – wall insulation & associated extension – Station House, Dale Road
T/20/00106/TCA – Works to Trees – Matlock Bath Bowling Club
T/20/00116/TCA – Works to Trees – 2 Birklands, Brunswood Road
20/00689/FUL – 2 storey extension – The Rowans, Upperwood Road
T/20/00119/TCA – Works to Trees – Upperwood House, Upperwood
T/20/00133/TCA – Works to Trees – 98 North Parade
T/20/00136/TCA – Works to Trees – High Trees, Brunswood Road

Planning Decisions – The following planning decisions by DDDC were noted:

20/00431/FUL – Creation of 2 Parking Spaces – Common Wood, St Johns Road - Refused

T/20/00070/TCA – Works to Trees – Myrtle House, 162 Dale Road – Granted
T/20/00084/TCA – Works to Trees – 4 Clarence Terrace – Granted
T/20/00085/TCA – Works to Trees – 5 Clarence Terrace – Granted
20/00554/FUL – Installation of wall insulation and associated extension of roof line – Station House, Dale Road - Granted

Planning Breaches – It was noted that DDDC had reported a possible planning breach for works being undertaken by a business in the village. DDDC has written to the owners advising that permission may be required for signage and a new flu pipe and also requested information regarding the clearance works to the rear of the property.

(g) **Climate Advisory Group**

Climate Advisory Group Policy – It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Policy as recommended by the Climate Advisory Group. The Policy sets out what the Parish Council will, and can do, regarding climate emergency. The Clerk confirmed that this will be put on our website.

Community Energy England and Marches Energy Agency – The Advisory Group had recommended that the Parish Council join CEE and Marches to assist them with climate emergency. Late information received suggested that at present the Parish Council would not be getting value for money by paying for a subscription to CEE. However, membership would appear to be worthwhile in the event that the Parish Council wanted advice on a renewable energy project in the Parish.

No details concerning Marches was available.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** not to join CEE at the moment and refer membership of Marches until the next meeting when more information would be available.

06.09.20 **LEADER Grant**

It was reported that the final part of the grant was now complete with all paperwork been submitted and the grant money received. It was felt that the fingerposts/lecterns had been well received by visitors.

It was reported that Western Power had to sort out a problem with the electricity supply and as a result the lights had not been on. However, now this has been **done** the timing of the lights will be changed to reflect daylight hours.

Unfortunately, the lights on the bridge are now not working but DDDC has confirmed that their electricians will be out to look into this shortly.

07.09.20 **Government Funding (RHSSF)**

Councillors were reminded that in May 2020, the Parish Council was informed that two separate pots of funding would be made available to help with social distancing and for re-opening of the high street safely.

Funding for social distancing was made available to Derbyshire County Council and re-opening of the high street safely to DDDC. At a DDDC Council meeting it was agreed that they could not impose or burden Parish and Town Councils to spend their funding. It was therefore passed to DCC.

Following a site meeting with DCC the Parish Council requested barriers on the Parades to extend the pavement on the business side for pedestrians to enable social distancing. This request was rejected by DCC who were concerned that this would force motor vehicles to park on Riverside. They offered to put barriers at the top end of North Parade at a cost of £8,010 approximately. After discussions with residents who had sent comments in, it was agreed that this is not what was required. It would seem that the funding for social distancing awarded to DCC has been spent elsewhere and any measures would need to be costed to the re-opening up of the high street funding.

The Parish Council attended a meeting with DDDC and DCC and informed they had just under £2,000 to spend on measures they felt appropriate. It has since been confirmed that we have £6,000 with £4,000 being spent by DCC on signage already (red Covid ones).

It was reported that signage is being looked into and currently we are awaiting confirmation as to whether the signage is acceptable to DDDC. It was agreed that the Parish Council should not proceed with ordering until written confirmation has been received as the Parish Council are required to pay for the works and then claim back from DDDC.

Cllr Nick Grayshon left the meeting.

08.09.20 **Civil Enforcement Matters**

It was reported that a meeting between a DCC Officer, Cllr Irene Ratcliffe, Cllr Joyce Pawley and the Parish Council had been held on 14th September to discuss civil parking enforcement matters. Various issues were discussed. The Parish Council expressed concern that they felt that the enforcement of illegally parked vehicles was not been dealt with effectively by the Enforcement Officers. Although it is accepted that CEOs cannot be everywhere in the village, it is important that effective enforcement was had when they were. The parking of vehicles on pavements seemed to be on the increase and reports have been received that there is inconsistency with ticketing. The DCC Officer said he would urge residents to report any issues with enforcement so that they can be followed up. The Parish Council asked if signage could be put on the railings on Riverside to point out to drivers that it is not permissible to park on the pavement. It was noted that the hours of enforcement for September and October are 140 a month for on street parking. The Officer from DCC agreed to look into the issues raised. It was suggested that perhaps figures on vehicles observed, moved on and notices issued should be published on the Matlock Bath Parish Council website regularly.

09.09.20 **Derbyshire Dales Town (and Parish) Council Group**

It was reported that as a member of this Group, the Clerk had been approached to ask if Councillors would pass a motion to request that DDDC changes its parking policy and to call for the introduction of concessions/reductions in the parking charges to actively encourage visitors/residents to use council owned parking in order to support the reignition of the economies of the market towns and especially their retail and town centre businesses.

Councillors agreed that as our car parks are all heavily used there was not the same need to encourage visitors/residents to use them. However, Matlock Town Council had reported that the response from DDDC had stated that there was no immediate proposal to reduce car parking charges across the Derbyshire Dales but the Leader of the District Council had indicated that he would be prepared to look at this issue again.

Councillors agreed that a better initiative for Matlock Bath would be to approach DDDC with a view to adopt seasonal charging which could attract more visitors during the winter.

10.09.20 **Meeting with Police Crime Commissioner**

It was reported that the Parish Council had been invited to a meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner, DCC Officers, DDDC Officers and Police representatives on 1st October 2020. The reason for the meeting is to discuss the issues raised by the Parish Council at its last meeting with the Crime Commissioner to try and achieve a more co-ordinated approach to dealing with issues.

11.09.20 **Community Speed Watch**

It was reported that 13 volunteers had now received the first stage of the training. The next stage will be on site training on how to use the equipment. Four suggested locations had been passed to the Police; a decision on their suitability is awaited.

It was reported that if the Parish Council decided to purchase its own equipment, Cllr Irene Ratcliffe had agreed to pay half the costs out of her allowance that.

12.09.20 **Travellers**

See District Councillor's Report above.

13.09.20 **Problems in Matlock Bath**

Councillors expressed concern about the problems currently in the village. It was agreed to wait to see what came out of the meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner and then take forward to the relevant authorities any outstanding issues.

14.09.20 **Closer Working Meetings**

It was reported that at the last Closer Working meeting held on 14th August, the Parish Council had raised various issues. Notes from this meeting had previously been circulated to Councillors. Issues raised included boy racers/anti social behaviour, party house noise, work which needs doing in Derwent Gardens, pavement licences, travellers and the lovers walk bank. These were all noted by DDDC and will be followed up.

Bike Racks - The Parish Council asked if the unusable bike rack at Station Car Park could be re-positioned to Pavilion Car Park. This was agreed.

Car Park Machines – This was causing problems for visitors as they are not accepting card payments.

CCTV – Boosters have been fitted to the antennae to improve signal strength.

Recycling – This is an issue which has been raised previously. DDDC currently are not able to provide recycling bins in the village as there is no means of disposal without taking out a new contract. However, other Parish and Town Councils have been asking for them so it was agreed that DDDC when reviewing the Green Team later this year, they will also look at how they can introduce recycling into towns and villages.

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

There were no urgent matters.

16.09.20 **Correspondence/Publications/Information Received**

To note the following:

Copy of e-mail from resident to DDDC re social distancing measures and travellers

Copy of e-mail from resident to DDDC re travellers x17

E-mail from resident re travellers x4

E-mail from resident of Starkholmes re noise in Matlock Bath

E-mail from DCC re re-opening of libraries

E-mail from resident re dog poo bin on Upperwood x2

Copy of e-mail from business re incidents in village and travellers

Copy of e-mail from resident re double yellow lines on Temple Road
E-mail from DCC re covid measures at business
E-mail from DDDC re electoral boundaries for DDDC
Copy of e-mail from resident to DDDC re 'dumping' of waste on car park and travellers
E-mail from SNT re Operation Edward
E-mail from visitor re travellers

The following were passed to DDDC:

Copy of e-mail from resident to DDDC re planning breach
Copy of e-mail from business owner re lack of social distancing and non compliance
E-mail from DVM WHS Annual Newsletter
E-mail from DCC re Council reorganisation

19.09.20 **Date of Next Meeting**

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

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.