

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 22nd November 2023 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Jackie Ligo, Cllr Leisha Martin, Cllr Dave Mowle,
Cllr Christopher Vivian, Julie Baranek (Clerk)

A Public Participation

There were two members of the public present who did not wish to speak.

B Report from Police Representative

PCSO Redman attended on behalf of PCSO Kirsty Hunt who was unavailable. He had nothing to report.

C Report from County Council

Cllr Dermot Murphy was invited to attend but did not respond.

D Report from District Council

Cllr Nick Whitehead attended. He first congratulated the Parish Council on a very moving and excellent Remembrance Service.

Nick outlined the corporate plan which will set out the Council's aspirations for the next 4 years. It will be in the public domain by December.

Recycling - Derbyshire Dales is in the top 10 in England for recycling with 54% of waste being recycled. Cllr Peter Baranek commented that the Parish Council, through its meetings with Ash Watts, had requested recycling bins for street and park waste bins as currently everything goes into landfill. Cllr Nick Whitehead said that DDDC was looking at recycling and a review will be done in February.

Green Waste – This scheme has brought in much needed revenue which will be reinvested in other areas.

Walkround - A walkround the park and green areas was held earlier this autumn with Cllr Peter Baranek and officers of DDDC. A number of issues were noted such as the deterioration of the bandstand and maintenance which is needed. It was noted that slim resources were available to DDDC because of the low Government grant received compared to other areas such as Ashbourne, Bakewell and Matlock who have 'sucked up' revenue. The poor state of the gardens gives a neglected impression for visitors as well as residents.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Cllr Peter Baranek stated that the report was supposed to be available in November so it could be notified to residents in the Christmas newsletter for them to comment on. Nick responded that they were waiting for the budget to be set before the plan can be drawn up. The budget will be set in January so the plans will not be released until February or March. Nick felt that Matlock Bath was good at generating visitor income for DDDC but has not seen any of it being reinvested here.

Parking Charges - The Council are further looking at consistent parking charges so the smaller lower use car parks would be charged at a lower rate to encourage more use. There will be a toilet review to look at the impact on communities due to closure including opening times. The Council had an £1m underspend which has been put in reserve for waste vehicles.

Travellers – Cllr Nick Whitehead confirmed that it was agreed that Matlock Bath Station would only be a tolerated site until January 2023. The Working Group are currently looking at other sites. Cllr Peter Baranek reported that despite sending a letter to the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and to the Chair of the Working Group, no acknowledgement had been received. Cllr Whitehead suggested that the Parish Council should write to Councillors Flitter, Slack and Buttle and lobby them as the officers are not in a position to take action. Residents should also send their comments. The Clerk commented that she has regular meeting with the Head of Regulatory Services for updates and all complaints received from residents and visitors have been passed to him and Environmental Health. It was noted that comments forwarded by the Parish Council do not count in the number of complaints received.

E Remedi – Alix Needham attended on behalf of Remedi and gave the following report.

Remedi is a charity who are working on the Derbyshire Immediate Justice Scheme for Derbyshire Police and Commissioner.

Derbyshire is one of 4 forces to have received a £4.4m grant to focus on anti social behaviour, which includes a new Derbyshire Immediate Justice scheme. The scheme is aimed at the lower end of the scale and cases which are not going through the court process. The scheme will provide between 5-20 hours of work and aimed at children aged 12 and above as well as adults. It will provide perpetrators of anti social behaviour the opportunity to repair the harm caused to their victims and wider communities by taking part in reparative activities such as community clean ups, supporting community gardens, spending time in charity shops and foodbanks or directly repairing the harm caused such as painting over graffiti. Where appropriate the scheme aims to seek input from the victims involved. The scheme went 'live' in September and first referrals received by October. Those assigned to this scheme will be supervised one on one and not be part of a group. The Home Office is anxious that work is started within 48 hours of a referral. Referrals come from SNT or ASB officers.

Remedi are reaching out to communities and Parish Councils in order to identify whether it is something they would wish to be involved in and to assign potential placements.

Alix was thanked for attending and explaining the scheme. This will be discussed and agreed under Urgent Matters further in the agenda.

01.11.23 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Louise Moran and Cllr Spencer Wiltshire.

02.11.23 **Declaration of Members' Interests**

Councillors were asked to consider the need to declare an interest in any matters on the agenda. Cllr Peter Baranek declared an interest in item 05.11.23 – National Pay Increase.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

03.11.23 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 27th September be accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

04.11.23 **Clerk's Ongoing Matters**

Trading Standards – The Clerk reported that she had forwarded a complaint to Trading Standards regarding the safety of the goods being sold by the pedlars during the illuminations. Trading Standards had confirmed that they would not be visiting the illuminations this year due to having to prioritise activities with available resources.

Public Transport – The Clerk reported that a resident had designed a booklet pertaining to public transport. She had produced a number of copies herself for the Mining Museum but these had all been taken. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to apply for funding for these booklets.

05.11.23 **Committees**

- **Activities Committee**

Christmas Lunch - The Clerk reported that numbers for the **Christmas lunch** had increased to 42 which meant that the event was over-budget by a small amount. After discussion it was agreed that the shortfall could be taken from another budget head within the Activities Committee budget. Regarding the contribution from those attending, it was **RESOLVED** not to implement this contribution.

Singing Round the Tree - It was confirmed that this will be held on Monday 18th December. It was confirmed that there will be soup and mulled wine provided at this event. This will coincide with the Parish Council advent window switch-on for the event organised by residents of the village. Cllr Peter Baranek will make 'a window' and Cllr Leisha Martin and Cllr Jackie Ligo agreed to speak with the Headteacher of Holy Trinity Primary School to involve them in the design for the window for the Parish Council. Cllr Peter Baranek confirmed that he had spoken with DDDC Estates Manager who had agreed to the Parish Council displaying a 'window' in the Memorial Shelter. He had stipulated, however, that it could only be installed by one of their contractors. Cllr Baranek agreed to contact the contractors once the window was ready to be installed. It was further confirmed that the 'window' would be switched on at 6.00 pm prior to Singing Round the Tree at 6.30 pm. All details regarding this event will be in the next newsletter. The Clerk agreed to send a reminder via the WhatsApp Group nearer the time.

It was agreed that Cllr Helen Keay would arrange for a Christmas tree to be purchased. She will liaise with Cllr Dave Mowle for its collection and installation.

- **Communications Committee**

Newsletter - The Clerk reported that she had received three e-mails from residents requesting that no change to be made to the way the newsletter is produced. No e-mails have been received in support of it going online. It was, however, **RESOLVED** that we should trial the March newsletter on line. Cllr Peter Baranek confirmed that an article will be published in the December newsletter asking for residents to 'sign up' to receive notification of the newsletter being available on the website. A few hard copies will be available for those not wishing to receive it online.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Environment and Conservation Committee**

Relining on Clifton Road – The Clerk reported that she had received no update on the relining on Clifton Road. A DCC officer is currently chasing this on the Parish Council's behalf.

Nature Reserve – It was reported that the work in the Nature Reserve had not been completed mainly due to the weather. It was further reported that around 60% of the wood from the trees had been taken. Cllr Peter Baranek agreed to include a further article in the newsletter.

Cllr Peter Baranek reported that the New Bath Hotel had taken delivery of hedging trees from the Woodland Trust for the border between the Nature Reserve and the hotel. These will be planted as soon as possible.

- **Facilities Committee** – The work to the retaining walls being undertaken currently was discussed and the impact it will have on the activity area. It was agreed that Cllr Dave Mowle should speak with the contractors to ensure that no damage is inflicted on the activity area.

- **Finance Committee**

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

Shelter Maintenance	£63.19
Clerk, Expenses, Sept 2023	£117.24
S Nightingale	£30.00
Crow Pie Marketing	£40.00
Clerk, Poppy Wreaths	£44.01
S Nightingale	£60.00
HMRC	£88.66
Matlock Print	£67.20
T Willment	£90.00
Shelter Maintenance	£63.19
Clerk, Salary, Oct 2023	£1074.22
Clerk, Expenses – Oct 2023	£90.46
C Cresswell	£48.46
NEST	£126.97
S Allen (Art)	£150.00
J Mitchell (Art) – 300326	£50.00
J Mitchell (Photography) – 300342	£50.00
A Gray (Photography)	£65.00
C Cresswell (Photography)	£30.00
L Wroe (Photography) – 300328	£30.00
C Perkins (Photography)	£30.00
A Brol (Photography) - 300329	£30.00
S Watson (Photography)	£80.00
A Holmes (Art) – 300325	£50.00
R Somers (Photography)	£50.00
C Anderson (Art)	£50.00
Clerk, grant for Xmas Party	£5.65
Clerk, prizes for Young Photo	£100.00
K Kellett (Art) – 300323	£100.00
D Nightingale (Photography - 300330)	£50.00
T Sharratt (Photography) – 300331	£30.00
S Ferrigan (Photography) – 300332	£30.00
S Freeman (Photography) – 300333	£30.00
P Roberts (Photography) – 300334	£30.00

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Linden Signs (grant)	£283.20
Crow Pie Marketing	£110.00
HMRC	£88.66
Clerk, Salary, Nov 2023	£1074.22
NEST	£126.97
Fishpond (Childrens Xmas Party Grant)	£200.00
Fishpond (Xmas Lunch)	£879.00
Total	£5706.30

The Clerk reported that she had received two invoices – one for the Childrens Christmas Party and the other for the Christmas Lunch from The Fishpond for payment. Councillors agreed that only a deposit should be made at this point.

Grant Applications – It was **RESOLVED** to award grants as follows:

Holy Trinity School - £250
 Childrens Christmas Party - £285
 DASAC (Raft Event) - £283.20

National Pay Increase – A national pay increase for staff was noted.

- **Planning Committee**

Planning Applications – No objection to the following applications was noted:

T/23/00184/TCA – Works to Trees – Flats at Clifton Road
 T/23/00192/TCA – Works to Trees – Upperwood House, Upperwood Road
 T/23/00197/TCA – Works to Trees – 52-54 North Parade

Planning Decisions – The following decisions by DDDC were noted:

T/23/00160/TCA – Tree Works – Masson Mills – Permitted
 T/23/00192/TCA – Tree Works – Upperwood House, Upperwood Road – Permitted

The Clerk reported that she had been asked by the Tree and Landscape Officer that TCA applications do not need to give reasons for the notified tree works. Routinely, DDDC includes an informative in decision notices to draw the attention of the applicant that they have a legal duty to plant replacement trees for those removed in conservation areas.

Cllr Peter Baranek reported that the Clerk would be in touch with Committees shortly to discuss the budgets for 2024/2025.

06.11.23 Reports from Outside Bodies

- **Pavilion** – Cllr Dave Mowle reported that the Pavilion was currently in a strong and viable position.
- **Derwent Valley Rail Partnership** – Cllr Christopher Vivian reported that the Whistlestop Café is closed most of the time now. He further reported that DVRP are looking for more station adopters. The Clerk reported that she has been liaising with DVRP since the summer regarding recruiting more adopters for Matlock Bath. A poster has been designed and this is currently in the noticeboard. An article was also included in the September issue of the newsletter.
- **Illuminations Working Group** – The Clerk reported that she would contact DDDC to ascertain when the 'wash up' meeting would be held.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Town and Parish Council** – No update.

07.11.23 Cumberland Cavern

Cllr Dave Mowle gave an update. The Transfer of Title documentation has now been received from the solicitors and this was signed at the meeting. The Clerk witnessed the Chair and Vice Chairman's signatures and confirmed that the paperwork will be delivered back to the solicitors by the end of the week.

08.11.23 Parking and Dangerous Junctions

Cllr Peter Baranek reported that there was no update as yet.

09.11.23 Travellers

The Clerk reported that she would shortly be meeting with DDDC's Head of Regulatory Services for an update.

The Clerk reported that she had written on behalf of the Parish Council to the Chief Executive of Derbyshire Dales, the Chairman of the Traveller Working Group, the Leader of DDDC and to Ms Sarah Dines MP. No acknowledgement has been received from Derbyshire Dales. A response from Ms Dines has been received and this was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Ms Dines is in full support of the Parish Council's concerns and will do whatever she can to ensure the matter is resolved.

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

Councillors discussed joining the scheme operated by Remedi. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Remedi to confirm that they would like to be part of the scheme and we would draw up a possible list of tasks that could be undertaken.

11.11.23 Correspondence/Publications/Information Received

To note the following:

E-mail from DDDC re electric vehicle charging points in car parks
 E-mail from visitor re travellers in car park
 E-mail from resident re excrement on Lovers Walks x2
 E-mail from visitor re excrement on Lovers Walks
 Verbal complaints from residents re illegal signs put up during illuminations x6
 E-mail from coach company re parking for coaches during illuminations
 E-mail from resident re portaloo at Artists Corner car park
 E-mail from Derbyshire Cricket Foundation re walking cricket
 E-mail from resident re fly tipping
 E-mail from resident re travellers
 Copy of e-mail from resident re relining on Clifton Road
 E-mail from MP Sarah Dines office re posters and article for the newsletter
 E-mail from resident re public transport
 E-mail from DDDC re flood warnings and notices x10
 E-mail from Derbyshire Police – Newsletter

Waterloo Road – The Clerk reported that she had received an update from one of the residents of Waterloo Road whose retaining wall had collapsed and was currently blocking the road. A survey has been carried out on the wall and repairs will be made as soon as possible.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

12.11.23 **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th January 2024.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.