

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 3rd July 2024 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Jackie Ligo, Cllr Leisha Martin,
Cllr Louise Moran, Cllr Dave Mowle, Julie Baranek (Clerk)

A Public Participation

There was one member of the public present who spoke about ceramic tile display that is mounted outside the school front door. It was designed with the school children and fixed to the wall 25 years ago for the millenium. There is a key (legend/explanation) to the display but the original is now faded and of poor quality. The tiled display is not owned by the school but concern was expressed that over future years the display could disappear. The resident asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to take ownership as a village asset.

Councillors thanked the resident for attending and would discuss the matter under item 10.

B Report from Police Representative

There was no Police Representative present.

C Report from County Council

There was no County Councillor present.

D Report from District Council

Cllr Nick Whitehead attended and commented that he felt the meeting on Monday 1st July went well and was well attended.

Councillors outlined their discussions and plans on how to take the matter forward.

Cllr Nick Whitehead agreed to see whether a copy of the Code of Conduct which was drawn up for the travellers can be shared with the Parish Council.

Cllr Nick Whitehead confirmed he was chasing the Improvement Plan for the gardens - Lovers, Walk, Derwent Gardens, Memorial Gardens.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

01.07.24 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Christopher Vivian.

02.07.24 **Declaration of Members' Interests**

Councillors were asked to consider the need to declare an interest in any matters on the agenda.

03.07.24 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22nd May 2024 and the Annual Meeting held on 22nd May 2024 be accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

It was **RESOLVED** to change the order of item 9 (Travellers) so it could be discussed prior to the arrival of the District Councillor.

09.07.24 **Travellers**

Councillors felt that the community meetings held on 1st July went extremely well. It was well attended by both businesses and residents. Councillors discussed the ways forward and **RESOLVED**:

- The notes from the meeting be circulated to all Councillors.
- Prepare a mailing list from those attending the meeting and others who have sent in comments or have indicated in joining.
- Circulate a list of District Councillor details to those on the mailing list.
- Prepare a template letter to each member of the C&E Committee and all Councillors and circulate to mailing list for residents/businesses to use if they wish.
- Prepare and implement a petition to DDDC demanding that they return the Station Car Park to its proper use.
- Take legal advice on a letter of engagement and aim to send the letter to DDDC before the C&E meeting on 22nd July. If/when required at a later stage, consider further action.
- A resident to attend every DDDC Full Council meeting to speak. The resident will be kept up-to-date on all issues so he can use them during public participation.
- Demand that DDDC take immediate action to obtain a 'newcomer injunction' for the Station Car Park as a way of ensuring that for the foreseeable future the site is as free as possible from unauthorised travellers.

04.07.24 **Clerk's Ongoing Matters**

Grass Verges – The Clerk reported that she had received communication from DDDC confirming that the grass verges in Matlock Bath are part of a biodiversity project which has been running for 3 years. She further confirmed that a response had been sent indicating the problems with leaving the grass uncut as well as suggesting that there are other more appropriate areas in the village for a biodiversity project. DDDC has offered to present details of the biodiversity project to Councillors via Teams. No interest was shown.

Councillors agreed that the gateways to the village look unkept and untidy. The Clerk was asked to contact DDDC to reconsider this project, for these areas, find alternative areas in consultation with the PC and mow and clear these verges as soon as possible.

Fish in the Fishpond – The Clerk reported that 6 fish have been found dead either in the pond or in the car park. All details were passed to DDDC. However, because of the overhanging trees and shrubbery surrounding the pond, DDDC were not able to see on their CCTV if the fish were being removed by members of the public.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Resignation – Councillors accepted the resignation of Spencer Wiltshire due to pressure of work. The Clerk was asked to write to Mr Wiltshire and thank him for his contribution to the Parish Council.

Draft Signage for Derwent Gardens – The Clerk had circulated a draft of the new signage DDDC is putting in Derwent Gardens and Lovers Walks. Councillors asked the Clerk to ascertain why there is no signage for Memorial Gardens and why there are new rules for dogs being on a lead.

Benches at Riverside – There was no update on this.

05.07.24

Committees

- **Activities Committee**

Christmas – The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation from The Fishpond for a 2 course Christmas lunch. She was awaiting a revised quotation for 3 courses. No other quotations have been received.

It was confirmed that if the advent calendar project was being held again this year, the Parish Council participate.

Art and Photography Competitions – The Clerk reported that sponsorship had been received from the Heights of Abraham, The Grand Pavilion, Holy Trinity Church, DDDC Illuminations, Riverside Kiosk. The date for display and voting will be held on Saturday 19th and 20th October.

- **Communications Committee**

Nothing to report.

- **Environment and Conservation Committee**

Wapping Nature Reserve Lease – The Clerk reported that she had contacted DDDC regarding renewing the lease on the Wapping Nature Reserve. Councillors discussed the opportuning of applying for a community asset transfer of the site. The Clerk was asked to contact DDDC to ascertain the benefits of a community asset transfer rather than just renewing the lease. The lease should be for as long as possible.

- **Facilities Committee**

Cleaning of War Memorial – The Clerk reported that she had received a quotation for the cleaning of the war memorial but seemed extremely high. Although approaches have been made to other companies, nothing had been forthcoming. Councillors felt that they could not justify the quotation and asked the Clerk to try and find further quotations.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Finance Committee**

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

C Cresswell (plants)	£57.17
Clerk, florals	£10.00
Shelter Maintenance	£66.45
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Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
N Cosgrove (strimming)	£30.00
Matlock Print	£330.00
HMRC	£115.06
Clerk, Salary, June 24	£1128.70
NEST	£135.08
Clerk, Office Expenses	£88.83
HMRC	£115.06
Clerk, Salary, July 24	£1128.70
NEST	£135.08
Total	£3451.58

- **Planning Committee**

Planning Applications – To note no objection to the following applications:

24/00498/FUL – Creation of residential apartments – 40-42 North Parade
T/24/00124/TCA – Works to Trees – 1 Greenbank, Holme Road

Planning Decisions – To note decisions by DDDC:

T/24/00079/TCA – 27 Derby Road – Works to Trees – Permitted
24/00120/LBALT – Masson Mills – Electric Charger Points - Granted
T/24/00060/TCA – 5 Devonshire Terrace, Brunswood Road – Works to Trees - Permitted

Planning Decisions – To note decisions by DDDC:

T/24/00092/TCA – 2 Primrose Cottages, St Johns Road – Permitted
23/0313/FUL – Derwent View, Orchard Road – Granted

06.07.24 **Improvements to Derwent and Memorial Gardens**

The Clerk reported that following the publication of the notes from the walkround with DDDC and Cllr Nick Whitehead in September, an improvement plan had not been received. Although most of the points on the notes were noted as being completed, Councillors agreed that it was difficult to see any difference to before. Councillors all agreed that the state of the gardens in the village was a disgrace. The Clerk was asked to write to DDDC to express their concerns over the lack of maintenance in the gardens.

Councillors reported that some of the footpaths are overgrown and impassable. The Clerk was asked to report these to Derbyshire County Council who manage the footpaths.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

07.07.24 **Reports from Outside Bodies**

- **Pavilion** – There was nothing to report.
- **Derwent Valley Rail Partnership** – There was nothing to report.
- **Illuminations Working Group** – It was reported that no meetings had been held by DDDC to discuss this year's illuminations. However, it was reported that the fireworks will be at 8.30 pm instead of 9.00 pm this year. The Clerk reported that the event in 2023 had made £11,000.

Councillors complained that even during September the side roads are being used for parking by members of the public. After discussion, the Clerk was asked to contact DDDC to request that all side roads are closed during the illuminations in September.

- **Town and Parish Council** – There was nothing to report.

08.07.24 **Cumberland Cavern**

Cllr Dave Mowle confirmed that he had spoken to Derbyshire Caving regarding the work on the entrance to Cumberland Cavern.

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

Councillors discussed the tile collage at the primary school. It was felt that it was an important asset to the village and should be maintained and preserved as much as possible. The school will be approached to ask if the Parish Council could become the custodians of this asset. It was **RESOLVED** to replace the missing key for the collage.

11.07.24 **Correspondence**

To note the following:

E-mail from resident re Travellers x3

E-mail from resident re parking at the junction of Holme Road

E-mail from resident re grass verges/biodiversity.

12.07.24 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th September 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to close the meeting to the press and public to discuss the following item:

13 **Co-option**

After discussion it was agreed to co-opt Debbie Hirstwood on to the Parish Council. The Clerk agreed to send all documentation to Debbie in due course.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.