

Matlock Bath Parish Council

Chair: Peter Baranek

Website: www.matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email: clerk@matlockbathparishcouncil.gov.uk



DRAFT MINUTES of a meeting of the Matlock Bath Parish Council
held on Wednesday 20th November 2024 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Wray-Emma Jones, Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Louise Moran, Cllr Dave Mowle, Cllr Christopher Vivian, Julie Baranek (Clerk)

A Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

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.

Travellers – Cllr Whitehead confirmed that the family who were on Station Car Park had left the site at their own free will. He reported that the C & E meeting on 21st November was to discuss the long term solution for the travellers and a decision to allow purchases of land through other means such as auctions.

Cllr Whitehead reported that he had attended a meeting of the Progressive Alliance prior to attending the Parish Council meeting to set out options for the short term. A report will be published recommending 4 or 5 sites from the consultation to be taken forward. Cllr Whitehead could not confirm if Matlock Bath was on the list but if it was he would attach a time limit for Matlock Bath.

The report will go to a special meeting of Full Council on 9th December. Recommendations will then go to Planning. Cllr Whitehead felt that the consultation had been pointless as the comments could not be properly analysed.

Cllr Whitehead further reported that Legal were looking at changing the approach in dealing with illegal travellers. By pursuing the matter through the Magistrates Court, eviction would be quicker.

Cllr Baranek asked if there were any plans to try and make the Station Car Park secure. Cllr Whitehead responded that DDDC do not have the ability to close off as they do not own all of the land. Cllr Baranek confirmed he had a contact from the coach companies who would be more than happy to advise of any action. Cllr Whitehead said he would ask the Car Parks Manager to look at the layout of the car park.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Replacement Blue Spruce – Cllr Baranek reported that the replacement for the blue spruce which DDDC had removed last January had still not been planted. Cllr Whitehead reported that if a permanent tree was not forthcoming, the Parish Council could apply for funding from the Local Projects Fund to purchase a tree for the short term. Cllr Keay agreed to arrange for a tree to be selected and purchased.

Clerk's Note: *A replacement tree has now been planted. However, the tree is only 4ft high and not a good specimen.*

Verges – Cllr Whitehead reported that he had received two complaints regarding the article in the newsletter regarding the verges and biodiversity. To balance the argument, the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had received a few e-mails in support of cutting the verges. Cllr Whitehead commented that there has to be a balance and a compromise needs to be found on what is appropriate and what is not.

Cllr Whitehead was thanked for attending the meeting.

Cllr Wray-Emma was welcomed to the meeting.

01.11.24 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Leisha Martin, Cllr Jackie Ligo and Cllr Debbie Hirstwood.

02.11.24 **Declaration of Members' Interests**

Councillors were asked to consider the need to declare an interest in any matters on the agenda. Cllr Baranek signed the book for item 5 – Finance – Clerk's Salary.

03.11.24 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 25th September 2024 be accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

04.09.24 **Clerk's Ongoing Matters**

Gold Award for Excellence by Visit England – The Clerk reported that the Heights of Abraham had been awarded a Gold Award for Excellence by Visit England. This is one of only 24 awarded. The Parish Council sends its congratulations to the Heights.

Waterloo Road Turning Area – The Clerk reported that a resident of Waterloo Road had raised concerns about the no parking area outside Belgrano, which was now a 5 bedroom Air BnB. The area is a designated no parking area and is used by other residents as a turning point. The Clerk reported that she had contacted DCC. A DCC officer had suggested that the Parish Council write to the owner and ask what parking information will be given out to guests.

Theft of Fish from Fishpond – The Clerk reported that one or more fish had been stolen from the Fishpond in Pavilion Car Park. Although a report has not been submitted to the Police, staff at The Fishpond pub had contacted the Council. It was unclear which Council had been contacted as DDDC, custodians of the fishpond, were unaware of the theft. The Clerk agreed to contact The Fishpond to ascertain the position.

Venue for Parish Council Meetings – The Clerk reported that she had made enquiries regarding holding Parish Council meetings at another venue. The quote was £15 per hour plus £1.50 per person for tea/coffee.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Activities Committee**

Christmas – The Clerk reported that 50 residents would be attending the Christmas Lunch on 9th December. Although the total exceeded the budget set, the Clerk agreed to look at where funds could be vired from.

Singing Round the Tree – It was agreed that Singing Round the Tree would be held on Thursday 19th December. The event would follow the same format as the last two years with refreshments and mulled wine.

Art and Photography Competitions – The Clerk reported that both competitions had been well received again this year. Notes of thanks have been received from entrants.

- **Communications Committee**

The Chairman reported that the winter newsletter would be delivered to all households prior to Singing Round the Tree.

- **Environment and Conservation Committee**

Nature Reserve – It was reported that there were two trees down and blocking paths but they would be removed and made safe in the next couple of days.

Regarding the renewal of the lease for the nature reserve, the Clerk reported that Legal at DDDC had requested a meeting to discuss the contents of the lease in regards to biodiversity. Cllr Louise Moran agreed to attend the meeting.

Volunteers for Gardening – Cllr Peter Baranek reported that we still needed volunteers to do gardening in the Rose Garden in Memorial Gardens, near the Joyce Pawley arbour and the area outside the activity area. An article will be put in the next newsletter.

Lamp on Upperwood Road – It was reported that the lamp on Upperwood Road had now been fixed.

- **Facilities Committee**

War Memorial – The Clerk reported that the war memorial had now been cleaned. The contractor had raised an issue with the lettering and some pointing which they felt needed doing. Councillors agreed that at this present time no further work should be done on the war memorial.

Bus Shelter – The Clerk reported that the glass at the bus shelter on the A6 by the Station had now been replaced.

- **Finance Committee**

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

SLCC renewal	£183.00
Matlock Print	£62.64
IMI	£2760.00
Clerk, Office Expenses, September	£92.43
Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
Cathy Cresswell	£35.88
HMRC	£115.06
Mining Museum	£100.00
Clerk (Prizes for Photography)	£150.00
S Allen (Art 2 nd Prize)	£100.00
A Poulsom (Best Picture of Holy Trinity)	£30.00
H Woods (Art, Creative)	£50.00
A Slater (Best Picture of Heights of Abraham)	£30.00
C Heyes (Art, PC Award)	£50.00
P Keeble (Best Village Photograph)	£50.00
S Watson (Photography 1 st Prize)	£80.00
J Keay (Best Picture of Illuminations)	£30.00
C Cresswell (Best Picture of the Pavilion)	£30.00
S Javan (Best Picture of Riverside Kiosk)	£30.00
D Nightingale (Photography 2 nd Prize)	£65.00
A Holmes (Art, 3 rd Prize, 300337)	£50.00
J Mitchell (Art, Best Village)	£50.00
T Slaidins (Best Picture of Masson Mills)	£30.00
Clerk, Salary, October	£1128.70
NEST	£135.08
Shelter Maintenance	£66.35
Clerk (Pamphlet holders)	£11.79
Clerk, Office Expenses, October	£83.37
T Sharratt (Best Picture of Heritage)	£30.00
K Kellett (Art 1 st Prize)	£150.00
P Lill (Photography 3 rd Prize)	£50.00
Matlock Glass	£330.30
HMRC	£267.91
Clerk, Salary, November	£1377.04
NEST	£175.26
Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
The Fishpond (Christmas Lunch)	£628.75
J Thorley (Photo PC)	£50.00
Universal Piling (grant)	£179.95
Total	£8668.56

Grants Awarded – The Finance Committee recommended that the following grants be awarded as followed.

Children's Christmas Party - £315
DASAC for Raft Event - £200

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Clerk's Pay – It was reported that the national pay award (cost of living) had been agreed and would be back dated to 1st April.

Cllr Baranek declared an interest and took not part in the ensuing discussion. It was reported that the Clerk had not received an incremental award for a number of years. Councillors discussed resolving the Clerk's Salary Point. It was **RESOLVED** to move the Clerk to Point 26 of the current payscale from 1st December 2024 and to review the salary point at the meeting prior to setting the following year's budget.

Committee Budgets 2025/2026 – The Clerk reported that she would compile a draft budget for each Committee which will be circulated to all members. Following any discussions, the budgets will be passed to the Finance Committee who will recommend the precept request at the January meeting of full council.

- **Planning Committee**

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

T/24/00199/TCA – Works to Trees – Glenwood Lodge, Temple Walk
T/24/00220/TCA – Works to Trees – The Beeches, Upperwood Road

Planning Decisions – To note decisions by DDDC:

T/24/00195/TCA – Works to Trees – Castle View, Temple Walk
T/24/00199/TCA – Works to Trees – Glenwood Lodge, Temple Walk
T/24/00220/TCA – Works to Trees – The Beeches, Upperwood Road

06.11.24

Closer Working Meeting

Theft of Fish – Following the meeting, DDDC suggested that the Parish Council contact our PCSO and follow it up by reporting it to the Police formally. The Clerk reported that she has pointed out that the fishpond is not within our remit, but in fact, theirs and perhaps they should follow it up with the Police using the information supplied.

Improvement Plan – A copy of the improvement plan was circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk asked why the improvement plan had been received since it was the same one as last year. No response has been received to date.

Travellers – DDDC confirmed that the travellers had left the site of their own free will. Cllr Baranek asked whether by leaving the site at their own accord would they be allowed back on to the site and whether DDDC has fulfilled their duty by providing them with a home. DDDC commented that it was a decision for Councillors and not officers to make.

State of Gardens – Cllr Baranek reported that when residents read about the wonderful gardens in Derbyshire Dales, they feel like the 'poor relation' as Matlock Bath's gardens are not of the same standard as those in Bakewell, Matlock and Ashbourne, for example. DDDC commented that all parishes feel the same.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

07.09.24 **Reports from Outside Bodies**

- **Pavilion** – It was reported that the Pavilion had employed a new communications person. The Clerk reported that Lily was keen to work with the Parish Council.
- **Derwent Valley Rail Partnership** – It was reported that a replacement officer for the Derwent Valley Line, employed by Derbyshire County Council, would start work in January 2025.
- **Illuminations Working Group** – It was reported that a series of meetings to discuss the 2025 event would be held; the first being on 5th February.
- **Town and Parish Council** – There was nothing to report.

08.11.24 **Matlock Bath Development Association CIC**

Cllr Peter Baranek reported that an approach had been made by some local residents regarding using the Development Association as a vehicle in which to apply for grants for the Matlock Bath Local Community Energy Group. It was further reported that members of the group would need to become active Directors and to lead the project. The project the group have in mind fits comfortably with one of the four aims of the Development Association.

09.11.24 **Travellers**

It was reported that the meeting with the local MP had been positive and he agreed to follow up on some of the issues with DDDC. The reply from the East Midlands Mayor was not so positive in that they could not intervene whilst a consultation was being held. The matter will be pursued.

10.11.24 **Dangerous Junctions**

It was reported that a report from the Senior Traffic Officer had stated that the junction at Holme Road was not considered dangerous. This will be pursued.

11.11.24 **Smedley Close**

It was reported that a response had not yet been received from Derbyshire Cave Rescue with regard to the emergency access to Cumberland Cavern.

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

There were no urgent matters to discuss.

13.11.24 **Correspondence**

To note the following:

E-mail from residents re travellers – various
E-mail from Matlock Civic Association re 40 years of the Heights of Abraham
E-mail from resident re collecting for Poppy Appeal at Remembrance.
E-mail from DCC re Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice
E-mail from DDDC re Local Plan Review
E-mail from resident re grass verges and exiting Holme Road
E-mail from DDDC re call for sites (Local Plan Review)

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

14.11.24 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd January 2025.

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.