

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 January 2025 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Wray-Emma Jones, Cllr Debbie Hirstwood, Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Jackie Ligo,
Cllr Leisha Martin, 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 sent his apologies.

01.01.25 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Louise Moran and Cllr Peter Baranek. In the absence of the Parish Council Chair, Cllr Dave Mowle agreed to take the chair and Cllr Helen Keay agreed to take the Minutes.

02.01.25 Declaration of Members' Interests

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

03.01.25 Acceptance & Signing of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 20th November 2024 be accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

04.01.25 Clerk's Ongoing Matters

Wall at South End/Bus Shelter – It was reported that County Council had informed the Parish Council that there is a risk with a collapsing private wall at South End. As a result, a portion of the bus shelter has been blocked off by DCC. Heras panels have also been secured in front of the shelter to block it off.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Highway Retaining Wall Maintenance – It was reported that a contractor had now been acquired to do work to the highway retaining wall on behalf of DCC. Cllr Mowle agreed to lead on this. Concern was expressed about any damage to the activity area and it was felt that the Parish Council should undertake a survey beforehand. The fencing will need to be removed in order to access the wall and it is imperative that we agree terms. Cllr Hirstwood suggested that the contractors be given a timescale in order to put the activity area back to the status quo.

Concern was further expressed about the length of time the area could be closed for thus leading to a reduction in income.

The Clerk was asked to contact both DCC and the contractors expressing our concerns.

Clerk's Note: *Cllr Mowle has been in contact with the contractors and will meet them on site week beginning 26th January.*

Event Enquiry for Canoe Slalom – The event enquiry was circulated prior to the meeting. It was felt that matting should be put across the grass to prevent any 'churning' and ensure the padlock is closed upon competition.

05.01.25

Committees

- **Activities Committee**

Christmas – It was reported that a record number of residents had attended the 2024 event. Enquiries are being held with The Fishpond regarding the menu for the 2025 event. Details will be outlined in the coming newsletters and on our website.

Singing Round the Tree – It was reported that attendance at this event has been low for the past few years. Alternative arrangements are being explored and one choice would be to hold the event in a local public house. The event will be held on 22nd December 2025.

Art and Photography Competitions – It was reported that both competitions would be held on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October.

Remembrance – The 2024 service was again well attended. Arrangements will be the same in 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Notes of the meeting of the Activities Committee held on Monday 13th January 2024.

- **Communications Committee**

There was nothing to report.

- **Environment and Conservation Committee**

Nature Reserve – It was reported that the Clerk and Cllr Louise Moran will meet with the Biodiversity Officer and Legal from DDDC on Thursday 23rd January 2025. Councillors felt that there may be some biodiversity requirements in a new lease so any cost implications will need to be considered.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Waterloo Road Turning Area – With the increase in traffic on Waterloo Road Councillors raised concerns about parking and the potential impact it will have on the retaining wall. DCC has confirmed that there are no formal restrictions in place currently. It was agreed that in an emergency it is unlikely that vehicles would get through but this would be a Police matter. As it is beyond the Parish Council's jurisdiction, residents need to raise complaints with holiday let owners if guests are parking inappropriately.

The Clerk confirmed that DCC are looking to introduce a TRO for Waterloo Road along with Holme Road, Temple Road and at the 'gap' on Upperwood Road which was agreed in 2017.

- **Facilities Committee**

Activity Area – A storage box which will be installed in the activity area has now been sourced and will be fitted in due course.

Although the area is used by residents regularly for sports, Councillors discussed whether residents could use the area for their dogs as it is a secure area during the winter. Rules would need to be agreed and a bin would need installing together with a watering can. A nominal fee could also be agreed to bring in income to maintain the area.

Winter Lighting – It was reported that 3 of the cross rivers no longer work and Councillors agreed that they should be removed. The Clerk agreed to source three quotations and the matter will be deferred to the next full Council meeting.

- **Finance Committee**

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

Shelter Maintenance	£66.35
The Fishpond (300345) (Childrens Party)	£175.00
The Fishpond (300346) (Christmas Lunch)	£907.40
Clerk, Expenses, November	£81.38
Crow Pie Marketing	£115.00
Matlock Print	£320.00
H Keay (lights)	£18.99
Gemma Books (grant, Childrens Party)	£72.75
Clerk, Expenses, December	£59.58
HMRC	£178.18
Clerk, Salary, December	£1231.40
NEST	£151.69
Shelter Maintenance	£66.35
HMRC	£178.18
Clerk, Salary, January	£1231.40
NEST	£151.69
Crow Pie Marketing	£75.00
MDS (PA and refreshments)	£150.00

Total **£5230.34**

Additional Signatories – Cllrs Debbie Hirstwood and Wray Emma Jones signed the application form for them to be added to the bank accounts.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 20th January 2025.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

- **Planning Committee**

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

T/24/00257/TPO – Works to Trees – 228 Dale Road
24/01051/LBALT – Subdivision of Arkwright's Mill, Level 2 – Masson Mills
T/24/00265/TCA – Works to Trees – Fishpond
24/01040/FUL – Alterations to lower ground floor - Masson Cottage

In Person Planning Training – No attendees.

06.01.25

Precept for 2025/2026

Details of the budgets for all Committees together with a breakdown of costs to each Band D household, were circulated at the meeting. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to set the precept at £34,500. Although there is a slight increase from 2024/2025, more properties will be paying council tax in 2025/2026 so there will be no real term increase for residents.

07.01.25

Reports from Outside Bodies

- **Pavilion** – It was reported that there were no plans yet as to what will happen when the Mining Museum moves.
- **Derwent Valley Rail Partnership** – It was reported that passenger numbers are up but adopters are down. A replacement for the previous Community Rail Officer has been appointed.
- **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.

08.01.25

Matlock Bath Development Association CIC

The Clerk explained that the current Directors had agreed to close the CIC due to lack of interest and limited resources. However, a Community Energy Group had approached the CIC to enquire whether the company could be used as a vehicle for them to obtain grants etc. At the Directors meeting on 8th January, it was agreed to accept 2 further Directors and 2 members to the CIC. Although Andrew Pugh is an avid supporter of the Development Association, he tendered his resignation together with Chris Hipwell, who has since moved out of the area. Cllr Peter Baranek agreed to stay with the CIC as a link to the Parish Council and Garry Purdy also agreed to stay in order to offer advice.

The Community Energy Group will undertake the necessary work and investigations.

The Development Association Directors have agreed that the remaining balance in the CIC's bank account should be transferred to the Parish Council to be used only in the community. It was agreed to have a new budget head under the Finance Committee for this purpose.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

09.01.25 **Smedley Close**

Discussion took place to look at ideas as to how the area can be used. It was suggested that a fence could be erected and a secure dog exercise area could be created. A Working Group will be set up to discuss further ideas.

The Clerk reported that she had looked at lecterns which would explain the history of the land and also the family (as agreed with the family). Quotations will be available at the next meeting.

10.01.25 **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.

11.11.24 **Correspondence**

To note the following:

E-mail from DCC re community news

E-mail from PCSO – newsletter

E-mail from CAB – Energy Training Awareness

E-mail from Darley Dale Town Council – Big Green Energy Day

E-mail from resident re Jubilee Bridge lights, missing sign and cross rivers

12.01.25 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th March 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

Subject to approval at the next meeting.