

# 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 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025 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 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 and no report submitted. Councillors expressed concern regarding the non communication and non attendance of our County Councillor. Although he was still copied into communication with DCC, no response had been received. It was confirmed that the complaint made over a year ago is now been investigated. It was agreed that following the elections in May, contact be made with the new County Councillor to ensure they are aware of the issues.

## **D Report from District Council**

Cllr Nick Whitehead sent his apologies. No report was submitted.

## **01.03.25 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Debbie Hirstwood, Cllr Wray-Emma Jones and Cllr Christopher Vivian.

## **02.03.25 Declaration of Members' Interests**

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

## **03.03.25 Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the last meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 be accepted and were signed by the Chairman.

**Wall at South End/Bus Shelter** – It was reported that the County Council has passed the matter to their loss adjusters to deal with and that it may take some time to resolve. In the meantime, the Heras fencing will remain in place to protect public safety.

**Highway Retaining Wall Maintenance** – It was reported that the work on the retaining wall had stopped due to DCC requiring a new design. Concern was expressed over cost to the public with traffic lights and the contraflow whilst no work was undertaken. It was noted that social media was advising people not to come to Matlock Bath because of the traffic. This obviously could have an effect on trade. After discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to DCC to lodge a formal complaint regarding the costs involved and also the effect it is having on the village.

As a new design was being sought, Cllr Mowle reported that the contractors will need to obtain permission from the Parish Council if they intend storing further equipment on the activity area which is in excess of the agreement. The Clerk agreed to contact DCC and the contractors to relay this information.

The Clerk reported that the invoice for the survey was still outstanding with the contractors advising that they didn't agree to it. It was agreed that any cost to the Parish Council should be met by DCC/contractors and that the area will be out of use for the foreseeable future.

**Car Park Changes** – The Clerk reported that DDDC was introducing changes to its car parks charges following the recent survey. The Clerk further reported that DDDC had failed to inform the Parish Council of the outcome of the survey prior to the announced changes. DDDC has confirmed that whilst other car parks near a 'town centre' will have a 30 minutes free period, this will not apply to Matlock Bath since we do not have essential services such as a bank, chemist, post office etc.

Matlock Bath will have seasonal charging in their car parks; charges will increase by 50p per hour during April-October with a reduced fixed fee November-March.

**Pavilion Car Park** – The Clerk reported that DDDC was not intending to remark out the spaces in Pavilion Car Park. Whilst the Parish Council supported the 4 extra disabled bays, it was felt there was a loss of spaces compared to previously. With parking at a premium in the village, the Parish Council was disappointed to note the reduction in spaces and it would result in a loss of income for DDDC. It should be noted that there will be no reduction in charges for the pavilion car park as the maximum stay is 2 hours.

It was further noted that lining works around the Pavilion, however, have been completed.

**Event Enquiry for Pirate Event** – It was confirmed that Councillors had no comments to make concerning the Pirate Event application.

**Committees**

- **Activities Committee**

There was nothing to report.

- **Communications Committee**

It was noted that the next Newsletter would be delivered to all households in the village at the beginning of April.

- **Environment and Conservation Committee**

**Nature Reserve** – It was reported that work to cut the meadow area had been undertaken extremely successfully.

It was confirmed that a meeting between Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, DDDC and Parish Councillors would be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March to discuss what input DWT wish to put into the Nature Reserve. All information will be relayed to Councillors to make an informed decision regarding the lease.

**Waterloo Road Turning Area** – It was reported that no further information has been received regarding a possible breach in Planning. Furthermore, nothing has been received from DCC regarding a new TRO.

**Footpaths 10 and 11** – The Clerk reported that an Inspector will be going out to have a look at both of these footpaths. Footpath 11 is missing a sign and 10 (West Bank) is slippery due to leaves and parts of trees compacting on the footpath.

- **Facilities Committee**

**Winter Lighting** – It was reported that 4 contractors had been contacted for a quotation to remove the cross river lighting. Only one has submitted a quotation. After discussion, it was agreed to accept the quotation and this was **RESOLVED**. The Clerk reported that the checking of the remainder of the lights would be done afterwards.

**War Memorial** – The Clerk reported that an interim clean of the war memorial will cost £1,800. It was **RESOLVED** not to undertake an interim clean this year.

The Clerk agreed to contact DDDC regarding the overhanging tree in Memorial Gardens which is contributing to the 'green mould' on the memorial.

**Finger Post at Jubilee Bridge** – Cllr Baranek reported that one of the fingers which was pointing the wrong way has now been positioned correctly.

- **Finance Committee**

**Payments** – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the following payments:

|                             |          |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Shelter Maintenance         | £66.35   |
| Crow Pie Marketing          | £45.00   |
| Clerk, Off Exps, Jan 25     | £60.48   |
| Clerk, Off Exps, Feb 25     | £66.42   |
| Clerk (cones, fuel mix)     | £50.95   |
| HMRC                        | £178.18  |
| Clerk, Salary, Feb 25       | £1231.40 |
| ICO                         | £35.00   |
| GHS (hire of mower)         | £402.00  |
| NEST                        | £151.69  |
| Shelter Maintenance         | £66.35   |
| Greenhatch Group            | £540.00  |
| Clerk, petrol for equipment | £27.95   |
| N Cosgrove                  | £158.00  |
| HMRC                        | £178.18  |

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Clerk, Salary, March 25       | £1231.40        |
| NEST                          | £151.69         |
| Crow Pie Marketing            | £45.00          |
| Clerk, MBDA costs             | £105.00         |
| Clerk, leaflets               | £104.77         |
| Clerk, AVG renewal            | £109.99         |
| Clerk, Office Expenses, March | £88.68          |
| DALC Renewal                  | £325.45         |
| <b>Total</b>                  | <b>£5419.93</b> |

**Renewal of Membership for DALC** – Councillors discussed the renewal of Membership of DALC and whether the Parish Council was getting value for money. The Clerk reported that she tends to contact SLCC for most queries/issues rather than DALC. However, DALC was sometimes useful for more local issues which are reported through their newsletter. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to renew membership for 2025/2026 but the Clerk keeps a written record of the times contact is made with DALC etc.

**Appointment of Internal Auditor** – The Clerk reported that EMS had been appointed Internal Auditor for the Parish Council. Following the end of year, all paperwork will be completed, audited and then presented and signed off at the May meeting. It will then be sent to PKF Littlejohn as the External Auditors.

- **Planning Committee**

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

T 25 00021 TCA - Works to Trees - 27 Derby Road  
T 25 00011 TCA – Works to Trees – Cables B&B

To note **OBJECTION** to the following application:

25 0168 FUL – Erection of Cabin – Land to the South of The Beeches – the Committee felt there was insufficient information to make an informed decision.

**Planning Decisions** – To note the following decisions by DDDC:

24 01040 Ful – Lower Ground Floor Extension – Masson Cottage – Permitted  
T 24 00265 TCA – Works to Trees – Fishpond Pub – Permitted  
T 24 00257 TPO – 228 Dale Road – Works to Trees – 228 Dale Road – Permitted  
T 25 00011 TCA – Works to Trees – Cables B&B – Permitted  
24 01051 LBALT – Sub division of Level 2 – Masson Mills - Granted  
T 25 00021 TCA - Works to Trees - 27 Derby Road - Permitted

06.03.25

## **Reports from Outside Bodies**

**Pavilion** – Cllr Mowle reported that the Pavilion Group are applying for a Heritage grant in order to get people into the Pavilion. This will include heating. Plans are also being discussed to buy the toilet block, demolish it and rebuild it for playgroup to use. Replacement toilets will be made available inside the Pavilion which will be open to the public.

**Derwent Valley Rail Partnership** – It was reported that a DCC Community Rail Officer had now been appointed.

**Illuminations Working Group** – The first meeting of the Group was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March. It was agreed that the 2024 illuminations had been well received by the public with an estimated profit of £20,000 (which did not include revenue from the car parks). 62% of those who completed the event survey said the boats were their favourite part.

For 2025, the illuminations will be held from 11<sup>th</sup> September-26<sup>th</sup> October. It was noted that the first evening was always poorly attended and the boatbuilders were asked if the first evening could be moved on a week. The boatbuilders felt that it was not possible.

In 2025 there will be 6 fireworks evenings – every Saturday in October plus 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October. Charges will be £8 per adult for the fireworks evenings, £9.50 on the night with a new charge for children of £1.

Capacity was discussed and agreed that a core of 3,500 tickets will be available on ticket source. Providing there are no problems with Lovers Walks, release more tickets on the lead up after the first night. The next meeting to discuss the operational side for the event will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Town and Parish Council Liaison** – Nothing to report.

07.03.25

### **Travellers**

The family who were occupying Station Coach and Car Park have now moved on. It was reported that DDDC will apply to the courts for eviction should they return. It is thought that the family have had their homeless status rescinded due to them leaving the car park of their own free will. It was confirmed that Planning for Station Coach and Car Park to be a temporary tolerated site for 2 years will be submitted in due course; two other locations are being progressed first – Old Station Close, Rowsley and Matlock Station Car Park as these two locations will be needed first. It is estimated that if permission is obtained for Matlock Bath it will start if the family occupy the site around November 2025.

It was noted that the illegal travellers which were on Station Car Park recently have now left.

08.03.25

### **Closer Working Meeting**

It was reported that the last meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting discussed the following:

**Benches/Signage/Wall by Willersley Gates** – It was reported that the bench by the gates has been removed as it was covered in green mould. DDDC has confirmed that it will be replaced. The sign advising no mooring has been sawn off. DDDC Estates are aware and are sourcing a further sign.

The wall by Willersley Gates has collapsed. It is unclear currently who owns the wall.

**Blue Spruce** – It was confirmed that until a decision about using the area for markets has been decided, there was no point in replacing the Christmas Tree for a Blue Spruce as promised.

**Tree Removal** – The Parish Council asked why trees are being planted in areas which are unsuitable. Whilst we appreciate the need for DDDC to replace trees when some are felled, consideration should be given to where would be suitable. The area at Artists Corner was cleared a few years ago to allow for the views to be seen once again. It was noted that new trees have been planted in their place. Everyone agreed that it was a waste of resources to plant trees again only to have prune or fell them a few years along the line.

The Clerk referred to the new trees which have been planted on Slaters Green. After speaking with the contractors, it was confirmed that they were supposed to have been planted on the slope where the other trees had been removed. Trees have been planted either side of a bench which is used a lot; as soon as branches start growing, the bench will no longer be used. Without annual maintenance on the trees – which we understand are fruit trees – Slaters Green will become inaccessible due to dropping fruit and eye level branches. DDDC agreed to speak with the Tree Officer for clarification on why trees are being planted. It was also noted that the fence on Slaters Green has gone and is now a sheer drop.

**Toilets** – The brewery have given up the lease on the toilet building at Artists Corner. This will now be used for part business and part toilets.

**Grass Verges** – It was reported to DDDC that the “Bee Kind” signs have reappeared on lampposts which also have a traffic sign on them. It is MBPC’s understanding that no signage can be put on lampposts which have traffic directions.

**Travellers** – This was discussed at great length and how to secure the Coach Park for future travellers. At the meeting held between MBPC, DDDC and a Coach organisation representative, DDDC stated that it would be too expensive to make the current design of the coach park secure.

MBPC did ask why DDDC make it “attractive” to illegal travellers, ie why is there a tap on the toilet block. DDDC agreed to follow this up and see if the tap could be removed or turned off.

**Signage in Pavilion Car Park** – It was reported that the “No Exit” sign and the “Charges Apply” for disabled drivers needed attention. The “Charges Apply” sign has been ripped off the post. The “No Exit” sign is unreadable with problems where drivers are trying to exit through the entrance.

**Parking Enforcement** – Following discussions with DCC, MBPC felt that it was unclear as to the arrangements for parking enforcement. It was agreed that the Car Parks Manager should attend the next meeting.

**Temple Road Parking Sign** – It was raised that the sign pointing to Parking on Temple Walk was not as clear as it could be with some visitors thinking it is parking for Gullivers Kingdom and the Church. Whilst signposts were the responsibility of DCC, it was agreed to make enquiries with them to see if another sign could be erected.

**Shelter in Derwent Gardens** – DDDC asked for suggestions on what could be done with the shelter in Derwent Gardens which was demolished a few years ago when it became unsafe. A cost of £45,000 has been estimated for a re-build or the money could be used for something else.

Councillors discussed this and confirmed they wanted the funding to be spent in Matlock Bath. They felt that the money could be used on the existing bandstands and shelters in the Gardens. They further felt that a replacement modern shelter could be installed facing the playground with an information board inside outlining the history of the original shelter with photographs. Any remaining money could be used to ‘tidy up’ the Gardens.

09.03.25

### **Smedley Close**

It was confirmed that Land Registry have now completed the registration of the land.

It was reported that the family of Mr Miles, the previous owner, would supply wording for an information board which will be installed on the land.

It is hoped that a path can be strimmed allowing some clear access to the area. It was pointed out that as the land was a SSSI, England Nature would need to be informed of any work undertaken.

Cllr Helen Keay confirmed that she had written an article for the newsletter requesting volunteers to help clear the land.

10.03.25

### **Parking Enforcement**

It was reported that over the winter there had been a distinct lack of enforcement in the village. As a result, on recent warm weekends, motorcyclists were parking on the riverside pavement. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted DCC who acknowledged that they know about this problem and that from the weekend of 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March, we would be on summer hours and therefore enforcement all day each weekend and bank holidays with some enforcement during the school holidays.

The Clerk referred to an e-mail received from a resident.

It was agreed to write formally to both DDDC and DCC requesting extra patrols during the winter months especially on weekends when good weather is forecast. Councillors also asked that under the Freedom of Information Act, the number of tickets issued for either illegal parking or overstay should be requested.

11.03.25

### **Matlock Bath Development Association**

It was reported that two new Directors had been appointed with two of the existing Directors stepping down. Cllr Peter Baranek confirmed he would stay on as a Director to be the link between the Parish Council and MBDA. A meeting to discuss the future work of the Energy Group will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> April.

The Clerk confirmed that the remaining funds from the Development Association had now been transferred to the Parish Council with the agreement of the original Directors. The money will be ringfenced in the Finance Committee budget with a separate budget heading.

12.03.25

### **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.

13.03.25

### **Correspondence**

To note the following:

E-mail from DDDC regarding flood warden training

E-mails and correspondence from DCC re County Councillor

E-mail from PCSO re newsletter – circulated to Councillors

E-mail from Derbyshire Wildlife Trust re community and wellbeing hub – circulated to Councillors

E-mail from DCC re Housing Association Smoking Survey  
E-mail from residents re travellers x2  
E-mail from resident re Jubilee Bridge lights  
E-mail from resident re signage by cascades - passed to DDDC  
E-mail from DDDC re Community Safety Survey  
E-mail from Matlock Rotary re dinner  
E-mail from Immediate - Justice newsletter  
E-mail from resident re parking on pavement  
E-mail from resident re noise of motorcycles  
E-mail from DDDC re Smokefree Derbyshire  
E-mail from DCC re closure of Starkholmes  
E-mail from visitor re fish in Fishpond – passed to DDDC

E-mail from resident re tree clearance and possible accommodation – an enquiry has been sent to DDDC.

14.03.25      **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 following the Annual Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm