

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 14th May 2025 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Debbie Hirstwood, Cllr Wray-Emma Jones, Cllr Helen Keay, Cllr Jackie Ligo, Cllr Leisha Martin, 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 Representatives

There was no Police Representative present.

C Report from County Council

There was no County Councillor present.

D Report from District Council

There was no District Councillor present.

Council Meeting

01.05.25 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence

02.05.25 Declaration of Members Interest

Councillors were asked to consider the need to declare an interest in any matters on the agenda and the register was made available for them to do so.

03.05.25 Acceptance & Signing of Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2025 be approved and were signed by the Chairman.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Clerk's Report on On-going Matters

Tree Issues – The Clerk reported that the Tree Officer had responded to the queries raised over the planting of new trees on Slaters Green and at Artists Corner. The Tree Officer confirmed that 4 saplings have been planted at Slaters Green because 2 trees further down Derby Road had been taken down due to ash dieback. The restocking is required by the felling licence issued by the Forestry Commission. A response to the Tree Officer has been sent as there are actually 6 saplings on Slaters Green and not 4. It was also confirmed that the replacement policy does not include self set trees.

Regarding Artists Corner, in 2017 a project between DDDC, Matlock Civic Society and the Parish Council was undertaken to open up the vistas. Unfortunately, replacement trees have been planted which will obscure the views which were opened up. A letter from a resident was noted.

It was reported that Matlock Civic Society have been in contact with DDDC regarding Artists Corner. Matlock Civic Society have requested a meeting between DDDC, the Parish Council and themselves to discuss a way forward.

Suggestions for Grant Opportunities – It was reported that a resident had contacted the Parish Council with funding ideas for the village. Councillors discussed the ideas suggested and were in favour of some. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident to see how some could be taken forward.

Waterloo Road Turning Area – The Clerk reported that although DCC had agreed to look into the possibility of a TRO which would limit vehicles parked on Waterloo Road, no paperwork had been forthcoming despite requests for an update.

Anti-social Behaviour in Masson Mills Car Park – The Clerk reported that a resident had reported anti-social behaviour in Masson Mills Car Park. The owner has been contacted as well as PCSO Kirsty Hunt. They are currently looking at ways to try and stop this behaviour.

Relining Works, Pavilion Car Park – The Car Parks Manager at DDDC has confirmed that no further lining will be undertaken in Pavilion Car Park. The Clerk has reported to her that the information on the website is no longer accurate with a loss of around 6 parking places.

Committees

- **Activities Committee** – There was nothing further to report.
- **Communications Committee** – There was nothing further to report.
- **Environment & Conservation Committee**

Nature Reserve – It was reported that the lease for the Nature Reserve expired at the end of April. DDDC has reported that a report will go to the G&R Committee on 3rd July to approve the transfer of the freehold.

It was reported that the meeting with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, the DDDC Biodiversity Officer and the Parish Council had gone well. DWT agreed to produce a survey of the Nature Reserve and come up with a plan.

Minor Maintenance Scheme 2015/2026 – It was **RESOLVED** to participate in the Minor Maintenance Scheme for 2025/2026. The Clerk agreed to notify DCC of the paths which will be maintained.

Biodiversity on Grass Verges – It was reported that the areas for the biodiversity project, have been revised. It was noted that the residents of Woodland Terrace maintain the verges regularly. In order to regularise this, residents have asked if the Parish Council would apply for a Cultivation Licence from the County Council on their behalf. There would be no liability for the Parish Council. This was **RESOLVED**.

Heritage/Tufa Shelter – The comments received from residents concerning the future of the shelter were noted. The Clerk reported that she had contacted DDDC for confirmation as to whether the original stones have been kept but no response has been received. After discussion, it was agreed that a shelter should be built using the stones and an information board be erected giving the history of the shelter and Tufa. It was felt that the shelter should not be a replica of what was there. The Clerk agreed to pass this on to DDDC.

- **Facilities Committee**

Winter Lighting - It was reported that the cross river lighting had now been removed. All remaining lighting will be checked in due course.

- **Finance Committee**

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

P & D Specialists	£1868.22
DALC	£325.45
Matlock Print	£320.00
Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
Derbyshire Dales District Council	£10.00
HMRC	£236.79
N Cosgrove	£140.42
Clerk, Salary, April	£1231.40
Clerk, Office Expenses, April	£59.58
Derbyshire Dales District Council	£5.00
NEST	£151.69
Shelter Maintenance	£66.35
HMRC	£236.79
Clerk, Salary, May	£1231.40
NEST	£151.69
Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
Clerk, Renewal of Microsoft	£1404.99
TOTAL	£6299.77

Grant Applications – It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant to Matlock Bath Preschool Playgroup for toys. Condition of the grant is that the Parish Council will purchase the items and reclaim the VAT.

- **Planning Committee**

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

25/00305/FUL – Masson Cottage, Upperwood Road
25/00330/FUL – The Pines, Upperwood Road

Planning Decisions – To note the following decisions by DDDC:

25/00168/FUL – Land South of The Beeches – Permitted

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Enforcement Case ENF/25/00004 – It was reported that no response had been received regarding the above enforcement case.

25/00168/FUL – The Beeches – Erection of Cabin – The correspondence from the applicant was noted.

06.05.25 **Reports from Outside Bodies**

- **Pavilion** – It was reported that the Pavilion were progressing with solar panels with Big Solar. The roof will need to be strengthened and the project will need to go through planning.

The Pavilion Group are also looking at rebuilding Playgroup where the site of the old public conveniences are. It is estimated that the panels could provide energy for Playgroup and also 50% for the Pavilion.

Cllr Christopher Vivian asked if the TIC in the Mining Museum could be highlighted. Cllr Mowle replied saying that the Pav Group do not have any jurisdiction on the Mining Museum.

Cllr Mowle reported that the ATM lease was due for renewal and that the Pavilion Group are unlikely to renew it as there is no direct benefit to the Group.

- **Derwent Valley Rail Partnership** – It was reported that a new Derwent Valley Rail Partnership Community Officer had been appointed. The Annual General Meeting will be held on 4th June.
- **Illuminations Working Group** – It was reported that the second meeting of the Working Group had been held on 14th May. Unfortunately, it had not been possible for the Chair and Clerk to attend.
- **Town and Parish Council Liaison** – There was no update.

07.05.25 **Annual Governance Statement 2024/2025**

The Annual Governance Statement for 2024/2025 was approved by Councillors.

08.05.25 **Audit for 2024/2025**

The Clerk reported that the Internal Audit had been completed with no problems. It was **RESOLVED** to sign off the Annual Return which will be sent to the External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn.

09.05.25 **Smedley Close**

The Clerk presented the comments received by residents. Some residents were opposed to the area being used as an area for dogs. Councillors felt that residents had misunderstood what was being suggested and that, if agreed, it would be used for residents to walk their dogs in an enclosed area.

Cllr Helen Keay reported that two responses had been received regarding offering help to clear pathways at Smedley Close.

It was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting once the survey by DWT has been completed. DWT may be able to offer volunteers or machinery to undertake the work.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

10.05.25 **Parking Enforcement**

The Clerk reported that DCC had confirmed that there would be two Enforcers on every Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday until the end of October with some enforcement during the school holidays. Unfortunately, due to some illness there has been a lack of enforcement since the end of March. This has resulted in illegal parking including cars parking in coach bays – which in turn prevents coaches from stopping as well as motorcycles parked on riverside pavement on North Parade. The Clerk reported that she was waiting for a response from DCC and DDDC.

Councillors noted the information regarding numbers of fixed penalty notices issued on the Parades and in all car parks requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

11.05.25 **Complaints to DCC**

The Clerk reported that the outcome of the investigation into the Parish Council's complaint about the previous County Councillor had not been received. It was felt that now he was no longer our County Councillor, no feedback or action will be given.

The Clerk reported that a response to the Parish Council's complaint regarding the A6 retaining wall maintenance programme had been received on 14th May. Cllr Mowle outlined the problems surrounding the complaint and the lack of communication from DCC. No legal agreement was signed, only the access agreement.

An independent condition survey has been undertaken on the area and should there be signs of any damage to the surface of the activity area once work has been completed, another survey will be undertaken to identify where the damage is. The access agreement clearly confirms that any damage will be repaired.

Cllr Dave Mowle agreed to draft a response to the outcome of the complaint.

12.05.25 **Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Technical Consultation**

Information regarding the land availability assessment, technical consultation was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. DDDC has identified two possible areas in Matlock Bath to be used for housing; Masson Mills and the ex Colourworks site.

Councillors agreed that the Colourworks site is not appropriate due to contaminated land. Access to the site is by way of the pathway from Station Car Park which the current owner created for visitors to access the Heights of Abraham.

Both sites are in private ownership. Councillors were concerned that the lack of services – dentists and GP surgery in the village which will put more pressure on services in neighbouring areas.

The Clerk was asked to respond to DDDC and to also ask if a Housing Needs Survey has been undertaken.

13.05.25 **Matlock Bath Development Association**

Directors met on 2nd April and the Energy Group outlined their plans. They are currently looking at solar panels for the school. Directors will meet regularly with updates.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

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

There were no urgent matters.

15.05.25 **Correspondence/Publications/Information Received**

The following correspondence/Publications/Information Received were noted:

Poster re Pavilion Event

E-mail from visitor re toilets at Artists Corner

E-mail from DCC re VE Day 80 – Brew and Bake Coffee Morning

E-mail from DCC re registering birds

E-mail from DFRS re motorcycle road safety event

E-mail response from John Green (Green Party) on issues raised by the Parish Council

E-mail from member of the public re noise camera

E-mail from business re car park information on DDDC website

E-mail from resident re renewal of lease for ATM

E-mail from resident re various issues from the newsletter

16.05.25 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 9th July 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.