

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 1st October 2025 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Jackie Ligo, Cllr Leisha Martin, Cllr Louise Moran, 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

Cllr Adrian Hunter sent his apologies for not attending the meeting.

D Report from District Council

Cllr Nick Whitehead reported that the planning application for Matlock Bath Station to be a temporary tolerated traveller site will go ahead. He urged everyone to attend the Planning Committee meeting when the application will be discussed.

Nick reported that the family who were at Matlock Bath Station are on land which is jointly owned by DCC and DDDC. Although DDDC would be interested in buying out DCC, DCC **is** not currently interested.

Nick reported that he had received complaints from residents regarding the planning application to change Stone Lodge, a former B&B, into a HMO. The Chair reported that the Parish Council has objected to the application.

Nick reported that the hedge around Memorial Gardens is in need of cutting but due to the bird nesting season, it will only be done in the winter. Nick has suggested removing the hedge and replacing it with a fence which would open up and include the Parades.

Nick reported that there is no longer a budget for rebuilding the historic tufa shelter on Lovers' Walk. He feels that the money should be spent on other projects, eg repairs to the bandstand.

Nick was thanked for attending.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Council Meeting

01.10.25 **Apologies**

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

02.10.25 **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.

03.10.25 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 9th July 2025 be approved and were signed by the Chairman.

04.07.25 **Clerk's Report on On-going Matters**

Dangerous Tree – The Clerk reported that a large branch on the car park on Dale Road was hanging and the owners of Nesters were concerned about safety. It is believed that the land is owned by Platform Housing. They have been notified of the matter.

PSPO Consultation – The Clerk reported that, as there is no evidence that alcohol, fires and BBQs are a problem in Memorial Gardens, Riverside Picnic Area and Artists Corner Picnic Area, these would not be included in the PSPO. However, a ban on camping will be included.

The Clerk reported she had asked DDDC where the Pavilion Park/Play Area was. As no one seems to know, DDDC will take it out of the PSPO.

ATM – The Clerk confirmed that the Pavilion Group have agreed with Note Machine for the current machine to be replaced. It will be on the same location as currently and work will take place sometime late November to early December.

Cultivation Licence – The Clerk reported that DCC had agreed to issuing a cultivation licence to the Parish Council for the grassed area on the A6 outside Woodland Terrace. Work to keep the area tidy and the grass mown will be undertaken by the residents.

Timeline for Holy Trinity School – Cllr Jackie Ligo reported that this was ongoing and would produce a template and a quotation in due course.

Motorcycle down bank by Midland – The Clerk reported that Environmental Health had confirmed they would send officers down to retrieve the bike. To date, it is still there.

05.10.25 **Committees**

- **Activities Committee**

Art and Photography Competitions – The Clerk reported that 8 entries for Art had been received to date. 74 Entries have been received for Photography. It was agreed that with a low number of entries this year, there might not be a need for shortlisting. However, Councillors felt that in the spirit of the competition, the Committee should still view the photographs to ensure they were appropriate. The Clerk agreed to circulate a date shortly.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

It was confirmed that both competitions would be judged on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th October 2025 in the Pump Room. Between 11.00 am-4.00 pm on both days, members of the public will be invited to vote for their favourites. The Clerk confirmed she would e-mail all Councillors for volunteers to 'man the stand'

Remembrance – The Clerk agreed to circulate last year's programme to the Committee. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase a PA system to use on the day. One can be purchased for around £100 which over the years will pay for itself.

Christmas Lunch – It was **RESOLVED** to accept the costings for the Christmas Lunch at The Fishpond. A two course meal will cost £21.95 and a 3 course meal will cost £26.95. The Clerk confirmed that 32 residents had already signed up for the lunch. In order to be able to accommodate as many residents as possible, it was agreed to ask for a £5 donation per person if they would like 3 courses. Those under the age of 60 are required to pay for the meal in full.

Singing Round the Tree – It was reported that the Fishpond Choir might be interested in joining residents for this event. Cllr Louise Moran agreed to speak with the choir and report back. If the choir are not able to join residents, the format of the event will need to be changed.

- **Communications Committee** – The Chair reported that the Autumn newsletter, despite being a little late, was now printed and would be delivered by our volunteer newsletter deliverers. The Clerk was asked to pass on the Parish Council's thanks to the volunteers.

Environment & Conservation Committee

Vistas – The Chairman reported that Matlock Civic Association have agreed the work for opening up the vistas at Artists Corner. The Association has asked if the Parish Council would be able to contribute to the costs which are estimated at between £1,500-£2,500. The Clerk advised that as there is no budget for this work, it would be more appropriate for it to go through the grants system. This course of action was **RESOLVED**. The application will then be considered by the Finance Committee.

Nature Reserve – It was reported that the flay mower would be hired for a week later this month. It will be used for 3 days in the Nature Reserve and then transferred to Smedley Close for the remainder.

- **Facilities Committee**

Benches and Plaques – The Clerk reported that a request had been received for a plaque to be installed in memory of someone who loved Matlock Bath. As the plaque has already been made, it was agreed that it could be fitted to one of the picnic benches in Derwent Gardens.

The Clerk reported she was still awaiting a quotation for the fitting of the new benches on Temple Road and outside the activity area.

- **Finance Committee**

Renewal of SLCC Membership – It was **RESOLVED** to renew membership of the SLCC for 2025/2026.

External Audit/Annual Return – It was noted that the External Audit had been completed without any queries or problems.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

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

N Cosgrove	£109.89
Matlock Print	£380.00
N Cosgrove	£36.63
PKF Littlejohn	£252.00
Shelter Maintenance	£87.59
C Cresswell	£10.00
Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
HMRC	£331.82
Clerk, Salary	£1381.68
Shelter Maintenance	£87.59
NEST	£176.00
Crow Pie Marketing	£45.00
Clerk, Office Expenses, July	£59.58
Clerk, Office Expenses, August	£59.58
A6 Tree Care	£900.00
HMRC	£255.76
Clerk, Salary	£1261.53
NEST	£129.64
SLCC – renewal of membership	£190.00
Shelter Maintenance	£87.59
Matlock Print	£265.00
Clerk, office expenses	£81.51

Total **£6233.39**

Grant Applications – It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant to the Matlock Bath Bowling Club £400 towards the cost of a new mower.

- **Planning Committee**

Planning Applications – To **RESOLVE** the recommendations of no objection from the Planning Committee as follows:

T/25/00082/TCA – New Bath Hotel – Works to Trees
25/00798/FUL – 182 Dale Road – Garage Conversion
T/25/00094/TPO – 228 Dale Road – Works to Trees
T/25/00109/TCA – Upperwood House, Upperwood Road – Works to Trees
25/00830/LBALT – 158 South Parade – Replacement window & provision of escape
25/00833/FUL – 182 Dale Road – Erection of detached garage
25/00905/FUL – 158 South Parade – Replacement window & provision of escape
T/25/00130/TCA – Castle View, Temple Road – Works to Trees

To note and **RESOLVE** to accept the recommendation of Objection as follows:

25/00854/FUL – 180 Dale Road, Conversion of Bed & Breakfast into HMO

Planning Decisions – To note the following decisions by DDDC:

25/00330/FUL – The Pines, Upperwood Road – Granted with conditions

Enforcement Case ENF/25/00004 – It was reported that despite contacting the DDDC Enforcement Officer, no response had been received.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

Princess Victoria – The Clerk reported that the new owners of the PV would be submitting a planning application shortly and have invited the Parish Council to have a look round and to see what they intend to do. The Clerk agreed to circulate a date in due course.

06.10.25 **Reports from Outside Bodies**

Pavilion – There was no report.

Derwent Valley Rail Partnership – There was no report.

Illuminations Working Group – It was reported that the road closure signs, which DDDC had agreed to leave for residents to put out during the September illuminations, did not materialise. There was nothing further to report.

Town and Parish Council Liaison – There was nothing to report.

07.10.25 **Smedley Close**

Fallen Tree Branch – It was reported that a large tree branch had fallen from the Ash tree at Smedley Close and damaged the wall/fence of residents as well as blocking the footpath. The large branch has been removed. It was reported that a quotation to rebuild the wall had been received. As the quotation is high, the Clerk reported that she had approached two other companies for a quotation. These will be presented to Council when available.

Permission for Clearing from Natural England – It was reported that permission had been granted from Natural England to clear an area in Smedley Close.

08.10.25 **Parking**

It was reported that during the summer there had been problems with visitors parking on the A6 (riverside) from Memorial Gardens to Jubilee Bridge as well as outside the Fishpond up to the corner of Temple Road. The Clerk reported that DCC had responded to say that as the vehicles were mainly displaying a blue badge, Enforcers could take no action. The Clerk agreed to write to DCC formally as vehicles were parking on the pavement and were causing an obstruction which contravenes the rules of blue badge scheme.

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

Councillors discussed the suggestion by Cllr Nick Whitehead to request that the hedge at Memorial Gardens is removed and replaced with a small fence to open up the area. Councillors felt this should be discussed at a future meeting when all Councillors are present.

Councillors discussed the issue of the Tufa Shelter raised by Cllr Nick Whitehead. Nick reported that the money to rebuild this structure is no longer ringfenced and will be spent elsewhere. Councillors were disappointed as the Parish Council had been asked for their opinion regarding the rebuilding of the structure by DDDC. The Parish Council also consulted with residents regarding this and as a result, it was agreed that the shelter should be rebuilt. It is understood that as it is listed, an application to delist it would be rejected. The Clerk agreed to contact the Estates Manager for clarification on the current situation.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.

10.10.25 **Correspondence/Publications/Information Received**

The following were noted:

Letter from Churches Together

Complaint from visitor regarding lack of parking for camper vans – passed to DDDC.

Complaint from Cromford resident regarding fireworks evenings

E-mail from DVRP re changes to times of trains.

11.10.25 **Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 26th November 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Subject to approval at the next meeting.