

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 25th March 2026 at the New Bath Hotel at 7.00 pm

Present: Cllr Peter Baranek (Chairman), Cllr Debbie Hirstwood, Cllr Leisha Martin, Cllr Dave Mowle, 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 Council representative present.

D Report from District Council

Cllr Nick Whitehead reported that he had received an e-mail from a resident regarding the noise and parking over the weekend of 21st and 22nd March. Regarding the noise, he had spoken with Environmental Health but they need to witness the readings. He agreed to go back to Environmental Health.

Cllr Baranek reported that the Parish Council was pushing for a meeting between all agencies to try and tackle the problem of illegal parking. Cllr Whitehead agreed to be involved in the meeting.

Council Meeting

01.03.26 **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jackie Ligo, Cllr Christopher Vivian, Cllr Wray-Emma Jones and Cllr Helen Keay.

02.03.26 **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.

03.03.26 **Acceptance & Signing of Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2026 be approved and were signed by the Chairman.

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

Grit Bins – The Clerk reported that a number of bins had been reported for refilling but none had been done. Despite contacting DCC, no action has been taken. This has been escalated to our County Councillor.

Event Enquiry – The event enquiry for the Matlock Canoe Slalom was circulated prior to the meeting. The only comment received was that vehicles are not parked on the grassed area unless there is a mat down.

Matlock Town of Culture – The Clerk reported that a Councillor from Matlock Town Council had contacted her regarding the Town of Culture project. It was their intention to submit an application but wanted input and support from neighbouring villages. More information will be known in due course.

Replacement Blue Spruce – The Clerk confirmed that the replacement Blue Spruce will be planted by DDDC in due course.

Noise & Parking Problems – The Clerk reported that a number of residents had complained about the noise and parking problems over the weekend of 21st and 22nd March. Concern was strongly expressed over pedestrian safety after motorbikes were parked on the riverside and the business side of the A6. It was reported on Tik Tok that groups were encouraging motorcyclists to come to Matlock Bath and “make as much noise as possible”. The Clerk reported that she had contacted Cllr Adrian Hunter, County Councillor, to insist that a meeting is held between the different agencies to try and tackle pavement parking/obstructions on the A6. It was noted that Enforcement Officers were not ticketing bikers contravening laws by mounting the kerb and parking on the pavement. In addition, a resident who had parked on the A6 could not remove his car as he was blocked in by motorcyclists. The resident received a ticket but the motorcyclists not. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to the Enforcers at the weekend who were concerned about their safety after receiving “threats”. The Clerk further reported that she had contacted the Safer Neighbourhood Team of the Police.

Although not trading, an ice cream van was seen parked on the riverside pavement.

- **Activities Committee**

Art & Photography Competitions – It was reported that both competitions were now open and would close on 10th October. Work will be displayed in the Pump Room over the weekend of 24th and 25th October.

Remembrance – It was reported that the ceremony will be the same format as in 2025.

Singing Round the Tree – It was reported that the format of this event will follow as in 2025. Cllr Leisha Martin agreed to speak with Rose Cottage regarding providing refreshments again.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Notes of the Activities Committee meeting held on Wednesday 18th March 2026.

- **Communications Committee** – It was reported that the Spring Newsletter would be delivered shortly.

- **Environment & Conservation Committee**

Trees at Artists Corner – It was reported that Matlock Civic Association had advised that the tree clearing work to open up the views of High Tor from Artists Corner had been rescheduled for October. This was due to the wet weather.

Nature Reserve – It was reported that a new machine would be needed to clear the meadow in the Nature Reserve. This equipment will replace the hiring of the flail mower. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase the equipment.

Cllr Mowle raised the question about the allen scythe which the Parish Council had. It was reported that this no longer worked and hadn't done so for some years. It was serviced in 2013 and then we were advised it required new parts. Cllr Mowle agreed to transport it to the repairers to see if it could be mended.

- **Facilities Committee**

Benches – It was reported that no acknowledgement had been received from DCC regarding permission to site a bench on the Highway at Temple Road. No response either had been received from DDDC for permission to site a bench outside the Activity Area. Both have been followed up.

Activity Area – It was reported that the storage box and bin will be installed in the activity area as soon as possible.

- **Finance Committee**

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

Shelter Maintenance	£87.59
Crow Pie Marketing	£75.00
Companies House (for MBDA)	£50.00
HMRC	£255.76
Clerk, Salary, February	£1261.50
Shelter Maintenance	£87.59
NEST	£156.54
ICO	£47.00
Companies House (for MBDA)	£15.00
Russells	£132.66
Clerk, Office Expenses, February	£65.91
Crow Pie Marketing	£125.00
HMRC	£255.76
Clerk, Salary, March	£1261.50
NEST	£156.54
Clerk, AVG Renew	£109.99
Matlock Print	£320.00
Total	£4463.29

Membership of DALC – The Clerk reported that the renewal for membership of DALC had been received. Councillors discussed the benefits of membership and felt that the service provided did not justify the cost. The Clerk reported that only local information was beneficial as all other information was available through SLCC. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** not to renew this year. Should the situation change, it was agreed to “sign up”.

IT Policy – In light of new legislation for Insertion 10, it was **RESOLVED** to adopt the IT Policy circulated.

Appointment of Internal Auditor – The Clerk reported that East Midlands Audit Services will be the Internal Auditor again this year. It was agreed that they offer a great service at a competitive price.

- **Planning Committee**

Planning Applications – The recommendations from the Planning Committee to the following applications were noted.

26 00088 LBALT – Masson Mills – Remove Defunct Gas Heater – No objection
 T 26 00033 TCA – Tor Hill, 204 Dale Road – Works to Trees – No objection
 T 26 00039 TCA – Hawthorn Cottage, West Bank – Works to Trees – No objection

Planning Decisions – To note the following decisions by DDDC:

T 25 00188 TCA – 186 Dale Road – Works to Trees – Permitted
 25 00854/FUL – Stone Lodge, 180 Dale Road – Conversion to HMO – Granted

Planning Breaches – It was reported that a possible planning breach had been submitted to DDDC. No response had yet been received.

It was reported that there was concern with a property on Holme Road which was being renovated into a HMO. The Clerk reported that she had spoken with DDDC who were following this up as to whether planning permission was required.

06.03.26 **Reports from Outside Bodies**

Pavilion – It was reported that the Energy Group were applying for funding to use the thermal water to heat the Church, School and the Pavilion.

Derwent Valley Rail Partnership – There was nothing to report.

Illuminations Working Group – A short report on the last meeting was circulated to Councillors. It was reported that a significant profit had been made from the 2025 event as none of the evenings had been cancelled. The Events Team at DDDC had reported they wanted to give something back to Matlock Bath residents in view of the disruption during its run. The Clerk reported that a new piece of equipment would be installed in the play area in the Water Gardens. Councillors were concerned that a brightly coloured piece of equipment would not fit in with a Grade II listed park and asked if something more “traditional” could be sourced instead. The Clerk reported swings not required in Matlock would be installed in the play area as well. Although Councillors welcomed the chance to feedback any suggestions, they felt that it should be around the residential areas. With a low number of children in the village, it was felt that visitors would benefit more from the new play equipment more so than residents. More planters would be welcome.

As the Parish Council was trying to clear Smedley Close, it was suggested that perhaps a contribution to that could be made.

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

07.03.26 **Smedley Close**

It was suggested that work should start in the autumn as currently English Nature would not give permission as it is birdnesting season.

08.03.26 **Station Adoption**

It was reported that on 3rd June there would be a Community Day at the station. This will involve employees of Siemens helping the adopters plant up for the summer and repainting

09.03.26 **Closer Working Meeting**

There were no updates from the last meeting.

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

There were no urgent matters.

11.03.26 **Correspondence/Publications/Information Received**

To note correspondence received as follows:

E-mail from DCC re bus services – transferred to the East Midlands Combined Authority (EMCCA)

E-mail from visitor re offensive shop display – forwarded to business owner

E-mail from Amber Valley Borough – re Local Plan

E-mail from Woodland Trust re free tree saplings

E-mail from DDDC re timetable for submitting revised Local Plan to Government

E-mail from residents regarding noise and chaos over the weekend x3

12.03.26

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May 2026 (Annual Meeting and Full Council).

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm