



Matlock

TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor 2025-2026 – Councillor Marilyn Franks
Town Clerk – Simon Hosmer

**Minutes of a meeting of the Environment Committee of Matlock Town Council
held on Tuesday 17 June 2025 at 6:00pm in the Riber Room of the Imperial Rooms,
Matlock**

Present: In the chair: Cllr David Hughes (DH)
Councillors: Cllr Len Best (LB), Cllr Pat Wildgoose
In attendance: Simon Hosmer, Town Clerk (SH)

Meeting begins at 18:00

ENVC 114/2025 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

*Cllr Diane Fletcher – Personal matter
Cllr Sue Burfoot – Other meeting*

**ENVC 115/2025 VARIATION OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND DECLARATION OF
INTERESTS**

None received

ENVC 116/2025 REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

None received

**ENVC 117/2025 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC, POLICE,
COUNTY COUNCIL OR DISTRICT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

No members of the public were present

ENVC 118/2025 MINUTES

Minutes of the **3 February 2025 & 7 April 2025**

SH: Cllr Wildgoose and Cllr Best were both here for the 3rd February meeting but not for the 7th April so we will have to hold that over until next time.

Proposed: Cllr Pat Wildgoose, seconded Cllr Len Best

Resolution: To approve the minutes of the 3 February 2025

Agreed (*with Cllr Hughes abstaining*)

DH: This looks very interesting.

SH: This is very much an initial look.

DH: What do you need us to do?

SH: We want to discuss if we are still going fully 100% electric or if we should consider a newer, better hybrid this time. David from the outdoor team and I will be test driving fully electric vehicles and I will report back on that at the next meeting. I know he isn't keen on fully electric right now but a test drive may well change all that. I have included some pricing here. An electric vehicle is pretty much the same as we have been paying for the lease and obviously no fuel costs on top of that.

DH: The mileage on this quote seems low. Only 6000?

SH: The RFO has gone back through the paperwork and we have concluded that we probably only need 4500 per year which is what we have been using so far.

DH: 48 months?

SH: If we go fully electric we may want to do less as the technology could move on quite quickly. It's possible to swap vehicles within this contract as long as you fulfil the lease time with the lease company.

DH: My feeling is we should go fully electric as we are looking to be net zero by 2030. The running costs are much lower.

SH: They are and we can have a free charger installed here. We should have that near where the van is now.

DH: Will that use renewable electricity?

SH: Yes, as per policy.

DH: And on a charge? Does that do 200 miles per charge?

SH: Yes and more.

LB: What is RFL?

DH: Road Fund Licence.

SH: Yes, you have to pay that on electric as of last year.

LB: And they will install free?

SH: Yes if we move to a new supplier. As we already have the electric for the lampposts then it will be relatively easy to install. We will be checking with several suppliers.

Proposed: Cllr David Hughes, seconded Cllr Len Best

Resolution: To accept the report

Agreed unanimously

SH: I have been to the solicitors a couple of times about this in the past few weeks. There were a number of issues that the District Council (DDDC) wanted to resolve before they handed over the land to us and after all this time they then decided that whatever issues remained they would hand over anyway as long as we were happy with them. This includes a house that was built and the corners of the kitchen and dining room actually ended up outside of their boundary on DDDC land. This has been resolved and the land given to the gentleman. There was also an issue with the village hall where they had built an extension without planning permission but has now been given retrospectively. The issue of access will be us giving them access across our land, not the

other way around. There is also a second access issue where two houses have access to the other entrance and this is yet to be resolved as one of the house owners have not responded to DDDC. The risk therefore is that the neighbours may dispute each other's access.

DH: We can supply them with access?

SH: Yes indeed. From time to time the gas company will need access to a hatch for servicing. Finally the playground on site would need a decision making once we have the land as currently DDDC have a policy of not replacing play equipment. We could do that or we could look to replace things as they get broken and/or old. We may be able to get a grant for such things and the outdoor team, Mike and I will all need to take a training course on children's play equipment inspection and we will need an outside inspection of the equipment once a year which will carry a small cost.

LB: Does it get used much?

SH: The survey that the Town Council had done a few years ago suggested it does get used a lot, yes.

DH: One idea was a community orchard and also a wildflower meadow. We would need to decide on these things once the legal transfer goes through. Allotments were not wanted according to the survey.

Proposed: Cllr David Hughes, seconded Cllr Pat Wildgoose

Resolution: To accept the report

Agreed unanimously

ENVC 121/2025 IMPERIAL ROOMS KITCHEN WATER BOILER UPDATE

SH: on top of that which you can see on the report the cost of electric to heat the water will also be a saving on what we have now.

DH: Does it need additional space?

SH: Only under the counter, the tap itself will look basically the same.

DH: I am happy for you to decide Simon which company we use but I definitely think we should get the instant boiling water tap.

PW: Quettle seem more expensive.

SH: There is a lower price but that is on a rental basis.

PW: There is little point in that.

Proposed: Cllr Pat Wildgoose, seconded Cllr David Hughes

Resolution: To ask the Clerk to see if any discount is available if we promote the installing company and to delegate power to the Clerk for a final decision on purchase

Agreed unanimously

ENVC122/2025 WELLINGTON STREET REPORT

SH: I would add to this that I have subsequently heard back from the lady asking for the land who has, in turn, heard back from her solicitor and the plot thickens somewhat. The picture you have there shows us that the land registry has us down as owners of the lady's pantry.

DH: As just a land registry record it may be wrong.

SH: I have come across a few errors at the land registry before.

DH: That wall has a major crack in it.

PW: I like her reasoning. It's set out very well.

DH: She may not get permission to park a car there. There are also rules about reversing onto the public highway.

SH: The kerb would need to be dropped.

LB: Reversing would be awful.

SH: Removing the wall would improve visibility but as an experienced driver the thing I like the least is reversing downhill. We don't use the area much, Dave and his team tidy it up regularly but the noticeboard doesn't get updated unless I do it as it's too far for Colin to walk to when he does the ones in town.

DH: I never see anyone using the seat.

SH: We should put meeting notices up in there really.

DH: I think these little areas in towns and villages are quirky and give character. I would rather retain it. The neighbours will probably say no too. Highways will be problematic. I think even if we sold it to her she wouldn't be able to do what she wants anyway.

LB: So we may sell it but it's her gamble that she gets permission for what she wants from planning?

SH: Exactly. I have told her my experience is that we don't sell land as a rule.

Proposed: Cllr David Hughes, seconded Cllr Len Best

Resolution: To ask the Clerk to write to the person in question and refuse the request for the sale of land due to the Council's desire to ensure the rich tapestry of the Dales is preserved

Agreed unanimously

ENVC123/2025

COUNCIL PUBLICITY: Website, Social Media, Newsletters and news releases

DH: I think we should pass on our thanks to Groundworks and the Denefield rangers. Can that be on our Social Media?

SH: Of course.

Meeting ends 18:55



Simon Hosmer
Town Clerk

CHAIRMAN:

DATED: