



**West Monkton Parish Council**



**2019/20 ANNUAL REPORT**



## A few words from the Chairman 2019/20

**Cllr Stuart Haskins - Chairman**

[stuart.haskins@westmonkton.net](mailto:stuart.haskins@westmonkton.net)

When I sat down to reflect on 2019/20 in preparation to write this report, I was really shocked at the result of a simple calculation I had made into how many hours of their time my fellow Councillor's had given in 2019/20. And so, I would like to start by personally thanking all of the West Monkton Parish Councillors and the Clerks for the excellent work and the contributions they have made to the Parish in 2019/20. It really has been an exceptionally busy year.

The past 12 months have seen the Parish Council (PC) undertaking a number of "Parish Projects" which in the main have been funded by our share of the Community Infrastructure Levy. The Levy or CIL as it is more commonly known, is generated by the housing developments in our Parish such as the Monkton Heathfield Phase 1 development and the ongoing Hartnells Farm development. There are strict guidelines on what the CIL funds can be spent on and by when the money must be spent. The PC has therefore created a "123" list of community projects some of which we have already delivered and others we will be delivering in 2020 and beyond. Some of these Projects will have or will involve hard infrastructure items adding to the list of Parish assets whilst other initiatives involve services and facilities in the community. If you wish to add an idea to the 123 list please email the Parish Clerk or come along to a PC meeting.

Number 1 on our list for last year was the linking of the old and new parts of the Parish over Dyers Brook. To do this required the building of a new bridge for bicycles and pedestrians. This project, whilst appearing to be simple at first, required the PC liaising with numerous authorities and bodies and obtaining various permissions and licences. It is in these circumstances, behind the scenes, that our Clerks really do "earn their keep" as the saying goes, providing valuable support and guidance to the Parish Councillors.

Another initiative for last year was funding a one-off distribution of a hard copy of the Village News to every household in the Parish. Our thinking behind this was to

promote the uptake of online subscribers and thereby reduce the requirement for resource hungry paper copies. Unfortunately the take up was not as well received as we had hoped which means there are still a large number of households in the Parish who do not yet benefit from this very well produced and informative magazine. However alongside this Amy, our Parish Clerk, has produced an updated version of our very successful Welcome Pack in which she has broadened its content to cover information about the PC, local bus services, footpaths, schools / education provision, other local services and information about the Village News and so via this new Parishioners are being made aware of local services and businesses.

The addition of new and upkeep of existing Parish assets has continued and progressed well with the completion of the finger post sign refurbishment project and the addition of some new ones by our Village Lengthsman, Mr Shaun Roles and a Local Civils Contractor.

Later this year you will see the installation of new Village signs to further enhance our parish. These have recently arrived from the foundry and will be pleasantly in keeping with the tone and character of the Parish.

Just in time for the recent wet spell two new bus shelters were installed outside the Garden Centre on the A3259 and later this year will see another two installed on Bridgwater Road, near the bus gate, to further enhance facilities for those choosing to use public transport.

Another major expenditure funded from CIL monies this year was the purchase of a Mower and Flail together with operator training. It was felt by the PC that with the ever-increasing areas of public open space in the Parish together with the hopefully soon to be acquired Maidenbrook Country Park (MCP), this will be a valuable and useful asset to have for the future.

**Amy Shepherd - Clerk**

[clerk@westmonkton.net](mailto:clerk@westmonkton.net)

This report marks the end of my first year fulfilling the role of Clerk, having swapped roles with Tricia on 1st April 2019. I have thoroughly enjoyed the



first year in the role but welcome the invaluable support of Tricia as I continue to 'find my feet' and try to do the role justice.

The overall role of the Clerk is to ensure the smooth and lawful running of the Council and to advise Councillors accordingly. The Councillors' Code of Conduct, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders are revised, reissued and adopted every year at the Annual Meeting of the PC (equivalent to its AGM) in May. The Register of Councillors' Disclosable Interests is filed and maintained at Somerset West and Taunton Council (SWT). Councillors can apply for 'Dispensation' if Disclosable Interest would otherwise prevent them from speaking or voting.

The Parish Council meets in Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH) on the second Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm. The public are always very welcome, and they can speak in Public Question time. A more informal opportunity to express your views is at the Parish Surgery on the second Thursday of the month at the BACH between 8.30 am and 9.30 am. This is a drop-in meeting, and coffee and tea is served. You will be able to talk to Clerks, Parish, District and County Councillors. Sometimes members of the developer's consortium attend. This provides the opportunity for the public to raise issues and gives the Parish Council valuable feedback from the community.

The PC uses both the website ([www.westmonkton.net](http://www.westmonkton.net)) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/westmonktonparishcouncil/>) as key communication tools that enable the PC to engage more effectively with the community. All agendas and minutes from PC meetings are available on the website.

BACH has had another successful year, the purpose-built community facility offers the means to reinforce the growing community of Brittons Ash/Bathpool and to integrate those newly arrived with the residents who have lived in the area for longer. The BACH now has a number of regular weekly bookings and continues to be used for group meetings, activities, and private functions. The PC has also made a number of improvements to the BACH this year including; installing a hearing loop in the Activity Hall, air conditioning in the Committee Room and installing a projector and screen and sound system in the Committee Room. If you would

like further information about booking the BACH, please contact the Bookings Officer, Maggie ([bachbookings@westmonkton.net](mailto:bachbookings@westmonkton.net))

The Spital Allotments continue to be managed by the PC. The allotments are popular and in full use, however, the PC holds a waiting list so if you are interested in having an allotment, please get in touch and your details will be added.

In addition to the on-going management of the PC assets and servicing the meetings of the PC, there have also been a number of projects that have started or continued during 2019/20. These include:

1. New Parish Welcome Packs – as the Chair mentioned above, new Welcome Packs are available. If you are new to the Parish and would like a copy please send me an email ([clerk@westmonkton.net](mailto:clerk@westmonkton.net))

2. New signs for the Parish – as the Chair mentioned above, five new signs have been commissioned by the PC for erection around the Parish. The signs are cast iron and have been designed so that they are in-keeping with the Parish. Following receipt of the necessary permissions and licences, the signs were ordered and have been delivered and will be put in place over the coming weeks / months.

3. Monkton Heathfield Phase 1 (MH1) – Public Open Spaces – negotiations have been taking place throughout the year with the developers about the handover of the Public Open Space in MH1 to the Parish Council to manage following their completion. If the negotiations are successful, the PC will fill the role of the Management Company to maintain the public open spaces for the community.

4. Monkton Heathfield Phase 2 (MH2) – Concept Plan – the PC has been liaising the best that it can with SWT Council and the developers about the proposed plans for MH2. The PC has also created a Joint Parish Panel with Creech St Michael PC to feed into the proposals as much as possible because most of the development proposed in MH2 falls within the parish of Creech St Michael. Many of you will be aware that an initial draft concept plan for MH2 was published in February. The PC is trying its best to engage with SWT and the developers to shape this plan before it is finally approved to ensure that the needs and wishes of the local community are reflected in it. This work will continue into 2020/21.

5. 5G Precautionary Principle – In November 2019, the PC alongside others in Somerset and nationally invoked the precautionary principle in respect of 5G deciding that; ‘West Monkton Parish Council has a social responsibility to protect the public and environment from exposure to harm from 5G wireless radiation. Until there is consensus amongst independent scientific advisory groups that 5G radiation does not pose threat of harm to humans, animals and plants, WMPC invokes the Precautionary Principle and does not endorse the rollout of 5G in the Parish’.

6. Hartnells Farm Development – the Hartnells Farm development has proceeded at pace this year, the reserved matters planning application in respect of the next phase is currently being considered by SWT Council.

7. Western Relief Road (WRR) Construction – the construction of the WRR is now underway following some delays. The road is expected to be completed by August 2021.

the new estate come under a different arrangement until the site is adopted.

There is more detail in the Finance Report.

The Planning Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month and members of the public are welcome to attend and speak. Since 1st April 2019 to time of writing (5/3/2020) 54 planning applications have been considered by the West Monkton PC Planning Committee; and numerous consultations completed. The submitted comments can viewed on SWT website under the application registration number. As well as consideration of planning applications, various projects needing longer discussion than can be afforded at Main PC are aired at Planning Committee. It makes for useful debate as the PC plans the way forward. Ideas emanating from the Planning Committee are brought to Main Council for approval.

You can see comments and reports submitted for a planning application by using the application number on SWT website – ‘Find a planning application’. If you aren’t certain of the number, you can use the search facility, or get in touch with me, [assistantclerk2@westmonkton.net](mailto:assistantclerk2@westmonkton.net) and I’ll be happy to try to assist you.

The PC has benefited from enhanced CIL payments because the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is in place; so, for every dwelling on which CIL is paid by the developers to SWT, the PC receives 25%. Without the NP this figure would be just 15% and would be capped. The CIL funds have to be spent on capital investments that benefit the Parish: so far you will have seen Dyers Brook Bridge installed; the installation and improvement of the pavement between Croft Garage and Sylvan Way to make the pedestrian route safer; and some road edge restoration. The Clerk and I are sharing the delivery of other CIL projects. Amy has overseen some extra village signage, the signs have been delivered and will be installed very soon: and she has initiated an enquiry into improved signage for Dyers Lane cycle route. I am costing out Bus Shelters for the Bridgwater Road and some more outdoor gym equipment. Other ideas are under consideration, but if you have an idea that fits the criteria, please share it with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, or any Councillor.

The largest potential investment of CIL will be in the purchase, jointly with Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council of the Maidenbrook Country Park (MCP). Unfortunately,

#### **Tricia Cavill - Assistant Clerk**

[assistantclerk2@westmonkton.net](mailto:assistantclerk2@westmonkton.net)

As I reported at last year’s Annual Parish Meeting, this year I have concentrated on Finance, Planning, MCP and Neighbourhood Planning.



In my role as Responsible Financial Officer, the accounts of the PC are kept up to date; paying for goods and services, maintaining the payroll, pensions and HMRC, obtaining quotes, monitoring the budget, ensuring that adequate insurance is in place for the Council, its employees and its assets. In preparing the Budget and Precept for the year ahead, the services that District and County Council can deliver are taken into account, to identify the services the PC needs to deliver reflecting the needs generated by ongoing and increasing growth of the Parish; and the Council’s desire to maintain all of the Parish as a safe and pleasant place to live and work. A significant line on the budget is the emptying of the dog waste bins – currently £5.03 per bin per empty. The PC has 9 bins which are emptied twice a week, 52 weeks per year. Please use the bins and do not allow your dogs to foul the pavement. The bins on

progress has stalled on this project due to a change of priorities at SWT, who currently own the land. As you may know the planting of the Somerset Wood was started in MCP in 2019, with the intention of expanding beyond the MCP boundaries to accommodate the 11,200-plus trees needed to represent each of the fallen in World War One (WW1). It has been disappointing to turn away volunteers who, having enjoyed last year's planting season of the Somerset Wood, offered their services again for this year; but for reasons beyond our control it has not been possible to do any planting this year. We are working very hard with SWT and Somerset County Council (SCC) to find a solution.

The NP is two years old and government policy indicates that a review should be undertaken. Our grateful thanks to everyone who returned their responses to the questionnaire despatched to every dwelling in Cheddon Fitzpaine and West Monkton in October 2019. We hope everyone found the contents of the survey interesting. The analysis of the responses threw up some interesting ideas, and the year ahead will see the survey and audit of all play areas in the two parishes, an audit of all seats in public open spaces including the identification of sites where seating is needed. We are happy to accept donations of seats and benches, and offers to help complete the audit. The idea is to use the information gathered to produce a map/guide to play areas and open spaces in the two Parishes which can be distributed to all residents.

The NP policies have been reviewed in light of your responses to the survey, and we have also taken into account the declaration by the Parishes of a Climate and Ecological Emergency, plus the emerging policies of SWT and Taunton's Garden Town status. We are currently informally consulting on the suggested amendments to the NP policies. If you or your interest group/organisation wish to comment on the suggested revisions of the NP policies, please contact either Tricia Cavill on [assistantclerk2@westmonkton.net](mailto:assistantclerk2@westmonkton.net) or Jo Pearson on [cheddon@live.co.uk](mailto:cheddon@live.co.uk)

**Alan Hall – Vice Chair of the Parish Council and Maidenbrook Country Park**

[alanhall@westmonkton.net](mailto:alanhall@westmonkton.net)



Following on from my initiation into the world of local government, I have been working on the design and project management of the proposed 30 acres of MCP and we are at the stage of applying for outline planning permission. Alongside this is the Somerset Wood, where we have already planted 2,000 trees for the fallen of WW1 from Somerset for which I also Project manage on your behalf and SCC, 12,000 still to go. I have started working towards the possibility of the proposed new sports fields being delivered by the PC to enable the completion of this long-awaited facility for our community.



**Barry Gage – BACH and Public Rights of Way / Footpaths**

[barrygage@westmonkton.net](mailto:barrygage@westmonkton.net)

As in past years my responsibilities have remained Public Rights of Way and Chairman of the BACH.

SCC are now (due to budget restrictions) asking landowners to take responsibility for stiles and gates on their property, this can mean replacing or repairing broken furniture at the landowners expense. This has always been the case in law, but in more prosperous times SCC has been able to shoulder this cost.

The BACH continues to grow in popularity and augments the valued services offered by the West Monkton Village Hall. We have added a sound system, projector and screen to the activity hall which has proved very popular for children's parties and the showing of films.

I attended a Climate Change seminar given by SCC during 2019 and as a result of the information given at the event your PC declared a Climate Emergency. Please let me know of any way you believe the PC could make a difference to this climate emergency.

I am also a member of the following committees.

**Joint Parish Panel** (West Monkton/Creech St. Michael PCs). This Panel is helping to shape the future housing

development/road layout of MH2 and Land South of Langaller Farm.

**Public Open Space** This committee is exploring the possibility of adopting the open space associated with MH1 and providing rugby and cricket pitches for the younger members of the parish and surrounding area. It has been determined there is an urgent need for junior rugby pitches and as many of you will know the pitches at Taunton Rugby suffer from water problems. The PC together with SWT hope to address this issue in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers who help with the Public Rights of Way, BACH and litter picking.



**Hazel Ellis**

[hazelellis@westmonkton.net](mailto:hazelellis@westmonkton.net)

I have been a Parish Councillor for 31 years and have lived in the Parish for almost 50 years.

I am the Councils representative for the Spital Trust Almshouses. The

Almshouses are occupied by 4 older ladies who have a connection within the Parish.

I am also on the BACH Management Committee.

In my private life I run a Rainbow Guide Unit, which although based in Ruishton, also covers West Monkton, Monkton Heathfield, Creech St Michael and the surrounding areas.

### **Mark Besley – Highways**

[markbesley@westmonkton.net](mailto:markbesley@westmonkton.net)

Over the past year the PC has engaged in considerable dialogue with SCC and SWT regarding current and future highways issues in the parish, it has been rather frustrating at times when this work has not affected highways design. SWT released a plan regarding MH2 recently and it was disappointing to see the proposed pedestrianisation of the road between the Langaller and A38 roundabouts despite our concerns being made very clear previously to the council.



Creech St Michael and WM PCs have worked together to produce an MH2 'best highways option' plan; a site meeting to present this to SCC and SWT will be held. In order to reduce traffic problems for MH2 (at least a 10-year project) it is important that the Eastern Relief Road is completed prior to the main development starting.

Concerns still exist regarding traffic flows around the parish due to the effects of the proposed bus gate on the A3259. The Parish Council has the assurance of SCC highways dept. that no bus gate will be installed until the WRR is complete – this can only be finished after improvements to the Creech Castle junction are made and so could be 18 months away. The requirement for a bus gate on the A3259 could be made redundant if the A38 is 'buses only' above Monkton Elm.

If you have any highways concerns please let me know on [markbesley@westmonkton.net](mailto:markbesley@westmonkton.net) and I will continue to do my best to report them to the relevant authorities.

### **Geoff Hope – Public Open Spaces, Recreation and Children's Play Areas**

[geoffhope@westmonkton.net](mailto:geoffhope@westmonkton.net)

Since moving to Taunton in July 2018 my wife and I have enjoyed living in and exploring this area and all it has to offer, especially being 'in touch' with coastlines to the north and south. This is in delightful contrast to our previous home in Warwickshire where we were within five miles of the 'centre' of England as defined by access to any coast on the compass!

Three of our 4 children live within a distance of a couple of hours from the Parish so it's a pleasure to be able see our grandchildren on a regular basis as they grow and develop.

When we moved to Bathpool we decided we would make a conscious effort to become a part of the community, participate in local events and clubs and enjoy the wonderful scenery and facilities Somerset has to offer. We also wanted to 'give' what talents we have to the community, and in April 2019 I candidated for the PC and was fortunate enough to be elected as a Parish Councillor.



I took up my role in May 2019 and I am the member responsible for the Public Open Spaces, Children's Play Areas and Public Recreation Areas of Monkton Heathfield 1 and the existing developments within the Parish. My first task was to establish contact with the Persimmon representatives who were responsible for ensuring all planning conditions for these areas had been met before the PC were prepared to adopt them under the Section 106 planning agreement. The unfortunate (and dare I say ill timed) planting of trees and laying of turf during the prolonged period without rain in summer 2018 led to many trees dying, and in summer 2019 only the sterling efforts of local residents watering the replacement turf in the children's central play area saved the day! This constant monitoring and 'driving' Persimmon to deliver on their obligations is no small task, as detailed inspections revealed hundreds of omissions and incomplete work!

This has been an ongoing task over recent months, and despite Persimmon's optimism that they will be able to complete these tasks by the end of February 2020, there appears little chance of this happening. However, we will strive to make the new developments the pleasant and enjoyable places we all expect, and a reflection of the 'Garden Town' initiative SWT are determined to achieve.

In January 2020 I also became a member of the PC BACH Committee, and I look forward to working with my fellow councillors and local resident volunteers to make this a facility for all residents of West Monkton Parish to use and enjoy as we build the spirit of 'community' within the local area.



**Paul Elliston - Community Liaison and Transportation**

[pauelliston@westmonkton.net](mailto:pauelliston@westmonkton.net)

As the newest member of the PC (co-opted in February 2020), I am still in the process of learning the ropes, but I am excited to have inherited the portfolio with responsibility for Community Liaison since I am passionate about community and know the power it has to radically improve people's lives and general well-being. It's for this reason that, through being employed

by the Church, I work to build community in West Monkton.

My background is in academia and in social development. Together with my wife, Rachel, I moved to Peru to use this learning and my Project Management qualification to help lead a reconstruction project there after a devastating earthquake in 2007. Rebuilding shattered communities meant far more than bricks and mortar, just as creating a community in our new housing areas means far more than having homes to live in and finished roads (though they certainly help!) I'm always open to suggestions as we seek to build community together, so please get in touch.



**Ray Tully - West Monkton Parish Councillor (Safe Routes to School) and Somerset West and Taunton District Councillor**

[raytully@westmonkton.net](mailto:raytully@westmonkton.net)

I have for many years been proud to represent the local community as a Parish Councillor on West Monkton PC and as from last May (2019) also as a District Councillor for this area on SWT.

As a Parish Councillor I am a member of the Parish Planning Committee and attend Full Council meetings. I am the member responsible for safe routes to school. As our parish grows from a village to an urban community and the roads are becoming increasingly very busy, this role I feel has become more important and essential. The routes taken by the younger generation on their way to and from school must be kept both safe and well maintained.

I am also the PC representative on the West Monkton Village Hall Management Committee which I have held for a number of years.

**Norman Cavill - West Monkton Parish Councillor and Somerset West and Taunton District Councillor**

[normancavill@westmonkton.net](mailto:normancavill@westmonkton.net)

This year I have been involved with:



Working with Persimmon, SWT and other Parish Councillors to achieve the completion of all works on MH1.

Trying to resolve drainage infrastructure and boundary issues with Hartnells at the Planning stage. Parishioners comments at the Parish Surgery mornings have been very useful in moving this forward with Persimmon.

Negotiating with SWT for the acquisition of the Country Park to ensure that it will remain as open space for the future, for everyone.

Planning for the further extension of the Country Park and its infrastructure so that eventually people can walk from the river to Hestercombe House.

Continuing to work with developers, District and County Councils for the delivery of the WRR which presently is scheduled for completion by August 2021.

**David Fothergill – Somerset County Council  
Councillor for Monkton and North Curry Division.  
Leader of the Council**



[djafothergill@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:djafothergill@somerset.gov.uk)

It's been another very busy year in the West Monkton Area. The amount of new housing approved by Somerset West and Taunton has been almost relentless, this has placed real pressure on the Highways infrastructure. The investment in Junction 25 (£19m) and Creech Castle (£9m) is aimed at directly alleviating the impact of the increased number of houses and as a consequence cars. Sadly both of these schemes will in the short term place additional pressures on the network. On a much more positive front the new school for MH2 is now being actively planned to avoid further pressure on school placements and there is increasing clarity on the delivery of the WRR.

**SWT Council Ward Councillors – Ray Tully, Andrew Pritchard and Norman Cavill**

The SWT Council Councillors regularly attend PC meetings and give a report from SWT. The reports are

included in the WMPC Minutes, which are available on the website.

*The reports from Councillors are presented in accordance with the CODE OF RECOMMENDED PRACTICE ON LOCAL AUTHORITY PUBLICITY 2011, the guiding principles of which are that publicity by local authorities should: be lawful, be cost effective, be objective, be even-handed, be appropriate, have regard to equality and diversity, and be issued with care during periods of heightened sensitivity.*

#### **Meeting Schedule 2020/21**

Meetings are held in the committee room, BACH commencing at 7.00pm.

All PC meetings are open to the public and there is usually a Public Question Time (at around 7.10pm) where the formal meeting is suspended whilst questions and comments are welcomed from anyone living in the parish. To avoid disappointment, please note that this is not a discussion forum. Items for discussion should first come through either Parish Surgery or if related to Planning through the monthly Planning committee meetings.



# West Monkton Parish Council Meetings Calendar

2020

Monthly meeting dates for 2020	
	Planning Committee: first Tuesday
	Parish Council: second Tuesday
	Parish Surgery: second Thursday

## JANUARY

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## FEBRUARY

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## NOVEMBER

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## Financial report

### Accountability

The accounts for 18/19 were inspected by the Internal Auditor in May 2019 and subsequently submitted to the Audit Commission appointee PKF Littlejohn, in accordance with statutory requirements. PKF Littlejohn pronounced them satisfactory. For the financial year 2019/2020 we look forward to working with and receiving advice from a new Internal Auditor. The Annual Return for 18/19 was published on the parish website. The Annual Return 'Elector's Rights' of inspection will be the same as previous years; dates will be posted on notice boards and the website later in the year.

### Parish Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency

The PC has continued to support initiatives which are environmentally friendly, and in accordance with the PC's Declaration of Climate and Ecological Emergency, made in December 2019.

- The PC's 'paperless' initiative from last year has been implemented, including the addition of a Council Calendar of events. The PC's consumption of ink and paper has fallen. To reduce costs associated with out-sourcing printing of larger items, the PC has purchased an A3 printer.
- A ride on mower and flail was purchased in September. Four Council members are now qualified operators, which should allow better parish control over re-wilding schemes.
- The budget includes provision for the appointment of a part time Parish Ranger to monitor the Parish.

### Budget

Provisional figures up to the end of March 2020 indicate that Parish Council expenditure is likely to remain within overall budget and below income.

After a request for ideas from the Parish residents, the budget for 2020/2021 was set in December and the precept submitted to SWT in January.; the precept has increased this year by a small amount reflecting the growth of the Parish and the increase in responsibilities undertaken by the PC. As further areas are built in the Urban Extension, (plans for MH2 are already underway), there may be further facilities for which the PC will have to budget, and so we have built flexibility into our budget so that we will be able to respond quickly to changing situations. It is inevitable that the dynamic of the parish will change as the urban extension grows, and the PC welcomes initiatives that

help longer term residents mix with those more recently arrived.

### Grants

The PC has powers to award grants to support initiatives that benefit the health and well-being of the entire community. The budget for grants is set annually – once the funds have been awarded then there are no more until the next financial year, the PC is very keen to support individuals and organisations who will help to build a strong, vibrant and environmentally aware community. Recipients of grants in previous years have included the IWA volunteers, the Cricket Club, the Street Party Organisers, Gardening at the Primary School, and Mother and Toddler groups. Each application is considered on its own merit, and advice on applying is on the parish website under 'Council documents'. Please be in touch if you have an interesting idea.

### Training

The work involved in running the PC is complex and the time it takes to deliver powers and duties increases year on year, reflecting the growth of our Parish, and keeps both Clerk and Assistant Clerk very busy. The PC has Membership of Somerset Association of Local Councils, (SALC) and the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), both of which provide legal advice and discussion forums which ensures that we are up to date with current practice and legislation: training events are provided for Clerks and Councillors, and we believe a strong training budget will ensure our Parish Councillors serve our Parish to the very best of their ability. General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) are observed.

### Community Infrastructure Funds (CIL)

The CIL is a levy paid by developers to the Local Authority (you can find more information on CIL on the SWTwebsite: [www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk](http://www.somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk)).

The PC has continued to receive Community Infrastructure Levy funds in a meaningful proportion from SWT. Because of the Neighbourhood Plan, the meaningful proportion for WMPC is 25%. The CIL funds have to be spent within 5 years of receipt which allows for a rolling programme of improvements. An annual report is made to SWT which is published on the PC's website. Some smaller projects have already been delivered (Dyers Brook Bridge), whilst larger projects include plans for the MCP, and Public Open Spaces. Your ideas for potential 'CIL' funded projects are warmly invited and welcomed.

### £106 funds

The funds paid by the developer to the Local Authority in order to deliver a particular element of a planning permission for a development, usually providing community and social infrastructure. They are called S106 in reference to the section of legislation which governs them (S106 Town and Country Planning Act 1990).

- BACH S106 funds associated with the equipping of the hall have come to an end. The PC believes that the BACH is now very well equipped as a hub for community use. If you need to use the BACH, please get in touch, but if you need a larger venue, West Monkton Village Hall is also available for hire, please contact Mrs Joyce Keyte, Chairman on 01823 412 294.
- S106 Funds associated with the Monkton Heathfield Travel Plan have been subsidizing the 2/2a bus service operated by First Bus. We are aware that this service has not been to everyone's satisfaction. Following talks, we are very pleased that from April 6th. 2020, SCC will run a 14-seater community mini-bus as service no 7, replacing the service 2A around Monkton Heathfield and directly into Taunton, via Crown Medical Centre, using S106 funds. First Bus will run the service no 2 between town and Priorswood as a commercial service, and the current First Bus commercial service no 21/21A will continue as before, with some slight route changes. If you have any comments or suggestions, please be in touch. The PC is very optimistic that the new arrangements will provide a great bus service for residents.

### Maintenance

- The PC has a contract with DLO, paying for 8 cuts annually of various verges and green spaces in the Parish. The A38 verges are cut by SCC as a major trunk road. Parish grass cutting, plus the cost of emptying of the dog bins, represents a significant expense to the Council.
- The Parish Lengthsman has an ongoing list of jobs around the Parish, weeding, strimming and maintenance, and assisting with various projects (e.g. last year's Finger Post project).

If you have an idea for a project, or wish to report a maintenance issue please contact the Clerk or Assistant Clerk, or any Parish Councillor.

### Reporting

A Finance report is given at the PC meeting every month, when quotes are considered, payments authorized, and future plans explained. In addition, a Financial Sheet is produced each month which shows what has been spent, how it correlates with the budget, and what remains. The March version of the Finance Sheet is attached with this report.

Once a quarter the Audit Working Party convenes to closely examine bank records, vat returns, investment plans, costs associated with individual projects and forward financial planning.

I continue to be very happy to receive any suggestions you may have to make our entire Parish a happy, sustainable and safe place in which to live.

Published 5th March 2020  
Tricia Cavill, Assistant Clerk

March 2020 Finance Sheet – document redacted to comply with GDPR

	Budget	Variance	Total to Date	01/04/19	01/05/19	01/06/19	01/07/19	01/08/19	01/09/19	01/10/19	01/11/19	01/12/19	01/01/20	01/02/20	01/03/20	31/03/20
Brought forward	184637.08		184637.08	184637.08	174096.34	217970.11	218673.16	211515.05	165675.20	112512.18	134888.09	196454.87	197791.23	195017.93	193213.39	173417.93
Receipts																
Precept	62069.00	0.00	62069.00		31034.50					31034.50						
Interest	360.00	-75.94	435.94		38.60	40.77	39.84	40.71	40.90	37.99	38.98	46.10	53.34	56.42	2.29	
Allotments	330.00	0.00	330.00										210.00	90.00	30.00	
Burial grd grant	0.00	-340.00	340.00						340.00							
Footpath grant	0.00	-100.00	100.00						100.00							
Insurance contribn	0.00	0.00	0.00													
VAT reclaimed	3000.00	-20659.79	23659.79			1769.71	2448.53	956.62			16911.01			1573.92		
Othergrants/incomeBACHrefur	0.00	-8290.05	8290.05			2995.00				660.00	729.16	3905.89				
TD Council Tax Support gra	0.00	0.00	0.00													
Bus Dir/other	150.00	-300.00	450.00		100.00	150.00	100.00	100.00								
CIL	0.00	-66924.83	66924.83		17426.29						49498.54					
Total receipts	65909.00	-96690.61	162599.61	0.00	48599.39	4955.48	2588.37	1097.33	480.90	31732.49	67177.69	3951.99	263.34	1720.34	32.29	0.00
incl brought forward	250546.08		347236.69	184637.08	222695.73	222925.59	221261.53	212612.38	166156.10	144244.67	202065.78	200406.86	198054.57	196738.27	193245.68	173417.93
Payments																
Wages S	1344.00	672.00	672.00													
Clerks salary S	12574.44	2104.56	10469.88													
Assistant Clerk S	5953.92	-644.46	6598.38													
EmployePAYE/NIC inclNP S	3500.00	928.52	2571.48													
pension contributions		0.00	431.20													
Clerks NP salary S	250.00	250.00	0.00													
Workplc pensn(Tailored) GA	190.00	17.20	172.80													
Clerks expenses GA	250.00	-115.76	365.76													
ClerksNPexp GA	80.00	80.00	0.00													
Homeworkers allowance GA	400.00	16.00	384.00													
AssistantClerks expenses G	120.00	-356.06	476.06													
Neighbourhood Plan	5000.00	766.03	4233.97													
Sundry admin/equipment G	1100.00	-308.10	1408.10	68.64		174.98	49.18	355.30	4104.01		212.58	145.80	79.00	322.62		
Audit fees GA	1000.00	339.20	660.80		180.80					480.00						
Training GA	600.00	-157.00	757.00	30.00	30.00	25.00			672.00							
Subscription/affiliations GA	1280.00	191.94	1088.06			966.06		122.00								
Room hire GA	45.00	45.00	0.00													
Insurance premiun GA	900.00	-505.10	1405.10		969.19			338.65			97.26					
Insurance excess GA	125.00	125.00	0.00													
Burial grd grant GD	340.00	0.00	340.00						340.00							
Burial grd maint CM	1300.00	0.00	1300.00				1300.00									
Ftpath maint strt light FSTR	100.00	65.65	34.35		34.35											
Sports & General ENV	25000.00	4375.99	20624.01					20000.00		551.34	72.67					
Country Park ENV	19743.00	17266.48	2476.52	746.30	148.52	223.69	530.01	44.50	281.04		433.99				68.47	
Seats/noticebrds/sign N	1500.00	1364.00	136.00										136.00			
Bus shell/provnr/rent/repr B	8010.00	-4447.22	12457.22			230.00	10.00	12052.22							165.00	
Communications/ FSTR	500.00	-595.42	1095.42	51.48	71.76	77.28	77.28	101.28	71.76	71.76	251.76	71.76	71.76	100.26		
Litter/grit bin DB	2000.00	2000.00	0.00													
Dog bin purch/empt DB	3000.00	-4582.85	7582.85													7582.85
Allotment rent/rates A	250.00	175.77	74.23				39.90								34.33	
Local dev/BACH(incl kit out)	1000.00	-11640.47	12640.47	4594.00				792.00		6551.47	703.00					
Publicity F	150.00	-624.09	774.09		167.70		13.80	281.54	283.45		27.60					
Website F	600.00	-109.20	709.20												709.20	
Bye-election GA	3760.00	3760.00	0.00													
Env/community ENV	13000.00	-1836.43	14836.43	1440.00				10954.00				113.61	726.00	84.00	1518.82	
lengthsman services ENV	3250.00	917.32	2332.68	119.99	304.88	244.85	93.50	245.49	341.00	248.20	547.77	82.50	104.50			
GPCgrants GPC	5000.00	2965.25	2034.75				1250.00				450.00		57.75	277.00		
Contingency GA	200.00	200.00	0.00													
IT	750.00	-397.90	1147.90								1124.80			23.10		
CIL expenditure			61528.05	1596.08	1027.62	554.57	4388.16		45105.20							8856.42
Total payments	124165.36	12305.85	173818.76	10540.74	4725.62	4252.43	9746.48	46937.18	53643.92	9356.58	5610.91	2615.63	3036.64	3524.88	19827.75	0.00
Carried forward	126380.72		173417.93	174096.34	217970.11	218673.16	211515.05	165675.20	112512.18	134888.09	196454.87	197791.23	195017.93	193213.39	173417.93	173417.93
Bank statements 1st of month				unpres chqs												
Lloyds Business a/c	2146.38															
Lloyds treasurers a/c	16864.64			unpresented chqs												
Lloyds CIL a/c	23613.63			undeducted DD			95.20	pensions								
Lloyds Country Park a/c	0.65															
Nationwide CILa/c	75677.26															
CCLA PSDF	75038.32															
Total	193340.88				0.00											