

WEST MONKTON

Annual Parish Meeting 29th March 2022 at 7pm

The meeting was held in Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH) and attended by 24 people, including the County Councillor, Parish Councillors and Clerks. There were 2 speakers.

1. **Welcome**

Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Stuart Haskins welcomed those present and provided an overview of the agenda. Parish Councillors and Clerks introduced themselves.

Cllr Haskins welcomed the speakers to the meeting.

Apologies

Cllrs Elliston, Cavill, Tully and Hope and District Councillor Andy Pritchard sent their apologies.

2. **Minutes of the last meeting (31st March 2021)**

The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Hall.

3. **The Vision for our Community – Kate Welsh (Assistant Clerk, Community)**

Kate Welsh, on behalf of the Parish Council presented the vision and objectives of the parish and the role it has in the community. The vision for West Monkton Parish Council and the local community is to work together to protect and improve the social, recreational and environmental well-being of West Monkton Parish and the lives of all who live, visit or work here. Kate shared the ways in which they will look to do this going forward and also shared where we are with a number of projects including; community survey, provide a website (Monkton Matters), improve and deliver new cycle paths, explore the use of a fitbit and apps, provide wellbeing and climate grants, supporting community groups, develop a youth council, support street parties and competitions, deliver a wellbeing event, organise events in the community.

4. **Village Agent – Debbie Harris**

Debbie Harris, one of the Village Agents in the Taunton Team, provided an overview of the role of Village Agents. Provided by the Community Council for Somerset (CCS), a leading local charity with a aim of providing solution focused support and signposting to make a difference for people who need help. Village Agents provide confidential, practical, community based solutions for anyone in Somerset. Referrals to Village Agents can take place directly or through a Doctors' surgery. Examples of the people who may need support include unpaid carers, people who live alone and are isolated and anyone else who needs support. Village Agents help by signposting people to information, food bank deliveries, accessing available funding etc.

Other Agents that are available through the CCS include:

- Community Agents – referrals received through Adult Social Care
- Home First Agents – helping with those transitioning from hospital to home including care packages and talking cafes.
- Cancer Support Agents – support for individuals / families affected by cancer.

The CCS also provides a Somerset Carers Service.

Referrals to Village Agents can be completed using an online form available on the CCS website or by making a telephone referral.

Talking Cafes take place on Monday from 10am until 12noon at the Great Western Hotel in Taunton and a pop up Talking Café is also taking place at Tacchi Morris on the third Thursday of the month from 10am until 12noon. Talking Café live videos are also posted on You Tube.

5. West Monkton Youth Club – Becky Popham

Becky Popham provided an overview of the West Monkton Youth Club which takes place at the BACH on Wednesdays from 5.15pm until 6.30pm (apart from the second Wednesday of the month) for young people in school years 5 to 8.

The Youth Club which opened its doors in September is now a registered charity, a committee is in place and 4 volunteers help to run the club each week.

Becky outlined the activities that take place at the Youth Club and shared some feedback on the club received from young people that attend.

Becky confirmed that over the next 12 months the intention is to try to increase the numbers attending the club by advertising and spreading the word and also organise some activities each week, for example, a fitness class.

6. Volunteering in the Parish – Kate Welsh (Assistant Clerk, Community)

Kate Welsh shared information about her new role in the Parish Council and shared that coming from a wellbeing background and the importance of residents considering the 5 ways to wellbeing. Give being a way you can give back to the community and to those more vulnerable. Kate shared the range of volunteering opportunities available through the Parish which include; litter picking, water watchers, companions, stewarding, gardeners and tree waterers. Information about new initiatives and volunteering opportunities were shared which included; The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee celebrations, the community fridge initiative, community transport scheme and the development of a Youth Council.

7. Thank you and close

Cllr Stuart Haskins thanked the speakers and all for attending the meeting.

These minutes will be ratified at the next Annual Parish Meeting in March 2023.

The meeting was closed at 8.00pm.