



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley (until 9.13pm), Cavill (until 9.08pm), Ellis, Elliston (from 7.07pm), Gage, Hall, Haskins, Hope and Tully.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk and Mrs K Welsh Assistant Clerk Community, and 5 members of the public.

26/23 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

No apologies were received.

27/23 To note

a) Declarations of Interest: No change. Cllr Cavill confirmed that he would not take part in the discussion of any planning applications to avoid fettering his discretion as a member of the Somerset Council Planning Committee.

b) Dispensation Requests: None

c) Amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: None had been notified to the Clerk.

28/23 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th May 2023

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 9th May 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th May, proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Tully and agreed by show of hands.

29/23 Chairman's Parish Asset Report

Cllr Haskins deferred his Parish Asset Report as many items to report will be discussed during the course of the meeting.

Public Question Time

A member of the public from Pavilion Gardens requested an update regarding the adoption of the public open spaces. Cllr Haskins confirmed that a meeting with the Developers and the Planning Officer has taken place and that progress is being made.

A member of the public raised road safety around Goosenford and asked if the SID could be placed in the location.

A member of the public raised the bench in Goosenford; because the grass verge isn't cut it makes the bench almost unusual. Cllr Haskins confirmed that grass verges would be discussed later in the meeting.

Assistant Clerk Community reported that a member of the public who lives near Central Park has raised an issues with footballs hitting cars, houses and plant pots as a result of football goals being placed in the park. It was confirmed that the intention is for goals to be placed in the attenuation pond adjacent to central park.

Cllr Gage reported that there are a number of potholes between Mount Fancy and New Cross.

SID to be installed at Goosenford this week.

Assistant Clerk Community to try to find the details of the parents who placed the goals there to liaise with them regarding the movement of the goals to the attenuation pond.

Clerk to report potholes.
Cllr Cavill to follow up potholes in the Parish with Somerset Council.

Cllr Haskins reported that there are a number of potholes on Hyde Lane between the canal bridge and the rugby club.

Clerk to report potholes

Cllr Tully reported that potholes and road damage is evident at the Milton Hill end of School Road.

Clerk to report potholes and road damage.

Cllr Tully reported that the drains are still blocked on Dyers Lane causing flooding.

Clerk to report blocked gully.

Cllr Tully reported that the fence near Canal Roundabout is damaged and the sign on the WRR is obscured by vegetation.

Clerk to report to Persimmon Homes.

Cllr Haskins reported that the bird mouth fencing at Aginhills is still damaged.

Clerk to report damaged fencing.

Cllr Haskins reported that the grass verges along Milton Hill near the junction with Farriers Green have only partially been cut. Clerk confirmed that the area that has been cut is in Somerset Council ownership, the remaining area that hasn't been cut is still in the ownership of Persimmon Homes following the pavement works that were undertaken as part of the WRR works.

Cllr Besley reported that the visibility splay is obscured by overgrown verges at the Blundells Lane junction with Monkton Heathfield Road.

Clerk to report overgrown visibility splay.

Cllr Hope reported that the Farm Walk on Saturday was a great success.

Cllr Hope reported that the pothole on Milton Hill near the junction with Farriers Green has only been partially patched.

Clerk to report the remaining pothole on Milton Hill.

Cllr Hope requested an update in relation to the school sports pitches between Bridgwater Road and School Road. Clerk confirmed that Somerset Council is overseeing the completion and transfer to Heathfield School but negotiation and progress is unlikely until Heathfield School becomes an academy.

The Heathfield School Ofsted Report which was circulated to Councillors was highlighted and briefly discussed. It was noted that the school has a lot of work to do to improve.

30/23 Planning

a) To consider any planning applications (listed on SW+T Council website)

48/23/0021 Demolition of dwelling and erection of 3 No. dwellings with associated works at Uplands, Church Hill, West Monkton
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission and makes the following comments in respect of the proposal:

- To comply with the WM & CF Neighbourhood Plan policies, measures for rainwater capture should be included and any lighting should be downlit and LED.
- The proposal should incorporate bat and bird boxes and bee bricks.
- The Parish Council would prefer plot 3 to have the same style as plots 1 and 2.

b) To note that Planning decisions made are available on SW+T Council website filed under the application number
Noted

31/23 MH Developments

a) MH2 Update; Feedback from MH2 Meeting with Somerset Council / Developer on 19th May.

Feedback from the MH2 Teams Meeting with Somerset Council and the Developer on 19th May was given. The Developers are set to meet Somerset Highways over the coming weeks to discuss the highway infrastructure, it is expected that a new masterplan will be available to share / discuss at the next Teams Meeting in June.

It was agreed that the Clerk should take steps to arrange a meeting with CSM Councillors prior to the next Teams meeting to discuss a priority list of infrastructure to be delivered in the Development.

Clerk to gather support for a multi-purpose Scout / Guides / Cadet hut in the development from local groups.

.Highways comments / meeting arranged.

The need for retail units, office space and local doctors' surgery capacity was discussed.

Clerk to contact Savills to request details of the level of interest in retail units on the former Land Rover site.

make contact for evidence of retail interest in site on Bridgwater Road.

It was noted that MH2 will include all required phosphate mitigation due to wetland within the site.

Cllr Besley asked how much input Create Streets had in developing the emerging masterplan for MH2. Clerk to make contact with Create Streets to ascertain their input.

b) MH1 Update; POS / Sports Pitch transfer update; assessment of areas at risk from traveller occupation

Cllr Haskins confirmed that a meeting had taken place with on 22nd May. Queries were raised during that meeting and responses have been received. Clerk confirmed that she is liaising with the Parish Councils Solicitor on the points raised.

The S106 variation is largely agreed, as is the sports pitch transfer and it was agreed at the meeting that these elements would take place as a priority and the POS transfer later once the outstanding issues are rectified.

The S106 variation will need to go through the Somerset Council democratic process which is being explored by Simon Fox.

A further meeting has been scheduled to take place in three weeks.

Cllr Cavill confirmed work is also going on to tidy up the MH1 boundaries in particular Dyers Brook and Brittons Ash and there appears to be a willingness to transfer the cricket pitch land to the Cricket Club instead of it being leased.

In relation to assessing areas of MH1 that are at risk from traveller occupation, Cllrs Hall, Gage, Hope and Haskins agreed to look at the development to identify the areas at risk and identify possible solutions to reduce the risk.

c) Hartnells Farm Development Update

Clerk confirmed that there was no update on installation of the play area; the overhead power lines need to be moved before installation can take place. Persimmon Homes have confirmed that they are working on this.

Cllr Haskins confirmed that he had raised the grass around the Hartnells roundabout with Persimmon Homes as it is not being cut, Persimmon Homes confirmed that they would look into it.

32/23 Highways Update

Cllr Haskins reported that there are lots of potholes in the parish and grass verges that need cutting. At the last meeting it was agreed not to commission Somerset Council to carry out additional cuts of the verges and that the Lengthsman would be asked to consider whether he could cut the verges instead. Cllr Haskins confirmed that he has reviewed the verges with the Lengthsman and the Lengthsman has confirmed that he would be able to carry out the cuts but would need additional equipment including a mulching mower, a strimmer and a blower. Clerk to liaise with the Lengthsman regarding the additional equipment.

In the meantime it was agreed that Mowgate would be contacted and asked to cut the verges as soon as possible and then carry out the first cut in April going forward.

It was noted that a map of the areas that need to be managed would need to be developed. Clerk to print a map for annotation.

The extent of the cutting would be the 20mph speed limit area.

A member of the public suggested making enquiries as to whether those doing Community Service could help. Assistant Clerk Community to make enquiries.

It was noted that the permanent 20mph speed limit order has now been sealed.

Cllr Gage raised grass cutting of the area at the front of BACH. Cllr Elliston confirmed that a volunteer will cut the grass and has the equipment to do so.

Cllr Haskins raised the future management of the Community Garden when Cllr Elliston leaves the Council. Cllr Elliston confirmed that he still hopes to be part of the Community Garden after his departure. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that she has a new volunteer who is very keen and has good community experience and that she is hoping to get her involved with the garden. Assistant Clerk Community to follow up removal of tyres from front of BACH.

Cllr Gage raised the grass cutting at the Country Park and whether there is a need to cut between trees. A discussion took place and it was agreed that in order to control weeds and to help tree growth there was a need to continue cutting this year but that a rethink of the grass cutting regime would take place for future years. It was noted that more volunteers were needed to help with the grass cutting this year. Assistant Clerk Community to see if she can find any volunteers.

33/23 Community

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a) Update;

Assistant Clerk Community reported on the following:

Community Fridge – volunteers are now picking up from Aldi and Fareshare have finally got in touch and the Community Fridge is now also been signed up to collect from Sainsburys, Tescos, Bookers etc. Assistant Clerk Community needs to attend a seminar and then this will be in place. Fareshare have suggested having a freezer too. The Co-Op grant will be received later this year and an application has been submitted for a grant again next year. Somerset Community Foundation also have grants available but an application needs to be made by Friday and the money needs to be spent by the end of September.

It was agreed that a grant application would be submitted to cover the cost of another shed, freezer, canopy, electrical work and shelving.

Several Councillors suggested that Persimmon Homes should be approached about acquiring one or more of the MH1 retail units for the Community Fridge. Clerk to make a request.

The need for a security camera was also discussed. It was agreed that the Co-Op money could be used for this when it is received later in the year.

Stay and Play, Café and Garden – all busy.

Repair café - isn't very busy. Assistant Clerk Community suggested moving the Repair Café to another day. It was agreed not to change the day for now.

Refurbished laptop - went to a family in need in the community. Family also need a printer and a call out has been sent out.

Litter picking / bins:

Lids for bins – a request has been made by a member of the public to add lids to the bins in MH1, 4 would be needed in total at a cost of £8.00 each plus chains / nuts and bolts. It was agreed to proceed with this.

Gas bottle – found during litter pick. Suggestion that the member of the public take it to any calor gas retailer or put it on market place.

Signs – Assistant Clerk Community outlined a request for signs warning against fly tipping for display at the employment land roundabout. Two quotes for the signs were outlined. It was agreed not to proceed with the purchase of the signs until Persimmon's permission had been obtained.

Dog Waste Stickers – Assistant Clerk Community outlined a quotation for 50 laminated stickers. The design of the stickers was shared. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase without the PC logo.

b) Community Events update

Assistant Clerk Community reported that the Farm Walk at the weekend was a great success with lots of positive feedback. The Quiz nights are also going well and the Dog Show is planned in June. Stalls are lined up for the dog show and volunteers are available to help with setting up and on the day. It was agreed that the marquee would be put up on the Saturday and overnight security to be arranged.

c) Community Garden update;

Cllr Elliston confirmed that he had nothing further to report.

d) Community Transport update;

Assistant Clerk Community shared the presentation previously provided on the results of the Community Transport Survey. It was noted that only 48 people responded and that the key need highlighted was for help with travel to hospital appointments and to collect prescriptions.

It was agreed that Assistant Clerk Community would try to promote the Community Buddy Scheme and seek further volunteers and promote systems that are already available for arranging the delivery of prescriptions.

34/23 To consider Insurance Renewal Quotations

Clerk outlined two quotations for Insurance. One from BHIB who are the Parish Councils current insurers who have quoted £1302.23 and one from Zurich who have quoted £1688.98

Clerk confirmed that £1750.00 has been budgeted in this financial year for insurance, which includes the cost of the mower insurance which is due in August and that the cost of the insurance last year was £1234.55 so the renewal quotation represents only a slight increase.

It was proposed by Cllr Elliston, seconded by Cllr Tully and agreed with all in favour to accept the quotation to renew the insurance which BHIB.

35/23 To consider Award nominations

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a) Somerset Council Chairman's Award

Clerk confirmed that the deadline for nominations for the award is 30th June.

b) NALC Star Awards

https://www.nalc.gov.uk/starcouncilawards?mc_cid=0a857b931f&mc_eid=a572fab34d

Clerk confirmed that the deadline for nominations for the awards is 28th July

Clerk to circulate details of both Awards for Councillors to put forward suggested nominations for consideration at the next meeting.

36/23 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 5th June 2023 or Monday 19th June 2023

Noted.

Cllr Hall reported that WPA had responded positively about the progress and work in the Community Garden.

Cllr Hall reported that 400 of the hedging plants that gifted from wee trees have gone including 9 bags going to a hospice. Cllr Hall reported that the rest need to be given away over the next couple of days and that Hestercombe are willing to give them away at their shop.

Cllr Hope reported the small trees in MH1 that are over and need removed. Cllrs Haskins and Gage to arrange cutting.

Cllr Elliston reported that the water tanks for the Community Garden need a pump added to them in order to use a hose and requested ideas.

Cllr Tully requested that the SID is placed east bound through Bathpool. Clerk confirmed that a request has been made to Somerset Council for the placement of the SID at that location and that a response is awaited.

37/23 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2023: 13th Jun, 11th Jul, 8th Aug, 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec

Fourth Tuesday in the month (Community / project focused meeting)

2023: 27th Jun, 25th Jul, 26th Sep, 24th Oct, 28th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 21st July 2023 at 9.30am

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC March 2024 at 7pm

BACH committee: 25th May 2023 at 7pm

Budget and Precept TBC November 2023

Meeting finished at 9.42pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 13th June 2023