



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th February 2023 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill (from 7.50pm), Ellis, Elliston (from 7.23pm), Gage, Haskins, Hope and Tully.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk and Mrs K Welsh Assistant Clerk Community and one member of the public

382/22 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllr Hall.

383/22 To note

- Declarations of Interest: No change.
- Dispensation Requests: None
- Amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: None had been notified to the Clerk.

384/22 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th February 2023

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 14th February 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th February, proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Hope and agreed by show of hands.

385/22 Chairman's Parish Asset Report

Cllr Haskins reported on the following:

- Damaged Milton Hill bollards – Clerk confirmed that these had been reported again to SCC Highways
- Condition of School Road pavements – Clerk confirmed that these had already been reported to SCC Highways but that she would report again.
- Fly tipping at Greenway – Clerk to report to SWT.

Public Question Time

Cllr Tully reported that the surface at the turning area at the bottom of School Road had not been resurfaced at the same time as the rest of School Road.

Clerk to make enquiries as to why they area wasn't resurfaced.

Cllr Tully reported that the knee high fencing near the Canal roundabout has been damaged and knocked over by a car.

Clerk to report to Persimmon.

Cllr Gage reported that SCC have cleaned under road at Noahs Hill.

Cllr Gage reported that there a large number of potholes on Dosters Lane.

Clerk to report potholes on Dosters Lane.

Cllr Haskins raised concern about the quality of the repairs to potholes that have taken place in the Parish. Cllr Haskins to send a picture to the Clerk.– good thing.

Cllr Haskins to send a picture of the pothole repairs to the Clerk to raise with SCC Highways.

Cllr Gage reported that the gully sucker is currently working at Staplegrave.

Clerk to request gully suckers in the Parish again.

Cllr Tully reported that there have been problems with the drains in Monkton Heathfield and Wessex Water has found items in the drains that shouldn't be.

Assistant Clerk Community to add a news items to Monkton Matters sharing the Wessex Water advice.

Cllr Hope asked Cllr Tully if the pathway between Hyde Lane and MH1 is a safe route to school. Cllr Tully confirmed that it isn't.

Cllr Haskins reported that John Marchant Electrical Contractors now fully trained to install solar.

386/22 Planning

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

48/23/0007 Erection of implement shed and workshop on land near Hyde Farm, Hyde Lane, Bathpool.

The Parish Council objects to the granting of permission and made the following comments in respect of the application:

- The supporting Design and Access Statement doesn't make reference to the Neighbourhood Plan and the relevant policies.
- The Climate Checklist doesn't provide an explanation or justification to the responses contained within it.
- An ecological survey hasn't been carried out to understand the ecological impact of the proposal.
- The Parish Council has concerns about access to the proposed site from a well-used single track lane on a blind corner. The Parish Council is surprised that Highways have indicated that they have no comments to make in respect of the application.
- Justification of the need for this building from an agricultural point of view isn't provided within the supporting information. Is the implement shed / workshop needed for the business / size of agricultural holding?
- The Design and Access Statement refers to light commercial vehicles, not agricultural vehicles. The Parish Council is concerned that the shed / workshop may be for light commercial vehicles rather than agricultural. The proposed site isn't appropriate for a shed / workshop for light commercial vehicles.
- The proposed site is directly opposite a domestic residence and may cause disturbance to that property and its occupants.
- The Parish Council is concerned that the granting of consent may set a precedent and may result in further applications for similar units or perhaps a domestic property in the future.
- Work has already commenced to remove the hedgerow around the proposed site. Has the required permission been obtained to enable the removal of the hedge and has its removal been carried out in accordance with that permission?

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

Noted

387/22 MH Developments

a) MH2 Update; Feedback from meeting on 17th February

Assistant Clerk Community and Cllr Haskins provided feedback from the meeting on 17th February which was focused on the Garden Town vision and adoption of assets / open spaces once complete in MH2. The wording of the Section 106 agreement needs to be open to enable the adoption / handover of assets to West Monkton and Creech St Michael PC. There is a need to work with Creech St Michael PC to establish consensus in relation to this. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Creech St Michael PC and get more information from Jenny Clifford, the Garden Town Lead Officer.

b) Garden Town Delivery Board; Feedback from Inaugural Meeting on 27th February. Nominate Parish Council Representative on Garden Town Delivery Board

Assistant Clerk Community and Clerk confirmed that they attended the meeting. The meeting focused on the Garden Town vision and the Terms of Reference for the Board. Clerk to circulate information about the Garden Town Delivery Board to Councillors with a view to nominating a Councillor Representative for the Board at the next PC meeting.

c) MH1 Update; POS / Sports Pitch transfer, Attenuation Ponds

Clerk fed back on the following items in relation to MH1:

- Travellers – the Traveller sited on the footpath by the crossing point on the ERR by Hyde Lane were expected to leave voluntarily on Sunday. It was noted that they hadn't moved. Clerk to confirm with Persimmon what the next steps are to ensure their removal. Clerk relayed an email from Persimmon within which the Council was asked to provide ideas of how to prevent traveller access to the land in the future. Councillors suggested either large stone bollards or digging a trench to prevent access. Clerk to relay the suggestions to Persimmon.
- Placement of a Tree – Clerk outlined an email received from a member of the public who resides in Pippin Road who has removed a five year old small field maple from her garden. David Galley the SWT Tree Officer has suggested that to mitigate for the tree removal that a replacement tree is planted in the new development. Clerk to provide details Cllr Hope to liaise with the member of the public.
- MH1 POS / Sports Pitch transfer – Clerk confirmed that she has been chasing the solicitors who had indicated that they would be carrying out a full review last Wednesday / Thursday but this hasn't been received. A further chaser was sent in advance of the PC meeting and the solicitor has apologised for the delay and has stated that a thorough overview will be provided by the end of week, following which he will work towards finalising each stage of the transaction as swiftly as possible. Clerk to reply to the solicitor to confirm that Friday for the overview is the absolute deadline.
- Attenuation Ponds – Clerk relayed a reply received from Wessex Water within which they confirmed that Wessex Water will not be responsible for the attenuation ponds in the future, stating that they believe that they are functioning as they should and offering a meeting with a representative of Wessex Water. Clerk to respond taking up the offer of a meeting requesting that the Wessex Water representative attends with the specific details / plans for the MH1 site including what water is stored where and what the definition of an extreme weather event is.

d) Hartnells Farm Development Update

Nothing to report. It was noted that the play areas haven't been installed on the development.

389/22 Highways Update

a) Update

It was noted that a full response from Andy Coupe at SCC regarding the legalities of the bus gate were awaited. Clerk to follow up Andy Coupe and request a further meeting.

Clerk confirmed that a member of the public had offered to reinstate the SCC black on yellow signs on the approach to Monkton Heathfield Road. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Lengthsman to reinstate the signs.

It was reported that the landscaping works along the WRR had taken place including tree planting.

Cllr Hope reported that the kerb stones in Hob Close are in the process of being replaced.

Cllr Gage expressed concern for SCC Highways once the ERR is adopted that travellers may continue to gain access at cost to SCC to get them removed. Cllr Cavill to raise this with SCC Highways.

b) SID report from Milton Hill

Clerk confirmed that the SID report from the WRR at Milton Hill had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The SID had recorded some quite high speeds. Clerk to share the report with SCC Traffic Management with a view to increasing enforcement. Clerk to request SCC Traffic Management to consider suitable locations on Bridgwater Road near Aldi and on Monkton Heathfield Road for the placement of the SID.

c) TRO notices – 20mph speed limit and weight restriction

Cllr Gage highlighted that the weight restriction covers a greater area than 20mph speed limit TRO. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond to the TRO notice on behalf of the Parish Council requesting that the 20mph speed limit is extended to cover Milton Hill to the WRR roundabout and the whole of School Road and request larger signage on the entrance to the 20mph speed limit and larger signs throughout including roundels on the road surface.

Cllr Ellis reported that only one 30mph speed sign is located at the junction from Monkton Heathfield Road to Mead Way. Clerk to report the missing sign to SCC Highways.

390/22 Country Park Update

Clerk confirmed that the next Country Park Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 6th March at 7.30pm at Cheddon Memorial Hall. Item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting for the recommendations of the Working Group to be considered.

Clerk reported that despite Howards quoting for a service of the mower, upon booking the service they have confirmed that they are not able to carry it out. Clerk now gathering alternative quotes for consideration at the next meeting.

391/22 Community

a) Update;

Assistant Clerk Community reported that she had met with the School Council and they are providing input into the future events that are being planned. The Community Café is going well. Environmental Health are looking at the BACH kitchen on Thursday to provide a rating.

A hot cross bun demonstration is taking place after the community café next week. One repair café has taken place with one volunteer, two volunteers are lined up for the next repair café.

b) Community Events update

Assistant Clerk Community reported that the Toy and Seed Swap is taking place this Sunday between 10 and 2. The repair café will be running alongside and the fixy van may be in attendance. People are dropping off toys and books this week in preparation. The quiz night went really well last week, the quiz nights are going to continue once a month as they are popular with the community.

Easter Egg hunt – free tickets are available on Eventbrite. The Co-op have confirmed that they will donate a limited number of eggs. Some additional eggs may need to be purchased. The eggs cost approximately £1-£1.50. It was agreed to fund up to 100 additional eggs.

Kings Coronation – the outcome of the grant application is awaited. The toilets and screen have been booked and deposits paid. Stalls have been booked which will provide some income towards the cost of running the event. Tacchi Morris have confirmed that they can provide the PA system but need someone to run it. Assistant Clerk Community to gather quotes for generators that have the capacity to run the PA system. A flag is required, Clerk confirmed that a flag maker is located off Bindon Road. Assistant Clerk Community to make enquiries. It was agreed that advertising of the event should start as soon as possible. Assistant Clerk Community to gather quotes for banners to be considered at the March meeting when the outcome of the grant application should be confirmed.

Dog Show – booked for June and is being run by St Giles.

c) Community Garden update

Cllr Elliston reported that the Community Garden big dig went well at the weekend with over 35 volunteers of various age groups attending to help. 7 out of 9 beds have been created. 30metres of planks of wood are needed to finish the remainder of the beds. Cllr Elliston confirmed that the people that came along to the big dig have indicated a willingness to volunteer to help with the community garden in the future.

Cllr Elliston also reported that he is going into the primary school tomorrow to deliver a session on the community garden with the students.

c) Community Transport update

Cllr Elliston confirmed that the survey is now live and has been circulated with the villages news. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that eight responses have been received so far.

392/22 Annual Parish Meeting Agenda Approval

An overview of the APM agenda was provided by Assistant Clerk Community. The agenda was approved for publication.

Assistant Clerk Community outlined a quote received for a banner van for one or two weeks to advertise the APM. It was agreed to not accept the quote but look at other mechanisms for advertising instead.

Assistant Clerk Community to gather quotes for banners to be displayed for the APM which can be amended for use for future years. A budget of £300 for the banners was set.

Assistant Clerk Community to source refreshments for the APM.

Clerk and Assistant Clerk Community to look at the sound system at the BACH to see if it can be used for the APM in case lots of people attend.

393/22 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision

a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 6th March 2023 or 20th March 2023

Noted

Cllr Cavill reported back from the Town Council meeting that he had just attended where LCNs were discussed. Cllr Cavill reported that there is a need for Parish Council to drive / identify the needs of the LCN area. There will be a Link Officer for each LCN – there is a need to find out who that is for the Hestercombe LCN so that conversations can develop. It was agreed that the LCN work should be included in the APM presentation as part of the vision for the PC for the coming year.

Cllr Cavill provided an update on the Cheddon Fitzpaine PC legal challenge in relation to the Town Council.

Cllr Cavill reported that voter ID is required for future elections. These can be obtained by visiting Deane House with your National Insurance number.

Cllr Cavill reported that the new Somerset Council Constitution is being passed at the moment.

Cllr Cavill reported that the Planning Committee proposals for the Somerset Council are going through Council tomorrow. There will be an almost identical number of committees across Somerset as there is now. Committee members must be from the local area. Public speaking at Planning Committees will not be restricted to 3 minutes as part of the proposals which was previously indicated.

Cllr Cavill reported that the Somerset Council budget has been fixed with a warning from the S151 Officer whereby if decisions are not made, the Council could be insolvent within 3 years. The Unitary Council will save money as anticipated but borrowing is the issue.

Cllr Hope reported that the reuse shop at the recycling centre is now permanently closed.

Cllr Haskins suggested to Cllr Cavill that with fly tipping being an issue and the costs of collecting it being high that a solution could be for the PCs to be given the ability to take fly tipping to the tip to dispose of free of charge. This could save the Council a lot of money. Cllr Cavill to raise with Somerset Council as a proposal.

Cllr Cavill suggested that a prize of a soup maker could be provided for future climate change related competitions that the Parish Council runs.

394/22 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2023: 14th Mar, 11th Apr, 9th May, 13th Jun, 11th Jul, 8th Aug, 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec

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

2023: 28th Mar, 25th Apr, 23rd May, 27th Jun, 25th Jul, 26th Sep, 24th Oct, 28th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 21st April 2023 at 9.30am

Annual Parish Meeting: 21st March 2023 at 7pm

BACH committee 25th May 2023 2023 at 7pm

Budget and Precept TBC November 2023

Meeting finished at 9.16pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 14th March 2023