



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill, Ellis, Elliston, Gage, Hall, Hope, Haskins and Tully.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk, Mrs T Cavill, Assistant Clerk, Ms J Pearson, Clerk to Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council, Mr K Perry, Flood Warden, Kelvin Tutill, NP Delivery Group Chairman, Cllr Andrew Pritchard, District Councillor, Cllr David Fothergill, County Councillor and two members of the public.

37/21 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

No apologies were received.

38/21 Declarations of Interest, Dispensation Requests, amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

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

39/21 To adopt the minutes of the last meeting of the Parish Council on 9th February 2021

The minutes from the previous meeting of the Parish Council on 9th February 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th February, proposed by Cllr Cavill, seconded by Cllr Hall and all agreed by show of hands.

40/21 To note Clerk's report and Assistant Clerk's report

Clerk's Report:

- Actions from previous meetings and other issues raised during the month:
 - Meeting arranged with Persimmon on 26th February, agenda developed and notes / actions taken.
 - Planning log developed for all planning applications in the parish determined in 2021.
 - Email sent to Rebecca Miller and Chris Hall regarding the Sports Pitch proposal requesting confirmation of next steps including planning application required.
 - Email sent to Redrow requesting repair of fence on AMP boundary – no response received.
 - Knee high fence at Aginhills has been replaced.
- Other Parish Administration:
 - Meeting arranged with Gareth Clifford and Ann Rhodes regarding Sports Pitch pre planning advice received.
 - Annual Parish Meeting arrangements / speakers.
 - Developing and finalising the 2021 Annual Report.
 - Allotments – advised by Spital Trust Clerk that Western Power Distribution will be making a new connection to the bungalows on the old Butchers site. The work will potentially result in disturbance to two allotments. Letters sent to both allotment holders to advise.
- BACH:
 - BACH closed during National Lockdown.
 - Plants have been removed whilst the BACH is closed.
 - Corresponding with all previous hirers to determine if they intend to return post Coronavirus. Response so far have indicated that the majority would like to return.

- Researching the Government roadmap out of lockdown, although the BACH can re-open in April, unlikely that many of the groups will be able to return until May.
- Next Committee Meeting date to be confirmed.
- Meetings last month:
 - 2nd February – Planning Committee Meeting
 - 9th February – Parish Council Meeting
 - 11th February – Parish Surgery
 - 23rd and 24th February – CP Management Group Meetings
 - 24th February – Create Streets Webinar
 - 23rd – 25th February – SLCC Practitioners Conference
 - 26th February – MH Meeting with Persimmon
- Meetings this month:
 - 2nd March – WM Liaison Meeting
 - 2nd March – Planning Committee Meeting
 - 3rd March – SCC / Clerk Forum
 - 3rd March – Sports Pitch Meeting with Planning Officers at SWT
 - 9th March – Parish Council Meeting
 - 11th March – Parish Surgery
 - 24th March – SLCC Regional Training Event
 - 31st March – Annual Parish Meeting

Assistant Clerk's Report

- Actioned decisions made by Council.
- Attended virtual meetings of Cheddon Fitzpaine PC, Parish Surgery, WM PC Planning, WM Liaison, 'Seeds Initiative' mtg w M Elm and Bethan Turner, NP meeting (x2) w CF PC Clerk and K Tutill, Persimmon, One Somerset future planning.
- Participate in SALC Clerks Forum, Create Streets 'Design Code', SALC on Insurance.
- Distribution of daily and weekly newsletters ref corona virus pandemic.
- Parish administration
 - Tree at Village Hall overhanging noticeboard
 - Source new noticeboard for School Road Co-op.
 - Attend Farriers Green for replacement of Double Air Walker
 - Liaise with M Davies over installation of litter bin at Hyde Lane canal bridge
- Neighbourhood Plan
 - Commence Regulation 14 – from 22nd Feb to 30th April.
 - Map signage and postcrete delivered to Assistant Clerk. CF PC has taken their Park signage and installed.
- CIL projects:
 - T-M refurbishment of downstairs café – administration ref delivery dates
 - Footpaths...on going, postcrete stored for posts.
- Planning
 - Applications forwarded and powerpoint presentation prepared for Planning Cttee mtg. Check applications for compliance with NP.
- Climate change
 - On-going with B Turner.
 - Wildflower seed Initiative, ongoing.
- Audit Working Party
 - Circulate newsletters from CCLA to members of Audit Working Party

41/21 SCC report from Cllr D Fothergill – no decisions

Cllr Fothergill reported on the following:

Pre-8th March Covid-19 Restrictions: Currently residents must stay at home, they must not leave, or be outside of their home except where necessary. They cannot leave to meet socially with anyone they do not live with or are not in a support bubble with. Residents should not travel outside their local area.

Road Map out of lockdown: From 8 March - All schools will open with outdoor after-school sports and activities allowed. Recreation in an outdoor public spaces will be allowed between two people, meaning they would be allowed to sit down for a coffee, drink or picnic. From 29 March - Outdoor gatherings of either six people or two households will be allowed including gatherings in private gardens. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis or basketball courts will reopen and organised adult and children's sport, such as grassroots football, will also return. Coronavirus infection rates: As at 26th February the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 18,890 (up from 16,417 on 29th January) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 722 (469). The rate per 100,000 stands at 71.5 for Somerset with Mendip at 63.2, Sedgemoor at 113.7, South Somerset 64.2 and SW&T at 52.2. The current number of total deaths across the County is currently 1% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.6 and 0.9. It is vitally important to remember, even those who have had a job, to observe Hands-Face-Space at all times.

Up to date figures show a continued drop in infection rates, the current rate is 39.1 for Somerset. SWT is currently at 21.3, which is the best it's been since October. There are still a couple of hotspots.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number is available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programme roll-out: Teams across the wider health and care system have worked round the clock at 13 GP-led community vaccination sites, two hospital hubs, two large vaccination centres (Taunton Racecourse and the Bath and West Showground) plus four local pharmacy sites. As a result Somerset has one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing 220,000 having received at least their first vaccination in the County or approaching 50% of the 16+ population. Only Dorset are above Somerset in the list of County vaccination rates.

Somerset County Council Finances: SCC recently approved the budget for 2021/22 including an additional £10.2m investment into adult social care services, an additional £9m into children's services, £6.5m on climate emergency projects, and £130m in major infrastructure schemes such as roads and schools with £74m of new projects approved. A new £10.8m Emergency Fund has been established for activities to combat coronavirus and its impacts. Importantly the budget also includes a commitment to continue the extended Free School Meals provision for vulnerable families over the Easter holidays.

Great Western Freeport: Somerset has played a key role in the bid to develop a new Great Western Freeport – an area designed to create conditions for inward investment, business growth and job creation. The Government wants to create up to 10 Freeports around the UK, and partners including the West of England Combined Authority have submitted plans to create a Great Western Freeport. The area would include Bristol Port, the Gravity Campus (Junction 21 Enterprise Area) and Avonmouth. Gravity would focus on clean growth and attracting hi-tech companies manufacturing electric cars, artificial intelligence, and robotics. It is expected to create approximately 4,000 jobs.

Step up to social work: Somerset County Council is opening the recruitment round for aspiring social workers across the region to join the 14-month Step Up to Social Work programme, to provide training for hundreds more children and family social workers to support children and families most in need. Of the 58 places being offered across the region, 12 are being offered in Somerset. Students receive a bursary during the duration of the programme to support them whilst in training. To date eighteen new social workers have qualified in Somerset with a further ten due this year. The Step Up programme runs every two years. Applications are open until 7 April 2021.

Investing in communities: Two new Enterprise Centres have joined the Somerset network with the completion and handover of purpose-built units in Wells and Wiveliscombe thanks to Somerset County Council and partners. The Wiveliscombe centre, offers 10 two-person offices and seven small light industrial units suitable for a solo or two-person business. The centre in Cathedral Park, Wells, has 10 two-person offices and two four-person offices. It has a further five industrial units that would suit 1 to 2 people per unit.

Additional funding for Citizens Advice: During the coronavirus pandemic, Citizens Advice in Somerset have stepped up the services offered through their freephone advice line, with face-to-face appointments and drop-ins scaled back. The charity is expecting demand for services to rise exponentially over the next 12 months; particularly as the furlough scheme ends and eviction proceedings recommence. Up to £400k extra funding from Somerset County Council will be used to develop and sustain the County-wide service, to extend opening hours, and to increase capacity for the inevitable increase in demand.

One Somerset: The government has begun a public consultation into changing the way local councils work in Somerset including the County Council's ambition to replace the county's five existing councils with a simple,

single unitary model. This would end confusion for residents, remove waste and duplication, and free up funding to invest in vital public services. It would also offer more powers for local Town and Parish Councils and one strong voice to lobby for funding and support. To take part in the Government's consultation visit <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/governance-reform-and-democracy/somerset/>

The following questions were asked:

Cllr Besley raised issues in Coombe with large vehicles travelling through and getting stuck. Can a weight restriction through Coombe be considered? Cllr Fothergill recommended contacting Traffic Management at SCC. Clerk to make contact.

Cllr Hall requested confirmation of the size of cable needed for the pathway through the Country Park. Cllr Fothergill to confirm.

Cllr Hall requested confirmation on what is happening with the movement of the bus stop on Milton Hill near Farriers Green to new location on WRR – the work that has taken place on Milton Hill hasn't included the movement of the bus stop. Cllr Fothergill to follow up.

Assistant Clerk asked if the design of the through school in MH2 is known. Cllr Fothergill to find out.

Cllr Cavill raised the Aginhills Play Area and that the fence has not been put up.

Cllr Pritchard raised the urgent notice for works on the cycle path on A38 which has just been laid. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that the work was emergency works, otherwise new roads and footpaths cannot be dug up for 2 years. It is hoped that the work won't involve digging up the cycle path but instead pulling new cable through.

42/21 SW+T Council reports from Cllrs Tully, Pritchard and Cavill - no decisions

Cllr Pritchard reported on the following:

Phosphates - Calculator has been produced and is available. This is the first stage of the process for phosphate mitigation and can be used to work out the impact of planning proposals. SWT are also asking applicants to get their own advice. There is further work to do, a briefing is taking place on Friday 12th March.

SWT Customer Survey – is live at the moment, the survey requests feedback from SWT customers.

Watchet Harbour - ownership is now with new marine company which will hopefully improve tourism elements.

Cllr Cavill reported on the following:

Climate Emergency – the Carbon Neutral and Resilience Plan includes reference on page 11 to the MCP as a Council project. It states that SWT are working with partners to enable Somerset Wood planting. This is good news for CFPC and WMPC because the MCP is in line with Council policy.

2021/22 Budget - has been fixed. Budget includes a rise from £162.88 to £167.88 plus SRA rise of £1.75. SWT has put forward the budget as a balanced one. Cllr Cavill has some concern about how sound the budget is. SWT are borrowing millions of pounds, the budget is reliant on return from the investments to balance. If the return isn't achieved then the Council will be in trouble. Because SWT cannot borrow from the Public Works Loan Board SWT is borrowing from other institutions. S151 Officer has stated that the approach is ok for this year but can't continue in this manner in future years. Cllr Cavill stated that there is a need to monitor the financial performance of SWT.

Cllr Tully confirmed that he had nothing to add.

43/21 Coronavirus Pandemic Update – Cllr Elliston

Cllr Elliston confirmed that he had nothing to report; there has been no change in the last month.

Public Question Time

Cllr Haskins reported that it was good to see some work being done on drainage on Greenway but that there are still issues with gullies being blocked in the Parish. Cllr Fothergill advised to keep reporting any blocked gullies through the SCC website.

Cllr Hope reported a lack of any activity with completing the outstanding issues on MH1, for example the footpath between Furs Close and Bawler Road which has been at its base layer for months.

Clerk to send a copy of the MH1 Issues list to the new Persimmon Adoptions Manager and cc Cllr Hope.

Cllr Gage asked if the attenuation ponds in MH1 could be adjusted so that rather than only being used to slow the flow of water when a once in 100-year rain event occurs if the ponds could be used whenever there is heavy rainfall. There are flooding issues in Bathpool every winter. Could the flow settings be adjusted so that the attenuation ponds

can fill to alleviate flooding issues in the parish more widely? Clerk provided an update on the enforcement action provided by SWT in relation to the MH1 Attenuation Ponds. There should be further to report at the next meeting.

44/21 Planning

a) To consider recommendations from the WMPC Planning committee on applications received by 2nd March 2021 (listed on SW+T Council website); and to consider any others to date

The following recommendations from the WMPC Planning Committee on 2nd March were considered. It was resolved to approve the recommendations for submission, proposed by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Besley and all agreed by show of hands.

48/21/0005 Demolition of garage/workshop and erection of 2 No. detached dwellings with garages and associated alterations to access on land west of Church Hill, West Monkton
West Monkton Parish Council does not support the grant of this application.

The reasons are as follows:

- The proposed access is not acceptable.
The proposed 10foot wide drive does not allow adequate room for refuse vehicles or emergency vehicles, to travel along it. It would lie adjacent to the existing access which is not owned by or controlled by the applicant. The reported activity of a busy breakers yard, with vehicles coming and going all day is not in accordance with the activities witnessed by neighbours since 1984 - a hobby yard is a better description. Thus, the statement that the proposal would result in fewer vehicular movements is not supported by fact. The proposal would actually result in an increase in daily vehicular movements, which would pass along the entire southerly boundary of the adjacent dwelling. The width of the land available for the construction of an access drive is not adequate to support the vehicular movements associated with two dwellings, each of which could have two or more vehicles, there would be no passing place, therefore involving reversing over quite a distance.
- The visibility splay onto Church Hill is insufficient.
Church Hill, although a country lane, is the main access route for a very busy 900 head dairy farm; milk tankers pass the entrance two and three times daily, whilst the other agricultural movements of slurry, silage, deliveries etc mean that large agricultural machinery is frequently using the lane, often at speed. Because it is carrying liquid, the milk tanker in particular would have difficulties in stopping coming away from the farm and down the hill. The Parish Council would consider it essential that the visibility looking north is substantially improved in the interests of road safety, and for cyclists and pedestrians, as there are no pavements. The land at the entrance onto the road is not owned or controlled by the applicant.
- The application is not for a replacement dwelling.
An elderly and ramshackle workshop is being demolished on order to accommodate the proposal for two dwellings, neither of which sit on the footprint of the workshop. The demolition is necessary to allow for the construction of access and turning head. The reference to 'allowing the management of agricultural business' must refer to an off-site agricultural business, as there has been no agricultural business based on the site since its purchase by the previous owner in the 1980's (although may be referenced as agricultural in title deeds).
- The application represents overdevelopment of the site.
The proposal shows two dwellings in very close proximity of each other. The profile shows that the proposed dwellings would overlook the adjacent properties at the Coach House and Weathervane, and Monkton House.
- Drainage.
The field slopes quite steeply, 8–9 metres from top to bottom of the site, which is not reflected in the drawings, and is locally known to be very wet in its south western corner. It is known that the previous owner found parts of the field to be unusable for up to four months of the year. Therefore, there are concerns about the practicality of the location of the sewage treatment plant and the outflow of treated water into this part of the site, and the direction of surface water run-off into the same area of the field. If the saturation of the field is increased it will impact on the neighbouring gardens to the south of the site.
- The visual amenity will be impacted by the material finish.
- Sustainable transport.

It is stated that there is access to facilities and bus routes in Monkton Heathfield. It is unlikely this would offer a practical solution to sustainable transport since the nearest bus route would be at Monkton Elm, a 23-minute walk of some 1.2 miles down a steep hill, and returning up a steep hill. Shops, and other amenities are even further way, for example the Primary School is 1.5 miles away. The route to be followed is along narrow lanes which have no footpaths.

- Soil contamination.
Given the previous use of the land since 1980's it would be prudent for the soil to be checked for contamination.
- Tree protection.
The application proposes the removal of 24 trees and outlines measures to deliver biodiversity net gain on the site. The Parish Council would seek to have tree preservation orders placed on the current remaining significant trees and hedges on the site in order to protect the current biodiversity of the site.

48/21/0006/LEW Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing change of use of land from agricultural to domestic garden at Uplands, Church Hill, West Monkton
After some discussion it was agreed to support the grant of this application.

48/21/0007 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 49 Farriers Green, Monkton Heathfield.
The Parish Council has no comment to make on this application.

48/20/0060 Replacement of conservatory with the erection of a single storey extension to the rear with conversion of garage into ancillary accommodation at 44 St Quintin Park, Bathpool
Omission of rear raised patio area, removal of corner windows on rear elevation. Amendments noted, there is no substantial change. The Parish Council supported the previous application and supports the amendments, without further comment.

48/21/0008 Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling with detached garage and associated works at the walled gardens at Nigella, Church Hill, West Monkton
West Monkton Parish Council does not support the grant of this application.
The reasons are as follows.

- Access.
The access onto Church Hill from the private shared drive, which is not in the ownership or control of the applicant, is poor, meeting Church Hill at 90 degrees. The visibility splay is reduced by the stone walls bordering the access road. Owing to the substantial dwelling proposed for the site there is a likelihood of two or three additional cars using the access onto Church Hill on a regular basis. Church Hill is used as the main route to a large 900 head dairy farm, as such, the road is frequently used by heavy agricultural vehicles such as milk tanker (two or three times daily) silage trailers, slurry spreaders, and other agricultural deliveries. There is no footpath, and the road is used by cyclists and pedestrians as part of the footpath network around West Monkton.
- Size.
The proposed dwelling is a substantial 4 bedroomed building that occupies a very significant part of the site, to the extent that it is too large for the site.
- Materials and design.
The design is out of keeping with the area, and of little architectural merit.
- Impact on neighbours.
The height of the proposed building, although cognizant of the height of the walls is such that, owing to the topography of the area, overlooks the neighbours lower down the hill, Bartons, Mulberry House, Windflower. The relative heights of the proposed dwelling and its neighbours does not appear to be shown correctly on the elevations presented.
- Conservation wall.
The history of the wall is well documented. The location of the proposed dwelling is very close to the listed wall. Has the Conservation Officer expressed a view on the proximity of the proposed dwelling to the listed structure?

The following additional planning applications were considered:

48/21/0010 Demolition of cricket pavilion and erection of implement store at West Monkton Cricket Club, Monkton Heathfield

Cllr Elliston declared a personal interest in respect of this planning application.

West Monkton Parish Council supports this application, with no further comment. Proposed by Cllr Haskins, seconded by Cllr Hall and all agreed by show of hands.

48/21/0015/VSC Variation to Section 106 agreement to enable the sale and storage of food and drink goods for consumption off the premises at The Range, Unit 1 Taunton Retails Park, Hankridge Way, Taunton.

It was agreed to request an extension from SWT Planning to enable the Parish Council to consider this application at the Planning Committee Meeting on 6th April 2021.

Notice of application for street trading consent - Gourmet Salad Box at locations in Taunton including the BACH car park.

Clerk advised that SWT Licensing have a new approach when considering these types of applications whereby Parish Councils are consulted.

It was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Elliston and all agreed by show of hands to support the application for a street trading consent and to make the following comments:

The BACH car parking is in a central location in the parish and is directly opposite the proposed shops / retail units for the local area.

Application by a local pharmacist for a license to open a pharmacy at the former Land Rover dealership on Bridgwater Road at Bathpool.

It was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Ellis and all agreed by show of hands to support the application.

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

Decisions noted.

45/21 MH Development

a) MH1: Update

- i. Meeting held with Persimmon on 26th February, agreed action points from the meeting have been shared with Persimmon.

- ii. **Sports pitches**

Cllr Hall reported that a meeting with SWT Planning and Planning Policy Officers took place on 3rd March. The notes from the meeting have been circulated. Cllr Hall provided a summary and the next steps that need to be taken by the Parish Council.

Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Persimmon about them applying for a variation of the S106 agreement and a response is awaited.

b) Hartnells Farm Development: Update

Cllr Hall reported that trees became available from the Hartnells Farm Development and that 61 of them have been replanted at the Country Park.

Cllr Cavill reported that the Heathfield Drive works are progressing well but that Persimmon had indicated during a meeting that the Contractor can only do work to re-tarmac the trench that was dug up during the works. SCC needs to inspect the road when the work has finished as there has been damage to curb stones.

Stone wall to front of Hartnells Farmhouse is progressing – traffic lights are currently in place. The crossing point is also taking shape.

Clerk reported that Persimmon had confirmed that dog bins will be added at Hartnells even if they do not appear on the plan.

Cllr Elliston raised the broadband issue, although Persimmon indicated that they would ask Fibrenest if they would be interested in retrofitting MH1 it isn't really dealing with the issue. It was agreed that the Clerk would

write to Rebecca Pow MP to raise the issue. Although the decision regarding broadband on new developments is a commercial one taken by Persimmon it should be looked into nationally if the decision is restricting competition. Cllr Hall reported that Persimmon had confirmed that the play area in Hartnells is to be bought forward to phase one so that it is available as soon as possible.

c) Retail units: Update

Clerk confirmed that there was no progress to report but that Rebecca Miller at SWT is looking into S106 agreement amendments in respect of the retail units following the comments made by Persimmon.

d) MH2: Update

Clerk confirmed that MH2 TPO information had been circulated to Councillors. The information will be reviewed at the April Planning Committee meeting.

It was agreed that a poll to establish the views of parishioners about what units should be included in the District Centre for MH2. Clerk to develop a poll and add it to the WMPC website. This information will be useful when a planning application is submitted for MH2.

Clerk confirmed that the Parish Councils comments in relation to the SWT MH2 consultation have been re-sent to Fiona Webb as the new SWT Lead Officer. A copy of the Create Streets report has also been provided.

e) Feedback from WM Liaison Meeting on 2nd March

Clerk confirmed that there was no further feedback to report from the meeting.

46/21 Community

a) Update

Cllr Elliston confirmed that there was no update on community building plans as yet. Due to the current lockdown and cold weather it isn't appropriate to start the pilot in Roys Place but Cllr Elliston hopes to make progress soon. Cllr Elliston reported some of the content on social media posted by the community who appear to be frustrated about the lack of progress on MH1 and some indicating that the Parish Council haven't done anything along with some other accusations. Cllr Hope confirmed that he has taken part and responded to the posts to confirm what the Parish Council has been doing.

It was agreed that there was a need for a wider discussion about the understanding of the Community about the role of the Parish Council and what it can and cannot do. It was agreed to discuss this further at the April Planning Committee Meeting.

b) Community Website

Cllr Elliston suggested that a new Community website may provide an opportunity to fix some of the issues and frustrations coming from the community.

Cllr Elliston suggested that the Parish Council start with the Wincanton Window website and add additional pages / capability so that the community website includes information about institutions / organisations, events, social activities, networking, commerce etc.

The website can provide information, as a consultation tool but also to provide a means for members of the community to ask questions and log their issues and the Council can respond.

The quote provided by SWS was discussed. The idea of using Bethan Turner's expertise was also discussed. It was agreed that a separate meeting would be arranged to develop a proposal for the Community Website to be considered at the April Planning Committee meeting.

Cllrs Elliston, Hall and Tully volunteered to take part in the meeting, Clerk to arrange the meeting and circulate the information so that any other interested Councillors can join.

Clerk requested that Councillors send any website domain ideas to her.

47/21 Environmental

a) CIL Projects:

Footpaths / Rights of Way

Cllr Haskins confirmed that the photos of the work undertaken by the Lengthsman to replace styles with Bristol gates had been circulated. Five new gates have been installed. Cllr Gage confirmed that he has applied for another 5 gates to be installed across Parish. The new Bristol gates enable easier access for walkers and self-close easily.

Tacchi Morris Grant Application – update

Cllr Hall confirmed that the work to the Tacchi Morris café has had to come to a temporary stop because the centre is being used to test students attending Heathfield School every day.

Half the counter is complete, the chairs that were delivered were the wrong colour and have gone back to the supplier to be replaced.

All other equipment has been delivered. Work is expected to resume in a couple of weeks.

b) Climate Action Programme for the Parish – update

Clerk confirmed that the report provided by Bethan Turner had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The report summarises the levels of engagement on the Facebook page as a result of the Climate Action Programme communications that Bethan is developing and publishing. It was noted that the level of engagement had risen significantly as a result of Bethan's work on behalf of the Parish Council. Seed Initiative to be launched at APM.

c) Co-Op Noticeboard

Assistant Clerk provided a summary of the costs of noticeboards that could be purchased to replace the existing noticeboard at the Co-op with one with lockable doors.

It was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Ellis and all agreed by a show of hands to purchase the Envy Outdoor Recycled Lockable Notice Board with Header.

It was noted that the existing noticeboard would be removed and restored for future use in the Parish.

d) Defibrillator Update

Cllr Hall confirmed that authorisation from the Management Committee at Tacchi Morris is being sought to fit the Defibrillator in the proposed location. Once this is received installation will take place.

e) Land next to Old West Monkton Primary School – update

Cllr Haskins confirmed with Cllr Fothergill the Parish Councils intention to clear the brambles from the land.

Cllr Besley outlined a quotation provided by Mowgate. It was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Cavill and all agreed by show of hands to accept the quote provided by Mowgate and instruct them to carry out the work as soon as possible.

Cllr Besley to let Cllrs Haskins, Cavill and Hall know when Mowgate intend to do the work.

48/21 Reports, including recent developments, matters to consider and decisions to be made:

a) Bathpool Flood Warden: Mr Kevin Perry

Kevin Perry reported the rainfall in February was slightly lower than the long term average but that half of the monthly average fell in 5 days, this led to flood alerts being issued on 18th and 19th February.

On 20th February the Old River Tone rose by 1.87m, the level of the Old River Tone is rising more and more each time heavy rainfall is experienced. This is the biggest rise in such a short period of time that has been experienced. The pump was operating for 26 hours. All houses stayed dry but there was water in the gardens of Bridgwater Road properties. The levels were at the highest they have been this winter. Yew Tree Lane residents were also anxious about rising levels. The combined sewer started discharging on 20th Feb. The sewerage came up quite quickly but Wessex Water dealt with the issue quite quickly. Wessex Water confirmed that the pumping station at Hyde Lane couldn't cope. Part of the garden of 105 Bridgwater Road still taped off to be decontaminated – this has happened twice this winter, it happened 5-6 times last winter.

One of the flap gates at end of old River Tone is wedged open caused by debris from river bank. Lay flat pipe has also moved during high water levels and there is concern that it may have become damaged. Environment Agency to investigate.

No further news on leaky dams at the moment.

Clearing of road drains on Bridgwater Road following work in November has now been passed by SCC to the contractors who did the work, who will investigate.

b) NP Delivery Group Chairman: Mr K Tutill / Assistant Clerk

Kelvin Tutill provided an update on the NP review. It was agreed at the last meeting to start the Regulation 14 consultation. Statutory consultees have been informed. There is a nine week period within which to respond.

Only one comment from Highways England has been received who queried why the PCs are reviewing the NP

before the District Council Local Plan review has been completed. All responses will be reviewed at the end of the consultation period. It is expected that most replies to the consultation will come in during weeks 8 and 9 of the consultation period.

Ann Rhodes has confirmed that the Habitat Regulations Assessment may have to be reviewed again in view of the phosphate issues on the levels. It is hoped that this can be done relatively quickly.

A further report will be provided at the next meeting.

The POS signage has been erected in Cheddon Fitzpaine areas, West Monkton areas to follow. Assistant Clerk confirmed that a review of all the areas and the location where the signs should be erected is taking place with the Parish Lengthsman on Thursday.

c) Councillors with roles of responsibility

Footpaths: Cllr Gage.

Cllr Gage confirmed that he had nothing further to report.

BACH: Cllr Gage.

Cllr Gage reported that the BACH is currently closed but is expected to re-open in April but most activities won't be allowed to resume until May. Cllr Gage confirmed that he had been approached by the Beavers / Cubs requesting use of the toilets when the group meets outside on the school site. It was agreed that the group could use the toilets for no charge but that the group will be responsible for ensuring that the hall and toilets are kept clean and safe and in line with Covid 19 restrictions.

Cllr Gage finally reported that an electrician is going in next week to fit an outside lockable electric supply.

Allotments: Cllr Haskins (Clerk)

Clerk reported that notification had been received that a new supply is being installed by Western Power Distribution which may affect 2 allotments. Clerk has written to both allotment holders to notify them.

Highways: Cllr Besley

Cllr Besley confirmed that he had nothing to report.

Two limbs of oak have been collected from WRR ready to make into benches. Cllr Elliston confirmed that he knew of a Chainsaw Carver and would pass the contact details to the Clerk.

Water Retention Initiatives: Cllrs Cavill and Hall

Cllr Hall confirmed that some drawings have been developed by FWAG for Maidenbrook Stream for a flood plain to be put in. The improvements should slow the flow by 10%.

Safe Routes to School: Cllr Tully.

Cllr Tully confirmed that there was nothing to report.

Public Open Spaces, Recreation and Children's Play Areas: Cllrs Hope and Cavill.

Cllr Hope confirmed that there was little to report due to lack of movement / work by Persimmon

Cllr Hope summarised some discussion points on social media. The Saw Bands in the hedge on the AMP boundary have been raised again.

The name of the landowner has been provided. Cllr Cavill agreed to find out the contact details for the landowner and give them to the Clerk so that she can make contact and request the removal of the saw bands.

Community Liaison/Transportation: Cllr Elliston

Cllr Elliston raised the damaged bus shelter at Hankridge Farm. The bus shelter has collapsed and has been taped off for some time. Clerk to make some enquiries regarding ownership / responsibility for the bus shelter.

d) Communications Report

Clerk confirmed that there was nothing further to report in addition to the Communications Report circulated in advance of the meeting.

e) GDPR

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Clerk confirmed that there was nothing to report.

f) WMPC Chairman

Cllr Haskins confirmed that he had nothing further to report. Clerk summarised the draft agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on 31st March 2021. Proposed agenda agreed.

Clerk confirmed that the Annual Report would be circulated for approval by email.

Representatives on outside bodies/Response to Consultations:

g) West Monkton Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Tully confirmed that there was nothing to report.

h) The Spital Trust

Cllr Ellis confirmed that a meeting of the Spital Trust is scheduled to take place later this month. A report on the meeting will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

i) Any other events at which WMPC was represented

Cllr Elliston reported that the Rotary Club are arranging a Zoom meeting to discuss coordination of local events to make the Queens Platinum Jubilee next year. An initial meeting is scheduled to take place on 24th March at 7pm. Cllr Elliston to forward details to the Clerk to circulate to Councillors.

j) Consultations submitted

No consultations submitted.

49/21 Assets

a) Asset Register

Up to date, including new litter bin at Hyde Lane.

50/21 Finance

a) BACH Finance

Clerk summarised the BACH finance sheet to 28th February that was circulated in advance of the meeting.

b) Quotes:

- Grass cutting and dog bin emptying quote from SWT for 2021. On questioning the £6.00 per empty, D Lane replied that was the rate determined by SWT.

Request to cut the following sites (April-October)	9	£315.99	£2843.91 + VAT
Yallands Hill to Monkton Elm			
Cherry Grove crossroads			
Greenway/Meadway and Sidbrook cross roads			
Cut/Mow visibility splay at Dosters Lane (April)	1	£280.88	£280.88 + VAT
Cut/Mow Grass at Bollards on northerly side of A3259 including Entrance to footpath to Yallands Hill one off cut in April	1	£140.44	£140.44 + VAT
Empty dog bins x 10 Twice a week for 52 weeks	1040	£6.00 per bin empty	£6240 + VAT

Total			£9505.23 + VAT
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Resolution to accept quote apart from a reduction in times dog bins are emptied from twice a week to once a week. Proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Hall and all agreed by show of hands.

c) Receipts and payments

Information relating to named, or otherwise identifiable, individuals is confidential and has been redacted in documents placed in the public domain

Receipts

Interest Lloyds	£0.21
Nationwide	£ to follow
PSDF	£ to follow

Payments

Bus shelter cleaning and litter picking	
Mr A Pritchard, all his pay after tax => employee voluntary contribution to pension via Tailored auto-enrolment ¹ (xx.xx to be paid by direct debit)) shown on bank statement	
Tailored auto-enrolment pension contributions	£ xx.xx to be paid by direct debit)) together
Clerks salary (after tax)	£ xx.xx to be paid by bacs
Asst Clerk (after tax)	£ xx.xx to be paid by bacs
HMRC month 11	£16.57 to be paid by bacs
Homeworkers allowance Clerk	£27.00 to be paid by bacs
Homeworkers allowance Assistant Clerk	£27.00 to be paid by bacs
Lengthsmans services	£ to follow to be paid by bacs
B Turner: Allaboutyou work done in February	£125.00 to be paid by bacs (Comms)
Bradfor's post crete for park signs	£207.14 to be paid by bacs (CIL)
Bradfor's post crete for footpath gates	£78.91 to be paid by bacs (CIL)
SWTC x1 dog bin emptying (1year)	£673.92 to be paid by bacs (dog bin emptying)
Cllr A Hall printer ink	£14.57 to be paid by bacs (Sports and general)
Parish Legthsman	£406.81 to be paid by bacs
Viking – Stationary	£237.50 to be paid by bacs

Any other invoices received before 9 Mar 2021 £ to follow, to be paid by bacs wherever possible for invoice

Connect Furniture T-M the other 50 % is awaited £3091.92 left to be paid by bacs (CIL)

Resolution to make payments as described above (invoices to be paid by bacs where noted), proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Elliston and all agreed by show of hands.

Payments made since last meeting of WMPC

1. To note: Payments made using debit card

nil

2.To note payments by bacs/transfer:

nil

3. To note payment by direct debit

Invoice 9253 Monthly payment of £12.00 + vat £2.40 = £14.40 to Tailored Auto Enrolment, for the servicing plan

Tailored auto enrolment pension deductions: £to follow

Invoice SWS107709 Monthly invoice £59.80 + vat £11.96 = £71.76 to Somerset Web Services (13 mailboxes)

4. Cheque

Nil

¹ After tax, Tailored Auto Enrolment make payment to Legal and General 'nest' fund by direct debit

d) WMPC Bank reconciliation

Bank reconciliation and budget check: please check on green financial sheet. Ask any questions by email. Bank reconciliation for 1st March is complete and balanced. Spreadsheet will be completed to 31 March 2021 for year-end accounts. Some variation between individual lines for budget figures and actuals is inevitable by this stage in the financial year.

General notes on spreadsheet

Each column heading is dated first of the month.

Each monthly receipt column is a snap shot of what **has been received** in the month prior to 1st of the month.

Each monthly expenditure column itemizes payment that **will be made** (i.e. paying the last month's bills) after 1st of the month. These are the monthly list of payments for approval.

Bank statements for 1st of the month provide the figures shown on the financial sheet (bottom left - hand corner).

Specific notes for WMPC March financial sheet

WMPC Receipts

Shows receipts between 1 Feb and 1 Mar, Includes interest from three bank accounts

WMPC Expenditure

Bradford's post crete in two tranches – first of 42 bags for park signage, 172.62 +vat34.52 = £207.14 (To be reimbursed by CF PC for their share – 13 bags of 42).

Second tranche of 16 bags for footpath gate replacements, same price per bag, £65.76 +vat
£13.15=£78.91

SWTC emptying of 1 dog bin for the year 1 April to 31 March 2021 561.60 +vat 112.32 = £673.92

Expenses Cllr A Hall printer inks 12.14 +vat 2.43 = £14.57

e) To note the next Meeting of Audit Working Party (fourth quarter review) Friday 16th April 2021, VIRTUAL 9.30am: papers will be circulated to members.

Noted

51/21 Other matters for report only

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 5th April 2021

Noted

Confidential Session:

52/21 Country Park

Cllr Hall provided an update in relation to the Country Park and Somerset Wood.

53/21 Dates of forthcoming meetings

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month

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

Planning Committee

First Tuesday in the month

6th Apr, 4th May, 1st Jun, 6th Jul, 3rd Aug, 7th Sep, 5th Oct, 2nd Nov, 7th Dec

Parish Surgery: Virtually - Second Thursday of the month at 7pm.

Annual Parish Meeting: 31st March 2021

BACH Committee: TBC

Audit Working Party: Virtually – 16th April 2021 at 9.30am

Budget and Precept: TBC November 2021

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.15pm.



Signed Chairman:

Date: 23rd April 2021

Adopted - Redacted