



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk, Mrs K Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community, Jim Carthy and Reg Barrington, Solar panel application and Tracey Mock and Dr Barry Nichols, On Your Bike

259/23 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

Apologies were received from Cllr Hope.

260/23 To note.

- 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.

261/23 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th February 2024

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 13th February 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th February, proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Ellis, and agreed by show of hands.

262/23 Chairman's Report

a) Parish Asset Report

Cllr Haskins reported on the following:

- Met with one of Somerset Council Highway Supervisors. The drainage works at Mount Fancy Cottage are planned to take place in April. The blocked culvert in Gotton Lane is also being investigated. A sink hole developed on Gotton Lane where a pothole was. CCTV investigatory work is also scheduled regarding the blocked gullies on Greenway – it is thought the gully may be blocked by a newly installed BT pole.
- New equipment for grass cutting has been collected from Western Bolt.
- There is new graffiti on two bus shelters, two gates on Milton Hill and there has been damage to the bus shelter opposite Thornash Close. Assistant Clerk Community to raise these issues with Monkton Wood Academy.

b) Feedback from SALC meeting

Cllr Haskins reported that a SALC meeting took place last Friday, it was a Board meeting to agree the adverts for new Chief Executive of SALC role. The role will be advertised shortly.

Cllr Haskins also reported on the Hestercombe LCN meeting that took place on 21st February. The meeting moved to online only which worked well. A Highways Working Group is going to be set up for the LCN. The Working Group will link with Somerset Council Highways. It was agreed that Cllr Besley will represent West Monkton Parish Council on the Working Group.

An LCN Emergency Planning Workshop is also scheduled to take place on 18th March. Cllr Haskins, Hall, and Clerk to attend.

Public Question Time

Cllr Tully reported that the bird mouth fencing at the canal roundabout is damaged.

Clerk to report to Persimmon.

263/23 Planning

a) To consider any planning applications (listed on the Somerset Council website)

48/23/0038/LB: Installation of wood burner flue and redevelopment of garden at Walford Cottage, Walford Cross (retention of works already undertaken)

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

48/24/0005: Replacement of conservatory with the erection of a single storey extension to the rear of Attwood, 63a Greenway, Monkton Heathfield

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

48/24/0007/T: Notification to carry out management works, including felling and pruning, to a group of laurel, holly, Pittosporum and other vegetation (some of which requires no permission) within West Monkton Conservation Area at 1 Monkton Heights, The Street, West Monkton.

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

Solar installation on land West of Derham Close, Creech St Michael.

The applicants for the proposal attended the meeting and provided an overview.

It was noted that although an application has been submitted to the Local Planning Authority it is yet to be validated and an additional report is required. The Parish Council will receive notification of the planning application in due course and comments will be agreed at a future meeting when this is received.

The main concern about the proposal was the height of the proposed panels and the visual impact on those walking along the canal path.

The Parish Council expressed a preference for the panels to be installed as low / close to the ground as possible to reduce the visual impact.

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

Noted

264/23 To receive a presentation from On Your Bike about a Community Cycling Project

Tracey Mock and Dr Barry Nichols from On Your Bike attended the meeting and provided an overview of On Your Bike and the Community Cycling Project.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would give consideration about how best to deliver the project for the community and would engage with the school to inform this. Cllr Munson agreed to work with Assistant Clerk Community and On Your Bike to develop a proposal for consideration by the Parish Council.

It was noted that the work of On Your Bike could link with the BMX track proposed on the sports pitch land.

265/23 Sports Pitches update

Cllr Hall reported that the pre-planning advice application that the PC submitted prior to Christmas has now been picked up by Simon Fox who is liaising with Sports England.

Cllr Hall reported that he has been liaising with a local contractor about the gates / fencing required for the entrance to the sports pitches and considering options. The gates / fencing will require planning permission prior to install.

The ground is still too wet to plough.

A member of the public was in attendance at the meeting and expressed an interest in the proposed BMX track and agreed to contribute towards the development of the proposals. It was noted that the member of the public could be co-opted onto the Sports Pitch Committee.

266/23 Hestercombe LCN; Feedback from meeting on 21st February

No further feedback from that provided above under item 262/23b.

267/23 MH Developments

a) MH2 Update; Feedback from legal agreement meeting on 20th February and Public Consultation Events on 24th and 26th February.

Clerk confirmed that the draft notes from the Legal Agreement meeting on 20th February have been circulated for comments from Councillors.

A discussion took place about the Wetlands and the need for clarity about who will be liable for ensuring the ongoing mitigation. It was noted that the S106 agreement will include a sum for inspection of the wetlands / phosphate mitigation by Somerset Council. The Parish Council would prefer that the ongoing liability remains with the Developer.

Cllr Cavill reported that the biodiversity net gain requirements come in to force for residential developments from 4th April 2024 and suggested that the amount phosphate mitigation included in the MH2 development needs to be checked to establish if the mitigation is just for MH2 or other proposed developments.

It was noted that both public consultations events, one in Creech St Michael on 24th February and the other at the BACH on 26th February were both well attended, and feedback is being received.

Some points that were brought up at the events included:

- The employment land is proposed for phase 4 but needs to be delivered earlier. Suggestion that enquiry is made regarding the HIF funding for the Staplegrave development being re-purposed when it is repaid to enable earlier delivery.
- Positioning of the Scout Hut, there was a preference that the hut is located near the woodland area. Clerk to make contact with the Scout Group and ask for feedback regarding the proposed location and delivery.
- Highways – concern expressed about the A38 cutting off the MH2 development, the safety of children walking to the proposed through school in MH2 and the likelihood that the crossing points proposed will slow traffic to such an extent that traffic will choose to travel through Monkton Heathfield instead.

It was noted that a meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled to take place on 5th March to consider the MH2 application, the feedback received from members of the public and develop a response for approval at the PC meeting on 12th March.

b) MH1 Update; POS transfer update.

Clerk reported that the hold up with the POS transfer was due to Somerset Council not progressing the S106 variation. This is now in hand. Persimmon are going to schedule fortnightly catch ups to ensure progress. It was noted that the play park remedials and tree reports need to be discussed at the catch-up meetings. Clerk to provide a further update on progress on Monkton Matters.

c) Hartnells Farm Development update.

Clerk confirmed that following points raised on the proposals for Phase 4 of Hartnells by the PC and Statutory Consultees, Persimmon are going to re-submit plans and there will be a further opportunity for comment by the PC.

Cllr Cavill reported that he had been liaising with Jon Fellingham in Somerset Council Highways about the crossing point that won't be delivered at Greenway / Milton Hill which is an obligation of the Hartnells development. Jon Fellingham has confirmed that a zebra crossing at the location is being considered as an alternative and Cllr Cavill has suggested that because a zebra crossing is cheaper than an additional zebra crossing at Yallands Hill is also required. Jon Fellingham is taking this proposal forward.

Cllr Cavill reported that he had also taken the opportunity to raise the bus gate with Jon Fellingham who confirmed that the Somerset Council position remains the same; there is a requirement for a bus gate to be delivered but the position of the bus gate still needs to be determined.

268/23 Permanent pump at Bathpool; consideration of undertaking regarding fees.

Clerk provided a summary of the proposal received from the agents acting for the owner of the land which is required for the installation of the permanent pumps at Bathpool.

The proposal requests that the Parish Council provide an undertaking to cover the agents' fees to value the land and provide a market appraisal report. The fees are estimated to be £1000 +VAT.

After a discussion it was resolved to make the undertaking to cover the agents' fees but request that if, as hoped, the Parish Council is successful in purchasing the land, the agent fees are reduced from the purchase price.

Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Cavill and all agreed by show of hands.

Clerk to explore reimbursement of the agent fees / legal fees / land purchase cost from the S106 money allocated from the Hartnells Development for this project with the Environment Agency.

269/23 Community

a) Update.

Assistant Clerk Community reported on the following:

Café – Continuing to be busy with school children, parents, knit and crocheters and community garden volunteers. On the 7th February there was an issue at the café with children in the foyer running around and being rude to volunteers, unfortunately I was not there, and a volunteer dealt with the matter. Unfortunately, the volunteer put something on Facebook about the behaviour of some of the children. I spoke to the head teacher at West Monkton Primary School who apologised on behalf of the children and said she would speak to them, and I agreed to speak to the volunteer about taking down the post and not posting anything on social media. The repair café is quiet but continues to run once a month and the volunteers enjoy meeting and there are usually one or two parishioners who turn up with a task or two for them.

Loss and Bereavement Group – Vicar Jim Cox attended the December and January and February groups, and we have a few attendees at each group.

Stay and Play Group – Attendance still good on both days. We are looking for a volunteer to help on a Wednesday between 12 and 2pm.

Group for Parents of Children with Additional Needs – Will be looking to start this after Easter.

Community Fridge – The fridge continues to be busy. Unfortunately, there have been some incidents with secondary age pupils and food being thrown at houses in the area. The police are involved, and the school have been informed. It was decided that closing at 3pm for the time being until the issues settle would be the best way forward for now.

Litter Pickers – Despite the colder weather our litter picking volunteers continue to keep the parish tidy and keep us up to date with any issues around the parish that need intervention. We have had a number of new volunteers join us this month.

Pupil Participation – Took a whole school assembly at West Monkton Primary on the 30th January 2024 about the community fridge and community garden. DBS is now through and will be starting sessions at Monkton Wood Academy on the 22nd February and will meet weekly until Easter, we will review the sessions at that point.

b) Community Events update

Community Quiz continues to be popular, the December quizzes now fully booked, and we have new dates for next year for the community quizzes on Wed 21 February, Wed 20 March and Wed 24 April.

30/3/24 – Easter Egg Hunt – Unfortunately, this year we don't have our 'Easter Bunny' as she is away on holiday. We are offering tickets using Eventbrite and will look to run an Easter Egg hunt for about 100 children as we did last year. The purchase of 100 eggs as a cost of approximately £150.00 was approved.

29/6/24 – Tug of War with the local parishes.

Teams – poster has been shared on social media.

We will look to provide a bar and open mic session with band or bands to follow which will run into the evening.

c) Community Garden update.

Community Service Team worked on the garden on 11th February and cleared the area around the community fridge and cut back the lower branches of some of the trees. There is now more space for growing in the spring. The volunteers have continued to meet and keep up with the garden over the winter period and are now beginning to look at plans for the spring. We have had a few new volunteers joined the group.

d) First Aid Training.

We have First Aid Training booked for Wednesday 27th March, if any councillors that did not do the training last year would like to do it this year, please let Assistant Clerk - Community know.

270/23 Country Park and Somerset Wood

a) Somerset Wood; fundraising update, Poppy of Honour Pavilion update.

Cllr Hall reported that communication has been sent to local businesses and Taunton Chamber of Commerce have a meeting on 5th March when consideration of agreement to circulate it to their members will be considered and hopefully agreed. A pledge has been received from Persimmon Homes for £1000.00.

The QR codes are still awaited, once received they will be shared as widely as possible to enable fundraising.

Cllr Hall provided an update on the work of Reed and Holland to obtain three tenders for the pavilion construction including from glass manufacturers.

The proposed cameras will now go on flag poles rather than on the pavilion structure.

b) D-Day Event update

Cllr Hall provided an overview of plans for the D-Day event. Cllr Hall will be attending a meeting of Taunton Town Council on 12th March to provide an overview of plans and for the Town Council to consider providing match funding for the event.

Cllr Hall reported that the Hydrographic Office are putting together a package of maps of the South of England, charts across the channel and landing sites. The Hydrographic Office are only producing three sets; one will be for the D-Day event at the Country Park. They are also developing a video which will be shared on the screen at the event.

Contact has been made and responses are awaited about memorial flights, landing of the merlin helicopter and 40 Commando landing their helicopter.

Wreath laying arrangements / procedure is also being discussed.

A timeline for the event is being developed.

It was noted that until Taunton Town Council make a decision regarding funding commitments beyond the £10k allocated by the Parish Council cannot be made.

c) Country Park update; lottery grant application.

Cllr Hall provided an update on the lottery grant application. Prices are being obtained and further detail is being developed to support second round of application including surveys for the volunteers and the community about the Country Park.

Cllr Gage raised spraying the area for the wildflower meadow. It was noted that a contractor with sprayer is needed. Cllr Haskins to make contact with a contractor about the work.

271/23 Other matters for report only – items for discussion – no decision

The clerk requested contributions from Councillors for the Annual Report by the end of February.

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 4th March

Annual Report / Strategic Plan and plan for APM will be discussed / agreed at the next PC meeting.

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Agenda run through on 5th March.

MH2 Planning Committee Meeting 5th March at 7pm

PC Meeting 12th March at 7pm

Tug of War Meeting – 14th March at 7pm

272/23 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2024: 12th Mar, 9th Apr, 14th May, 11th Jun, 9th Jul, 13th Aug, 10th Sep, 8th Oct, 12th Nov, 10th Dec.

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

2024: 23rd Apr, 28th May, 25th Jun, 23rd Jul, 24th Sep, 22nd Oct, 26th Nov.

Planning Committee Meeting (MH2 application): 5th March 2024 at 7pm

Audit Working Party: 26th April 2024 at 9.30am

Annual Parish Meeting: 26th March 2024 at 7pm
BACH Committee 4th June 2024 at 7pm
Sports Pitch Committee TBC
Somerset Wood Joint Committee: TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 9.36pm

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. H. R. 12/3/24', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signed Chairman:

Date: 12th March 2024

Adopted - Redacted