



West Monkton Parish Council

## ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 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, and approximately 12 members of the public.

**309/23 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.**

No apologies were received.

**310/23 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.

**311/23 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> April, proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Ellis, and agreed by show of hands.

**312/23 Chairman's Report**

This item was deferred, and matters were reported by Cllr Haskins under public question time.

**Public Question Time**

A member of the public who is a Hob close resident raised the D-Day event and requested clarification of the Parish Council and Town Council involvement in the event. Cllr Hall provided an update on progress with the event. Programme for the event being finalised and will be made available.

Members of the public present at the meeting requested an update in respect of the number 12 bus service, update provided by Cllr Cavill.

Cllr Munson raised the road incident at the bottom of Dosters Lane on Friday and suggested that overgrown grass verges may be causing a visibility issue.

Cllr Ellis raised concern about speeding on Monkton Heathfield Road. Clerk confirmed that the SID is being deployed tomorrow on Monkton Heathfield Road.

Cllr Haskins reported the increasing amounts of graffiti particularly in the new estate to Bathpool.

Clerk to report grass verges to Somerset Council Highways.

Clerk to ask Parish Lengthsman to remove graffiti that he comes across. Assistant Clerk Community to liaise with PCSO to see what support can be requested from the Community.

Cllr Besley reported that there is a large Ash Tree near Hob Close that is dead and needs felling.

Clerk to check if the Ash Tree is included in the Persimmon Tree Report.

Cllr Gage reported that Airband are putting up poles in the village. Two more on Red Hill even though there are two poles opposite.

### **313/23 Number 12 bus update**

Cllr Cavill provided an update. A good proposal is being put together to be able to keep the bus service past the proposed end date. Work is progressing to established which trips are the most well used and which trips can be cut out. This will inform how much of a bus service is needed, what are the best times for trips are, if a bigger bus is possible. The numbers of use of the service have picked up which helps the argument. The goal is to keep the service running until MH2 properties are built and occupied. A further update on progress will be provided at the next Parish Council meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> May.

Members of the public in attendance at the meeting supported the bus service and the need for it as it provides routes to services / shops that aren't accessed via other bus routes.

### **314/23 Hestercombe LCN; feedback from meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Cllr Haskins provided feedback on the Hestercombe LCN meeting that took place on 17<sup>th</sup> April. An Active Travel presentation was received and a presentation on the Somerset Wildlife consultation was received about planned replanting and rewilding. The next LCN meeting will be the AGM. Annual reports are being prepared.

### **315/23 Planning**

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

48/24/0014/T: Notification to carry out management works to one cherry tree within Monkton Heathfield Conservation Area at St. Augustines Church, Church Hill, West Monkton  
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

48/24/0016/CQ: Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No. dwelling house (Class C3) and associated building operations at Hill Farm, Hill Farm Road, West Monkton  
*Cllr Cavill declared a prejudicial interest and left the at 7.41pm*  
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.  
*Cllr Cavill returned to the meeting at 7.46pm.*

48/24/0017 and 48/24/0018/LB: Erection of a single storey extension to the rear with installation of air source heat pump and various internal and external alterations at Blundells Farm, Blundells Lane, West Monkton  
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission and made the following comments in respect of the proposal:

- The proposal should include a solution for rainwater capture, perhaps a water butt or soakaway rather than connecting to existing systems. This would avoid any additional pressure on the systems and reduce surface run off going into the sewers.
- It is noted that two of the elevations of the proposed extension are fully glazed. The applicants should be mindful of the light spill from internal lights in the extension and the impact on dark skies.

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

14/21/0047: Application for outline planning permission with all matters reserved, except for access, comprising up to 1,450 dwellings, up to 4.91 hectares of land for strategic employment uses, up to 8 hectares of land for a through school, mixed use district centre including mobility hub, community facilities, green infrastructure, drainage works, and associated works, on land at Walford Cross, Monkton Heathfield. Application being considered by the Somerset Council Planning Committee on 1st May at 2pm. A 6-month update will be provided at the meeting. It was agreed that Cllr Haskins would speak at the Committee meeting in relation to the application on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **316/23 Sports Pitches update**

Cllr Hall reported that the field has been ploughed and a meeting on site has taken place with the contractor, tilling of the soil to take place this weekend.

Cllr Hall provided feedback on the meeting with Sports England, the Planning Officer, the FA, RFU, ECB and SCF. Cricket and rugby representatives are in favour of supporting rugby and cricket. A subsequent meeting has taken place with the FA where the potential pitch between Bridgwater Road and School Road and the Waterleaze pitch were visited and reviewed. The FA will carry out a survey of the pitch between Bridgwater Road and School Road to ascertain the works required to bring it up to standard. The information from the survey will be useful to inform works / costings to bring the pitch into use. Cllr Cavill reported that Somerset Council and Monkton Wood Academy have confirmed that MWA has no requirement for the pitch. The Assets Officer at Somerset Council is away until May – Cllr Cavill will follow up progress with the pitch when the Officer returns. Clerk to arrange a meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee to provide updates from the pre-planning advice application, meetings with Sports England and the FA and work on site.

Clerk to gather quotes from planning consultants that specialise in sports pitches to develop, submit and oversee the planning application required for the sports pitches for consideration at the next PC meeting.

Cllr Hall reported that WeeTrees have some hedging / bare root / trees available for the sports pitch site for free if the PC collects them. Cllrs Haskins and Besley to arrange collection.

### **317/23 MH Developments**

#### **a) MH2 Update; Feedback from meeting with Simon Fox, Planning Officer on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Feedback was provided from the meeting with Simon Fox on 18<sup>th</sup> April.

In respect of the planning application, responses from all statutory consultees are awaited and outstanding issues are being worked through. One of these is highways – meetings are taking place with SC Highways regarding this.

Simon Fox is making enquiries about funding for the Community Hall where CIL is received from Somerset Council for the construction and the CIL is repaid by the Parish Councils as receipts are received. The other option might be for the PCs to commission the developer to build the Community Hall in lieu of CIL payments. The size of the area for the Community Hall will be 1.75 acres.

Simon Fox is also gathering further information about the maintenance regime / costs for the wetlands / phosphate mitigation.

Cllr Gage raised that the Parish Council has not received the data from the traffic counting that was carried out after the WRR was open. Cllr Cavill to request.

Regular catch ups with Simon Fox to be scheduled.

#### **b) MH1 Update; POS transfer update. Feedback from meeting with Persimmon on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Clerk reported that S106 Deed of Variation is making progress between solicitors and has now been agreed by all parties.

Feedback from the meeting with Persimmon was provided. The design for sports pitch entrance has been requested. Persimmon have committed to removing graffiti from any property that belongs to them. Persimmon are seeing if they can provide hares fencing for use in the Country Park. Grass cutting will continue monthly until handover. A half cut will take place in May for no mow may, but the play areas will be cut. Timescales for the play park remedials are expected to be confirmed by the end of the month and alternative quotes are being obtained for the tree works.

A further catch-up meeting has been scheduled to take place on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

#### **c) Hartnells Farm Development update.**

Clerk reported feedback received from Somerset Council about the proposed Yallands Hill crossing point. Somerset Council have suggested that the Parish Council commission Somerset Council to conduct a feasibility study. The cost of the study would be a few thousand pounds but exact cost to be provided prior to formal commitment being made. It was resolved to proceed with commissioning Somerset Council to undertake a Feasibility Study. Proposed by Cllr Cavill, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour.

*Cllr Cavill left the meeting.*

### **318/23 Community**

#### **a) Update.**

Café – Continuing to be busy with school children, parents, knit and crocheters and community garden volunteers. Bethan joined us during one café session and gave out numerous reflectors to children who attended, and many came to the café just to collect these tag reflectors for school bags or coats. Last week we had 9 Monkton Wood pupils walk through the door for hot chocolate just before 4pm. Perhaps if this trend continues, we open up for a little longer on a Wednesday to provide a safe space for young people to come and hang out.

The repair café was very busy this month with more residents coming in to have things repaired. Our new volunteer Tony has been advertising on next-door website which seems to be having a positive effect. The team are always willing to do all they can to help residents with repairs and go above and beyond.

Loss and Bereavement Group – This group has become more popular, and we have approximately 5/6 attendees. They have been using the partition door in the committee room to ensure they have a quiet private space for sessions.

Stay and Play Group – The group has been a little quieter now the days are brighter, but we still have steady flow of locals attending regularly.

Community Fridge – The fridge continues to be busy, and a new shed has been sourced and we will be looking to get this erected opposite the current shed. On the 2nd of May, pupils from Monkton Wood Academy will be visiting the Community Fridge and Community Garden to put together a video reel to share across social media platforms. Clerk reported that the ground works for the base of the additional community fridge have commenced. There is a six week wait for the new shed to be delivered.

Litter Pickers – 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. On the 21st of April the Community Services Team came to the area to help with litter picking along the relief road to support our volunteer's work.

Pupil Participation – I have been meeting with a group of pupils from Monkton Wood Academy and as a group they put together a survey to all pupils of the school; we had just under 70 responses. The outcome of the survey suggested that young people want more shops in their community and also want safe spaces/benches to hang out with their friends. We have also discussed the community and much discussion has been about needing a central hub for young people in the area as there is currently no youth hub in the parish. During the session this week the young people talked about the park near the cricket pitches and how this is a very popular place for youngsters in the parish to hang out and has park equipment for all ages and a basketball/football pitch. Perhaps we could look at developing this area more? We have also looked at taking some video reels of the various projects across the parish with the first one being filmed on the 2nd of May. Despite only meeting for 45 minutes each week, the young people are keen and enthusiastic about their community – some of the group live in West Monkton Parish while others live in surrounding parishes, and this has been raised in the LCN meeting. The first Ethos Committee Meeting was held at West Monkton Primary school, this will be a regular meeting to look at ways the community, the church and the school can work together. There has been discussion around Christmas Carols at the Community Café for year 5 children each year and further participation in the tree festival plus perhaps carol singing around the parish on a trailer of some description.

The Community Garden is looking fantastic, and the volunteers are pleased with the shed, extra tools and the lawn mower. Tony and Sarah Brown have been working with the children at West Monkton Primary School, planting out various seedlings and they are now growing for the children to observe as they pass. They were a great hit at the school and the children really enjoyed their sessions in and out of the classroom. They are continuing with these sessions through the summer term. There was a meeting at New Mill on the 18th of April to discuss planning for the garden over the spring and summer months, they are adapting the previous plan slightly to simplify things. They have asked if they can order a large fork as have a number of spades but no fork as well as some 'Vermiculite' and tags/labels to label all the veg/flowers and trees for the children to read and learn names of plants. They are planning to add flowers to the beds and have had some seeds donated and are keen to get donations of further young plants and bulbs from the community. They are also looking for wood chippings and 8ft canes.

The following requests were made from the Parish Council:

Does anyone have any old troughs or baths to use as a water collector from the new shed roof? Cllr Haskins has one available.

Is anyone able to collect fresh manure from West Buckland, should be ready within the month? It was suggested that manure that is available more locally should be obtained.

There are some brambles that are next to the compost area that need taking to the skip, is anyone able to do this please? Cllr Haskins confirmed that he can dispose of the brambles if they are put in dumpy bags.

Can someone make some small wedges to wedge the 'Community Garden' sign in place? Cllr Haskins to do.

If there are any wildflower seeds left over from the Country Park, could they have a few for the Community Garden? Post to be added to Facebook requesting seeds.

Thanks were given to the group for the great job they are doing at the garden, and they are looking for some active volunteers to help them with their weekly tasks and we will incorporate this with our shout out to the community via social media.

Assistant Clerk Community reported that SALC are coming to take a look at progress with the garden.

#### **b) Events Update.**

Community Quiz continues to be popular, next quiz night is on the Wed 24 April, 22 May, 25 June and 24 July. Easter Egg Hunt 30<sup>th</sup> March went well with over 60 families in attendance.

Tug of War on 29<sup>th</sup> June with the local parishes

The committee have been meeting and are looking at plans to ask the Saracens vs Fire Service if they would like to compete on day, in the hope of attracting more visitors. Posters have been distributed across the parish noticeboards and at pubs/Monkton elm.

Dog Show and Fun Day on 1<sup>st</sup> September – Run with St Giles Animal Rescue

Following a meeting with Mel from St Giles, we will be looking to run a bar and entertainment alongside the dog show for this event as well as an open mic session if we have a volunteer to run this for us.

Social media posts requesting volunteers have been posted to help us with events going forward as feel we need a core group of volunteers to move forward with these events.

#### **c) Community Review Project Update**

Clerk reported that the first meeting of Steering Group took place last week. The Group will now individually complete the online training on marketing and communications and meet again to discuss the training and the marketing and communications plan for the project on 2nd May. Clerk to re-send information about the Community Review Project to Cllr Tully.

#### **319/23 Country Park and Somerset Wood**

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

Cllr Hall reported that Terry Williams has applied for a £50k grant towards the pavilion construction costs.

Tenders are coming in and being finalised for the construction.

Cllr Hall reported that funding needs to be secured by the end of May to commission the contractors. At least £80k needed.

Cllr Hall reported that a meeting to review fundraising efforts is scheduled to take place tomorrow morning.

Clerk reported that an update on the Somerset Wood and information about the Poppy of Honour has been prepared for circulation to Town and Parish Councils. This will be circulated when its content is approved by Cllr Cavill.

##### **b) D-Day Event update; to consider quotations for event insurance (R)**

Cllr Hall reported that the plans for the event are coming together. The mechanism to draw the agreed funding from Taunton Town Council has been confirmed. WMPC to pay invoices and then claim back from Taunton Town Council.

Progress review meetings are to take place fortnightly with Taunton Town Council.

Clerk outlined insurance quotes for the event from Event Insurance and Gallagher.

It was resolved to accept the quote from Gallager for £781.13. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Ellis and all agreed by show of hands.

**c) Country Park update; lottery grant application update.**

Stonework for gabions delivered. Quotes are being obtained from contractors to fill the gabions with the stone. The Lottery grant application has been revised and re-submitted.

Cllr Besley raised the scrapings from the ERR works and suggested that the material would be useful for future anticipated works at the Country Park and Sports Pitches. The price per tonne is significantly less than it would be. Clerk to liaise with Persimmon to see if permission can be obtained to store 160 tonnes of the material on the sports pitch land that is within Persimmons ownership and request the entrance design to ensure that the material is stored in a location not to interrupt with the entrance tarmacking. Subject to permission being obtained from Persimmon it was resolved to purchase 160 tonnes of the material at a cost not exceeding £2400.00. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Hall and agreed with all in favour.

**320/23 Permanent pump at Bathpool; consideration of undertaking regarding fees.**

Cllr Hall reported that a meeting has been scheduled with FWAG to receive an update on the multi-agency approach on 14th May at 10am.

Clerk reported that a response had been received from the land agent in respect of the purchase of the land for the permanent pumps to be accessed.

Clerk also provided feedback received from the Environment Agency on the permanent pump project. The Environment Agency have confirmed that the project to install the permanent pumps will proceed whether the land is purchased or not.

It was agreed to defer the land purchase. The purchase of the land to be given further consideration if the land is required to complete the project.

**321/23 Other matters for report only – items for discussion – no decision**

**a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May or Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May**

Noted

**b) Dates to note over the next 14 days**

Community Review Steering Group meeting 2nd May at 3.30pm

Audit Working Party meeting 3rd May at 9.30am

Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board meeting 3rd May at 11am (presentation re MH1 POS)

Agenda run through meeting – 7th May at 9.30am

Tug of War Meeting – 7th May at 7pm

MH1 Catch Up – 10th May at 11am

Annual Parish Council Meeting – 14th May at 7pm

**322/23 Dates of forthcoming meetings:**

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

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

Audit Working Party: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2024 at 9.30am

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC March 2025 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 9.40pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> May 2024

Adopted - redacted