



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Thursday 9th May 2024 at 7.40pm at Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8FT.

In attendance: Cllrs Cavill and Hall and Amy Shepherd (Clerk), WMPC. Giles Benbow, West Monkton Cricket Club.

SPC10/23 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllrs Haskins and Gage and Sam Wallis and John Wrelton, Taunton Rugby Club.

SPC11/23 To note

- a) Declarations of Interest: None
- b) Dispensation Requests: None

SPC12/23 Pre-planning advice application

a) Initial advice received

The advice received from the Planning Officer in relation to the pre-planning advice application was summarised including:

- Loss of two football pitches and the need to mitigate the loss with the provision of junior pitches.
- Landscaping scheme required (no scheme submitted with existing planning consent)
- Flood lighting / visual impact information required.
- Preliminary Ecological Assessment required.
- Connectivity and Accessibility Audit required (highways / footpaths)
- Car park to be amended to include coach parking.
- Community access to the pitches outside of use by the club required (requirement of the S106 legal agreement and land transfer). Pedestrian gate to be incorporated in the plans.

b) Next steps with planning application

Application to be prepared / submitted to vary the existing consent to change the pitch type, addition of flood lighting and re-positioning of club house required along with details above.

Cllr Hall confirmed that advertising boards will be included in the planning application.

Planning Consultant quotations being obtained by the Parish Council for consideration at its next meeting to finalise, submit and oversee the application through the planning process.

SPC13/23 Feedback from meeting with Sports England and follow up meeting with the Football Association and next steps

Following the pre-planning advice received and the need to mitigate the loss of football pitches a meeting took place with Sports England and cricket, rugby and football representatives. It was agreed at that meeting that the Parish Council would discuss proposals to provide junior football pitches with the Football Association to enable the FA to support the proposals for the sports pitches.

A meeting has taken place with the FA about providing junior pitches at Waterleaze and land adjacent to Bridgwater Road. Works to bring these pitches into use is required but the FA have indicated that if assurances can be provided that these works will take place, the FA will support the sports pitch proposal.

SCP14/23 Update on work on site

Cllr Hall reported that the ground works are underway. Trees for the boundary have also been obtained from Wee Trees that are being placed in a temporary trench until they are permanently planted in the Autumn. Cllr Hall requested the help of the cricket and rugby club with planting.

a) Confirmation of location of cricket squares

Giles Benbow suggested that the cricket squares should be central to the cricket pitch but agreed to send confirmation.

Giles Benbow provided an update on West Monkton Cricket Club and confirmed that the club is in a strong place in relation to youth cricket.

Fundraising for the equipment needed to maintain the cricket squares at the sports pitches is planned.

Cllr Hall agreed to attend a Sunday morning cricket match and bring copies of the plans to enable the sharing of information with attendees and gather support. The possibility of having a stall / stand at future club events was also discussed.

SPC15/23 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting to be agreed.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 20.25pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Hall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Signed Chairman:

Date: 1st July 2025