



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Haskins, Chapman, Ellis, Cavill, Tully, Gage, Munson, Besley and Cllr Cronshaw via Zoom.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk, Mrs K Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community, Candy Sully, CP Volunteer Coordinator, Jo Pearson, Somerset Wood and 3 members of the public.

127/24 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

No apologies were received.

128/24 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.

129/24 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th September 2024

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 10th September 2024, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th September, proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Chapman, and agreed by show of hands.

130/24 Hestercombe LCN

a) Feedback from the LCN Meeting on 19th September

Cllr Cavill reported that the main item on the agenda was children and young people. Assistant Clerk Community provided further feedback. A presentation was given by a young person who provided feedback on the summer food project. It was clear from the presentation that the project helped young people locally gain confidence and they benefited a lot from the project. The LCN area is looking at ways to enable better use of the existing provision in the LCN area rather than creating more hubs / activities. A Health and Wellbeing Grant is available from SALC that can help support use of existing provision in the Creech St Michael, West Monkton and North Petherton. The possibility of asking Parish Councils in the LCN area to set aside 5% of their budgets to support use of provision is also being suggested. Clerk to note for Budget / Precept discussions.

Cllr Cavill also reported that a Police Officer attended the meeting and provided a presentation on Anti-Social Behaviour, the presentation confirmed that there were 11 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour in North Petherton in the last 3 months and only 1 in West Monkton.

The next LCN Highways Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 12th November at the BACH and the next Hestercombe LCN Meeting is scheduled to take place on 22nd January at North Newton Village Hall.

Public Question Time

A member of the public raised the Hinkley Point Buses that frequently pass along Monkton Heathfield Road and Yallands Hill and suggested that workers are parking on Mead Way to be picked up nearby. The member of the public asked if representations could be made to the bus company suggesting that the route should follow the relief roads and if there are workers to pick up this should be on the Bridgwater Road via the bus gate.

Clerk to make enquiries with the bus company.

Assistant Clerk Community and Cllr Chapman raised that bin emptying has been an issue. Regular round operator was off last week. Cllr Chapman suggested removing the post mounted litter bin at the Spital bench and the dog bin along the pathway next to the allotments (that can't easily be seen) and replacing both with a dual waste bin in a more obvious location.

Clerk to request a list of bins that are emptied from Somerset Council.

Clerk to make enquiries with Somerset Council and gather a quotation to consider at the next meeting.

Cllr Tully confirmed that the bird mouth fencing that had been knocked over on the WRR was removed by Somerset Council today.

Clerk to enquire with Persimmon if it is their responsibility to replace or Somerset Councils.

Cllr Haskins reported that the ditch between Sidbrook and Mount Fancy has been dug to make the drainage works completed earlier in the month effective.

Cllr Besley asked about the culvert at the bottom of Red Hill. Clerk reported that SC had confirmed that they would conduct a CCTV survey of culvert to identify any required works.

Clerk to follow up with SC Highways.

A member of the public raised the blocked drains / gullies on MH1.

Clerk to report to Persimmon.

A member of the public requested an update in relation to the MH1 POS. An update was provided, and it was noted that an item was on the agenda for further discussion.

Cllr Haskins reported that a meeting with the Traffic Consultant instructed by CFPC regarding the Nerrols Development will take place on Monday 30th September at 3pm. Cllr Haskins and Clerk to attend.

A member of the public who resides on Bridgwater Road near Aldi raised concerns about visibility when vehicles access her property and her neighbours. The member of the public requested that a mirror could be installed to aid visibility of cyclist and pedestrians using the pavement. The possibility of making representations that the height of the wall on either side of the driveway was also discussed.

Cllr Cavill to follow up with Somerset Council. Clerk to raise with SC during meeting scheduled on 21st October about the Village Sign Review.

Cllr Gage reported that he had installed the bleed control kit outside the BACH and had made enquiries with the Co-Op about installing the other one outside their premises. Permission from Co-Op has been difficult to obtain.

Cllr Gage to enquire with the Hairdresser next door instead.

Cllr Tully reported that he had attended a Police and Crime Commissioner Event at the Rugby Club and also reported that Parish Councils had not been invited or made aware of the event and as a result attendance was low.

The horse that was in the dog walking area next to the Sports Pitches last week was raised and it was noted that the horse had now gone. It is unclear who the owner of the horse is.

Cllr Besley that a dig had been carried out in West Monkton and old roman coins had been found.

Cllr Cavill raised the revised Number 12 bus service and that representations had been made about keeping the 8.06am service because it is used by a number of students to get to school / college. It was agreed to add the 8.06am service to the revised timetable. The available funding is likely to reduce quicker. Clerk confirmed that she

had made a note in the budget / precept working files for future years. The revised service will come into effect on 1st November. Cllr Cavill to request a review of usage after one month.

131/24 Planning

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

Cllr Cavill, as a member of the Somerset West Planning Committee did not take part in discussions of the planning applications to avoid fettering his discretion.

48/24/0042/T – Application to fell two ash trees and to carry out management works to one field maple tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (West Monkton No. 1) Tree Preservation Order 2001 at 62 Mead Way, Monkton Heathfield (TD897).

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

Cllrs Munson and Cavill declared prejudicial interests in the next planning application and left the meeting at 7.48pm.

48/23/0002 – Erection of 1 No. detached dwelling with associated works in the garden to the rear of Nigella, Church Hill, West Monkton (amendments including reduction in amount of glazing on the south elevation, reduction in size of terrace and introduction of planters to terrace edge and landscaping plan, including planting along southern boundary).

The Parish Council continues to object to the granting of permission for the following reasons:

The Parish Council still has concerns about the proposed two-storey dwelling due to the steepness of the site, the proposed dwelling will occupy an elevated and prominent position and will inevitably overlook neighbouring properties. The Parish Council suggests the following modifications to the proposal:

- Consider orientating the current south elevation to the west.
- Dig down further into the landscape to lower the height of the proposed dwelling so that it doesn't occupy such a prominent position and to reduce overlooking of neighbouring properties.
- If the current proposed dwelling is given planning consent a condition should be added to prevent any additional windows being added to the south elevation without planning permission first being obtained.

The Parish Council again strongly urges the Planning Committee to carry out a site visit to inform the determination of the application and to appreciate the setting and natural screening.

The Core Strategy Policy CP8 states that "Development sites will need to ensure that flood risk is not exacerbated from increased surface water flows by ensuring that existing greenfield rates and volumes are not increased off-site through the adoption of multifunctional SUDS". The NPPF at paragraph 167 also states that "When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere". Due to the steepness of the site and the size of the proposed dwelling, water run-off must be captured on site to prevent flooding of the property below it. Directing water run-off to the road should also be avoided as this may increase flooding risk to other properties in West Monkton.

The proposal does not include details of how visibility of the highways access via the proposed access drive will be improved, which remains a concern for the Parish Council.

Cllrs Munson and Cavill rejoined the meeting at 8.01pm.

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

Noted.

48/20/0031 Demolition of bungalow and outbuildings with the erection of 4 dwellings with associated works at The Orchard, Blundells Lane, West Monkton - Withdrawn

132/24 Assets

a) Country Park and Somerset Wood.

i. General update

Jo Pearson, CP / SW Volunteer provided an update on the following:

- Bin near the Country Park hadn't been emptied for some time, chased emptying with Taunton Town Council. The bin was promptly emptied.
- Successful visit to Ypres/Passchendaele/Menim Gate/ William Bruford & Gulliford (silhouette man's family).
- Events:
 - 27th September 2024 event involved 40 Commando postponed.
 - 24th October 2024 Passchendaele Museum visiting at Cheddon Memorial Hall
 - 8th November 2024 Remembrance Service at the Somerset Wood.Notices / posters for the event need to go out and about. Nerrols Primary School will be attending. Assistant Clerk Community to find out if students from West Monkton Primary School will be attending too. Wreaths to be ordered including one for Somerset Wood and one for Bruford at a cost of £25.00 each. The cost of the Buglar will be £75.00.
- 11th November 2024 Runner 100km for Dunkirk House
- 11th November 2024 CFPC meeting. Candy to attend with Jo and Cllr Cavill to enable introductions.

Clerk outlined a need to update the existing Country Park and Somerset Wood Logo. The existing logo is not of high enough quality for inclusion on the website, signage, social media etc and includes elements that are no longer planned / relevant. Clerk outlined a quotation received from Designbean to update the existing logo and give 4 other ideas; Clerk also outlined other general quotations to provide a comparison. Clerk confirmed that if approved the cost of the producing a new logo would come from the Country Park PC budget line as it was not an element of the lottery grant. It was resolved to accept the quotation provided by Designbean. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Clerk outlined other plans for the park including an engraved silhouette for the Falklands memorial and a Second World War Memorial. The design and costs for these will be provided at a future meeting.

Clerk reported that newts are now in the pond area and asked Cllr Cavill if Somerset Council held a register / log of wildlife. Cllr Cavill to make enquiries.

Clerk asked Cllr Chapman if suitable woodchip when available from Tree Surgeons in the area could be delivered to the Country Park.

Hedge trimming in the Country Park was discussed. Mowgate to be commissioned to carry out hedge cutting as required.

Cllr Gage asked if the mower needed a further service this year. It was agreed to delay a service for 12 months.

ii. Lottery Project Progress Report

The September Lottery Progress Report was circulated in advance of the meeting and Clerk provided a summary of progress.

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator provided an update on the work that she has undertaken since commencing her employment and planned activities over the coming weeks.

Clerk summarised the match funding applications that have been submitted and confirmed that since writing the report Persimmon Homes have committed £6k of match funding. Photocall / promotion of the pledge to follow. It was suggested the David Wilson Homes are approached regarding match funding.

Clerk also confirmed that Reed Holland Associates have submitted the plans for the Country Park to Somerset Council.

General management work including removing ragwort and grass cutting in the Country Park was discussed. It was noted that part of the Volunteer Coordinators responsibilities is to develop a schedule of works for maintenance in the CP.

b) BACH update.

Cllr Gage confirmed that there was nothing to report.

The next BACH Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on 15th October at 7.30pm.

c) Community Fridge update.

The Community Fridge is now open until 6pm and although we have had one complaint about the throwing of bread, we were able to look at the CCTV and with the information given were unable to find any culprit. We also had a complaint about a volunteer discriminating against a user of the fridge, however when checking the CCTV and discussing with volunteers, it appears that it was a user that was rude to the gentleman in question.

Placing a clothes recycling bin outside the community fridge fence was discussed. It was agreed to consider the dimensions to agree the best location for the recycling bin.

Cllr Gage raised that the Community Fridge volunteers need a water supply. Assistant Clerk Community to investigate.

Assistant Clerk Community raised that the recycling bins are not being emptied and the additional boxes haven't been delivered. Cllr Cavill to follow up.

d) Community Garden update.

The community garden has been providing food for the fridge and for the Summer Food Project. Volunteers supported young people to harvest food that could be used in the café over the summer. The community garden volunteers have worked hard over the summer to ensure harvesting and watering all took place. The garden has been tidied by volunteers and the Community Services Team to make more beds available for growing.

Clerk reported that compost / topsoil will be delivered next week.

133/24 Community

a) Update

Café – The café was very quiet over the summer except for when the repair café and bereavement café were closed. This gave us chance to sort through the toys in the cupboards and tidy up the Youth Group's cupboard.

Stay and Play Group – We ran the Stay and Play Group on a Wednesday through the summer holidays and had a few attendees. We are looking to promote Stay and Play more again as children who were attending are now in nursery; our plan is to promote at the play parks in the parish.

Youth Café – Following on from the success of the Summer Food Project, we have now been running the Youth Café after school on a Wednesday until 5.30pm. During the first week 2 adult volunteers gave out leaflets at the school and we had the regulars attend, approximately 10 young people. The second week we had about 15 secondary school age children attend. During the summer Assistant Clerk Community met with Paul Elliston and the current committee for the West Monkton Youth Group. They are in the process of appointing a new Chair and need some time to get a working committee before looking at the possibility of taking on the Youth Café. Current volunteers for the Youth Café are keen to join the committee and undertake some Youth Work training going forward. Assistant Clerk Community has applied for funding through Hubbub for £9k to cover the cost of running the Youth Café. One of the young people from the Youth Café gave a presentation at the LCN meeting about the Youth Cafe, this was a huge step for him as his mother reported that he struggled with confidence. Of the young people that helped at the café over the summer, one young lady has returned to school following some anxiety issues at school, another young person who attended was home schooled and has now started college.

Monkton Wood Lunch Time Group – These have not been restarted as we do not have a new contact at Monkton Wood, we continue to try to connect with a key member of staff. Perhaps Cllr Cavill can discuss this at the next Governors meeting?

Litter Pickers – Continue to keep the parish tidy and with Cllr Chapman on the Parish Council, he has been reporting issues directly to Somerset Council as needed.

Graffiti Volunteers – The graffiti seems to have subsided since the young people responsible for the main have been spoken to by police and restoration is in progress with a view to the young people attending the Youth Café with a Youth Justice Worker at some point. Equipment has been purchased for the group of volunteers and a risk assessment has been set up. The plan now is to meet with volunteers to run through the risk assessment and to ask them to complete volunteer registration forms.

Companion Volunteer - Our companion volunteer continues to work with vulnerable people in the community and we have streamlined the referral process, and this has improved the process and ensured that she only works with those in our community.

b) Feedback from Fun Day 2025 preparation meeting on 23rd September.

The meeting scheduled to take place on 23rd September was deferred until 30th September. Feedback to be provided at the next PC meeting.

c) Christmas Carol Singing plans and arrangements

Tractor / trailer discussed. Assistant Clerk Community to develop plans / ideas for discussion at a future meeting.

d) Volunteer Festive Evening

The BACH has been booked for the Festive Volunteer Evening on Tuesday 17th December at 7pm. Assistant Clerk has been in touch with caterer to look at various options to exclude roast potatoes. Invites are ready to go out nearer the date. Invites to go out end of October.

Paper copies of invites for village news volunteers to be developed for Cllr Gage to give out.

134/24 Projects

a) MH1 POS update; Feedback from catch up meetings. Approval of transfer document (R)

Clerk summarised the meeting with Dan Mawer from Persimmon on 13th September, to discuss the transfer document and other issues in the MH1 development. A further meeting was scheduled to take place on 20th September but was cancelled.

The Persimmon / Redrow Directors are not agreeable to a bond for the tree works and play park remedials being added to the Transfer Document and have instead provided copies of the orders that have been placed for the work.

Members of the public who reside in Pavilion Gardens expressed their concern about the delayed progress with transferring the MH1 POS and the management costs for Pavilion Gardens that are rising.

Cllrs expressed concern that the orders for the play park remedials were placed in June, but commencement of the works is still awaited and that the remedials / orders are based on July 2023 ROSPA inspections. It was noted that the repair of the benches was not included in the orders. Other queries and suggested amendments to the transfer document that was circulated in advance of the meeting were raised.

Clerk to raise the following queries with Persimmon and add an item to the next PC meeting agenda to discuss further:

- Paragraph 11.2.2 refers to a plan – request a copy.
- Paragraph 11.3.2 refers to making good any damage caused, could this also be added to paragraph 11.2.2 too.
- Paragraph 11.5.5 refers to a plan – request a copy to illustrate the T's.
- Can an additional clause be added to the transfer document requiring that a ROSPA inspection will be carried out after the play park remedials have been undertaken confirming that there are no outstanding remedials required?
- The tree works for which an order has been placed should also be referred to in the Transfer Document - confirming that they will be completed within 6 months of legal transfer (as with the play park remedials).
- Removal of the Clerk's personal address on the last page be replaced with the PC address as included at Paragraph 6.
- Request an update from the Contractor for the Play Park Remedials to confirm when the work is scheduled to take place or give the PC permission to liaise with the contractor to ascertain this?
- Request confirmation that an order has been placed to replace the slats on the benches.

Cllr Chapman to review the orders / remedials against the current condition of the play parks.

b) Sports Pitches update; Pump track progress update.

Clerk confirmed that the access and utility works for the sports pitches was raised with Persimmon during the catch-up meeting. Persimmon have confirmed that an order has been placed. Dan Mawer is chasing a potential start date.

Clerk provided an update in relation to the planning application; Sports England have confirmed that they will reply to suggested amendments this week.

Cllr Gage reported that he had a meeting about the pump track. The plans for the design were discussed. The cost of the pump track is expected to be in the region of £50-60k. Details of funding opportunities have been provided since the meeting. Assistant Clerk Community to take a look with a view to making applications for grant funding.

Presentation on the pump track element to be scheduled to take place at the PC meeting on 26th November.

c) MH2 update.

Clerk reported that there was no update.

d) Poppy of Honour fundraising update

Cllr Cronshaw provided an update on her fundraising ideas. A list of people / businesses to make contact with about making donations is being developed and adverts / flyers are being developed.

Clerk and Cllr Cronshaw to meet next week about website development for the plaques. Cllr Cronshaw waiting for a reply from Timpsons to understand the level of sponsorship they can offer.

e) Junior Football Pitch Provision at Bridgwater Road Update; Approval of quote for survey (R)

Cllr Cavill reported that he had no update and that he was waiting for a response from Somerset Council Officers.

f) Land between School Road and Farriers Green update

Cllr Cavill reported that he had no update and that he was waiting for a response from Somerset Council Officers.

g) Multi-Agency Approach to flood prevention and Bathpool pump update

Clerk reported that there was no update. Cllr Besley confirmed that not much communication has been received recently from FWAG. Clerk to follow up.

135/24 Highways / Footpaths / Safe Routes to School; Cllrs Besley and Tully to report.

a) Update on issues reported; Gotton Lane steel plate, Milton Hill bird mouth fencing.

Milton Hill bird mouth fencing – discussed earlier in the meeting, SC have attended and removed the damaged fencing.

Drainage channel on Mead Way – overgrown with brambles. Clerk to ask the Lengthsman to clear.

Grass verge reinstatement on Monkton Heathfield Road – updated pictures have been sent to Street Works.

Cllr Chapman is booked onto Chapter 8 training in November, from the volunteer handbook information provided by Somerset Council it appears (and has been confirmed by Somerset Council) that Chapter 8 training is not required to carry out the tasks identified e.g. litter pickings, strimming. It was agreed that Cllr Besley would take Cllr Chapman's place on the Chapter 8 training.

Highway Volunteer Training requirements need to be fed in through our LCN Highways Working Groups. It was agreed to put a call out for volunteers in the next edition of the Village News and to add information to the Facebook page.

Cllr Besley reported that the Monkton Heathfield Road path by the orchard has been cleared.

Cllr Besley reported that hedge trimming on Monkton Heathfield Road has been programmed to take place early one morning.

b) Road sweeping.

Clerk reported that she had enquired with RK Bell based in Dunwear, Bridgwater about road sweeping costs. The cost is £45.00 per hour with a minimum of 4 hours work (the time includes travelling to and from Dunwear). Sweeping normally includes a tipping charge but if the tipping were to take place on land owned by the Parish Council it would not attract a tipping charge.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that although road sweeping is needed in the parish, the weeds on the road edges need to be dealt with too. Clerk to liaise with RK Bell to find out if the road sweeping vehicle can remove the weeds from the road edges.

c) Horse warning signs – review locations and consider making contribution toward costs (R)

Cllr Munson reported that he has driven around the area and noted the positions of existing posts but that a plan of where the proposed horse warning signs will be erected is still awaited from SC Traffic Management. Matter to be discussed again at a future meeting when the plan is received.

136/24 Other matters for report only – items for discussion at next meeting

Clerk suggested the need for ID badges for Cllrs, Staff, Volunteers. Cllrs agreed to pop into the BACH to have their pictures taken over the next couple of weeks.

Monkton Heathfield road crossings / raised tables to be added to agenda for next meeting.

Cllr Besley to be invited to the meeting with Somerset Council regarding the Village Sign Review on 21st October.

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 30th September or Monday 14th October.

Noted.

137/24 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2024: 8th Oct, 12th Nov, 10th Dec.

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

2024: 22nd Oct, 26th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 18th October at 9.30am (via zoom)

Annual Parish Meeting: 25th March 2025 at 7pm

BACH Committee 15th October 2024 at 7.30pm

Budget and Precept Working Group: 19th November at 7.30pm

Sports Pitch Committee TBC

Somerset Wood Joint Committee: TBC

There being no further business to be discussed, the meeting ended at 9.50pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 8th October 2024