



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th January 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill, Chapman, Ellis, Gage, Munson, Cronshaw and Haskins (via zoom).

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk, Mrs K. Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community, Mr K Perry, Bathpool Flood Warden, Cllr David Fothergill, Somerset Councillor (via zoom) and 2 members of the public.

203/24 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

No apologies were received in advance of the meeting.

204/24 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.

205/24 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th December 2024

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

206/24 To note Clerk's report and Assistant Clerk (Community) report.

Clerk's Report:

General Admin:

- Catch ups with Jess, Administrative and Events Assistant, Kate, Assistant Clerk Community and Candy, Volunteer Coordinator and weekly team meetings.
- Met with Lengthsman about the installation of three new bins that have been delivered.
- Commenced review of Strategic Plan and have begun developing the Annual Report.
- Submersible pump and gel bags passed to Kevin Perry, Volunteer Bathpool Flood Warden for storage in Bathpool.
- Preparation for Volunteer Evening including display boards and reviewing refreshments and Christmas Trailer event. Two bookers runs.
- Sent allotment renewal invitations.
- Reported issues on canal towpath to the Canal and River Trust.
- Community Governance Review for Parish boundaries – continued to liaise with other Parish / Town Councils – indication from SC is that capacity will prohibit a CGR of parish boundaries being completed by the 2027 elections and it is instead likely to be by 2031. As previously agreed by the PC, I have confirmed the PCs support for a full CGR as soon as possible.

Highways

- Read new SC SID Policy and identified position for SID on Yallands Hill.
- Researched grant funding that is available from Avon and Somerset Police for SIDs and quote obtained for solar powered SID – included in finance report.

Community Review Project

- Link for training circulated to Steering Group and date for meeting identified.
- Meeting of Steering Group took place on 9th January to discuss action planning based on the results of the survey.

Finance / Payroll:

- Making payments / placing orders.
- Managing / inputting Accounts using Scribe.
- January payroll and finance reports.
- Obtaining quotes for inclusion in January finance report.

- Various orders placed and deliveries accepted.
- Freezer delivered, arrangements need to be made to move the larger freezer from the BACH to the Fridge shed and dispose of the old freezer.
- Banked money collected during Christmas Trailer Event.

Planning:

- Jess supporting with the updating of the Planning Log with planning decisions / conditions weekly.
- Preparation of PowerPoint presentation in respect of planning applications received for PC meeting and submission of agreed response to planning applications.

Country Park and Somerset Wood

- Working with Somerset Web Services and Volunteer Coordinator on the development of the Country Park website.
- Followed up the signage company, draft map expected imminently – this will be included on the website and on the entrance signs.
- Grant application to South Western Railway submitted, acknowledgement received.
- Lottery Project progress report covering progress in the December and January to be prepared to be discussed at the PC meeting on 28th January.
- iPad purchased and data sim to support evaluation of the project.
- Governance / Structure chart for management of CP and SW circulated to interested parties following its approval.
- Jackets to be ordered once sizes of volunteers confirmed.
- Logged purchase of Poppy of Honour plaques.
- Ordered a further supply of the leaflets.
- Drafted summary document for Secretary General about the Country Park, Somerset Wood and the Poppy of Honour – document with Cllr Cavill for review.
- Liaised with Alan Hall regarding Wrens Memorial.

Sports Pitches

- Awaiting determination of the planning application.
- Road access works expected to commence second week of January.

MH1

- Catch up meeting with Persimmon, liaised with Persimmon and Solicitor regarding Transfer Document and play park remedials and other outstanding actions. Chased transfer document from Persimmon.

MH2

- Catch up meeting with Simon Fox took place on 11th December.

BACH:

- Jess supporting with invoices.
- Accounts / scribe updates.
- Welcome screen kept up to date and monthly condition checks completed.
- Purchased and set up Laptop for Volunteer Bookings Officer.
- Next BACH Committee meeting scheduled to take place on 18th February 2025 at 7.30pm.

Meetings last month:

3rd December – Agenda run through meeting
 5th December – MH1 catch up meeting
 6th December – SLCC Branch Meeting
 10th December – Parish Council Meeting
 11th December – LGR Clerks Session
 11th December – MH2 catch up with Planning Officer
 17th December – Volunteer Evening
 20th December – Christmas Trailer event and decoration.
 24th December – 1st January incl – Annual Leave / Bank Holidays

Meetings this month:

7th January – Agenda run through meeting
 9th January – MH1 catch up meeting
 9th January – Community Review Steering Group meeting
 14th January – PC Meeting
 15th January – LGR Session
 17th January – Audit Working Party Meeting
 21st January – Agenda run through meeting
 22nd January – LCN Meeting to include item on MH2

23rd January – Events Working Group Meeting
24th – 27th January – Annual Leave
28th January – PC Meeting
30th January – LCN Highways Working Group Meeting
31st January – Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board Meeting

Assistant Clerk's Report:

Community - General

- Responded to enquiries/requests via Facebook and email to those in the community.
- Responding to messages on social media
- Broken Laptop – travelled to Bridgwater to organise repair

Grant Funding

- Ramblers Holidays Charitable Trust – next meeting of their committee is Feb/March 2025
- Taunton Town Council Grant Scheme – to reapply in April
- SALC Wellbeing seed funding grant for Hestercombe LCN – Youth – We have been awarded this grant for consultations with young people in preparation for larger SALC funding.
- We received funding from £1000 from Brewgooder Foundation for our Summer Food Project this will go into the pot for the community fridge fund.

Community Fridge

- Coordinating and managing volunteers, cleaning rotas and pick ups.
- Keeping in touch with volunteers to keep them updated and involved.
- Organised distribution of food parcels kindly donated from Avon and Somerset Police who had a non-uniform day in the office. Approximately 12 large parcels were sorted and distributed to those in the community in need of some extra support over Christmas.
- Shared notifications to volunteers for collections over the Christmas period. Fridge stayed open all over Christmas period.
- Responded to a number of messages over the Christmas period relating to accessing food at the fridge, including some messages from a homeless gentleman staying in the parish in his van. I contacted the village agent to ensure he was accessing other support and copied in social services as was concerned about his mental health. He was known to village agent and she did a welfare check on this gentleman over the Christmas week.

Community Cafe

- Running a weekly Community Café at the BACH
- Run 'Repair Café' on third Wednesday of each month – contacting members of the public about various repairs and liaising with the team. The team have repaired over 30 items since the spring and the group has a steady number of customers.
- Rev Jim Cox runs the Bereavement group on the first Wednesday of each month.
- Knit and Crochet Group displayed their tree at the tree festival and it was used in the BACH hall and on the Christmas Trailer over the Christmas period.
- Year 5 from West Monkton Primary School sang at the Community Café on the Wednesday before Christmas, the café was overwhelmingly full and we will look to offer this to the school on a different day next year so that there is more room for Y5 parents.

Youth Work

- Meetings with LCN CYP working groups to discuss survey and plans for consultations.
- Met with Monkton Wood Academy to discuss further groups at school and working together. They are not keen for us to continue the weekly sessions at the school but are keen to visit the café and keep links in with us and the work we are doing, promoting it within the school.
- Youth Café is busy on a Wednesday after school and is open until 5.30pm. We have an influx of young people straight from school and all those waiting for the school bus (Approximately 30-40 young people). We then have a regular group of young people who stay for activities, including a small group of girls who like to crochet.
- Christmas activities were planned and run this month and we also had a visit from Craig from Youth Unlimited to discuss and support for the youth survey and consultation.
- Developing risk assessment for Youth Cafe

Stay and Play Group

- Jess Cox, Admin and Event Assistant has started setting up the Stay and Play Group and supporting the volunteers with set up.

Community Garden

- Community Garden group meet regularly at the BACH

- Organised Community Service Team to attend the garden to support the work of the volunteers.
- Respond to queries and request for support from Community Gardeners.
- Prepared presentation and delivered online to LCN Level and Moors Meeting

Community Events

Christmas Events

- Festive Volunteer Event – Tuesday 17th December 2024 at 7pm
- Year 5 Carol Concert at the Community Café – Wednesday 18th December at 3-4pm
- Round Robin Trailer Music – Friday 20th December at 3.15pm from BACH

Maidenbrook Event Plans for 2025

- Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday 19th April 2025 – 11am to 1pm
- VE Day – 80 Years – Thursday 8th May 2025 – Beacon Lighting in Evening
- Somerset Day Picnic – 10th May 2025 – 11.30am to 4.30pm with a focus on Somerset Food Traders and Somerset Crafts. Activities for children including Nature Trail and activities around the park as well as bouncy castle/fun games.
- FunFest @ Maidenbrook with joint parishes – Saturday 12th July 2025 – 12noon to 10.30pm
- St Giles Animal Rescue Dog Show and Fete – Sunday 13th July 2025
- VJ Day & possibly Grand Opening of Maidenbrook Country Park – Friday 15th August 2025
- Bonfire Night – 5th November 2025 – Sonic Fireworks have expressed an interest in running a firework night at the park.

- Chased replies for Festive Volunteer Event
- Event Survey live
- Minutes and spreadsheet preparation for FunFest Minutes
- Event working group set up and first meeting complete, notes were taken and typed up
- Jess Cox pulling together a list of all stall holders/food vendors with a view to contacting them about our events.
- Making contact with key contacts in regard to events for 2025 to discuss equipment/entertainment
- Wrapped gifts for trailer event which were donated by West Monkton Primary School
- Discussed Firework Event with Mike Batsch and he will take this to CFPC next Parish Council Meeting to discuss.

Other Volunteering

- Touching base with Companion Volunteer, who is now meeting regularly with a number of clients via the village agent in the community.
- Dealing with queries and concerns from volunteers as they arise.

Meetings, Events and Groups

- 2/12/24 Meeting with Taunton TC. Laura Batcha re events
- 3/12/24 Meeting with Dan Lan, Monkton Wood Academy
- 3/12/24 Meeting with Lucy and Parent re volunteering
- 3/12/24 FunFest Meeting
- 4/12/24 Community Café
- 4/12/24 Youth Café
- 5/12/24 Stay and Play Group
- 5/12/24 Team Meeting
- 5/12/24 Presented at LCN Meeting for Levels and Moors regarding SALC Community Garden Project
- 9/12/24 LCN CYP Working Group Meeting
- 10/12/24 WMPC Meeting
- 11/12/24 Community Café
- 11/12/24 Youth Café
- 12/12/24 Meeting with Edventure
- 12/12/24 Team Meeting
- 17/12/24 LCN CYP Working Group Meeting
- 17/12/24 Festive Volunteer Event
- 18/12/24 Community Café and Y5 Carol Concert at BACH
- 18/12/24 Youth Café
- 18/12/24 Community Quiz
- 20/12/24 Christmas Tractor/Trailer Event

Assistant Clerk Community outlined some bereavement training needed for a volunteer for the bereavement café. The cost of the training would be up to £80.00. It was resolved to pay the costs for the volunteer to attend the training, proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

207/24 Somerset Council Report from Cllr Cavill and Cllr Fothergill

Cllr Cavill reported on the following:

Local Plan Call For Sites - Somerset Council will be launching a Call for Sites in the new year as it prepares to develop its first Local Plan. The new Somerset Local Plan will generally supersede all existing former district council Local Plans, which will remain part of the Development Plan until they are officially replaced. The Call for Sites is a six-week period where landowners, developers, and site promoters are invited to submit land they want to be considered for future development. Submissions can be for various uses including housing, economic development, gypsy and traveller pitches and plots, and renewable energy installations. You can keep up to date with the Somerset Local Plan and other planning policy news by signing up To the Plan-it Somerset Newsletter. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/planning-buildings-and-land/plan-it-somerset-newsletter-sign-up/>

New Fostering Campaign - 20th December saw the release of Somerset Councils latest Fostering promotional film which is being aired on ITV and SKY from 20 December 2024 until 16 February 2025. You can watch out for the film during ad breaks - you can also view it here - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZc-vespgeE>

More foster carers are urgently needed in Somerset – can you make a difference to a child’s life and help to change a child’s story? - call 0800 587 9900. <https://www.fosteringinsomerset.org.uk/>

Somerset Business Survey 2024-25 -Somerset Council, working with the Somerset Growth Board, has recently launched the fourth iteration of the Somerset Business Survey. The survey is an opportunity for Somerset businesses of all types, shapes and sizes, to tell the Council and Growth Board what it is like to do business in the county and what is most important to them. Questions ask respondents about the nature of their business, their growth aspirations, as well as their barriers to, and opportunities for, success. For example, if businesses are facing challenges around recruitment or staff retention, struggling with digital connectivity or getting access to finance, or simply lacking the space needed to grow, we want to know.

The survey that closes on 24 January 2025 will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete and is anonymous, but businesses can provide contact details at the end to be kept in the loop about the survey results and details of other economic development initiatives. The results of the survey will help shape the new Somerset Economic Prosperity Strategy, which is currently in development, and will also support the wider work of the Economic Prosperity Service.

<https://somersetcouncil.citizenspace.com/economic-development/business-survey-2024/>

Somerset Councillors came together to back local farmers and food producers in their last meeting of 2024. With 3 motions passed that backed our rural communities, there was a clear message that Somerset Council is pro-farmers and the vital role they play in our economy and environment.

Conservative Councillors Faye Purbrick and Lucy Trimnell delivered impassioned statements for the debates that followed their proposed motions to oppose the family farm tax and support meat, dairy and arable farmers across our county.

More details of the motions can be found here:- <https://www.somersetcountyconservatives.org.uk/news/support-our-farmers-and-stop-family-farm-tax>

There are nearly 4,500 farms in Somerset employing nearly 10,500 people. NFU analysis suggested 75% of commercial farms will be affected by this new tax meaning a total potential impact in Somerset of over 3300 farming families.

Road Closure needed for Eastover Celebration Mile Works - Somerset Council and contractor Taylor Woodrow have announced a change to traffic management to help deliver the next stage of the Celebration Mile improvements in Bridgwater. This project is funded as part of the Town Deal £3.6 billion package approved by the previous government in 2019. £23.2m was awarded to the Bridgwater Town Deal. The initial plan had been to carry out the remaining works on Eastover in Bridgwater under a one-way traffic control. However, unmapped utilities under the road have made work more complicated and impossible to do safely without a full road closure. There have already been several near misses with traffic failing to comply with the current one-way system.

Eastover will therefore be closed to all traffic from 2 January for up to 6 months – though the team will be doing its utmost to complete the works sooner. Without a full road closure, the remaining work on Eastover is likely to take up to 9 months.

Eastover will remain open to shoppers and visitors throughout, and extra signs will make it clear the street is open for business.

Traders and affected residents are being kept up-to-date on the closure.

Yeovil Triangle Set to Re-Open Early in the New Year - One of the most exciting areas in the rejuvenation of Yeovil town centre is due to be unveiled to the public in early January 2025. Yeovil’s Triangle area will unveil a new amphitheatre style entertainment space and community hub. The area known as ‘The Triangle’ at the eastern end of the town has been the focus of complex and extensive redevelopment and upgrades, in a transformation designed to boost much needed investment in Yeovil’s economy.

The creation of the state-of-the-art amphitheatre style entertainment space came about after local people and businesses shared ideas about what they would like to see in their town, for their community. The space features seating for about 100, around an open space that incorporates a water feature which will be commissioned in the spring. The open space in the heart of town will be a place for people to gather or simply take time out during the day. A raised stage with large screen for live performances and screened events, as well as art installations commissioned and co-created with local community groups during the Covid pandemic, will create what is hoped will become a popular focal point for the community.

Slinky Bus - Demand responsive transport is a bookable, flexible service which residents can use if there is no public transport alternative. All users need to do is register online to start using the Slinky bus to get to the shops, to visit friends and family, get to college or social clubs, or access medical appointments.

You can also call:

- 01749 880482 for Mendip area
- 01823 331266 for Sedgemoor, Taunton and Wellington area
- 01643 707090 for West Somerset area
- 01935 477399 for South Somerset area

The service is available to anyone in Somerset who does not have access to a regular bus service, which is especially helpful to those in more rural locations.

Previously having your own transport precluded you from using the service but from 1 September, that has changed – car owners can use Slinky.

Divisional Boundaries Consultation: The Boundary Commission has launched a consultation on new division boundaries in Somerset - <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

A public consultation has been launched to help shape new council divisions for Somerset Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission for England wants to hear people's views on where they live, to help make sure that the new divisions reflect the size and shape of local communities.

An electoral review is being carried out to make sure that each local councillor represents about the same number of electors, and that the divisions they represent reflect community identities.

The Local Government Boundary Commission has decided that the number of councillors in Somerset Council should be 96. This is a change from the current council, which has 110 members.

This stage of the consultation last for 10 weeks and closes on 20 January

Boundary Commission Timetable:-

22 October 2024 - 20 January 2025 carry out an initial public consultation with communities

3 June 2025 - 11 August 2025 carry out a public consultation on our proposals

2 December 2025 publish our recommendations

TBC ask Parliament to approve our recommendations

2027 New arrangements apply to local election

Cllr Fothergill reported on the following:

Divisional Boundaries Consultation – Cross Party Working Group established for Somerset Council to come up with a scheme to meet the targets of the Boundary Commission. The scheme went before the Constitution and Governance Committee on 14th January but was voted against. A scheme will therefore not be put forward to the Boundary Commission by Somerset Council.

Devolution – An expression of interest has been put forward by Somerset, Wiltshire and Dorset – there will be a single elected mayor for the three counties. If successful, power will be devolved from Central Government (not up from local authorities).

Public Question Time

Member of the public attended and thanked Cllr Chapman and his wife for continuing to do a great job with litter picking across the community. The member of the public raised MH1 and requested an update on progress. A brief update was given but it was noted that an item was included later in the agenda to provide a full update. The member of the public also raised the old Amp site and expressed concern that because the site isn't secure, young people are accessing it and the current condition could present a fire risk. Finally the member of the public asked for confirmation of who is responsible for cutting the grass along Pippin Road from Bridgwater Road on the verge adjacent to the Amp site.

Cllr Haskins raised the hedge cutting that has taken place on Monkton Heathfield Road and the need to now tidy up the verges.

Clerk provided a brief update on the Country Park, there is a gas leak, the area has been marked out by Wales and West Utilities, information requested from Wales and West to confirm when the work will be carried out. Bird Watch posters have gone up in the Country Park, the pond drainage cover still needs attention and the bollard cap at

Clerk to ascertain the owner of the Amp site and make contact about securing the site.

Clerk to make enquiries to ascertain the owner / who is responsible for maintaining the grass verge.

Clerk to request that the Lengthsman tidies the verges.

the southern entrance has gone astray again. A Falkland's Event is planned to take place on 24th May at 11am – posters will be going up later this week.

Clerk also reported that she has chased Somerset Council again regarding the blocked drain on Greenway, culverts on Red Hill and Monkton Heathfield Road.

Clerk reported that a Local Plan Workshop has been arranged for 24th February at 4pm at Deane House, two representatives of the Parish Council can attend. Clerk and Cllr Munson to attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Besley raised the rubbish that has accumulated along the verge of Monkton Heathfield Road from Blundells Lane to the A38 and along the A38.

Cllr Besley reported that the Christmas Tree that was placed on the green triangle on The Street last year kept falling over and asked if everyone was agreeable to him installing a metal pole for use in future years. Cllrs agreed.

Cllr Cavill to follow up.

Clerk to report to Somerset Council and request a litter pick.

208/24 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.

48/24/0057: Erection of stables, tack room and hay store with formation of hard standing at Marlows, The Street, West Monkton
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

48/24/0058: Demolition of garage/workshop building and nissen hut and erection of 1 No. detached dwelling and garage with alterations to access on land west of Church Hill, West Monkton.

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission and made the following comments in respect of the proposal:

Established datum of the topography of the land should be made available as to ensure that the building proposed isn't erected any higher than the proposals.

The access track should have a permeable surface to prevent run off.

Sufficient visibility splays at the access point onto Church Hill should be incorporated in the proposal.

To comply with the WM & CF Neighbourhood Plan policies, measures for rainwater capture should be included and any lighting should be downlit and LED.

The proposal should incorporate bird and bat boxes and bee bricks.

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

48/24/0050/CQ: Application for Prior Approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building into 7 No. dwelling houses (Class C3) and associated building operations at Hill Farm, Hill Farm Road, West Monkton – Withdrawn

209/24 Taunton Town Council CIL Funding

a) To consider making an application for CIL funding for PC projects (Country Park Lottery Match Funding and Waterleaze Pitch)

The correspondence received from Taunton Town Council, including the CIL guidance and application form was outlined and discussed. It was agreed to submit an application for CIL funding for match funding element of the lottery project for Country Park.

210/24 Highways

a) Yallands Hill Crossing Point – Feasibility Study Options / Cost (R)

The feasibility study options for the Yallands Hill Crossing Point supplied by Somerset Council was circulated in advance of the meeting. A discussion took place about the Yallands Hills Crossing Point and whether the Parish Council was committed to the crossing point. All agreed that the Crossing Point remains a Parish Council priority.

The feasibility study options were discussed and it was resolved to initially proceed with the Basic option. Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

It was noted that this would be a CIL project.

211/24 Environment:

a) Litter / tidiness of area outside the Co-op.

A discussion took place about the problems with litter and tidiness around the Co-Op. There appears to still be some confusion over who should empty the bins. Clerk to make contact with the Regional Manager for the Co-Op to advise that the Co-Op is responsible for emptying both of the circular litter bins.

Cllr Cavill and Assistant Clerk Community to liaise about enabling contact with Monkton Wood Academy for this issue to also be raised with them.

b) West Monkton Primary School Solar Panels – to consider and determine whether to proceed with installing solar panels, the terms of the installation and the cost of doing so, including 2025/26 budget / precept implications (R)

Cllr Gage provided background to this item, including an agreed strategic plan objective to identify a big environmental project. Discussions have taken place about the idea of placing solar panels on the primary school. Discussions have been taking place since January 2024 and a meeting is scheduled to discuss the idea further on 21st January.

The proposal is to place 60 panels on the roof of the primary school at a cost of approximately £24k, along with the positive environmental impact, the school would no longer charge the BACH the monthly utility charge (£110.00 a month).

Cllr Gage asked for the Parish Council to confirm that it would like to proceed with the proposal, and if so for funding to be allocated, either from CIL funding or from PC budget.

Cllr Haskins suggested that the BACH reserves could be used for the project.

A discussion followed. It was resolved to commit £24k of BACH funds to the project. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

212/24 Projects:

a) MH1 POS; transfer document update / approval (R)

Clerk provided an update and confirmed that no transfer document had been received for consideration and approval.

Feedback from the catch up meeting with Persimmon on 9th January was also provided. No date for the play park remedials has been provided or the tree / hedge cutting works. Two weekly catch ups have now been scheduled until June.

Frustration at the lack of progress was expressed. It was agreed that the Clerk would raise the lack of progress with a Director from Persimmon Homes.

213/24 Reports, including recent developments, matters to consider and decisions to be made:

a) Bathpool Flood Warden: Mr Kevin Perry.

Mr Perry reported on the following:

40mm less rain fell in November than in 2023 and in December rainfall was light and 50mm less than 2023 – no flooding issues.

Rainfall on 5th and 6th accounted for almost half of the rain that fell in January 2023. This resulted in flooding in the gardens of Yew Tree Lane, Hyde Lane and Bridgwater Road and sewerage discharge in Acacia Gardens.

The catchment went onto flood alert on 5th January but the pump was switched on ahead of this and pumped for 55 hours. This ensured that only gardens were flooded.

Residents of Yew Tree Lane properties have expressed concern with National Rail about work that has been carried out on the railway line culverts – the residents believe that the work has reduced the water capacity of the culverts.

An update has been provided by the Environment Agency on the permanent pump, the design stage of the project should be completed by the end of next week.

b) Communications Report: Update

Parish Council Website

- Regular updates to Highways (including road closures), Planning, Finance and Parish Council carried out.

Parish Council Facebook Page:

- Page likes / followers now at 1375
- 18.4K post reach
- Posts added sharing news items that are added to the website.

Monkton Matters

- Page likes / followers now at 500
- 11 new articles added in December
- Articles on Monkton Matters being shared on Monkton Matters Facebook page to pull users to the website.
- 3.6k post reach
- Business directory has details of 28 businesses so far.

Community Fridge/Community Garden Facebook Page:

- Page likes /followers 1198
- 3.8k post reach

Village News Contribution

- Developed by the Clerk's Noticeboard Updates

- Updated noticeboards

Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk for Community is looking to review communications plan and strategy going forward with a view to ensuring maximum reach across all communications channels and all groups within the community.

c) GDPR update:

Nothing to report.

Representatives on outside bodies

d) West Monkton Village Hall Management Committee; Cllr Tully to report.

In Cllr Tully's absence there was nothing to report.

Clerk reported that the noticeboards in the Parish have been reviewed by the Lengthsman and work identified, this includes work to the Village Hall noticeboard. One is owned by the PC, the other is owned by the Village Hall. Clerk is going to make contact with Cllr Tully to ensure that work is planned to the Village Hall noticeboard.

e) The Spital Trust: Cllr Ellis to report.

Cllr Ellis reported that one of the Spital properties is empty at the moment, the property needs decoration and work before being re-occupied. Applications are encouraged from ladies over 60 who have an association with the village.

f) Any other events at which WMPC was represented.

Cllr Cavill provided an update on works to West Monkton Church to develop a community hub in West Monkton. Following the boiler work, money has been raised for the radiator and pipe work which will continue in March. Work to remove the pews will follow. Cllr Cavill provided a summary of the projected number of residents in the catchment of the church which could reach 8522 voters and up to 4000 children. Cllr Cavill argued that representations need to be made to developers about the need to provide a path across the A38 and alongside Dosters Lane in adjacent fields to provide access to the village and the church.

Cllr Haskins reported that the Christmas Trailer on 20th December was a great success and congratulated Councillors and Volunteers for their support and work that made it possible. It was agreed that due to the success of the trailer, it will become an annual event.

g) Consultations.

Divisional boundaries consultation: Division Boundaries for Somerset Council: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>
Closing date 20th January 2025.

A discussion took place about the consultation, including the preference of Somerset Council and the Boundary Commission for single member wards. It was noted that this preference presents a problem and may require CSM and WM to be in separate divisions which would mean a division of MH2. It was also noted that the Divisional Boundary needed to be corrected to take account for the amended WM parish boundary and that the projected numbers at 2030 were incorrect.

It was agreed that the Clerk in consultation with Cllr Cavill would develop a Parish Council response to the consultation to include:

- Request to amend the south / south west boundary to reflect the WM parish boundary.
- To make the case that MH2 shouldn't be separated into two divisions and make reference to the facilities that the future residents of MH2 are likely to use.

214/24 Finance

a) Finance Report

Solar Powered SID

Elancity:

Portable EVOLIS SID packages:

Depending on your community's particular needs, Elan City offers two fully portable Evolis SID packages. Choose from either the fully autonomous Solar-Mobile pack or the Ultra-Mobile pack for very frequent mobility.

Option 1: The EVOLIS SOLAR-MOBILE Pack - Go green on a budget! The fully autonomous Solar powered Evolis radar is ideal for permanent placement or mobile use! It includes a 80 X 94cm, 100W solar panel and two 12V/22AH batteries, one mounting bar, as well as traffic data collection and all the standard pack features. Only: £2250!

Option 2: The EVOLIS ULTRA-MOBILE Pack - Need to move your radar to different locations every week or two? Then this is the product for you! The entirely battery-operated Ultra-Mobile pack with an autonomy of 7 days on average, is ideal for multiple location projects and frequent location rotation! It includes four 12V/22AH batteries, an external battery charger and one mounting

bar as well as traffic data collection and all the standard pack features. Only: £2200! Note: For effortless mobility, we recommend ordering additional mounting-bars to be pre-installed at the designated locations - only £25 each. (all pricing is ex.vat+shipping.)

STANDARD PACK FEATURES:

- 72cm x 72cm Evolis Radar Speed Sign & Mounting Kit (pole and pole straps not included)
- Highly visible 35cm speed digits: 3 rows of tri-color LEDs (or amber-only mode)
- Customizable Message Display
- Bi-Directional Traffic Data Collection + Comprehensive Data Analysis & Configuration Software
- FREE Updates & NO Subscription Fees!
- Bluetooth® + Smartphone App
- 2 Year Warranty

Resolution to proceed with the purchase of option 2 of option 1 with the 4G equipment to enable wireless collection of data and submit a grant funding application to Avon and Somerset Police for the cost of the SIDs.

Proposer Cllr Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Gage and agreed with all in favour

VE Day Firework display

Sonic Fireworks (same company as D Day Event)

Option 1: 6-7 min Custom Designed Musical Display to be fired from Maidenbrook Country Park from 3 locations in the Field, this will create a nice wide site and enable us to design something really stunning. Budget £3500.00 (inc VAT)

Option 2: 7-8 min Custom Designed Musical Display to be fired from Maidenbrook Country Park from 3 locations in the Field, this will create a nice wide side and enable us to design something really stunning. Budget £4000.00 (inc VAT)

If PA system required for music there will be an additional cost:

PA Rig for upto 300 guests: £400.00

PA Rig for upto 500 guests: £750.00

PA Rig for up to 1500 guests: £1200.00

Generator hire to run the PA system: £150.00

All prices include VAT)

Agreed to defer consideration until the next meeting.

Bridgwater Road (from ATS garage to bus gate) tidy up quotation

Quote received from Jacks Garden Maintenance.

To cut hedges on both sides of the road from the ATS garage to the bus gate, debris cleared up after. To remove build up of soil and weeds along the road edges and pavement from the bus gate to just past the ATS garage.

£1475.00 plus VAT.

It was resolved to accept the quotation, proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Request to be made to add an item to the next LCN Highways Meeting about gully / road clearances.

- Farriers Green Rear Entrance - Somerset Council have agreed that the Parish Council can obtain quotes for the work to the Farriers Green rear entrance. In the process of obtaining quotes for consideration at the next meeting.

ii. 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 (Monthly)	£19.40
Nationwide (Monthly)	£129.39 (Nov)
	£132.62
PSDF (Monthly)	£2196.09
Unity Trust (Quarterly)	£259.11

Somerset West Lottery (Community Fridge)	£20.00
Paydough (Poppy of Honour Plaques)	£225.00
Langport Town Council (Poppy of Honour Plaque Purchase)	£75.00
Wellington Without Parish Council (Poppy of Honour Plaque Purchase)	£75.00
Trull Parish Council (Poppy of Honour Plaque Purchase)	£50.00
Poppy of Honour (Donations)	£54.01
Allotment renewals	£90.00
Amazon (Credit)	£10.00
Asda (Credit)	£7.50
Salvation Army Trading Company (Clothing Collection)	£3.36
Wrens (Donation for Sign / Tree at Country Park)	£280.09

Adopted - Redacted

Payments

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
To authorise payment of:						
Employee pension contributions	198.05	No vat	198.05	d-d	Salaries and expenses	Pension
	47.30	No vat	47.30	d-d	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
Employer contributions	148.53	No vat	148.53	d-d	Salaries and expenses	Pension
	35.48	No vat	35.48	d-d	Salaries and expenses	Volunteer Coordinator
A Shepherd Clerks salary SCP33	xx.xx	No vat	xx.xx	bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
	xx.xx	No vat	xx.xx	Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Administration
K Welsh assistant clerk-community salary SCP 29	xx.xx	No vat	xx.xx	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
J Cox Admin and Events Assistant salary SCP 2	xx.xx	No vat	xx.xx	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
C Sully Volunteer Coordinator salary SCP 20	xx.xx	No Vat	xx.xx	Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
HMRC Tax and NI Contributions	1949.65	No vat	1949.65	bacs	Salaries and expenses	Salaries
	52.36	No vat	52.36	Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Coordinator
A Shepherd homeworkers allowance	27.00	No vat	27.00	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Expenses
K Welsh homeworkers allowance	27.00	No vat	27.00	Bacs	Salaries and expenses	Expenses
S Rolls Lengthsman services	70.95	No vat	70.95	Bacs	Environmental / Open Spaces	Lengthsman
Business all about you Climate Initiative PR WMPC 48	250.00	No vat	250.00	Bacs	Environmental / Open Spaces	Environment / Community
QSSIT regular maintenance / monthly sub	42.40	8.48	50.88	bacs	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Expenses claim A Shepherd (Travel)	39.60	No vat	39.60	Bacs	Salary and expenses	Expenses
(Postage)	2.70		2.70		General Administration	Sundry Admin
Expense claim K Welsh (Travel)	111.60	No vat	111.60	Bacs	Salary and expenses	Expenses
Viking Payments (Youth Café Cabinet)	174.17	34.83	209.00	Bacs	Youth and Community	Youth Cafe
SLCC (Membership Fee – Kate Welsh)	238.00	No vat	238.00	Bacs	General Administration	Subscriptions and Affiliations
Expenses Claim A Hall (Travel)	88.20	No vat	88.20	Bacs	Salaries and Expenses	Expenses
(Wrens Tree sign components)	86.08	No vat	86.08		Country Park	Country Park
Travis Perkins (Country Park Wellingtonia Tree Drainage materials)	137.31	27.46	164.77	Bacs	Country Park	Country Park
Travis Perkins (Country Park Wellingtonia Tree Drainage materials)	480.74	96.15	576.89	Bacs	Country Park	Country Park
Mowgate Limited (Hedge cutting)	220.00	44.00	264.00	Bacs	Environmental / Open Spaces	Off carriageway highway maintenance

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
Expense Claim S Haskins (Travel)	36.00	No vat	36.00	Bacs	Salaries and Expenses	Expenses
(Hinges for dog waste bin)	11.68	No vat	11.68		Environmental / Open Spaces	Open Space maintenance
(Generator)	205.00	No vat	205.00		Environmental / Open Spaces	Environment / Community
(Oil, tape and rope)	16.97	No vat	16.97		Youth and Community	Community Events
(Cable ties)	15.00	No vat	15.00		Youth and Community	Community Events
Luis Martelo (Trumpet player for VE Day deposit)	75.00	No vat	75.00	Bacs	Youth and Community	Community Events
QSS IT Solutions (Laptop repair)	181.24	36.25	217.49	Bacs	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Newlands Training (Ride on lawn mower training)	750.00	150.00	900.0	Bacs	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Volunteer Training
Expense Claim C Sully (Fuel for mower and weedkiller)	17.29	No vat	17.29	Bacs	Country Park	Country Park
Expense Claim A Hall (Travel)	67.50	No vat	67.50	Bacs	Salaries and Expenses	Expenses
Expense Claim K Welsh (Youth Café items)	40.93	4.79	45.72	Bacs	Youth and Community	Youth Cafe
To note payment of:						
Direct Debit						
Invoice Tailored Auto Enrolment 13192 29/11/2024 (Pension administration)	12.00	2.40	14.40	DD PAID	Salary and Expenses	Pension
Invoice SWS 116196 2/01/2025 maintain gsuite	108.00	21.60	129.60	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Invoice SWS 116114 20/12/2024 Hosting monthly plan	60.00	12.00	72.00	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Invoice SWS 116091 web-lite hosting (MM) and standard mailbox 20/12/2024	30.00	6.00	36.00	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Three (Business Mobiles)	30.00	6.00	36.00	DD PAID	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
EMS (Card Payment System)	13.60	1.20	14.80	DD PAID	Youth and Community	Community Events
Debit Card						
Amazon (Bookends for Community Fridge)	24.96	5.01	29.97	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Fridge
Amazon (laptop for BACH Bookings)	241.66	48.33	289.99	Deb Card	IT and Communications	IT and Communications
Bookers Limited	106.45	10.64	117.09	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Events
Amazon (Christmas trailer event items)	81.15	16.23	97.38	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Events
Instantprint (Poppy of Honour Operation Tribute leaflets)	51.11	0.83	51.94	Deb Card	Country Park	Poppy of Honour
Asda (Volunteer Evening Items)	125.39	No vat	125.39	Deb Card	BACH	Community Events / Initiatives
Bookers (Christmas Trailer items)	22.04	No vat	22.04	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Events
(Youth Café sundries)	45.96	3.00	48.96		Youth and Community	Youth Cafe
Amazon (Christmas trailer items)	7.84	1.56	9.40	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Events

Payee	Net	Vat	Total	How paid	Cost Centre	Cost Code
(Stationery)	30.14	6.04	36.18		General Administration	Sundry admin
Amazon (Christmas Event items)	26.21	5.25	34.95	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Events
Amazon (iPad – MCP Lottery Project Evaluation)	199.99	40.00	239.99	Deb Card	MCP Lottery Funded Project	Evaluation
Amazon (Hi vis coats)	186.56	37.36	223.92	Deb Card	Environmental / Open Spaces	Open Space Maintenance
Amazon (Submersible pump pipe)	24.99	5.00	29.99	Deb Card	Environmental / Open Spaces	Environment / Community
(Batteries)	8.29	1.66	9.95			
(Submersible pump adapter)	4.99	1.00	5.99			
Amazon	108.32	21.67	129.99	Deb Card	Youth and Community	Community Fridge
BACS						
A Brown (Graffiti removal expenses)	11.99	No vat	11.99	BACS	Environmental / Open Spaces	Open Space Maintenance
Newport's Catering (Volunteers Evening Buffet)	500.00	No vat	500.00	BACS	BACH	Community Events / Initiatives

Any other invoices received before the next meeting will be added. Payments by bacs wherever possible.

It was resolved to reimburse Cllr Haskins for the generator purchased for the Christmas Trailer event and for it to become a PC asset for use at future events. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Resolution: to authorise payments and note payments made during the month described above:

Proposed by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Transfer between accounts / budget lines

From PC Lloyds Treasurer Account to Poppy of Honour / Somerset Wood Account £225.00 (Plaque purchases)

From BACH Treasurer Account to PC Treasurer Account – Laptop purchase £241.66.

From BACH Treasurer Account to PC Treasurer Account – Volunteer evening items from Asda £117.89

iii. Consider draft 2025/26 budget and precept demand.

Clerk summarised the draft 2025/26 budget and precept demand. The total proposed budget for 2025/26 is £228090. This would require a precept demand of £212760.

If the budget / precept calculations are approved it would mean a 21.5% rise in precept resulting in an increase from £78.48 to £95.32 per year per Band D equivalent properties.

It was resolved to approve the 2025/26 budget and precept demand. Proposed by Cllr Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

b) Budgeting Report (incorporating BACH Accounts)

The budgeting reports to 31st December were shared in advance of the meeting and the contents of the reports were noted. It was noted that the Audit Working Party will be reviewing the budgeting report at their next meeting on 17th January.

215/24 Other matters for report only – items for discussion – no decision

Cllr Haskins reported that there is a need to source better equipment to enable better quality sound for online meetings. Clerk to gather quotes for consideration.

Cllr Gage asked about the signage for the Country Park. Clerk outlined the signage that is being designed at the moment and the need to gain advertising consent prior to install. Cllr Gage suggested adding a banner to the gate near Maidenbrook Lane with the logo on to make people aware of the location of the Country Park. Assistant Clerk Community to gather quotes for consideration.

a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 20th January 2025 or 3rd February 2025

Noted

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted

216/24 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2025: 11th Feb, 11th Mar, 8th Apr, 13th May, 10th Jun, 8th Jul, 12th Aug, 9th Sept, 14th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec.

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

2025: 28th Jan, 25th Feb, 22nd Apr, 27th May, 24th Jun, 22nd Jul, 23rd Sept, 28th Oct, 25th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 17th January 2025

Annual Parish Meeting: 25th March 2025 at 7pm

BACH Committee 18th February 2025 at 7.30pm

Budget and Precept Working Group: TBC November 2025

Sports Pitch Committee TBC

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.17pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 28th January 2025