



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 9.30am at Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8FT and via zoom.

In attendance: Cllrs Gage, Haskins and Munson, Alan Hall, Giles Benbow (West Monkton Cricket Club), Sam Wallis (Taunton Rugby Club) and John Wrelton (Taunton Rugby Club), James Dean (Taunton Rugby Club) and Amy Shepherd (Clerk).

SPC22/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllr Cavill.

SPC23/25 To approve minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 5th August 2025.

The minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 5th August 2025 were approved.

SPC24/25 Update on application to vary planning permission submitted in July 2024.

Clerk and Cllr Haskins reported that planning permission has been promised by Somerset Council but paperwork confirming the consent has not been received and is awaited. Work on site is proceeding in expectation of the planning permission being received.

SPC25/25 Update on works undertaken on site

a. Access works

Cllr Haskins reported that he had met with the CJL contractor site foreman last week. CJL will be tarmacking the base course of the access road this Friday so access to the site will be available by the weekend. Following the installation of trench pipes the access road will go up to the position of the gates.

Dropped kerbstones have been installed at the location of the hammer head to enable the possibility of a distilled water station being added in the future.

Unfortunately during the works the contractor has reported that 600 litres of diesel was stolen from the contractors storage tank.

b. Earthworks

Cllr Haskins reported that on the weekend of 16th / 17th August, approximately 500 tonnes of earth and material were moved. The parking area has been cleared, the material from the ditch has been cleared and the southern bund has been re-profiled to provide sufficient space for the rugby pitch and dead ball area. The pitch area is now approximately 2 metres less in length than the standard pitch size.

Work is still required to level the entrance track from Hyde Lane but this can be done later.

c. Re-seeding of cricket square

Clerk reported that the re-seeding of the cricket square took place on 19th August. A water pump and pipe has been purchased and the water bowser has been repaired ready for use to water the square when required. Cllr Haskins and Giles Benbow to liaise regarding setting up the pump / pipe / bowser.

d. Headwall and gate works

The gate contractor is manufacturing the gates now and is expected to be on site to install the gates by the end of September; thereby securing the site. A headwall may not be required in the trench following the work of CJL to install the pipes. A fence may be required instead.

The Committee noted that it has been a very productive month of work on site.

SPC 26/25 Cricket nets and artificial cricket square; update and scheduling of works

Clerk reported that the Parish Council had appointed Durant Sports to carry out the work to install the cricket nets and artificial cricket square.

Clerk to share specification of works with Giles Benbow.

Clerk reported that Durant Sport would like to commence work during week commencing 22nd September.

The Committee agreed for the contractor to commence works as planned.

Clerk to arrange a site meeting with the contractors prior to commencement of the works.

Alan Hall reported that there needs to be at least a metre between the artificial cricket square and the grass squares and the ducting for the water needs to be moved so that it is on the outside of the square and not in between the grass and artificial squares.

Alan Hall is developing a sketch to share with the contractors.

The cricket nets will be installed 5 metres from the perimeter of the rugby pitch, parallel with it. Alan Hall is also developing a sketch to share with the contractors.

Since the Committee Meeting, a site meeting with the contractor has been arranged for Tuesday 9th September at 4.30pm.

SPC27/25 Update on works planned on site / next steps

Cllr Haskins reported that an approach has been made to Persimmon about the possibility of acquiring additional land; the triangle between the access road, ditch and the Hyde Lane boundary. This would enable a larger pavilion to be installed on that piece of land. It was noted that a hut would still be required close to the Cricket Pitch.

Clerk reported that the grass has been cut.

Clerk to order the rugby posts not that the access works are nearly completed.

It was noted that there is a need to mark out the rugby pitch. Clerk to coordinate a date with the Rugby Club for marking out of the pitches to take place.

It was noted that stones that have come to the surface need to be removed. Clerk to coordinate a date for a group of volunteers to work across the pitches to remove the stones by hand.

Alan Hall reported that the groundworks contractor will return to site to do further work once CJL are off site.

The following required next steps were noted:

- Clerk to follow up utility connections with Persimmon.
- Quotes for containers to be gathered.
- Work to seed / regrade bund is needed.
- Review fencing requirements around the access point / headwall.
- Rugby and Cricket to investigate sponsorship opportunities to cover the cost of the rugby pitch perimeter fence. Respect barrier (rope / peg) sufficient in the interim.

SPC28/25 Funding Opportunities

Clerk shared a document outlining possible available grant funding opportunities. Clerk reported that applications would be submitted as soon as planning permission is obtained.

Giles Benbow raised crowdfunding and Sports England offer to match fund money raised from crowdfunding.

Sam Wallis raised easy fundraising. Clerk to make enquiries.

SPC29/25 Update from Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club regarding readiness for maintenance when work is complete

Sam Wallis reported that no games have been scheduled on the new pitch at the moment. There is a potential conflict in February / March so the pitch will likely be used then. In the meantime the pitch will be used for

training as soon as it is available. James Dean outlined a need for a space for upcoming training. Clerk to share Candy Sully's details with a view to the Country Park being used.
Clerk to follow up Cllr Cavill regarding the Bridgwater Road pitch and when it will be available.

SPC30/25 Other matters for report

No other matters to report.

SPC21/25 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 7th October at 10.30am at Brittons Ash Community Hall with the opportunity to join virtually.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting ended at 10.40am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sully', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signed Chairman:

Date: 7th October 2025