



West Monkton Parish Council

## ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 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), Amy Shepherd (Clerk) and one member of the public.

### **SPC12/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cavill.

### **SPC13/25 To approve minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025.**

The minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025 were approved.

### **SPC14/25 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.

### **SPC15/25 Update on works undertaken on site**

Since the last meeting the following works / actions have been undertaken:

#### Access Works

Following pressure being put on Persimmon to complete the obligated access works, CJL have been appointed. They reported at the beginning of last week that they expect to be on site within 2 weeks. The contractors have access to the site. The work is expected to take 2 – 3 weeks.

The contractors will mark out the site, depending on the extent of their works and confirmation of where the kerb line ends, the ditch may need to have a pipe added and be filled in prior to the access works commencing.

#### Service Connections

CJL have stated that they have not been instructed to carry out the service connection works. Clerk has contacted Persimmon to establish the situation in regards to the service connection works.

#### Gate / Headwalls

Quote provided by Kevin Chedzoy for the headwalls / gates has been approved by the PC. Kevin needs to be on site at a different time to CJL. Once CJLs start date is confirmed, coordination of Kevin's work will follow.

#### Meeting with ground works contractors

Site meeting has taken place with the Groundworks contractor. The cricket square needs to be re-seeded.

Works to do this are planned for the end of August. Noted that this work may need to be put back by a couple of weeks if access is needed via the front gate so as not to interfere with the Access Road works.

#### Surveyor

Surveyor attended the site and marked out the location of the pitches and access gate. Work is required to remove a section of the bund to enable the pitches to fit on the site.

#### Earth works

Met with contractor on site to commission them to remove the section of bund and to also move the surplus material from where the ditch was dug. Work planned for this weekend although confirmation is awaited from the contractor. Two people needed to drive dumper trucks on Saturday and Sunday. A discussion of availability

followed. Clerk to confirm arrangements / a rota via email once the contractor has confirmed the work will take place this weekend.

It was noted that arrangements for the ditch to drain into a water course were needed and that the house on Hyde Lane, adjacent to the Sports Pitches needs to be kept informed of the works scheduled to take place.

Quote for Rugby Posts approved.

Clerk confirmed that the PC has approved a quote for rugby posts, these will be ordered once access onto site can be secured.

Quotes for perimeter fencing being obtained.

Quotes for Cricket Nets and Artificial Cricket Square being obtained for consideration at the PC meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August.

### **SPC16/25 To discuss and make recommendations regarding pitch fencing requirements.**

A discussion took place about the fencing requirements around the boundary of the site. It was noted that the legal agreements require the pitches to be available to the community to use and that a pedestrian gate is being installed to enable this.

The potential health risks of dog faeces on the pitches on children playing rugby and the potential for broken glass and rubbish to be left on the pitch were noted.

The Sports Pitch Committee recommended that the entrance boundary and the western boundary of the site should be fenced with palisade fencing and that the pedestrian gate should be locked but with a sign advising the community that the fields are available for use / access by prior arrangement.

Site meeting with fencing contractors to be arranged after the access works and gate / headwall works have been completed to obtain quotes for 1.5m and 1.8m high palisade fencing.

Clerk to follow up the gate design with Kevin Chedzoy.

### **SPC17/25 Update on works planned on site / next steps**

Earthworks

Scheduled for this weekend, may be pushed back to the following depending on the contractors availability.

Re-seeding of cricket square and section of rugby pitch where bund removed.

Work planned for end of August, date to be confirmed with the contractor. Water bowser from the Country Park is needed at the Sports Pitches prior to work commencing. Giles Benbow and Cllr Haskins to liaise regarding the repair and movement of the water bowser. Giles Benbow to confirm the hose and pump requirements to the Clerk.

Access Works

Commencing imminently.

Gate / Headwall works

To commence after access works

Quotes for other works including fencing, cricket nets and artificial cricket square to be obtained for consideration by the PC at the August or September meetings.

### **SPC18/25 Funding Opportunities**

Giles Benbow reported that he had met with the Somerset Cricket Foundation. Sports England will match fund up to £15k if crowdfunding has taken place. Scoreboards, site screens and ground keeping equipment are needed. Any surplus could be used towards the temporary changing rooms.

Sam Wallis confirmed that she has some links to websites of some potential grant funding opportunities. Sam to pass these to the Clerk.

Clerk to compile a list of grant funding opportunities and the criteria for each in preparation for grant applications being submitted once planning application is obtained.

John Wrelton advised that the RFU funding opportunities are limited.

James Dean advised that Volvic currently have grants of up to £5k for Women's rugby.

Cllr Haskins advised that SALC may have some funding Health and Wellbeing funding still available.

Giles Benbow advised that the ECB has a funding pot available but it is for creating welcoming spaces and improving existing buildings rather than building new ones.

Gile Benbow raised passive income opportunities including electric car charging stations where the landowner is paid a ground rent or water purification stations. Access is required 24 hours a day. A discussion followed about possibly locating a station on the outside of the fencing. Giles to explore further.

**SPC19/25 Update from Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club regarding readiness for maintenance when work is complete**

Giles Benbow reported that he has moved forward with setting up the under 13s side for next season. John Wrelton advised of Wessex Water planned work to upgrade the pumping station. The work, when it takes place, will result in half of the training pitch at the Rugby Ground being out of use whilst the works take place. This will impact at least two age group matches every Sunday and all training. These works add urgency to the pitches being completed and available for use. Information to be shared with Cllr Cavill to share with the Planning Officers.

**SPC20/25 Other matters for report**

Alan Hall reported that he will be in Taunton on 18th August to review progress. Clerk to confirm arrangements for the earth works by email.

**SPC21/25 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 9.30am 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 read 'Alan Hall', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Signed Chairman:

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025