



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 10.30am at Brittons Ash Community Hall, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool, Taunton, TA2 8FT and via zoom.

In attendance: Cllrs Cavill, Gage, Haskins and Munson, Giles Benbow (West Monkton Cricket Club), James Dean (Taunton Rugby Club) and Amy Shepherd (Clerk).

SPC32/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Alan Hall, Sam Wallis and John Wrelton.

SPC33/25 To approve minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2025.

The minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 2nd September 2025 were approved.

SPC34/25 Update on application to vary planning permission submitted in July 2024.

Cllr Cavill reported that there is no update and that planning permission has not been received. It was confirmed during a public Somerset Council meeting that planning permission would be issued. Work on site to proceed as though planning permission has been obtained..

SPC35/25 Update on works on site

a. Cricket nets and artificial cricket square and associated drainage adaptations

Work to install the cricket nets commenced on 22nd September. The ground has been harder than expected so the works are likely to take 5 – 6 weeks instead of the originally planned 3-4 weeks. An extra person is on site this week to progress the works.

Cllr Haskins reported that during the groundworks for the nets the land drains were cut, work to connect these to another drainage pipe has been carried out to enable diversion of the land drains. A solution for the outfall of the connected pipe will need to be added later.

b. Vandalism

Vandalism of materials took place on the weekend of 27th / 28th September. The vandalism has been reported to the police. The vandalism has led to the need to provide secure storage for materials left on site and to consider fencing for the nets.

c. Storage container

A 40ft container was delivered onto site on Friday 3rd October. In the interim the container will be used for storage of materials and equipment. In the future it can be repurposed as temporary changing facilities. A lockbox will be added to the container to improve the security of the container. Giles Benbow to share details of other adaptations that could improve security.

d. Headwall and gate works

The works to install the headwall and gates on site will commence on 13th October.

e. Fencing works

Clerk reported that the Parish Council agreed a quotation for the boundary fencing on the main entrance boundary subject to a site meeting.

During the site meeting the remainder of the boundary fencing requirements will be reviewed and the fencing around the cricket nets – which is likely to need to progress with some urgency.

Clerk to follow up contractor to ascertain a date for a site meeting and if he is available to install the fencing around the nets when the work is complete.

Clerk to contact Durant Sports to see if it is possible for them to add the fencing / gate works to their contract to be installed when the nets are complete.

If fencing can not be installed as soon as the nets are complete, Clerk to look into the hire of a security tower and obtaining heras fencing in the interim.

Clerk to follow up Persimmon about the utility supplies to inform a quotation being obtained for CCTV. Clerk to escalate utility supplies within Persimmon.

SPC 36/25 Update on works planned on site / next steps.

a. Grass cut

Clerk reported that the groundworks contractor has recommended that the grass should be topped to a height of approximately 3-4 inches.

James Dean to find out from the Rugby Club if they are available to perform a cut.

Clerk to chase the delivery of the new PC ride on lawnmower.

Clerk to enquire about costs to add the cricket club mower to its insurance policy so that it can be driven on the road.

Giles Benbow to contact the PC separately about funds for grass cutting equipment.

b. Rugby pitch marking out

Marking out of the rugby pitch was discussed. It was noted that the Rugby Club had indicated at a previous meeting that they could make arrangements to mark out the pitch. James Dean to follow this up with the Rugby Club.

c. Rugby post installation

James Dean to follow up the installation of the posts with the rugby club. James to liaise with the Clerk.

d. Removal of stones working party

It was agreed that a working group would get together at 11.15am on 19th October to work to remove the stones on the pitches. One or two grass cuts to take place prior to this.

Giles Benbow to spread the word to gather volunteers from the cricket club to help out.

Clerk to spread the word amongst the PC volunteers to see if any are available to help out.

e. Pump track specification / tender exercise update

Cllr Gage provided an update on the pump track. There are two contractors locally who will provide a design for the pump track. Design of the pump track to be approved by the PC at its next meeting. The design and specification will then be advertised as part of the tender process.

Giles Benbow suggested also getting a view from North Petherton pump track about the design of the track.

SPC 37/25 Sponsorship of rugby pitch perimeter fence update

It was agreed to defer this item until the next meeting when John Wrelton is present to receive an update.

Giles Benbow confirmed that he has received some interest from a local business about sponsoring the fencing.

SPC 38/25 Fundraising Update

a. Easy Fundraising

Clerk reported that applications would be submitted as soon as planning permission is obtained but that a cause has been added to Easy Fundraising. When the cause is selected a percentage of spend with retailers is added

to the cause. Information about Easy Fundraising and the cause has been added to the next edition of the Village News.

Cllr Cavill to raise with planning at Somerset Council that grant funding applications can not be submitted until planning permission is confirmed.

Clerk suggested developing a Facebook Page for the Sports Ground to raise awareness of the facility, add pictures of progress, and share fundraising links. It was agreed to develop a Hyde Park Sports Ground Facebook Page.

SPC 39/25 Update from Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club

James Dean requested clarity as to when the pitch would be ready for use. Clerk confirmed that the pitch is ready to train on now. James to liaise with the Clerk about use of the pitch including training dates etc and the dates of any fixtures.

James asked about the installation of the flood lights. It was agreed that the tender exercise for the flood lights would follow planning permission being formally granted.

SPC 40/25 Other matters for report

No other matters to report.

SPC 41/25 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 4th November 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 11.30am.

Signed Chairman:

Date: