



West Monkton Parish Council

## ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Sports Pitch Committee of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 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, James Tolman and James Dean (Taunton Rugby Club) and Amy Shepherd (Clerk).

### **SPC42/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cavill.

### **SPC43/25 To approve minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025.**

The minutes of the Sports Pitch Committee meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2025 were approved.

### **SPC44/25 Update on application to vary planning permission.**

Clerk 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. Cllr Cavill is continuing to chase the planning department at Somerset Council for written confirmation of the planning permission.

### **SPC45/25 Update on works on site.**

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

Giles Benbow reported that works to install the cricket nets and artificial cricket square completed approximately two weeks ago. In the interim Heras fencing has been temporarily erected around the nets to secure them.

The space between the nets and future security fence was discussed. It was agreed that the fencing should be erected to enable a metre gap where possible.

The water bowser was discussed, and it was agreed that it could stay on site. Giles to clean up the bowser and investigate getting a pump set up to extract water from the attenuation pond.

The soak away for the drainage adaptations will be discussed later as part of the trenching discussions when the sewerage connection works are confirmed.

#### **b. Grass Cut**

Cllr Haskins carried out a cut of the pitches prior to the stone removal. A further cut will be needed soon.

James Tolman confirmed that the rugby club will make arrangements for cutting the grass going forward.

Access to the pitches to enable a grass cut was discussed. It was confirmed that access can be arranged in consultation with the headwall / gate contractors who are currently on site completing their works.

#### **c. Removal of stones**

James Dean and Giles Benbow reported that a group of volunteers met on site to remove stones that have come to the surface of the pitches.

It was noted that further stone removal is needed in the dead ball area. Top soil / raking work is also needed in this area. The holes in the pitch also need attention with topsoil and re-seeding along the drainage channels.

Taunton Rugby Club to take forward these two matters.

#### **d. Rugby pitch marking out**

James Tolman confirmed that the rugby pitch has been marked out.

The position of the ducting for the flood lighting needs to be checked to see how it coincides with the marked layout. Clarification that there is sufficient space for the flood light between the cricket nets and rugby pitch needs to be checked before the final position of the rugby pitch is confirmed and the posts are installed.

It was noted that the junior sides (up to under 13 age groups) can use the pitches. A fixture is scheduled to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> November (and then every three weeks thereafter).

It was noted that sufficient car parking is needed for the fixtures. It was agreed that the contractor that is currently onsite is asked to move the scalping that is available on site into the car parking area to provide parking.

#### **e. Headwall and gate works.**

The headwall and gate works are underway on site.

The brick work for the pillars is being completed today. The gates are expected to be installed next week.

#### **f. Pump track specification / tender exercise update**

Clerk confirmed that the specification for the pump track was approved by the Parish Council at its meeting last week and published as required and contractors have been invited to tender. The deadline for submission of tenders is 1<sup>st</sup> December. It is anticipated that the Parish Council will be able to appoint a contractor at the Parish Council meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **SPC 46/25 Update on works planned on site / next steps.**

##### **a. Rugby post installation**

The installation of the rugby posts will take place once the final position of the rugby pitch is confirmed.

A quotation for the installation of the posts is being obtained.

James Tolman to provide the specification for the works so that alternative quotes can be obtained.

##### **b. Utility connections**

Cllr Haskins and Clerk reported that the timescale for the utility connections has not been confirmed by Persimmon. It is understood that the electric and water connections will be brought into site on the pavement via a trench in the road. Clerk to continue to chase.

Clerk to enquire / establish with Persimmon the work planned to provide the sewer connection to the manhole on the grass verge on the other side of the ditch adjacent to the ERR.

##### **c. Fencing works**

The Parish Council has approved a quotation provided by Homestead Fencing. The fencing works, including the cricket net security fencing and sports pitch boundary fencing is expected to commence on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Homestead Fencing on their first day on site to establish the position of the cricket net security fencing.

##### **d. Car parking**

As above, sufficient car parking is needed for rugby fixtures. It was agreed that the contractor that is currently onsite is asked to move the scalping that is available on site into the car parking area to provide parking.

##### **e. Rugby pitch perimeter fencing**

Clerk reported that perimeter fencing to two sides of the rugby pitch is needed to ensure safety.

James Tolman reported that he has requested a quotation for the perimeter fencing from Homestead Fencing.

Clerk to approach local businesses to see if there is an interest in sponsorship to contribute towards the cost of the fencing.

##### **f. Flood lighting**

Clerk reported that a specification for the flood lighting has been developed for approval by the Parish Council at its meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The tender process will commence shortly after. Deadline for tenders is likely to be mid to late December. A contractor is likely to be appointed at the January PC meeting.

#### **SPC 47/25 Finance / Fundraising Update**

Clerk provided a finance update. Clerk reported that there expected to be sufficient funds from the Developer contribution to complete all works on site with a small surplus to go towards the Pavilion.

The pavilion requirements were discussed.

It was agreed that two smaller pavilions would be preferred. One near the cricket pitch where planned and another near the location of the proposed containers in the car park adjacent to the rugby pitch.

It was agreed to consider pavilion requirements further at the next meeting.

Clerk confirmed the intention to apply for grant funding once written planning permission has been received.

Clerk also reported that an approach has been made to Cooper Associates about possible sponsorship of the facilities.

Giles Benbow outlined his research regarding grant funding opportunities, specifically for equipment. Giles to provide a further update at the next meeting.

#### **SPC 48/25 Update from Taunton Rugby Club and West Monkton Cricket Club**

There were no further updates from the Clubs.

#### **SPC 49/25 Other matters for report**

Clerk to investigate the water filter station requirements further.

No other matters to report.

#### **SPC 50/25 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 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 10.35am.



Signed Chairman:

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