

## ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Besley, Cavill (until 8.53pm), Chapman, C. Cronshaw, D. Cronshaw, Ellis, Gage, Haskins and Munson.

**In attendance:** Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator and 2 members of the public.

**244/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.**

No apologies were received.

**245/25 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.

**246/25 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> February proposed by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw, and agreed by show of hands.

**Public Question Time**

Members of the public who own land on Hyde Lane attended the meeting and advised that they would shortly be submitting a planning application for a dwelling on the land. Advice was sought from the Parish Council about the concept of the proposal (no plans were shared). Advice was given including for the applicants to consider the neighbourhood plan policies in their proposal.

**247/25 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.

48/26/0004: Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 18 Knight Close, Bathpool  
The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

Care Home Proposal. Plans shared with the PC prior to it being submitted to the Planning Authority were shared on screen.

Clerk to request hard copies of plans of the proposal once the application has been validated by the Planning Authority. Session for members of the public to view the plans to be arranged.

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

Noted

## **248/25 Projects**

### **a) Poppy of Honour update; feedback from meeting with POH Memorial Group on 17th February**

The notes from the meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February were shared in advance of the meeting.

Cllr C Cronshaw summarised the key points from the meeting including:

- It was agreed that the repairs will be made to the Memorial prior to its installation in the Country Park, including replacing poppies on the front and back faces of the Memorial with poppies from the inside. The glass will be replaced with a UV film on the inside. Cllr C Cronshaw is obtaining a quotation for the replacement glass and the UV film.
- Terry Williams is obtaining a new cover for the Memorial and is scheduling maintenance to re-gas the Memorial.
- The position of the building and the design of the building will also be amended. The structure will be an oak framed rectangular structure. Further discussion to take place about its position in the Park. A new planning application will need to be submitted.
- Cllr Haskins is arranging for two new tyres for the trailer and
- Cllr C Cronshaw is making enquiries about storage of the Memorial.

A further meeting has been scheduled with the Memorial Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

### **b) Hyde Park Sports Ground; feedback from Sports Pitch Committee meeting and consider recommendations**

The draft minutes from the Sports Pitch Committee meeting were circulated in advance of the meeting. Clerk summarised the points discussed and recommendations made by the Committee including:

- That rugby fixtures continue to take place on the pitches using the parking available at the Coker Engineering site.
- That the toilets remain on site.
- Quotes to be obtained for a ditch drainage solution (these will be considered at the next PC meeting).
- For a site meeting to take place with the flood light contractors to mark the position of the lighting columns (site meeting took place on 24<sup>th</sup> February and positions marked).
- Pump track works due to commence on 9<sup>th</sup> March and will take approximately 4 weeks.
- Car parking quotations to be obtained with drainage into the ditch (these will be considered at the next PC meeting).
- Clerk to obtain alternative quote for the rugby post installation.
- Clerk making applications for grant funding and to make enquiries regarding a potential lottery project / funding.
- Enquiries to be made regarding a booking system (Clerk has a demonstration of the Scribe booking system on 4<sup>th</sup> March).

The points and recommendations of the Sports Pitch Committee were noted and agreed.

Cllr Gage raised the fence around the pump track and stated that he didn't think that the fencing on the hedge boundary was needed. A discussion took place and it was agreed to install the fencing and consider any further fencing works required once the installation has taken place and the pump track is operational.

Adding an additional bund around the cricket boundary was discussed and agreed. This will enable the soil excavated from the car park and flood lights to remain on site.

Clerk to make enquiries with company installing the utilities at the Sports Pitches about the size of the distribution board being installed to ensure it has sufficient space.

### **c) MH2 Update; Feedback from meeting with CSMPC and Planning Officer on 11th February. Community Governance Review petition consideration**

Cllr Haskins and Clerk provided feedback on the meeting with CSMPC and the Planning Officer. During the meeting the risks of MH2 not being CIL exempted were outlined. The decision on whether to CIL exempt the site

will take place after the planning permission is granted. The PCs can make representations prior to this decision being taken to outline the risks of not CIL exempting the site.

The other option is to seek a Community Governance Review now for the Parish boundaries to be reviewed. The CGR process normally takes 12 months to complete and needs to be completed by the March prior to an election for it to be implemented from the election. The next PC elections take place in May 2027 so timescales to complete a CGR by March 2027 are tight. The CGR Officer at SC has indicated that a CGR could be expedited if both PCs affected are in agreement.

Clerk confirmed that CSMPC are discussing the option to commence a CGR at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March. If CSMPC agree to a CGR, three options are being presented for the Parish boundary. One is to move the boundary to the motorway, the second to move the boundary to the Cricket Club roundabout and the third to combine the PCs.

A discussion took place and it was resolved to progress a CGR with the proposed boundary being amended to the motorway. This resolution is subject to CSMPC agreeing to the same boundary at their meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March and subject to the Divisional Boundary final recommendations from the Boundary Commission expected to be confirmed on 3<sup>rd</sup> March changing the boundary to the motorway line. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.

**d) Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation project; update / gully sucking progress.**

Cllr Haskins and Besley provided an update following the gully sucking that took place on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

The work has identified a collapsed drain in the verge outside of Blundells Farm. Clerk to report the collapsed drain to SC Highways.

Cllr Haskins confirmed that he has reported the condition of the road following the gully sucking works and other drainage improvements works undertaken by the PC to SC Highways.

It was noted that there were other areas in the parish that needed gully sucking including School Road and Greenway. It was resolved to commission a further day of gully sucking. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Besley and agreed with all in favour. Clerk to make arrangements.

Clerk to request a plan of the high drain / small culvert on the corner of Halletts Road, Monkton Heathfield Road and Hob Lane from Persimmon to ascertain how / where it drains.

Hedge cutting of Hob Lane to be commissioned. Cllr Besley to make arrangements.

Cllr Besley raised again the need for a bigger culvert under Monkton Heathfield Road from Blundells Lane to Hob Lane. Point to be raised as part of MH2 detailed proposals.

Cllr Gage raised the access into the old Amp site from Pippin Road. The entrance has been laid and the drainage covered over. It was noted that this point can be raised when a planning application is submitted.

**249/25 Community:**

**a) Annual Parish Meeting arrangements**

The draft agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March was shared in advance of the meeting, Clerk provided a summary of the proposed agenda and amendments were identified.

Clerk to amend agenda and publication to take place.

The Bridgwater Road pitch was discussed briefly including bringing it into use for the community. Cllr Gage to cut the grass, risk assessment to take place and sign to be displayed confirming responsibility / liability.

**b) Youth Café update; to approve suite of policies**

The policies developed for the Youth Café were shared in advance of the meeting. It was resolved to adopt the policies, proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Clerk to create a page on the website and publish the policies.

**250/25 Yallands Hill crossing point; update. Statement of support for crossing point near Tudor Park being taken forward by Taunton Town Council.**

Clerk reported that Taunton Town Council are taking the Tudor Park crossing point proposal to their Finance and Governance Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> March. The Town Council have requested a supporting statement from the

Parish Council covering the wider plans for the area and the support of the PC for the crossing installation. It was agreed that the Clerk would provide a statement on behalf of the PC.

### **251/25 Environment**

#### **a) PSPO consultation; consider response and spaces for inclusion**

The Public Space Protection Order consultation information was circulated in advance of the meeting. Clerk provided a summary and a discussion took place.

It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a response for consideration at the next PC meeting. It was agreed that this would not include a requirement for dogs to be on leads in the Country Park. Clerk to develop a response for approval.

#### **b) Approve purchase of verge marker reflective posts**

The need for verge markers was outlined by Cllr Haskins. Clerk reported that the cost of the verge markers is around £30.00 each. Cllr Haskins confirmed that he would make the posts instead.

### **252/25 Assets**

#### **a) The Heathfields POS (MH1) ; Update, Feedback from Management Company. Progress with bin installation, knee high fencing, platinum walk sign and noticeboard installations, consideration of installation of football posts and to discuss Halletts Road flooding / Hob Lane ditch and approve any ditch clearance / hedge cutting work required.**

Cllr Chapman provided an update and confirmed that the public open space is going to be referred to as Heathfield Gardens.

The 8 new bins have been installed across the POS by the Lengthsman, positive feedback has been received. Cllr Chapman requested that 7 further bins are ordered to replace the remaining 9. Clerk confirmed that the bins cost £464.99 each.

The noticeboards and Platinum Walk signs will be installed next.

The knee high fencing replacement by Persimmon is complete apart from one area in Hob Close.

Cllr Chapman outlined a quote for materials to replace other sections of knee high fencing. The maintenance workers will carry out the work to install the fencing at no cost to the PC. The PC just needs to cover the cost of the materials quoted as £600.00.

It was resolved to order 7 new bins at a cost of £464.99 each and accept the fencing material quote (£600.00).

Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Besley and agreed with all in favour.

Clerk reported that a quotation for the football posts is still awaited.

*Cllr Cavill left the meeting at 8.53pm*

Clerk reported that email correspondence had been received from a member of the public who resides in Hob Close near the MUGA. The email raises further concerns about the night time disruption from basketball activities.

It was agreed that the signage developed for the MUGA would be installed and for the Clerk to reply to the member of the public outlining the planning obligations to provide basketball hoops and encouraging the member of the public to report any anti-social behaviour concerns to the police or noise nuisance concerns to Environmental Health.

Cllr Chapman provided a Monkton Heathfield Management Company update.

#### **b) Bus Shelters; to discuss and agree required repairs.**

A report developed by a member of the public outlining repairs needed to bus shelters in the parish was shared in advance of the meeting.

Clerk confirmed the bus shelters that were in the PCs ownership (all apart from those on Sylvan Way, Milton Hill and near Farriers Green).

Clerk to obtain quotations for panel replacements. The panels at the bottom and back of the bus shelters to be replaced with metal, the panels at the front and side of the bus shelters to be replaced with Perspex.

**c) Telephone box at The Street ; to discuss improvements**

Cllr Gage suggested that painting work and drainage channel clearance works on the telephone box are added to the Lengthsman schedule for the summer months. It was agreed to add the work to the Lengthsman's schedule.

**d) Country Park and Somerset Wood;**

**(i) General update.**

Volunteer Coordinator provided an update on activity in the park including;

- One new DOE volunteer and parent of a DOE volunteer have signed up.
- Cleaner starting next week.
- Planting around the hub is complete.
- Planting also taking place to fill in the gaps around the forest school and other locations across the park.
- Mowing is scheduled to take place on Saturday.
- Tadpoles are in the pond.
- Rocks are being added to the pond bank to stabilise it for planting. Flower plugs to be planted using the Wessex Water grant money.
- Work continuing on the sign for the rotary area,
- Crocus bulbs are coming up.
- Coppicing training to be scheduled – Somerset Wildlife Trust are funding the training.
- Picnic benches have been moved to the picnic area above the pond.
- The oak on site needs to be delivered to the company making the benches (lottery funded). Cllr Besley to arrange.
- Articles providing a spotlight on volunteers are being added to the Facebook Page.
- Somerset County Gazette article being prepared.
- Preparation for the lottery open week in March.

Cllr Gage raised getting access to the mower to cut the verges in the Parish. Volunteer Coordinator to liaise with Cllr Gage regarding access.

**(ii) Lottery Project Progress Report.**

The Lottery Progress Report was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. Clerk reported that the pathway work start date has been delayed from 2<sup>nd</sup> March to 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Work is still expected to be completed by the end of April as required.

**e) BACH; General update;**

Cllr Gage reported that work has been scheduled to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> March to add an external light on the corner of the BACH facing towards the car park and one over the gate.

**f) Community Fridge update;**

Clerk raised the surface outside the Community Fridge fence. Cllr Haskins confirmed that the work would be carried out as the weather and ground conditions improve.

**g) Community Garden update;**

Cllr Chapman provided an update on the Community Garden. Bulbs are coming up, birds are checking the bird boxes and seeds are being bought on in a volunteers conservatory ready for planting.

**253/25 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision**

Clerk reported that Creech St Michael and Ruishton PCs are suggesting creating a working group regarding flooding that affects our areas. The PC agreed to being part of the working group.

Cllr Haskins raised concerns about the work taking place at Hartnells and the impact of land draining into neighbouring properties on Greenway. Clerk to raise with Persimmon.

Cllr Haskins reported that there have been a lot of incidences of fly tipping the parish. Cllr Haskins confirmed that he has reported the incidences to Somerset Council.

Cllr Chapman reported that the Community Garden is a Somerset Wildlife Trust Team Wilder location.

Cllr C Cronshaw reported that she attended AI training and suggested that the IT policy needs to be reviewed and that Cllrs should have introductory training.

Cllr C Cronshaw reported that she has collected the silhouettes from Stoke St Mary PC. An Oak Easel has also been offered. PC agreed to accept the easel.

Cllr C Cronshaw requested that she is booked a place on upcoming First Aid training.

Cllr C Cronshaw reported that she is having an operation on 10<sup>th</sup> March and will be out of action for 6-10 week whilst she recovers.

Volunteer Coordinator requested a set of waders to enable her to keep Allens Brook clear. Cllr Besley to lend a pair.

Cllr Haskins reported ash dieback on a tree on Blundells Lane. Clerk to ascertain responsibility and report.

Cllr Ellis raised the condition of the verge on Monkton Heathfield Road. Clerk to find out from Cllr Cavill if SC Highways have made any progress with remedial works following the damage caused by the Hinkley bus.

**a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 2nd March 2026.**

Noted

**b) Dates to note over the next 14 days**

Noted

**254/25 Dates of forthcoming meetings:**

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 10th Mar, 14th Apr, 12th May (Annual PC Meeting), 9th Jun, 14th Jul, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

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

2026: 28th Apr, 26th May, 23rd Jun, 28th Jul, 22nd Sept, 27th Oct, 24th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 9.30am.

Annual Parish Meeting: 24th March 2026 at 7pm

BACH Committee 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 10am

Budget and Precept Working Group: November 2026 at 7pm

Sports Pitch Committee 17th March 2026 at 9.30am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.48pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2026