

West Monkton Parish Council

Annual Report 2025-2026



Contents

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| Chairman's Report | Page 3 |
| Our Vision and Priorities | Page 12 |
| Our achievements | |
| Your Local Environment | Page 13 |
| Your Local Community | Page 15 |
| Your Parish Council | Page 18 |
| Delivering Our Projects | Page 20 |
| Delivering the Vision for Our Assets | Page 26 |
| Delivering our Neighbourhood Plan | Page 28 |
| Our Resources | Page 29 |
| 2026/27 Meeting Dates | Page 30 |
| Contact Us | Page 31 |



Chairmans Report 2025/26

Once again, I have the pleasure of reporting to you on the work and activities undertaken by your Parish Council (PC). To say it has been a busy year would be an understatement without doubt. The entire team has delivered so much for the Parish but there is always more we can do given the resources funds and support. Currently the PC consist of 9 councillors my self-included but from the May 2027 elections we have authority to increase our compliment to 13. Following the elections there will be a Local Governance Review which could see the size of our Parish change.

As there is a lot I need to report on, I have decided the break my report into sections which will should I hope, make reading it easier.

Your Parish Councillors, and Support Team

Stuart Haskins - Chairman & Vice Chairman of SALC (Somerset Association of Local Councils)

Noel Munson - Vice Chairman

Norman Cavil - Parish Councillor and Ward Councillor Somerset Council

Hazel Ellis - Parish Councillor. Lead Councillor for the Spital Trust

Barry Gage - Parish councillor. Chairman of BACH Management Committee

Mark Besley - Parish Councillor. Lead Councillor for Highways and safe routes to schools

Alan Chapman - Parish Councillor and Chairman of Monkton Heathfield and Pavilion Gardens Management Companies.

Carol Cronshaw - Parish Councillor. Lead Councillor for operation Tribute (Fund raising for the Poppy of Honour)

David Cronshaw - Parish Councillor

Amy Shepherd - WMPC Parish Clerk

Kate Welsh - WMPC Community Clerk

Jess Cox - Administrative Support and Events Assistant

Shaun Rolls - WMPC Lengthman

Candy Sully - Maidenbrook Country Park Volunteer Co-ordinator

Bethan Turner - Communications support

Kevin Perry - Bathpool Flood Warden

Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued..

This year saw a number of changes to your Parish Council team. Ray Tully resigned from the PC after many years serving this community due to his other Taunton Town Council commitments. The vacancy he left was advertised but failed to attract enough interest to require an election and so David Cronshaw was co-opted in at the beginning of November. David brings a wealth of business and management knowledge to the team and has taken up his role with great enthusiasm and commitment. Briefly looking forward to the 2027 local elections and following a Boundary Review consultation in early 25, a change of Somerset Council divisional boundaries will see the M5 motorway become the Southern boundary of the Monkton ward and the reduction of Somerset Councillors in it from 2 down to 1 from the 2027 elections onwards.

Our Administrative and Events Assistant Jess Cox provides valuable support to the entire team and given the increase in our community activities both in 2025 and going forward, her role plays a vital part in the planning and organisation of events. I would like to congratulate Jess on completing her Introduction to Local Council Administration (ILCA) training successfully and further wish her well in LG training in the coming years. The training of all PC employees and Councillors is vital to ensure we remain conversant and compliant with rules, policies, codes of conduct and practice and of course the Law. It also ensures we remain future proofed as an organisation and compliant with our strategic plan.

Our Parish Clerk Amy Shepherd has also been developing her skills and qualifications this year and has commenced training for a Level 5 Foundation Degree in Community Governance this year. Amy already has a wealth of knowledge and experience when it comes to Local Government matters and her commitment to further training ensures that the PC is directed in all Local Government matters correctly and lawfully.

Kate Welsh our Community Clerk has continued to drive our ever-increasing community activities. Her dedication to her role and enthusiasm for all she does is greatly appreciated and recognised not only within our Parish but also the Hestercombe LCN Community. Her leadership in supporting young people and other groups has made our Parish a flagship to others on what can be achieved given the right leadership and commitment.

Given the number of events, we now organise and run, having trained First Aiders is vital. This year has seen all the Councillors and a number of volunteers either take or refresh their qualifications.

Our Parish Lengthsman Shaun Rolls

As I am sure most of you know Shaun Rolls has been our Parish Lengthsman on a casual basis for several years however, having retired from his fulltime Job in late 2025 we saw the opportunity to formalise Shaun's employment with us. This has and will enable us to deliver a number of improvements and day to day maintenance projects at a significantly less cost in real time as and when required. Going forward the initial 20 hours / month, he is expected for will I am sure, need to be increased as our Parish responsibilities expand.



Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

We also welcomed the new Village Agent. Rachael Knight last year. Rachel came into the community in the Summer and has been working with our team to provide support for those who need it in our community and she has some interesting plans for the future.

How where and why we Represent our Parish

A large part of the time committed and spent by your Councillors can go unnoticed. Our involvement and participation in meetings consultations working groups etc helps to direct and encourage and support agencies and other bodies in ways that will benefit our community both now, and in the future.

These include but are not limited to the following:

- The Environment Agency
- LCN and its Working Groups
- Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board
- Meetings with Planners and Developers. - Re MH2 (Langaller Park) and the Dosters Lane Development.
- Meeting with Local businesses
- Meetings with Local Sports clubs
- Meeting with neighbouring Town and Parish Councils about the delivery of projects.

Consultation Responses

Over the year the PC gets involved with a number of Consultations. Some are low level and can be dealt with during PC meetings, but others need significant input from our Clerks and discussion outside of our bi-month PC meetings. The recent Green Wedge review paper was one such case and I am glad to say our submission has been well received.

Communications with the Parish

Communicating with our Parishioners is an important part of what we do, and the use of social media has greatly improved how we do this, month on month. Our reports show us how you are interacting with our website and the other platforms we support. That said, the hard copy of the Parish Magazine still has its place in our community with over 1200 copies of each edition being printed and distributed by a dedicated team of volunteers. So, if you are new to our community and want to know what's going on or a local trades person to contact, please take a look at it on the PC website.



Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

Other online platforms where you can find us are: -

- Facebook
- Monkton Matters
- PC website



West Monkton Parish Council

Note PC Meeting Minute summaries are now available on Monkton Matters.

Projects in the Parish for the Community

Our commitment to improving our community has continued throughout 2025 with some major works being undertaken and completed. Funding for these projects comes in the main from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments generated from housing developments in our Parish as well as from Grants that we have applied for from bodies such as Somerset Community Foundation, Somerset Rivers Authority, Wessex Water and The National Lottery . Our major projects this year have been the completion of the Maidenbrook Country Park volunteers' compound and Hyde Park Sport Gound. Last spring at the ground we saw the Cricket and Rugby pitches surfaces prepared and land drainage installed before the pitches were seeded. Of course, the dry summer didn't help the grass growth, but when it did eventually rain growth came quickly. "State of the art" Cricket nets have been install and our amazing new entry gates manufactured by Kevin Chedzoy and installed by Monkton Builders make the perfect statement as well as providing the security we seem to need these days.

Still to come and all being well in 2026 we will see the flood lighting for the rugby pitch installed, the car park built, a Pavillion provided and if the funds can be found a further Pavilion for Rugby teams. Finally and currently under construction is the exciting Pump Track for the more energetic of you which should be complete and operational by summer.

The BACH (Briton Ash Community Hall)

The BACH, with its excellent facilities continues to be the centre point of many PC initiatives as well as for the numerous other groups which hire the facilities on a weekly basis.

Every day the venue is in use providing for a variety of activities for all ages, groups and needs.

The hugely successful stay and play groups enables parents to grab a coffee and meet with neighbours whilst their little ones play. In contrast the recent addition of an afternoon bingo and tea session is proving very popular for the more mature members of our community.

The award of a grant from Somerset Community Foundation has contributed and helped us to once again provide a "warm hub" venue during the winter months.

The BACH building itself is constantly being updated and kept in tip top condition lead by the BACH Committee chairman Cllr Barry Gauge. At the outset it was agreed that surplus generated by the BACH would go back into the community in one way or another. Works this year have involved developing the Parish Office which is now manned almost every day at some point as well as a installing a new water boiler and providing new tables. Funds have been used to make a grant to the adjacent Primary School for the installation of solar panels. The BACH will benefit from this with free power for many years to come.

Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

Grants received by the WMPC this year :-

- £35000 from SALC to fund the HYPE project. We are the lead council - for youth provision across the Hestercombe LCN area. Funding for next year's activities has also been secured from the National Lottery Awards for All and Hinkley Point C.
- £1433 from Wessex Water grant for Maidenbrook Country Park.
- £4800 from Avon and Somerset Police Trust which funded 2 new SIDs Permanently which have been permanently installed on Monkton Heathfield Road.
- £1500 from Sainsburys - towards the community garden at the BACH.
- £2500 from Somerset Community Foundation towards funding the Warm Hub.
- £7300 from the Somerset Rivers' Authority for improvements to drainage and ditches on Blundells Lane.
- £3000 from the Stronger Communities Fund towards the Sports Pitches.
- £5000 from the Keily Group for Waymarker signs in the Country Park.

Grants given by WMPC this year :-

- Support to install water butts and composting bins
- Assistance to help the Tacchi Morris replace its speaker system
- Support to help with the installation of air source heat pump & improved loft insulation
- Supporting a young person to attend a T-Level college course in nursing to go to Vietnam to volunteer in a friendship village and develop his skills.
- Support to install Electric charging points
- Inflatable water barriers for those at risk from flooding
- Taunton Area Cycling Campaign
- West Monkton Primary School PTA Parking Buddies
- Support to enable a young person to attend a year 6 residential school trip
- Support to enable a young person to attend a year 10 residential history trip in Poland.



West Monkton Parish Council

Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

Maidenbrook Country Park (MCP) and the Somerset Wood

Since taking up her role as the Volunteer Co-Ordinator nearly 2 years ago Candy Sully has generated a loyal band of volunteers who regularly turn up at the Maidenbrook Country Park to cut grass, prune bushes, plant trees and generally help. The addition of 2 storage containers, an office container now provides secure storage for plant and equipment and a base for the volunteers to have a cup of tea or coffee whilst relaxing and socialising between tasks. Alongside the many other tasks that Candy has taken on is the supporting of young people as they participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. In addition to the ongoing National Lottery Grant, further funds have been granted by several bodies one of which was £5000 received from the Keily Group for the installation of the way markers amongst other things. Following the unauthorised access by travellers that took place just before Easter 25, secure gates, bollards and large planters were installed which should prevent a reoccurrence of the trespass and the debris that had to be cleared after their departure. The support that was shown by over 70 volunteers at that time demonstrated how much people value the park. It is unfortunate that we are still experiencing anti-social activity and substance abuse in the park during the hours of darkness. The police are aware of this, and it is hoped that this activity can be eliminated or at least reduced in the coming year.

From further utilisation of grants the MCP now benefits from:-

- Improved Entrance signage and site maps
- Bespoke litter Bins
- Additional Picnic Benches
- Staff and Volunteers toilets
- Storage containers
- Secure Compound fencing and CCTV
- Ride on lawn mower and tipper trailer
- Additional tools, equipment and clothing for volunteers
- Mains Water and Electricity.

The Royal Marine Commandos from Norton Manor Camp have on 2 occasions ended their speed marches at the Country Park and it is greatly appreciated that they joined us for remembrance and the unveiling of new memorials in the park.



Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

Our Community and our Assets.

The PC now owns over £1m worth of assets from land, buildings and street furniture to equipment and tools for maintaining the assets and to facilitate community events all of which need to be maintained and insured. These assets are form part of what go towards making our Parish and community special. Improvements are underway across the Parish working with volunteers such as at the Thornash Close bus stop. Here Volunteers have cleared brambles and debris and now a new hedge has just been planted by the Parish Lengthsman. Other improvements include replacing the numerous old litter bins with new dual-purpose bins. Over time this is self-funding as we reduce the overall number bins but make remaining ones bigger. New notice boards are soon to be installed at the WM Village Hall which will be made and installed by the local Men's Group. All of these things may seem small but together they become big and make the difference to us all.

After many years of discussion and legal negotiations the PC finally took ownership of the public open spaces in and around the MH1 development which I am glad to say this will henceforth be known as Heathfield Gardens. A Management board has been established made up of residents and two Parish Council representations, Cllr Alan Chapman and myself.

On July 1st 2025, ownership of the public open spaces on the former MH1 development was transferred to West Monkton Parish Council. Management of those areas was then handed over to a resident-led management company, with residents of the estate, along with a representative of the Parish Council, replacing the existing board of directors. Shortly afterwards, on August 1st, those same directors also took over control of the Pavilion Gardens estate, and the homeowners of both estates are members of the management companies.

The appointment of a Parish Councillor to the board will allow the council, if agreed, to make a financial contribution towards projects such as new playground equipment and replacement/repair of benches and waste bins without an increase in the annual sum payable by the homeowners.

It has been quite a task implementing this new process for various reasons, but the directors have been working hard to help people understand their contractual obligations and answering questions posed. They are all volunteers and give up their free time to ensure that everybody's charges are fair and reasonable. They have also created both a Facebook page and private members group to enable homeowners to communicate with them.

The management company will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 21st April and all homeowners are encouraged to attend.

Highways

Currently we have excessive levels of commuter traffic passing through on Monkton Heathfield Road. I truly believe that when the next housing development gets underway at Langaller Park, the changes to the road layouts will see this reduce significantly. We all know how bad the state of our roads are and the reasons why. Whilst it is not for the PC to be spending your money on highways work that should be undertaken by the Somerset Council, we have however undertaken gully clearance, drain jetting and ditch clearance work on Blundells Lane (grant funded) this year to reduce flood risk and road conditions. Please note that these works were paid for by a grant obtained from the Somerset River Authority and not from your precept payment. Unfortunately, Blundells Lane will need a bit more work to eliminate all the problems we have found which hopefully will be in the next financial year.



Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

The early stages of the development process including the feasibility study and safety audit to install a pedestrian crossing at the bottom of Yallands Hill are now complete and the next job for the PC will be undertaking a consultation with the local community about the crossing proposal. It is hoped that the crossing point will be funded from developer contributions. We have a number of avenues to follow, and we hope to be in a position to say more very soon.

I feel sure keeping our parish clean and tidy is a desire we all share and one that's makes it such a great place to live in. Unfortunately, there are those outside our community that think they have the right to fly tip on our road sides, grass verges, gate ways and secluded spots so please keep your eyes open and report it if you can.

Our community now benefits from having over 200 amazing volunteers who pick up litter, collect surplus food and take it the community fridge, help with the Youth Café, help out at Maidenbrook CP and help with community events to list just a few of the activities they help out with.

Events Past and future

As I have alluded to earlier in my report the PC focus is on creating a community spirit by promoting organising and providing events and venues at which people can communicate and enjoy themselves. The PC has produced and Events Leaflet for 2026 based on the experiences and feed back from you in 2025.

We will continue to do almost everything we have started in previous years provided the need continues but the PC is not be afraid to make changes if required.

If you didn't already know these are just some of what has been going on

- Monthly quiz at the Tacchi Morris
- Weekly community café at the BACH
- Weekly stay and play at the BACH
- Share events at the BACH
- Bingo and cream tea at the BACH
- Repair Café at the BACH
- Bereavement Café at the BACH
- Easter Egg Hunt (at the BACH in 2025 due to Problems at the MCP)
- Somerset Day at MCP
- Falklands Event at MCP
- Fun fest at MCP
- St Giles Dog Show at MCP
- VJ Day at MCP
- Remembrance Service at MCP
- Xmas trailer around the Community
- Farm walks at Proctors Farm



Chairmans Report 2025/26 continued...

Planned 2026 events:

Leaflet for 2026 events has been circulated.

- Monthly quizzes at the Tacchi Morris
- Easter Egg Hunt – 4th April at MCP
- Bingo – 7th April at the BACH
- Clothes Swap event – 18th April at the BACH
- Farm Walk – 26th April at Proctors Farm
- Somerset Day Shindig / Grand Opening of Maidenbrook Country Park with a Major Firework display to music – 9th May
- Share Event – 6th June at the BACH
- Bingo – 9th June at the BACH
- Funfest – 11th July at MCP
- Flower Show – 1st August at the BACH
- Bingo – 4th August at the BACH
- Dog show – 23rd August at MCP
- Bingo – 6th October at the BACH
- Remembrance service – 6th November at MCP
- Christmas Trailer event – 17th December around the community





West Monkton Parish Council

Our Vision:



Our Vision is for West Monkton Parish Council and the local community to work together to protect and improve the social, recreational and environmental well-being of West Monkton and the lives of all who live, visit or work here.

Our Priorities:



a. Your Local Environment



b. Your Local Community



c. Your Parish Council



d. Delivering our projects



e. Delivering our Vision for our Assets



f. Delivering the Neighbourhood Plan Vision



 **Priority A: Your Local Environment**

To support our Local Environment and mitigate against the impact of climate change your Parish Council has:

- Continued to deliver the Hi Vis Initiative encouraging more people to cycle and walk.
- Held share events, reducing waste and providing the community with an opportunity to share clothes, toys, books, seeds, plants and other items.
- Continued to run the Community Fridge to provide more reduce food waste and to share clothes, books and toys amongst our community. The fridge saved 15739 kgs of food going to landfill this year, that's three times the amount saved last year and equivalent to the weight of 3 large African elephants.
- Salvation Army clothes recycling bank has enabled 6408kgs of clothes to be recycled.
- Held a Repair Café once a month, reducing waste and enabling the repair of many household items, clothes and toys.
- Planted trees and hedge plants at the Sports Pitches and the Country Park.
- Promoted cycling at Family Festival of Cycling Event.
- Delivered educational Farm Walks.





Priority A: Your Local Environment

- Acquired the MH1 public open space and set about making improvements including the replacement of bins and installation of noticeboards.
- Provided grant funding to members of our community for initiatives to improve climate resilience including installing water butts, composting bins, air source heat pumps, loft insulation improvements, electric charging points, water storage solutions and inflatable water barriers.
- Improved the local environment and highway safety by:
 - Getting Horse Warning signs installed for country lanes in the Parish.
 - Installing two new SIDs on Monkton Heathfield Road.
 - Clearing weeds from kerb edges
 - Made improvements to the layby on Monkton Heathfield Road opposite Thornash Close, to make this a focal point of the village.
 - Encouraged homeowners to keep their boundary hedges along pathways and roads to keep them cut back so as not to prevent their use by pedestrians and cyclists.
 - Lobbying for street name signs on Monkton Heathfield Road, re-routing the Hinkley Bus so that it goes along Bridgwater Road rather than Monkton Heathfield Road and for double yellow lines to be added at the bottom of Mead Way near the junction with Monkton Heathfield Road.





Priority B: Your Local Community

To support, engage and build our Local Community, your Parish Council:

- Provided grant funding to Taunton Area Cycling Campaign, West Monkton Primary School PTA for Parking Buddies, towards Test Fest 2026 taking place at Taunton Rugby Club and towards the Chew Valley Hoard campaign.
- Held regular Community Events including a monthly Quiz at Tacchi Morris, weekly Stay and Play Groups, a weekly Community Café.
- Continued to provide a community website - Monkton Matters and used social media to engage our community with 1606 followers and posts reaching in excess of 251000 people.



2026 Dates:

- 14th January
- 11th February
- 1st April
- 22nd April
- 20th May
- 17th June
- 22nd July
- 23rd September
- 21st October
- 18th November
- 16th December

7.30pm

Tacchi Morris
ARTS CENTRE



West Monkton Parish Council



STAY AND PLAY

AT
BRITTONS ASH
COMMUNITY HALL,
MONKTON HEATHFIELD

EVERY
THURSDAY
FROM 10.30-
12PM
FREE TO
ATTEND

COME AND MEET
OTHER FAMILIES FROM
THE COMMUNITY

FOR 5 YRS
AND UNDER



FREE
TEA/COFFEE
AND BISCUITS
AVAILABLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JESS AT:
ADMINEVENTS@WESTMONKTONPARISHCOUNCIL.GOV.UK





Priority B: Your Local Community

To support, engage and build our Local Community, your Parish Council:

- Successfully delivering commemorative events to mark the 80th anniversary of VE Day and VJ Day at Maidenbrook Country Park.
- The two events were attended by more than 1000 people from across our local community.





Priority B: Your Local Community

To support, engage and build our Local Community, your Parish Council:

- Jointly with neighbouring Parish Councils delivered a Funfest 2025. Funfest 2026 will take place on 11th July 2026.
- Delivered a Dog Show in partnership with St Giles Kennels.
- Delivered an Easter Egg Hunt.
- Provided a monthly Bereavement Support Group
- Provided grant funding for Young People from Brittons Ash Community Hall surplus enabling a young person who is attending a T-Level College course in nursing to go to Vietnam to volunteer in a friendship village, two students to go on school trips and to provide another young person with IT equipment for their college course.
- Delivered a Summer Food Project
- Continued to deliver the weekly Youth Café.
- Provided Community Care Boxes to those in need in our Community.
- Continued to be supported by over 180 volunteers from across our community.





Priority C: Your Parish Council

To ensure that the Parish Council is as effective as possible, it has:

- Been open and transparent, publishing information in an accessible format on website www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk
- Reviewed and published a Strategic Plan to help the community understand the work of the Parish Council.
- Been an active member of the Hestercombe LCN and Taunton Garden Town Advisory Board.
- Used Community Infrastructure Levy receipts to deliver the parish priorities.
- Used a variety of communication methods including the village news, noticeboards, Monkton Matters website (www.monktonmatters.co.uk) and the PC website.
- Developed and delivered to every property a 2026 community events leaflet.
- Applied for available grant funding to deliver projects / priorities including Community Fridge, Country Park, Youth Café / Summer Food Project, Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation Project, Community Garden and Speed Indicator Devices.
- Welcomed Cllr David Cronshaw to the Councillor Team.
- Community Clerk Kate Welsh, received an award for her contribution to the community by the Somerset Council Chairman.
- Volunteer Companion Volunteer Margaret Rosewarn was a finalist in the BBC Somerset Good Neighbour Awards.





Priority C: Your Parish Council continued

To ensure that the Parish Council is as effective as possible, it has:

- Employment of the Parish Lengthsman for 20 hours a month to help keep our community tidy.
- Trained staff and volunteers including Introduction to Local Council Administration, Level 5 Foundation Degree in Community Governance, First Aid and Safeguarding Training for our staff and volunteers and in-house refresher training on council administration for all councillors. This ensures that the Parish Council is equipped with the right skills and knowledge to ensure that the Parish Council is working as effectively as possible.
- Improved the accessibility of our website.
- Supported young people with volunteering opportunities in the community to complete the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.
- Responded to consultations including the Boundary Commission’s consultation on the Somerset Council Divisional Boundaries and providing information in support of maintaining the existing green wedge between Monkton Heathfield and Taunton.
- Worked closely with our new Village Agent, Rachael Knight.
- Completed external audit with no issues or recommendations being made by the External Auditor.





Priority D: Delivering our Projects

The Parish Council has continued to work hard to deliver a number of key projects all aimed at improving the Parish and all who live, work or visit. A summary of the achievements on each project is provided below:

Sports Pitch Delivery

- Planning permission obtained.
- Access, gate and fencing works completed.
- Rugby pitch marked out and junior fixtures have taken place.
- Cricket nets and artificial cricket square works completed.
- Pump track works commenced in March, to be completed in April 2026.
- Flood lighting works to commence in April 2026.





Priority D: Delivering our Projects 2

Hestercombe Young People Evolving – HYPE

- In 2024, Hestercombe Local Community Network (LCN) prioritised Children and Young People and created a working group that developed the HYPE initiative.
- Funding from the Somerset Association of Local Councils (SALC) Health and Wellbeing Grant enabled research to provide youth services that align with the needs and preferences of young people within the LCN.
- The research, conducted through three engagement approaches, has provided a clear understanding of young people's needs across the Hestercombe LCN, giving Town and most Parish Councils relevant, area-specific insights.
- Deliver Somerset Youth Theatre sessions in primary schools, as Year 6 pupils offer valuable local insights as they approach adolescence, providing a grounded perspective on what young people require in their communities.
- Boombox sessions took place during 2025/26 in school holidays in areas identified as having a higher need for youth services. These areas include Kingston St Mary, Stockmoor, the Holiday Inn area, and North Petherton Memorial Park.
- Partnered with Go Create (for art), Adosalove (for dance), and TYCA (for spoken word) to deliver selected activities through youth clubs in North Petherton, West Monkton, and Creech St Michael.
- Banners and posters have been displayed across all eight parishes to promote the three main youth hubs, along with an offer to support transport to youth clubs through the HYPE initiative. This outreach has led to increased attendance at youth clubs at all three hubs.
- SALC funding will conclude in March 2026, and the HYPE project has successfully applied for funding from Awards for All (Lotteries) and the HPC (through Somerset Community Foundation). West Monkton Parish Council will continue managing this project and any grants received.
- Our overarching goal is to establish a sustainable, needs-led model of youth provision that demonstrates clear impact and encourages LCN Councils to continue supporting and funding youth work across the Hestercombe area.





Priority D: Delivering our Projects

3

Poppy of Honour Memorial Delivery

- Planning Permission obtained for pavilion.
- Fundraising campaign 'Operation Tribute' has commenced.
- Original cost of pavilion in the region of £100-140k.
- Approximately £18000.00 raised so far.
- Considering alternative options for the pavilion design that may be of lower cost.
- Poppy of Honour visits to events and shows planned throughout 2026 to help raise awareness and fundraise.



OPERATION TRIBUTE - POPPY OF HONOUR

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING
THINKING OF A UNIQUE GIFT FOR YOURSELF OR
A LOVED ONE!

We are seeking donations in order that a Pavilion can be erected to house the POPPY OF HONOUR at Somerset Wood in the Maidenbrook Country Park in Taunton. When built it will become an official Commonwealth War Memorial. Visitors will be able to view Free of Charge.

The POPPY holds 1,117,635 individual remembrance poppies inside its encasement, representing the number of British and Commonwealth servicemen and servicewomen listed by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission as 'Killed in Action' or 'Missing in Action' together with those 'Shot at Dawn' then later pardoned and those who died from their wounds after the Armistice in WW1. You will have the unique opportunity to have yours or a loved one's name on a plaque. Businesses can also contribute. These will be placed near to the pavilion for all to view for perpetuity.

Minimum donations are £25 for a small plaque, £50 for a medium and £75 for a large plaque. This operation will continue until funding is complete. For information is available via this link or by scanning the QR code.

<https://westmocktonparishcouncil.gov.uk/operation-tribute-poppy-of-honour/>





Priority D: Delivering our Projects 4

Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation

- £7300 of grant funding received from the Somerset Rivers Authority.
- Used to cut hedges, clear ditches, reinstate ditch banks, add a new grill at Red Hill to prevent debris from entering the culvert and gully sucking.
- All to enable water to be retained and attenuated in ditches, keeping Blundells Lane clear of flooding as much as possible.



Speed Indicator Devices

- Approximately £5000 of grant funding received from Avon and Somerset Police to purchase two new solar powered speed indicator devices.
- These devices have been located on Monkton Heathfield Road, one near Richards Crescent and one on Yallands Hill.
- The devices help to remind motorists of their speed and the speed limit and also collect information about the number of vehicles on the road and their speeds – this information is passed to the police to inform their enforcement schedule, and the information is also used for the PC to lobby for more traffic calming measures on Monkton Heathfield Road.





Priority D: Delivering our Projects 5

Waymarkers to create wildlife trail at Maidenbrook Country Park

- With the support of grant funding provided by the Kiely Group, sculpted waymarkers across key habitat locations with informative noticeboards have been installed to create a wildlife trail across the park.



Yallands Hill Crossing Point

- The Parish Council has taken the required steps to install a crossing point at Yallands Hill. Including:
 - Commissioned and obtained a Feasibility Study
 - Commissioned and obtained a Road Safety Audit.
- The next step is to commence consultation on the proposed location and type of crossing point with our community.
- The crossing point will
 - Provide a safe point to cross the road at Yallands Hill for Pedestrians and cyclists accessing Maidenbrook Country Park
 - School children walking to and from school.
 - Act as a traffic calming measure to both reduce vehicle speeds as they enter the 20mph speed limit and to encourage traffic to use the relief roads around the village.

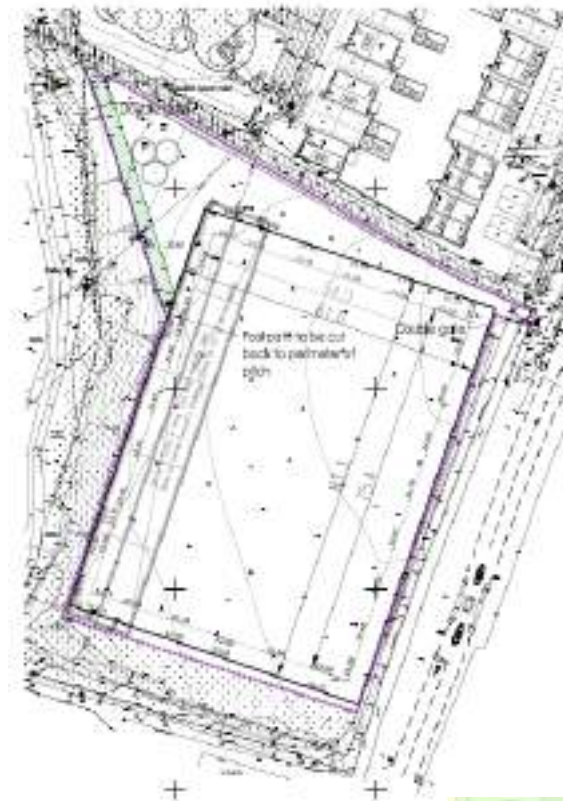




Priority D: Delivering our Projects 6

Bridgwater Road pitches

- Held the Developer to account to ensure the delivery of Junior Football Pitch provision at Bridgwater Road.
- The Parish Council plans to acquire the land / completed pitches through a lease arrangement with Somerset Council. Parish Council to make the pitches available for the community and junior football clubs (using the facilities available at the BACH to support their use).



Waterleaze Playing Pitch

- Worked to acquire playing pitch land currently in the ownership of the Developer at Waterleaze and provide facilities to enable use of the pitch as a pitch for use by clubs and the community.
- Developer has agreed to a S106 contribution towards costs as part of the Nerrols phase 3 planning application.





Priority E: Delivering our Vision for our Assets

Maidenbrook Country Park and Somerset Wood

- The Lottery Funded for three-year project that commenced in 2024 continued and the following has been achieved so far:
 - Recruitment of Volunteer Coordinator, Candy Sully
 - Training for volunteers and Volunteer Coordinator including first aid, tree care, strimmer and ride-on mower operation, dead hedging and scything
 - Branded uniform for volunteers - jackets and polo shirts, with gilets on order for summer use
 - Logo created with associated brand pack
 - Facebook page created with ~1K in followers
 - Website created (www.maidenbrookcountrypark.org.uk) with Photo of the Month and monthly subscriber newsletter
 - Welcome signage designed and in place
 - New maintenance equipment acquired, along with mulching ride-on mower and trailer
 - New Park equipment (benches, picnic benches, dual-use bins) and fenced Volunteer Hub now in place
 - Community events area reseeded.
- Community events held at the Country Park during 2025 – more planned for 2026.
- Delivery of new memorials including the Falklands Memorial and WW2 memorial.





Priority E: Delivering our Vision for our Assets 2

Brittons Ash Community Hall

- The Hall continues to be a popular and well-used hub for our community.
- The Parish Council has approved a grant to the primary school for the installation of solar panels to reduce the carbon footprint of both buildings.
- 25% of BACH surplus has also been made available for grants to support Young People in our community. 4 young people have been supported this year.
- The hall also received grant funding from the Somerset Community Foundation to provide a warm hub during the winter months.

Community Fridge

- The community fridge saved 15739 kgs of food going to landfill a year, that's equivalent to the weight of 3 large African elephants and three times the amount saved last year.

Community Garden

- With the help of volunteers, the Community Garden is continuing to produce lots of fresh produce.





Priority F: Delivering Our Neighbourhood Plan Vision

The Parish Council has worked to deliver the Neighbourhood Plan vision:

- The NP Vision is ‘To successfully accommodate the significant growth planned for the area; to ensure a high quality of design with the creation of sustainable places with excellent community facilities for local people to enjoy and during this period of growth, the historic settlements and surrounding countryside will be protected to maintain and enhance the locally distinctive characteristics of the area for future generations’. The Parish Council makes reference to this vision and the policies within the Neighbourhood Plan when responding to planning application.
- The Parish Council has considered and made comment on in excess of 45 planning applications in 2025/26.
- With Creech St Michael Parish Council the Parish Council has engaged with developer and Planning Officer regarding MH2 / Langaller Park putting forward concerns on behalf of the Community.
- The Parish Council has received a presentation from Alder King in respect of the proposed Dosters Lane Development and fed back its concerns.
- The Parish Council is actively engaged with the Somerset Local Plan Development process.



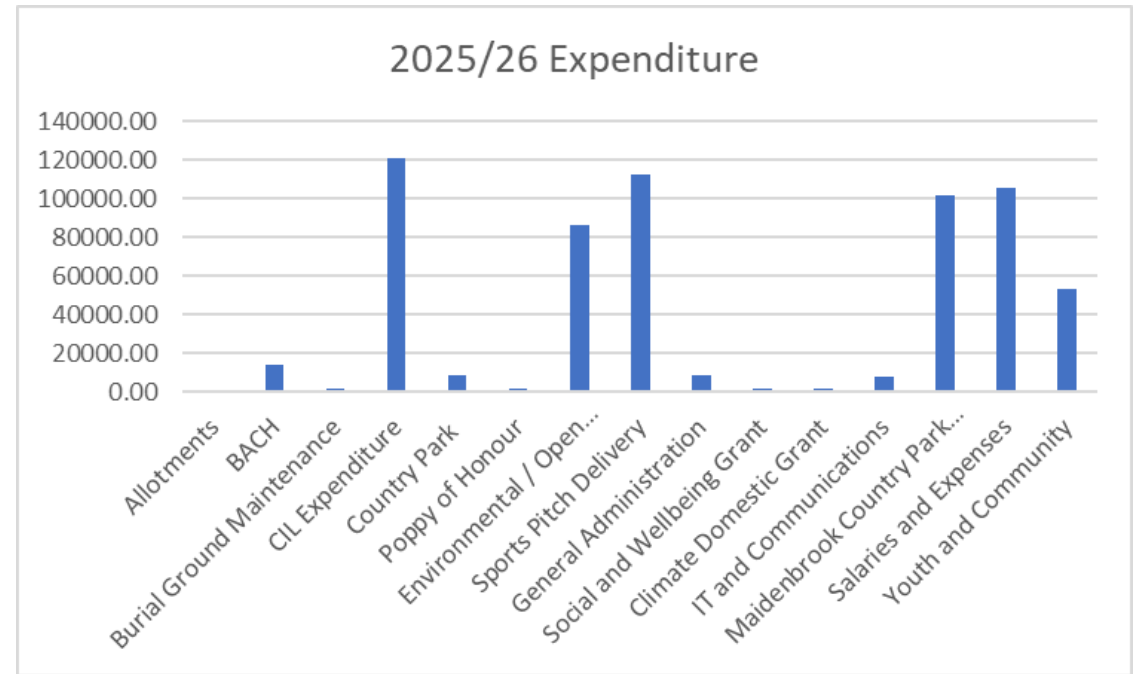
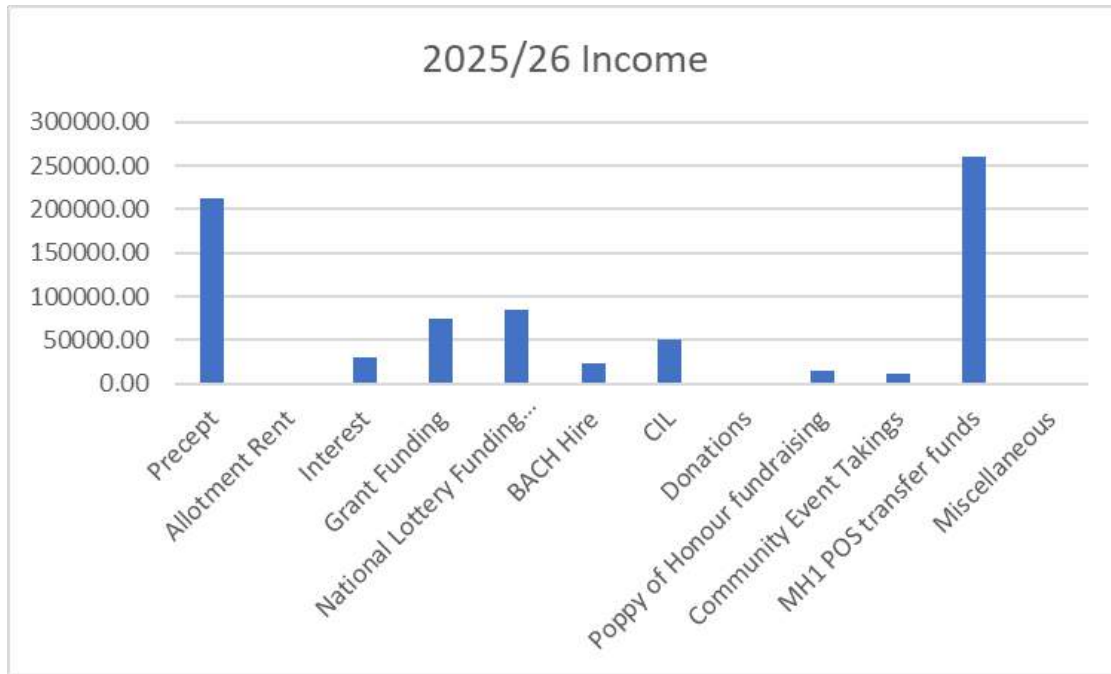
West Monkton & Chedden Fitzpaine Neighbourhood Plan
2021-2028



West Monkton and Chedden Fitzpaine Parish Councils
June 2021

Our Resources

The charts below illustrate the income and expenditure during 2025/26. If you are interested in further details, please do not hesitate to contact clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk



2026/27 Meetings

Meetings are held in the Committee Room at Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH) commencing at 7.00pm. All PC meetings are open to the public and there is usually a Public Question Time (at around 7.10pm) where the formal meeting is suspended whilst questions and comments are welcomed.

Meetings take place twice a month (apart from in August and December)

The first meeting of the month (highlighted in blue) is the Parish Council Business meeting and the second meeting of the month (highlighted in orange) is the Community and Projects meeting.



West Monkton Parish Council

2026/27

| APRIL | | | | | | |
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| 31 | | | | | | |

| JUNE | | | | | | |
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| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

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| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
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| SEPTEMBER | | | | | | |
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| OCTOBER | | | | | | |
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| 31 | | | | | | |

| NOVEMBER | | | | | | |
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| DECEMBER | | | | | | |
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| JANUARY | | | | | | |
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| FEBRUARY | | | | | | |
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| MARCH | | | | | | |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

Contact Us

If you would like to contact the Parish Council, please use the following details:

Website: www.westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Maidenbrook Country Park: www.maidenbrookcountrypark.org.uk

Community Website: www.monktonmatters.co.uk

Amy Shepherd, Clerk / RFO: clerk@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk / 07380 912775

Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community: community@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk / 07505984006

Candy Sully, Country Park Volunteer Coordinator: maidenbrookcountrypark@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk / 07888387525

Jessica Cox, Admin and Events Assistant: adminevents@westmonktonparishcouncil.gov.uk

If you would like to make a donation towards our community events:



If you would like to make a donation towards the Poppy of Honour:

