



## ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm.

**Present:** Cllrs Besley, Cavill, Chapman, C. Cronshaw, D. Cronshaw, Ellis, Gage, Haskins and Munson.

**In attendance:** Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk (Community), Candy Sully, CP Volunteer Coordinator and two members of the public.

### **29/26 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.**

No apologies were received.

### **30/26 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.

### **31/26 To adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026.**

The minutes from the Meeting of the Annual Parish Council on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2026, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May proposed by Cllr Ellis, seconded by Cllr Chapman, and agreed by show of hands.

### **Public Question Time**

Cllr Connor Sollé from Taunton Town Council attended the meeting to raise awareness of a Working Group set up by Gideon Amos MP focused on improving links and use of waterways including the canal towpath. Cllr Besley agreed to attend the working group of behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Gage raised the broken glass at the telephone box at the Street. Clerk confirmed that the Parish Lengthsman is aware of the broken glass and is going to confirm the parts needed to enable a repair.

Speeding tractors through the village on Monkton Heathfield Road was raised. It was confirmed that the name of the contractor is needed to enable the speeding to be reported to them.

The traffic calming measures on Monkton Heathfield Road were raised. It was agreed to request an update on the measures at the MH2 meeting scheduled on 2<sup>nd</sup> June.

### **32/26 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 remainder of the planning applications to avoid fettering his discretion.

48/26/0017: Erection of an agricultural storage shed at Sidbrook Shed, land to the south west of Titley Corner Cottages, West Monkton.

Cllr Besley gave a description of the proposal before leaving the meeting.

Cllr Besley left the meeting at 19.12pm.

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission subject to:

Trees being planted to enclose the building and screen it as soon as possible and preferably in advance of the storage shed being built.

To comply with the WM & CF Neighbourhood Plan policies, measures for rainwater capture should be included and any lighting should be downlit and LED and motion activated.

Cllr Besley rejoined at 7.17pm

48/26/0022: Variation of Condition No's 01 (time limit), 02 (approved plans), 06 (landscaping), 07 (ecology), 08 (construction environmental management plan), 09 (external lighting), 10 (construction traffic management plan), 11 (surface water drainage), 13 (alternative phosphate strategy) and 14 (BNG mitigation plan) of application 48/24/0008 on land adjacent to Sweeting

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission subject to the existing hedging / landscaping shown in the original consented block plan being present and retained in the varied proposal.

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

Noted.

### **33/26 Projects**

#### **a) Poppy of Honour update;**

Cllr C Cronshaw provided an update on fundraising activities for the Poppy of Honour.

The Poppy of Honour was on display at the Devon Show at the weekend and just over £1000 was raised.

The schedule for events over the summer has been finalised. Cllr C Cronshaw to circulate the dates when volunteers to help are needed. The fundraising target for this year is £20,000.00.

Cllr C Cronshaw advised that Terry Williams has been gathering feedback on the proposed pavilion to house the Poppy of Honour at the Country Park. Cllrs C Cronshaw advised that she has had a conversation with Terry Williams and confirmed that the design of the pavilion will be decided by the Parish Council.

Cllr C Cronshaw requested a site meeting at the Country Park to agree the proposed position / design of the pavilion prior to the meeting with the Poppy of Honour committee on 11<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **b) Hyde Park Sports Ground; feedback from Sports Pitch Committee meeting on 19th May and consider recommendations. Consider quotation for remaining fencing. Perimeter fencing quotation. Rugby post installation quotation. Ball stop netting quotation. Reconsider petrol hover mower quotations. Pump Track Risk Assessment approval and mitigating measures update (R)**

Clerk provided feedback from the Sports Pitch Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May.

A site meeting has taken place with Persimmon regarding utility connections. The cost of the work needs approval by Persimmon. Clerk has written a letter to escalate.

An application needs to be submitted to Wessex Water for the drainage connection. Persimmon have agreed to supply the drawings to accompany the application.

The Sports Pitch Committee reviewed draft terms of use of the facilities and recommended some amendments.

An updated draft was circulated in advance of the PC meeting for approval. The Sports Pitch committee also recommended that the commercial hire charges be set at:

£40.00 per hour for nets

£50.00 for three hours for pitches.

Amount collected through commercial hire to be earmarked for sports pitches.

It was resolved to approve the terms of use and the commercial hire charges. Proposed by Cllr Cavill, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.

Clerk to set up the booking system with these terms and charges.

The Sports Pitch Committee also recommended the installation of additional fencing to the entrance boundary, perimeter fencing around the rugby pitch and installation of the rugby posts prior to the grand opening on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

#### Pump Track

CCTV to be installed, temporary bin placed, signage produced; temporary signage to be installed in the interim. Picnic benches have been placed. Combination padlock added to the field gate for emergency access. Parish Lengthsman has attended and successfully completed the Operational Inspection Training and can perform regular inspections. Further routine inspection training scheduled to take place on 16<sup>th</sup> June, following which more people will be added to the schedule for inspections.

It was resolved to accept approve the Pump Track Risk Assessment and formally open the pump track.

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

Information to be added to social media confirming that the track is open, asking people to use it according to the rules and access it via the dog walking area.

Clerk reported that the Bicycle Chain would like to sponsor the pump track, this was agreed by the PC for an annual amount of £160.00 per year.

#### Quotations

##### Petrol Hover Mower

Quote approved at PC meeting on 12th May (FLYMO XL500P Petrol Hover Lawnmower - £438.50 including VAT) but upon ordering it is no longer available and no other stockist can be found. Consider alternative:

Option 1: Husqvarna GX560 Lawn mower Husqvarna GX560 petrol hover mower. Hughie Willett Birmingham UK. – Hughie Willett Machinery

Option 2: TORO HoverPro 550 Petrol Hover Mower For Sale

Option 3: Cobra Air Mower with Briggs and Stratton Engine.

From Western Bolt £368.00 + VAT

Option 4: Husqvarna Air Mower with Honda Engine.

From Western Bolt £640.00 + VAT

Resolution to proceed with the purchase of a petrol hover mower from Western Bolt (Option 3).

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

##### Consider quotation for remaining boundary fencing.

Quote awaited from Homestead Fencing – deferred until the next meeting.

##### Perimeter fencing quotation.

Proposal to install perimeter fencing prior to grand opening. The fencing will provide space for sponsorship by local businesses.

Taunton Rugby Club are covering the cost of the labour to install, price quoted is for materials only.

Fencing to go on two sides of rugby pitch (north and east side of rugby pitch).

The cost includes all the fencing (170m) and for a pair of emergency entrance gates (3m wide).

First Fence Limited (order directly): £8011.98 + VAT + postcrete (130 bags at £7.00 per bag): £910.00 = £8921.98 + delivery

Homestead Fencing:

Updated quote awaited

Previous quote: £8,158.47 + VAT (£1,631.69) = £9,790.16

Resolution to proceed with fencing installation by Homestead Fencing up to a value of £9000+VAT. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Rugby post installation quotation.

Monkton Building and Developments:

Excavate & cart excavated materials to site tip : £425.00.

Concrete – based on 1m<sup>3</sup> per post hole : £955.00.

250mm diameter sleeve (Ultrarib pipe or similar) : £245.00.

Preliminaries (digger & dumper to site/etc) & tidy-up on completion : £455.00.

£2,080.00 + VAT

Highlights:

£4230 + VAT

Resolution to proceed with Monkton Building and Developments to install rugby posts. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Ball stop netting quotation.

Quotation deferred until next meeting.

Clerk reported that the fencing contractors had accidentally damaged the height restriction bar and have committed to cover the cost of the required repair.

Cllr Haskins reported that pallets are available at the pitches to enable the tidying of the bricks.

Cllr Gage raised the proposed MOU provided by the rugby club for use of the pitches. It was noted that further discussion of the proposed MOU was needed, in particular the item specifying responsibility for electricity costs.

Clerk to add to the agenda for the next PC meeting.

Cllr Cavill reported that he is arranging a site meeting with car park contractor prior to work commencing next week.

**c) MH2 Update;**

Cllr Cavill reported that the SC Planning Committee member briefing scheduled in May has been re-scheduled and deferred to a provisional date in June. It is therefore unlikely that the planning application will be determined in June as anticipated.

Clerk confirmed that the meeting with the Planning Officer at CSMPC is still scheduled to take place at 6.30pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at the BACH.

**d) Bridgwater Road Football Pitch; update, football post installation**

Clerk reported that a member of the public is arranging for the pitch to be marked to enable the installation of the football posts that the PC has purchased. Clerk is liaising with the Lengthsman to enable the installation of the posts once the pitch is marked.

Cllr Gage reported that he is cutting the pitch regularly.

Clerk to develop signage about permitted use of the pitch in preparation for it opening.

It was noted that the grass probably needs to be re-seeded in the Autumn.

Cllr Cavill reported that he is continuing to chase SC regarding approval to install a retractable bollard at the entrance.

**34/26 Community:**

**a) General update; pain café, wellbeing Wednesdays**

Community Café

The Community Café continues to be quiet each week until the children join us at 3pm. The Repair Café continues to have a steady flow of repairs. The Bereavement Café was quiet this month but this varies month to month.

New Initiative - Cuppa with a Cop - We had our first session on 29th April, 2pm to 3pm where a few local residents in attendance and spoke with PCSOs about a variety of issues in the parish. Next Cuppa with a Cop – 27th May 2pm to 3pm – can one of the parish councillors please attend? Cllr Ellis to attend. Points to raise – traveller occupation and young people / damage at Forest School / Country Park

New Group – Wellbeing Wednesdays- This has been running weekly since 6th May and we seem to have a core group of attendees which we hope will grow. At present the group are discussing topics and well-being activities that they can bring to the sessions. The group is being led by two local residents Kate Mahoney and Sophie Knapp, however support from Mary Onkem from D'Loummies is also planned. This is being advertised across social media and other platforms.

Pain Café - Following a meeting with Jenny Bragg, who recently moved into the area, discussions have taken place with Ann Livingstone from Community Pain Hubs Somerset and we are in the process of setting up at Pain Café, which will be held at Heathfield Community Hall. Discussions are taking place about a weekly session every Monday afternoon for local residents which will likely start some time in June. Sessions will support pain management strategies, wellbeing activities and opportunities for peer support for those who might be otherwise isolated. Racheal Knight, our village agent will be involved and Ann Livingstone can provide volunteers who will help lead the group. We plan to hand deliver and talk to local residents about the café as well as advertise across social media and noticeboards.

NeuroConnect - Following a chance meeting with Catherine from Neuro Connect at the Youth Alliance conference in April, discussions have taken place about holding some of their funded events and activities at the BACH. Neuro Connect support families and young people who are neurodiverse to access groups and activities that support their needs. Through the various groups which we have run in the community there are a number of families we have worked with that have children who are neurodiverse and they would really benefit from the types of activities and groups that Neuro Connect would provide. They are also looking at providing Forest School type groups and would be interested in using the Forest School at MCP.

Groups they would be interested in holding at the BACH include:

- Healthy Holidays Programme – 4 days over the summer holidays from 10-2pm
- Music Theatre Company Sessions – 2 days over the summer holidays from 10am to 3pm
- From September – possible development of DOfE Open Award Group for neurodiverse young people

Could we provide free use of the BACH for these sessions as well as free use of the Forest School for activities there? It was resolved to allow free use of the BACH for this activity, proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

#### b) Detached youth work proposal

<b>Vision</b>	To provide regular detached youth work sessions to engage with young people in the community that we don't reach through the Youth Café with a view to finding out their ages/needs and activities they may want.	<b>Tuesdays 7pm to 9pm</b>
<b>Cost</b>	Employ Youth Worker to work with Ian Bishop to deliver youth work sessions in our community  Cost for Youth Workers  £18 per hour initially rising to £22 once qualified Level 2  £22 per hour for experienced Youth Worker	<b>Cost for Youth Workers</b>  <b>At 2 hours per week = £88</b>  <b>Run for 8 weeks from 2/6/26 to 21/7/26</b>  <b>Total = £704</b>
<b>Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk Assessment for detached youth work</li> <li>• Ensure we have insurance to deliver detached youth work sessions</li> </ul>	<b>Kate Welsh</b>  <b>Amy Shepherd</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make up a detached youth work kit to take out into the community when working with young people</li> <li>• Ensure youth workers undertake detached youth work training – available free from National Youth Agency website</li> </ul>	<p><b>Kate Welsh</b></p> <p><b>Kate Welsh</b></p>
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It was resolved to agree detached youth work proposal outlined above. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

### **c) Youth provision update.**

Youth Café - The Youth Café remains busy, offering numerous activities for young people. We have had a few sessions over at the Sports Field and the young people have enjoyed rounders in this space. We have invited Y6s to join us from West Monkton Primary School after the May half term and will need more volunteers to support us with this as we will likely have a large number of new young people join us!

We will be having some further sessions through HYPE from GoCreate and TYCA. TYCA will be organising the filming of a music recording for our 'Youth Café' rap that the young people made earlier in the year through Somerset Film.

HYPE - Assistant Clerk Community shared the HYPE 12 month update report which was circulated in advance of the meeting and provided a summary of the report.

### **d) Events Update; feedback and to consider recommendations from Events Working Group meeting on 21st May**

Assistant Clerk Community provided feedback from the Events Working Group meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May. During the meeting feedback from the Shindig Event was provided.

The income from the event was discussed.

It was proposed that £2591.46 of the takings from the Shindig are allocated to the Poppy of Honour which represents the total taken on the Hog Roast, Raffle, Cake Stall and donations.

It was noted that due to some of the negative experiences from the Shindig, the Events Working Group recommended that the Parish Council should cancel the upcoming Funfest Event.

A draft press release was shared and some amendments were identified.

It was also suggested that an additional £500 is allocated to the Country Park for the volunteers to spend on the Park in recognition of their work.

It was resolved on block to allocated £2591.46 to the Poppy of Honour from Shindig, £500 to the Country Park, cancel the 2026 Funfest Event and approve the press release. Proposed by Cllr Munson, seconded by Cllr Besley and agreed with all in favour.

Assistant Clerk Community provided a summary of plans for upcoming events including:

- The Artisan Market on 30<sup>th</sup> May
- The Flower and Produce Show on 1<sup>st</sup> August
- The Hyde Park Sports Ground Grand Opening Event on 9<sup>th</sup> August
- The Dog Show on 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

Cllr Cavill left the meeting at 21.27

### **35/26 Environment**

#### **a) 20 mph speed limit extension; update**

Clerk reported that there was no update, item to be deferred until the next meeting.

### **36/26 Assets**

#### **a) Heathfield Gardens POS (MH1) ; Update, Consider quotations for a baby swing at Hob Close Play Park**

A paper, circulated in advance of the meeting, providing quotations for a baby swing installation at Hob Close Play Park was discussed.

It was resolved to accept the quote provided by Darren's Dens.  
Cllr Chapman reported that another seat has come off the swing equipment in Central Park play area. Cllr Chapman is making enquiries about its repair.

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

**(i) General update;**

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator provided an update including:

- Mowing and strimming areas continues– lots to do.
- Beacon to be renovated- quote for scaffolding awaited.
- Fencing for chestnuts being looked into.
- Gate for nursery area needed – Candy to share dimensions.
- Anti-social behaviour reported to PCSOs / police.
- Wood chip needed. Cllr Haskins confirmed that he has some available.
- Container has been delivered.
- Mini mower fixed and tracker added.
- Tracker awaited for big mower.
- Pond plants work to do.
- Remaining stone needs to be moved down to the hub. Cllr Besley to arrange movement of the stone.
- New volunteer recruited.

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

Clerk reported that the lottery progress reported was shared in advance of the meeting and that there was nothing further to add.

**c) Spital Allotments; request from allotment holder to install a shed**

Clerk outlined a request from a new allotment holder to add a shed to their allotment. The terms and conditions for the allotments require holders to seek the permission of the Parish Council to install a shed. It was agreed that a shed can be installed up to a maximum size of 4ft x 6ft.

**d) BACH update;**

Cllr Gage confirmed that there was nothing to report.

**e) Community Fridge update;**

All running smoothly, have recently taken on another volunteer who will help with collections and cleaning on a Tuesday during term time.

The area outside of the Community Fridge needs resurfacing as soon as possible before the Clothes Bank arrives. Clerk to ask Parish Lengthsman to carry out the required work.

**f) Community Garden update;**

The community garden is looking incredible at the moment, huge thank you to Alan Chapman and the community garden team. Tony Brown recently supported a class from the Primary School on a tour of the garden and to show them the radishes that they had helped grow.

**37/26 Parish Council**

**a) To consider quotation for insurance renewal and quotation for cyber insurance and professional indemnity insurance**

Clerk outlined the cost to renew the insurance- £2523.73, the renewal includes all assets owned by the PC. It was resolved to approve the renewal quotation. Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Clerk reported that she is obtaining quotes for Cyber Insurance. Quotations to be presented at a future meeting.

**38/26 Other matters for report only – items for discussion at next meeting**

No other matters for report.

**a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 1st June or 15th June 2026.**

Noted.

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

Noted

**39/26 Dates of forthcoming meetings:**

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 9th Jun, 14th Jul, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

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

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

Audit Working Party: 24th July 2026 at 9.30am.

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC March 2027 at 7pm

BACH Committee 5th June 2026 at 10am

Budget and Precept Working Group: November 2026 at 7pm

Sports Pitch Committee 7<sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 9.30am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.58pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026