



ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 28th July 2026 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk (Community), Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator, Anne Shilton, LCN Link Officer and 4 members of the public.

80/26 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ellis and Gage.

81/26 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.

82/26 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th July 2026.

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 14th July 2026, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 14th July proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson, and agreed by show of hands.

83/26 Hestercombe LCN; feedback from meeting on 21st July 2026; Introduction from Anne Shilton (LCN Link Officer).

Anne Shilton, LCN Link Officer, introduced herself and provided a summary of the matters discussed at the Hestercombe LCN Meeting on 21st July. Presentations were received at the meeting on Somerset Nature Recovery Strategy / Local Habitat Map and Winter floods / flood resilience / £50m Defra funding.

The Annual Report documenting progress in the last 12 months has been published. Anne Shilton requested feedback on the topics that the LCN could cover in the coming year and also for feedback on how the LCN / its meetings operate.

A discussion took place and suggestions of topics to cover in the next 12 months were made including; anti-social behaviour, health provision, active travel, and enhancement of the canal towpath.

Public Question Time

Residents from two houses on Gotton Lane attended the meeting and raised concerns about the blocked / broken culvert at the top of Gotton Lane. Because the culvert is broken water flows on the road, down Gotton Lane and gathers at the bottom, putting properties at risk of flooding, one of those having previously flooded. Two properties also have pipes draining on to the road.

The broken culvert has been reported to Somerset Council who inspected it and confirmed that work was required to repair it but that was more than two years ago and no work has taken place.

Clerk to follow up SC regarding the blocked culvert and request CCTV is used to confirm the issue and also look at Blundells Lane.

Site meeting to be arranged on Gotton Lane to understand the works required to the ditches, drains and gullies.

Gel bags to be made available to the properties to enable resilience.

Residents concerned about when the rain does fall it will rush down and flood their properties at bottom of lane. Two properties also pipe water onto the road increasing flood risk.

Cllr Besley raised an issue with a drainage pipe on Blundells Lane that is becoming blocked. Mowgate to be instructed to dig out the silt and stone build up initially.

The agenda was interrupted to take item 9 'Environment'

84/26 Environment

a) 20mph speed limit extension; update

Clerk reported that costings for the 20mph speed limit are awaited from Somerset Council.

b) Tudor Park and Yallands Hill Crossing points update;

Clerk provided feedback from a meeting with representatives of Taunton Town Council about the Tudor Park Crossing Point. Taunton Town Council are hoping to take the delivery of the crossing point forward but subject to sufficient funds being secured. Clerk reported that the Town Council have made a request for a contribution of CIL funding from the Parish Council. A discussion took place and it was agreed not to commit CIL funds to the project as the PCs priority is delivering the Yallands Hill Crossing Point.

c) Somerset Rivers Authority; Community Flood Action Fund Grant: Grants - Somerset Rivers Authority (Deadline: 25th August 2026)

It was agreed to develop an application for grant funding for ditch and gully improvements to Gotton Lane to alleviate flooding risk and road damage caused by running water. Site meeting to take place to review the work required and to gather indicative costs. Grant application to be considered and approved at the August PC meeting.

d) Somerset Bus Franchising Proposal – Request for PC support

A discussion took place about the Somerset Bus Franchising Proposal that was circulated in advance of the meeting. It was agreed to support the proposal in principle subject to it having no influence on the number 12 community bus timetable. Clerk to respond confirming support but with the caveat that the PC may withdraw its support if the number 12 service is impacted.

The agenda was resumed.

85/26 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.

14/26/0023: Change of use of agricultural building to industrial use with re cladding and associated works at Langaller Manor Farm, North End, Creech St Michael.

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission and made the following comments:

- The PC supports the proposed use of the site for needed industrial / employment units.
- The PC would support incorporation of community use / facilities on the site; perhaps through health care provision e.g. a doctor or dentist.
- As many parking spaces should be provided on site as possible to ensure there is sufficient parking provided for staff and visitors to the industrial units.
- To enable water retention / mitigate flood risk in the wider area and to maximise biodiversity gain, the PC recommends that the proposed attenuation pond is designed to retain water.

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

Noted.

86/26 Projects

a) Poppy of Honour update

Cllr C Cronshaw provided an update on fundraising.

The Poppy of Honour was taken to the Royal Welsh Show for 4 days and just over £2000 was raised.

Attendance at three more events is planned this year; the Dunster Show on 20th August, Honiton Hill on 30th / 31st August and the Dorset Show 5th and 6th September.

Plans are underway for next year's events.

Cllr C Cronshaw confirmed that a response has been received from Somerset Council about support with raising funds asking what assistance they can provide. Cllr C Cronshaw to respond requesting that Somerset Council match the funds raised to date. Cllr C Cronshaw to chase Taunton Town Council as a response hasn't been received.

b) Hyde Park Sports Ground; update. Bicycle Chain Pump Track Sponsorship Proposal; consideration of additional costs for electric supply to preferred location

Bicycle chain sponsorship proposal – a proposal received from Bicycle Chain was circulated in advance of the meeting and Clerk provided a summary. It was agreed to accept the proposal and to ask if trackers can be added to the bikes.

Clerk reported that a local scaffolding company have offered to gift scaffolding poles for the CCTV in exchange for advertisement / acknowledgement of their support. The poles should be delivered shortly.

Cllr Cavill reported that the work to complete the pump track entrance, track surfacing and to put a top coat on the surfacing of the track in the sports ground will take place this week.

Cllr Haskins reported that a final tidy up of the ground took place on Monday.

The quotation for the additional works required to bring the electric connection from the proposed Persimmon position into site was considered. Clerk to reply requesting that the price includes the required trenching works. If this can be negotiated the quotation is accepted.

Clerk provided an update on the water installation – a UPRN is needed by Wessex Water. To receive a UPRN number an application has been made to Somerset Council Street Naming and Numbering Team at a cost of £131.80. Cllr Cavill to expediate the application with Somerset Council.

Clerk reported that a risk assessment has been prepared and circulated. The risk assessment was approved.

A design for the signage was shared, some tweaks to the wording were requested. Clerk to make these changes and share with the Sports Pitch Committee. Clerk advised that the sign will need to be properly designed and made. Clerk to obtain quotes for this.

Clerk outlined a request received to hold an event at the Sports Ground next year. Clerk to request more information, including the experience of the person holding the events. Request to be considered by the Sports Pitch Committee.

c) MH2 Update;

Further meeting with Planning Officer, Developers and CSMPC scheduled for 5th August at 6.30pm at the BACH.

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

Clerk reported that marking of the football post positions will take place after the Flower Show. In the interim the gate has been opened for use.

A quote to install the posts will be obtained for consideration.

Cllr Cavill confirmed that he continues to chase transfer of the pitch.

87/26 Community:

a) General update;

Community Café

The Community Café continues to be busy with the children and families from West Monkton Primary School joining us at 3pm. The Wellbeing Wednesday Group have been meeting regularly and we have been introducing more well-being activities. The Repair Café continues to have a steady flow of repairs and we have a new volunteer who has joined us. The Bereavement Café continues to offer support to those going through bereavement. During the school summer holidays the community café, repair café and bereavement café will not be running. However the Wellbeing Wednesday Group will be meeting on the 12th and 19th and 26th August.

Cuppa with a Cop - We cancelled June's 'Cuppa with a Cop' due to the heatwave however we met on the 22nd July and Cllr Norman Cavil attended. Have agreed to attend the Summer Youth Café on the 26th August to meet with some of our young people.

Pain Café

We have continued to run these sessions weekly with varied attendance, however we have a steady group of residents attending. The group is working through the '10 Steps to Living Well with Pain', a programme designed to support those living with chronic pain. Ann and Malcolm deliver the programme and it is being well received by those that attend.

Warm Hub/Cool Hub

We have applied to Somerset Community Foundation to run a warm hub/cool hub at Heathfield Community Hall. Grant in the sum of £10,000. This will include regular groups and activities for the elderly population of our parish.

NeuroConnect

All sessions booked and await feedback following the August sessions at the BACH and Forest School sessions.

b) Youth provision update

Youth Café

The Youth Café remains busy, offering numerous activities for young people. Maria is looking to undertake planning for some new activities from September onwards.

TYCA and Somerset Film have completed the recording and filming of the Youth Café video which will be available for sharing from September. The young people engaged really well with this activity and we had some film stars and directors in the making!

Go Create delivered an exciting session where young people got record their shadows on paper and then paint an abstract piece of art. The young people really enjoyed this activity and some of the art is on display at the BACH.

The Summer Youth Café will be running through the summer holidays every Wednesday from 12 noon until 4pm. Kate and Mandy will run this project, Maria will help set up from 12 until 1pm.

We received funding from Sainsburys Food Grant in the sum of £1,500 which will be used to buy resources for sports and craft and for food to run the project over the summer.

Detached Youth Work Sessions

We have now employed 2 self-employed Youth Workers, Jeannie McManus who helps run CYP Youth Club in Creech St Michael and Maria Maplin who we employ at the Youth Café.

Maria and Jeannie delivered the first detached youth work session on Monday 20th July which started outside of Monkton Wood Academy at the end of the school day and they did a reccy of the whole community finishing at the Pump Track. The youth workers engaged with over 100 young people and gave out leaflets about the Summer Youth Programme.

HYPE

Hype will be funding detached youth sessions over the summer holidays. Craig from Youth Unlimited is employing Maria Maplin and is delivering 12 sessions over the summer holidays at North Petherton Rec Park and Wilstock and Stockmoor. Hype will fund 12 detached youth work sessions at Creech Rec Park and at the Pump Track from our detached youth work team.

Sessions start 28th July and will run every Tuesday at Creech and West Monkton and Wednesdays at North Petherton.

c) Events Update; feedback from Events Working Group meeting on 23rd July

The notes from the Events Working Group meeting were circulated in advance of the meeting and Assistant Clerk Community provided feedback from the meeting.

A discussion took place about arrangements for the Flower Show and Hyde Park Sports Ground Grand Opening. The next Events Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 24th September at 2pm.

d) NALC Star Council Awards; Consider nomination: Star Council Awards (Deadline: 25th September 2026)

Clerk outlined the NALC Star Awards and the 6 categories; Council of the year, Councillor of the year, Young Councillor of the year, Climate response of the year, County Association of the year and Clerk of the year.

It was agreed that submissions should be developed for the Council of the year and Clerk of the year categories. Draft nominations to be considered / agreed at the September PC meeting.

88/26 Assets

a) Heathfield Gardens POS (MH1) update.

Cllr Chapman provided an update.

The number of outstanding accounts has fallen and legal action will only be required in a small number of cases. The grounds maintenance contractors have used the time saved on grass cutting to tidy other areas including gutting hedges, clearing ditches along Hyde Lane and clearing the pond on corner of Green Lane.

A length of knee high fencing has fallen down. Replacement was carried out on Friday at a cost of £80.00 + VAT for materials. This expenditure was retrospectively approved. Proposed by Cllr D Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Besley and agreed with all in favour.

The new swing at Hob Close has been installed. The contractor finished laying the safety matting this morning. Unfortunately, because the ground is so hard the safety matting won't sit on the ground. Cllr Besley to help with ongoing wetting of the safety matting. Once the safety matting is bedded down, the safety fencing can be removed – there is a trip hazard present at the moment.

The repairs in Central Park took place last week but the Carousel Swing has broken again. A quote has been received to replace the fixings with better fixings for the use of the swing. The quote is £455.00 +VAT. It was resolved to accept the quotation, proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Dog fouling around the development is still an issue. Someone has removed all of the stickers encouraging people to dispose of litter in bins and to pick up dog waste, from around the development.

Further knee high fencing repairs / replacements will be needed across the development. Contractors to only charge for materials.

The Management Company are going to develop a five year plan for repairs to fencing / play equipment repair / replacement to enable planned spend of the reserves held.

Cllr Haskins raised the plot of land at the end of Saffin Drive near Brittons Ash. Persimmons plans for the land need to be ascertained. Matter to be raised with Persimmon during MH2 meeting next week.

b) Country Park and Somerset Wood;

(i) General update; approval of Country Park Risk Assessment. Consideration of additional grass cutting equipment and finances to fund.

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator provided an update on the following:

- No mowing is currently taking place due to the dry weather.
- Volunteers are trying to harvest seeds from the wildflowers for future use
- Picnic bench anchors obtained ready to be installed – additional one needed.
- Sheep wool now being used to protect trees from deer.
- Mulching and weeding taking place.
- Rotary sign ordered and to be installed.

- Hedge around volunteer hub has been trimmed.
- Neuro Connect have been up, first activity day planned on Wednesday.
- Dog show coming up – pre-event meeting hopefully next week.
- Young Somerset – talking about doing outreach in the park
- New Personal Trainer making use of the park.
- Veteran request received for a Pagan Ceremony at the Park on 3rd October.
- A volunteer is in the Radio Somerset Environmental Awards final.
- Fixing of John Deere small mower awaited.
- Repairs to flail mower taking place tomorrow.
- Red oxide of containers to take place as soon as possible.
- Main tap in nursery needs replacing with metal tap.
- Code breaker sign delivered to the Park.
- Green Flag status – recommended that signs are installed around the park for anti-social behaviour reporting with QR code.
- Training for weed killer application to be booked.
- Anti-social behaviour – volunteer had his dog attacked for the third time.

(ii) Lottery Project Progress Report.

Clerk reported that the lottery progress reported was shared in advance of the meeting. A paper summarising the remaining year 2 money and proposed expenditure was also shared. It was agreed to progress with expenditure of the remaining revenue money as proposed.

Clerk to obtain quotes for consideration at the next PC meeting where required.

d) BACH update; Consider two young person grant applications.

Two applications for grant funding were circulated in advance of the meeting.

Application One for £280.00 for school uniform and a keyboard was approved.

Application Two for £665.00 for a school trip was supported and it was agreed to approve a grant for 50% of the cost of the school trip (£332.50). Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

e) Community Fridge update;

Assistant Clerk Community reported that an additional volunteer to help with cleaning the fridge is being sought.

f) Community Garden update;

Cllr Chapman expressed the thanks of the Community Garden volunteers for the Parish Councils support with the Community Garden. Approximately 97 different flowers, vegetables and fruit have been planted in the garden. Some planting has been successful, others not and this will inform the planting for next year.

T- Shirts for the volunteers have been purchased for the Flower Show this weekend. Cllr Chapman to be reimbursed for the cost of the t-shirts.

Cllr Haskins to deliver more bark to the community garden.

89/26 Other matters for report only – items for discussion at next meeting

Clerk raised the Somerset Parishes Conference on 8th October. Two representatives are able to attend from each Parish Council. It was agreed that Cllr Cavill and Clerk or Assistant Clerk Community would represent the PC at the conference.

Cllr D Cronshaw requested that an item be added to the next agenda to enable him to provide feedback on the broadband meeting that he attended on behalf of the PC.

Assistant Clerk Community reported that the graffiti removal volunteers have removed graffiti from bus shelters recently.

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 3rd August 2026

Noted.

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted

90/26 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

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

2026: 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 16th October 2026 at 10am

Budget and Precept Working Group: November 2026 at 7pm

Sports Pitch Committee 29th July 2026 at 10am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.51pm.



Signed Chairman:

Date: 11th August 2026