



ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk (Community) and Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator.

120/26 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Ellis.

121/26 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.

122/26 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 8th September 2026.

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 8th September, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 8th September proposed by Cllr D Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson, and agreed by show of hands.

123/26 Hestercombe LCN; feedback from meeting on 16th September 2026

Cllr Cavill provided feedback on the LCN meeting. Cllr Cavill was elected as the new chair and Alan Bardford as the Vice Chair. Presentations were given including a WMPC showcase, Somerset Wildlife Trust on Act to Adapt and SC on preparedness.

A discussion followed about preparedness for winter and actions the Parish Council could take.

Clerk to include information about the priority services register, emergency grab bag / supplies, the BACH as the place of safety and emergency equipment that is available in the next edition of the Village News.

Clerk to add an item to the next PC meeting agenda to consider the purpose of supplies, further emergency equipment and isolating the BACH to enable a generator to power it.

Clerk to also include ongoing community resilience in the budget / precept discussions.

Public Question Time

No members of the public present.

Clerk advised that an email had been received from a member of the public regarding over grown brambles / hedges along Monkton Heathfield Road and a dangerous dropped kerb at Heathfield Drive.

Clerk to investigate and report the dropped kerb to Somerset Council.

124/26 Planning

a) To consider any planning applications (listed on Somerset Council website)

No notifications of planning applications received.

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

Noted. Feedback provided on the SC Planning Briefing Session on 17th September. Recording to be circulated.

125/26 Projects

a) Poppy of Honour update

Cllr C Cronshaw confirmed that the notes from the meeting with Poppy of Honour Memorial Group that took place on 17th September have been circulated. Five members of the memorial group attended the meeting in total. The meeting was productive and was mainly focused on the design of the pavilion.

A meeting has taken place with Stone and Partners today and details of the proposed design were shared. Some queries and amendments were discussed. One related to whether tongue and groove or featheredge timber was preferred on the exterior of the building. It was agreed that tongue and groove was preferred. Cllr C Cronshaw also confirmed that the finish on the floor has been changed from polished concrete to a resin finish; to enable easier repair / ongoing maintenance.

Cllr Gage referred to the condition of the poppies inside the Poppy of Honour that are retaining moisture. A discussion took place. It was noted that although Terry Williams had provided assurances regarding the condition of the poppies, this wouldn't be confirmed until the memorial is opened. A discussion also took place about whether the Parish Council had made a resolution to install the memorial at the Country Park. Clerk confirmed that a resolution had been made to install the memorial at the Country Park on the condition that it is in perfect condition prior to installation. No appointments will be made for contracts to build the pavilion until assurances as to the condition are confirmed.

b) Hyde Park Sports Ground; update. Feedback from Sports Pitch Committee Meeting on 15th September. Consider quotation for electrical works, consider quotations for architectural drawings for pavilion

Clerk provided feedback from the Sports Pitch Committee Meeting on 15th September; the minutes from the meeting were circulated in advance of the PC meeting. The recommendations of the Committee include:

- Due to delayed service connections, Persimmon are asked to fund a generator to power the floodlights. Clerk confirmed that she has contacted the floodlighting contractors who have confirmed that a 30kva three phase generator will be sufficient to power the floodlights. Clerk also reported that she had gathered a couple of quotes for a generator and the cost is upwards of £225.00 per week. It was agreed that an approach should be made to Persimmon to cover the cost of providing a generator.
- The Sewer Connection was discussed at the meeting. Clerk confirmed that since the meeting approval for the connection has been received from Wessex Water.
- The surface around the pump track was discussed. The Committee recommended using top soil and grass seed to fill in the patches with no grass. Clerk to instruct Lengthsman to carry out this work.
- Remaining pump track surface adjacent to pump track. The Committee recommended covering this surface with bark. Clerk reported that she had gathered prices that are in the region of £125 per bulk bag – approximately 10 will be needed. Cllr Haskins confirmed that he would contact Hi-Line about any wood chip that they might have available. Clerk to contact landscaping companies including Wee Trees.
- The damaged fencing around the pump track was discussed at the meeting. Cllrs Haskins, Gage and Munson have attempted a repair since the meeting but one panel is damaged beyond repair. The Parish Council agreed to purchase 5-6 twin wire fence panels to replace this panel and any future ones that become damaged. Clerk to also order fixings and tools to enable replacement.
- The Pavilion design was discussed at the meeting and it was recommended that an Architect is commissioned to develop drawings to enable indicative quotations to be gathered. Cllr Cavill reported that he was in communication with a contractor about the design for the building and costings. This information should be provided shortly. Clerk reported that she had obtained a quotation from Stone and Partners to develop plans. The quotation was £2500.00. It was resolved to accept this quotation, proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour. Clerk to instruct Stone and Partners when design information received from Contractor.

- The Committee discussed the horse in the entrance to the sports pitches. Clerk reported that since the meeting she had been in communication with Persimmon Homes who confirmed that they are agreeable to the roundabout gates being left open.
- The Committee recommended a defibrillator being made available at the sports pitches. A defib in a cabinet cannot be made available until a power supply is available. Clerk suggested making an application for a defibrillator at the Country Park which would enable the Country Park mobile defibrillator to be available for the Sports Pitches until a power supply is installed. This course of action was agreed.

Clerk reported that Persimmon Homes are covering the cost of advertisement on the roundabout adjacent to the pitches. Clerk shared a proposed design for the signs. Some amendments were suggested including adding a picture of the pump track and rugby posts in addition to the cricket pitch picture. Amended design to be circulated for approval.

c) MH2 Update;

Clerk confirmed that CSMPC have indicated that they won't be in a position to meet with WMPC until towards the end of October, once they have received initial legal advice.

CSMPC have informed Simon Fox and the Developers of their intention to obtain legal advice.

d) Bridgwater Road Football Pitch; update.

Clerk reported that the horse in the pitch has been reported to Persimmon who have confirmed that they will instruct bailiffs to remove it.

Cllr Gage and Haskins confirmed that they had marked the position of the football posts today.

Clerk to follow up installation of the posts with the contractor. Once a date is confirmed, Clerk to contact the horse owner to advise that contractors will be on site.

Cllr Haskins reported that two or three fence panels have been damaged. Cllr Cavill to report to SC.

126/26 Community:

a) General update.

Community Café

The Community Café closed over the school holidays however the Wellbeing Wednesday Group have been meeting regularly and we have been introducing more well-being activities. The Repair Café didn't meet in August and the Bereavement Café didn't run in August however the September sessions was attended by one local resident

Cuppa with a Cop – The PSCOs joined us at the Summer Youth Café on the 26th August and we discussed some of the issues around the community including issues with some properties at Beacons Close, Police are dealing with this and are working with other authorities. There was also an issue raised about E-Scooters being used through the lanes of Monkton Heathfield and concerns raised about potential for serious incidents. PCSOs shared that they are not allowed to chase individuals on E-Scooters or E-Bikes due to the risk of harm to the rider so they feel there is little that can be done.

Pain Café - continue to run these sessions weekly, the group is working through the '10 Steps to Living Well with Pain', a programme designed to support those living with chronic pain. We have made some new posters in order to promote the service more widely. BBC Radio Somerset are planning to speak to Kate Welsh and Kate Mahoney (user of the pain café) live on Monday morning's Simon Parkin's programme.

b) Youth provision update.

Youth Café

The Summer Youth Café ran through the summer holidays each Wednesday from 12 noon until 4pm. We had varied attendance with between 4 and 12 young people staying each week for activities. Each we cooked new meals led by young people and young people enjoyed playing, dancing and crafting at these sessions.

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the first session after the summer holidays due to volunteer sickness and annual leave however last week's session was busy as usual.

Detached Youth Work Sessions

Maria and Jeannie delivered detached youth work sessions every Tuesday through the summer holidays, where between 10 to 20 young people engaged in activities each week. The youth workers delivered a range of activities both sport and crafts and also led discussions on bike safety. Bikes were loaned to young people who arrived on scooters and other young people who just wanted to have a go. The youth workers supported young people to draw design ideas for the mural art project as a way of helping young people feel a sense of ownership and pride over the pump track. Young people were respectful and helped clear up any litter with youth workers. Discussions also took place around looking after the pump track moving forward. The youth workers also connected with new families and shared information about the youth café and CSM Youth Club. Feedback from young people was that they would like a shelter, toilets (which are now accessible to them, thank you) and benches need securing and repairing, the pole that used to hold the sign needs removing as currently it is a risk. These summer sessions were paid for through the HYPE funding.

Sessions are now planned for Tuesdays from 5.15. to 7.15pm until the October half term, this will be paid for through the monies agreed earlier in the year. Maria and Jeannie have delivered 2 sessions on Tuesday evenings at the pump track over the last few weeks and will continue to do so until October half term. Both sessions have had more than 30 young people engage in activities with youth workers including full use of the bikes at this time.

Ashley, one of our pump track volunteers suggested having an open day/club day at the pump track, are you happy to support this? Cllrs agreed to an open day at the Pump Track.

She Skate – A CIC who run funded sessions for girls to learn skate boarding.

I met with Charlotte and discussed running sessions from the BACH (using the outside space) – her proposal would be to offer sessions for £3 per person to cover food and drinks during the session. Provided the BACH is available would the PC be happy to support this? Cllrs agreed this request.

Additional equipment, using the remaining grant money, was discussed. Feedback to be gathered from young people about the equipment they would like. Pump to be obtained.

A shelter at the pump track to be discussed again at the next meeting once the CCTV and bench anchors are installed.

c) Events Update; feedback from Dog Show event.

Feedback was provided by Candy Sully from the Dog Show event. The event expectations provided to the organisers prior to the event was not complied with. Meeting to be arranged with the organisers to provide feedback.

Assistant Clerk Community reported that the Harvest Market is taking place this Sunday and that the next Events Meeting is scheduled to take place this Thursday 24th September at 2pm. Cllr Haskins gave his apologies.

127/26 Assets

a) Heathfield Gardens POS (MH1) update. Feedback from Man Co Meeting on 15th September, to discuss cricket club boundary / agree solution, consider making a contribution to the cost of remedial work to Hyde Lane hedge, discuss replacement of Platinum Walk trees

Cllr Chapman reported that he has resigned as Chairman of the Man Co. The Vice Chair has taken on the role instead.

The Man Co has obtained a tree survey that has recommended work over a 3 year period that will cost approximately £20k. The Groundworks contractor has agreed to do some of the urgent items in the survey.

The category 2 items will take place over the next 12 months.

The survey included a cut of the Hyde Lane hedge. It was noted that the hedge was required as remedial work. The cost of the work is £1750.00. It was resolved to make a contribution to the Management Company for this work, using commuted sum money. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

Cllr Munson expressed the thanks of the Parish Council to Cllr Chapman for all the work that he has done whilst being chair of the Man Co.

The Platinum Walk trees were discussed. It was agreed to not replace the trees that have failed due to extreme weather and ground conditions.

Options for marking the Cricket Club boundary were discussed. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for 3 or 4 sets of bird mouth fencing with a one metre gap in between for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that going forward, a report from the Man Co would be provided at the first Parish Council meeting of the month under reports. Clerk to add to agenda / forward plan.

b) Country Park and Somerset Wood;

(i) General update; Consider quote for ride on lawnmower

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator provided an update including:

- The Thrive sponsored wheel event is taking place tomorrow from 10am – laps of the park to raise money.
- Hand fastening ceremony on 3rd October in Somerset Wood
- MJ cycle works have asked if they can do a photoshoot at the park. This request was agreed. MJ cycle works to be requested to make a donation in exchange.
- Neuro connect would like to do a Forest School pilot programme. Booking system to be used to enable this.
- The silver birches have not coped well with the weather and may need replacing.
- The Environment Agency have concluded that the pond has floating pennywort – a 2-3 year management plan is now in place. Signage has been added and communication on social media. It was agreed to purchase sufficient waders to enable the management work.
- Work is underway to plough / prepare the wildflower areas for seeding.
- And other Tuesday / Thursday sessions.
- The surface dust has been moved to the volunteer hub. Waker plate to be used on the surface in wet conditions.
- Work to maintain the hedge around the hub has taken place.
- The code breaker sign has been installed by the Lengthsman.
- Cllr Haskins reported that he has the tap ready to replace the tap in the nursery area.
- The Poppy of Honour plaque bench has been ordered.
- Wilder Together Event on 10th October.
- Volunteer has won the Radio Somerset award and a radio interview has taken place.

Ride on lawn-mower for Country Park

Clerk advised that following the discussion at the last meeting, enquiries have been made regarding whether the Ferris 500 mower can have a steering wheel fitted in place of the levers. Clerk confirmed that a steering wheel cannot be considered.

The quotations provided at the last meeting for a mower were considered again.

Option 1:

Paul Prettejohn Garden Machinery:

Cub Cadet Z2 117S Zero Turn Mower, 46" Deck 3 years Warranty, c/w Mulch plug, tow ball, £6499.00 inc vat

Garden Machines Limited:

[Cub Cadet Z2 117S Ultima Side Discharge 117cm/46" Petrol Zero-Turn Mower](#)

£5165.83 + VAT = £6199.00 + £100.00 delivery.

The Green Repear:

[Cub Cadet Ultima Z2 117S 46" Zero-Turn Ride-on Mower – The Green Reaper](#)

£5165.83 + VAT + £6199.00 + delivery.

Option 2

Ferris Ride On Lawnmower:

Loxston Groundcare:

Straight sale with discount

Ferris 600Z 44" rear discharge mower 25hp petrol Full Commercial build

C/w Trailer hitch Rops frame flashing beacon

£9650 + vat

Ferris 500S 48" 3 in 1 cutter deck with mulch plates 25hp petrol Semi Commercial build

C/w Trailer hitch and flashing beacon

Page 5 of 8

£8100 + vat

PS Marsden Groundcare

Ferris 600Z @ £9,180 + Vat

Ferris 500s @ £7607.50 + Vat

RT Machinery

FEW5902171 FERRIS 500S - RIDE ON COMMERCIAL MOWER - FM-IS5902171

Ferris 500S 48" TRIPLE mowing technology: All-in-One solution including side discharge, rear discharge and mulching options

ride-on mower. 25hp Briggs Commercial Series engine. Large 22inch rear tyres & 13inch castor front tyres.

£7850.00

LED Beacon – £125.00

Total: £8,100.00 + VAT

FEW5901905/5902111 FERRIS - IS600Z - RIDE ON COMMERCIAL MOWER 44" - FM-IS- 5901905 /FM-5902111

New Ferris IS@ 600Z 44" REAR discharge ride-on mower. 25hp Briggs & Stratton turf commercial petrol engine. Independent suspension & HydroGear commercial transmissions. Pneumatic front and rear tyres. Mulch blades fitted as standard. - £8994.00

LED Beacon - £125.00

Total: £9,244.00 + VAT

Road registration - £125.00 + VAT

Resolution to proceed with the purchase of a Ferris 500s mower from Loxston Groundcare. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Chapman and agreed with all in favour.

Clerk to confirm with the lottery that the capital funding can be reallocated for this purchase before ordering the mower.

(ii) Lottery Project Progress Report.

The Lottery Project Progress Report was circulated in advance of the meeting and its contents was noted.

Clerk confirmed that the end of year 2 reported shared at the last meeting has been submitted. Feedback on proposed re-purposing of funds from year 2 is awaited.

Clerk also reported that payment of the £28k funding for the pathways and other works is still awaited from Taunton Town Council. Clerk to send a further chaser.

c) Community Fridge update;

Collections are now taking place from the new Tesco Express every day – this will bring a substantial increase to what we already offer to the community.

It was noted that people posing as Fridge volunteers are collecting items that should be for the Fridge. Assistant Clerk Community to liaise with Tesco about requiring volunteer ID badges when collections take place.

d) Community Garden update;

Cllr Chapman reported that the winter veg is now being planted including onions and shallots. The local Beavers group attended last week and helped to plant bulbs. Cllr Chapman provided a talk to the group about growing your own vegetables, volunteering and helping in the community. The group will come back in the Spring to see the flowering bulbs.

128/26 Environment

a) 20mph speed limit extension; update

Clerk reported that an update is still awaited from Traffic Management. Matter to be deferred until the next meeting.

Cllr Haskins suggested making Milton Hill one way (upwards only). Matter to be discussed further at the next meeting.

b) Mead Way hedge. Agree next steps / consider feedback / quote for hedge cutting

Clerk reported that as agreed at the last meeting, letters have been sent to homeowners suggesting a one off cut of Mead Way hedge so that it is cut right back to the back of the pavement edge. This will enable homeowners to manage the hedge better going forward.

Clerk reported that only one response had been received supporting the proposal.

It was agreed to proceed with the cut. It was noted that a clear up would be needed after. Clerk to liaise with the Lengthsman when the date for the cut is confirmed.

c) Tudor Park and Yallands Hill Crossing points update;

Clerk advised that a letter has been received from Taunton Town Council requesting a financial contribution towards the Tudor Park crossing point. It was agreed that prior to full consideration of the letter the following information needed to be obtained:

- An answer from SC regarding the S106 funding from Hartnells for a crossing point. Money has been paid to SC in exchange for Persimmon not delivering the crossing point. Clarification is needed from SC about whether this fund can contribute towards the Yallands Hill crossing point. If it can't the PC will need to cover the full cost which will impact on its ability to contribute towards the cost of the Tudor Park crossing point. Clerk to write to Jon Fellingham at SC and copy in Cllr Cavill and Simon Fox, Planning Officer for MH2.
- Confirmation is needed from TTC that they will pay the agreed funding towards the Country Park Pathways – payment has been outstanding since June. Clerk to chase payment.

Item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting for further consideration.

d) SRA grant funding application: Confirm outcome, approve grant agreement form; consider quotation for Hob Lane hedge / verge cutting

Clerk reported that the outcome of the grant application hasn't been confirmed. Matter to be deferred until the next meeting.

Hedge / verge cutting to take place on Hob Lane in preparation for further works.

129/26 Other matters for report only – items for discussion at next meeting

Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that following discussion at the last meeting letters regarding the community awards have been circulated today.

Cllr Cavill reported that he attended a North Petherton Town Council Civic event at the weekend on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Gage reported that the flashing beacon for the mower is no longer working. Clerk to order a replacement.

Cllr Gage reported that a leak from the water boiler in the kitchen at the BACH has caused damage to the work top and unit underneath. Options to replace the work top / unit are being gathered. Clerk is liaising with Aspens about a repair to the water boiler. Item to be added to the agenda for the next meeting to consider repair costs.

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 5th October or 19th October 2026

Noted.

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted

130/26 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

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

2026: 27th Oct, 24th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 23rd October 2026 at 9.30am.

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC March 2027 at 7pm

BACH Committee 16th October 2026 at 10am

Budget and Precept Working Group: 17th November 2026 at 7pm
Sports Pitch Committee 13th October 2026
Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.45pm.

Signed Chairman:

Date: