

## WEST MONKTON

Annual Parish Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018

The meeting was held in Brittons Ash Community Hall (BACH) and attended by 23 people, including County Councillor, District Councillor, and Parish Councillors. There were 3 speakers. Chairman of the Parish Council Cllr Haskins welcomed those present and explained the agenda. The Annual Report of West Monkton Parish Council was distributed at the meeting, it will be distributed in the Village News and made available on the website.

Various flyers and publicity materials were available for attendees to take away.

1. Apologies  
Cllr Ling.
2. Minutes of the last meeting (22nd March 2017)  
The minutes were proposed as a true record by Cllr R Tully, seconded by Cllrs Ellis and Cavill.
3. The panel of speakers was introduced: Chris Edwards, Quantock Hills AONB, Nick Bryant TDBC Forward Planner, and Andy Pulleyn Director of Tacchi- Morris Art Centre.

### **Chris Edwards: Quantock Hills AONB**

The Quantock Hills is the most densely protected part of the UK. The objective of the organisation is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the area, support rural business, recreation, and sustainable development. There are various landscapes from low hills rising into the AONB, which includes heathland and upland oak. The animals of Commoners with grazing rights keep the ecosystems balanced and maintained. The coastal area is Jurassic and rich in fossils. There are 9 members of the team, with various specialisms in landscape management. Partnership working with FWAG is mitigating the effects of rainfall on the Quantocks draining down into the Dean (including the main streams converging in Bathpool). Leaky dams have been built at Aisholt Common and at Wills Neck. Other partnership working has been undertaken to mitigate the impact of Hinkley Point on the local settlements and environment (dark skies as well as disruption of habitat). Grant funding has been obtained from the Lottery Fund, and the Hinkley Point Mitigation Fund which will allow the delivery of 26 projects on the Quantock Hills. The organisation is hosted by SCC and has a centre at Fyne Court.

### **Nick Bryant: TDBC Garden Town**

The principles of Garden Town design were explained, their origins and more recent history. Taunton was one of 9 towns awarded Garden Town status last year. A number of Garden Villages were denoted at the same time. Culm in Devon is the nearest Garden Village, the majority of the Garden Towns are in the southeast of the country. Garden Town status demonstrated strong commitment to high quality growth of Taunton, working with other stakeholders such as the EA, SCC, and AONB. Funding has been used to achieve further tranches of funding and to support studies in sustainability, growth, jobs, and realisation of the Vision. Connectivity that is not reliant on the car will be supported, e.g. cycle ways and footpaths, to encourage people to be more active and to encourage and sustain the use of the quality green spaces in the town at Longrun Meadow, developing routes from town into the Quantocks and the Blackdowns and delivering the projects described in the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The Country Park is one of 13 policies identified in the Green Infrastructure Strategy. Change of use planning permission has been granted. It is anticipated the sale of the land will be completed by the end of the year. WM & CF NP supports the Country Park. Growth also involves job creation which will be delivered in part by the new Nexus 26

employment site (nominated for awards). The Taunton Rapid Bus Transit study is investigating how a route between Monkton Heathfield and Taunton can be delivered.

**Andy Pulleyn: Tacchi-Morris Arts Centre**

The aim is to develop an arts and health network for Taunton. A wide range of shows are in the current programme, looking to attract different groups. Classes follow a similar thread of inclusivity. A team of volunteers supports the small core of paid staff. Over a twelve-month period, the Tacchi-Morris has delivered over 150 live performances, 550 sessions of classes, and has involved over 5000 people. The Tacchi-Morris has a website through which tickets can be booked, also FB and Twitter.

Questions were asked at the end of each presentation.

The meeting was closed at 8.45pm and attendees enjoyed light refreshments.