



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill, Ellis, Elliston, Gage, Hall, Haskins and Tully.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk (via Zoom), Mrs T Cavill, Assistant Clerk, , Mr K Tutill, NP Delivery Group Chairman, Cllr David Fothergill, County Councillor, Cllr Andrew Pritchard, District Councillor and 5 Members of the public.

141/21 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllr Hope, Mr K Perry, Flood Warden and Sammie Millard-Jones, Clerk Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council.

142/21 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.

143/21 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th August 2021

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 10th August 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10th August, proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Tully and all agreed by show of hands.

144/21 To note Clerk's report and Assistant Clerk's report

Clerk's report:

- Actions from previous meetings and other issues raised during the month:
 - Instructed Wellers Hedleys to review the CP Lease document, zoom meeting took place on 8th September to discuss.
 - Emailed traffic management at SCC about the possibility of adding a waiting restriction at the bottom of Greenway; response received indicating that they do not perceive a problem with vehicles parking here and a restriction may cause the cars to be parked in more dangerous locations. Also suggest that parking acts as traffic calming and reduces speeds. Responded to confirm the concerns about a nearby resident using the road to park cars that he sells which stops others from parking i.e. to drop and collect school children.
 - Complaint submitted to Persimmon and Redrow regarding the MH1 Play Areas enclosing copies of the RoSPA inspection reports and press release developed.
 - Number 12 bus timetables / information added to bus shelters.
 - Developed and submitted response to the Bus Back Better consultation.
 - Order placed for SID.
 - Community Fund application developed.
 - Reported the bus shelter at Hankridge to Health and Safety at SWT, response awaited.
 - Report of overgrown hedges and dead trees in the Farriers Green Park boundary – reported to SWT who have confirmed that the hedge will be cut and trees investigated in September.
 - Updated declaration of interests form completed by Alan Hall and submitted to SWT.
 - Reported road condition of School Road to SCC.

- Lots of email correspondence regarding A3259 / WRR / Yallands Hill issues with members of the public. Request for a school crossing patrol person at Yallands Hill. Response received that no patrol person is available.
- Other Parish Administration:
 - Updating Planning Log with planning decisions / conditions weekly.
 - Followed up Wessex Water about future meeting attendance. Response received confirming that Wessex Water Developer Services will not be available to attend a PC meeting and confirmed that: 'none of the attenuation ponds are being offered for adoption by Wessex Water, so will remain the responsibility of the developers in the Monkton Heathfield area. I would suggest you discuss with the relevant developers, to confirm who is going to be responsible for the maintenance of the various public open spaces, including the attenuation ponds. For all new developments, it is the developers choice how much of the sewer network is offered for adoption within a development site. These networks include separate foul sewers and surface water (SW) sewer pipes mainly located within the highways, SW storage tanks, headwalls and flow control structures. SuDS components and structures have only been eligible to be offered for adoption for new applications since 2020, so they were not included in any of the Monkton Heathfield developments. Once the systems within each adoption agreement have been constructed to an adoptable standard and performance demonstrated during a maintenance period, then Wessex Water would adopt. Until adoption is completed the networks remain the responsibility of the developers. Any unresolved concerns over the performance or maintenance of the SW network should be directed to the LLFA as they have powers to take action. Within the Monkton Heathfield area most of the piped SW sewer network, including connections in/out of the ponds are at various stages of being offered for adoption. Please do contact us on Development.West@wessexwater.co.uk if you do have any worries about how a specific component or asset is operating. Our local inspector can investigate on site and discuss with the developer if any maintenance is required.'
 - Followed up Natural England regarding ragwort removal by Persimmon. Advised that Persimmon will clear the ragwort within 4 weeks but the complaint won't be closed until next season.
 - Followed up planning enforcement and the LLFA about the attenuation pond enforcement action, requesting copies again of the full inspectors report. Response received from planning enforcement that the flow control device was not fitted by 31st August as promised. Planning Enforcement now chasing for a further date when installation will take place by.
 - Monkton Matters website training with SWS and article development.
 - WM Liaison Meeting arrangements, agenda and actions. Including liaising with Persimmon and Redrow about their attendance at the meeting.
 - CP Management Group meetings arrangements and notes.
 - Coombe flooding, followed up with CSM PC re Cottage owner and the Environment Agency who have suggested liaising with FWAG.
 - Enquiries from potential applicants for the Assistant Clerk 2 / Community Development Officer position.
 - Enquiries with Traffic Management about the extent of the double yellow lines into Acacia Gardens from Bridgwater Road and whether they have been added as per the plan. Confirmation awaited.
- BACH:
 - Commenced payment of WM Primary School of £100.00 per month for utilities from July 2021.
 - Ordered the servicing of the air conditioning unit in the Committee Room with Alan Manchip, date for service awaited. When service is carried out a request for a quote for an air conditioning unit in the Activity Hall will be requested.
 - Water filters order and replaced, water cooler now back in use.
 - Cleaning / sanitising products replenished.
 - Next Committee Meeting to take place on 19th October at 7pm.
- Meetings last month:
 - 3rd August – WM Liaison Meeting

3rd August – Planning Committee Meeting
 4th August – LGR - SCC / Clerks Forum
 10th August – Parish Council Meeting
 11th August – Meeting with SCC Highways re Yallands Hill / A3259 issues.
 12th August – Parish Surgery
 17th August – CP Management Group Meeting
 18th August – LGR – SCC/ Clerks Forum
 19th August – SWS Monkton Matters website training
 w/c 23rd August – Annual Leave
 31st August – CP Management Group Meeting

- Meetings this month:
 - 1st September – LGR – SCC/Clerks Forum
 - 7th September – WM Liaison Meeting
 - 7th September – Planning Committee Meeting
 - 8th September – Virtual meeting with Wellers Hedleys regarding CP Lease
 - 9th September – Parish Surgery
 - 9th September – SALC Clerks Forum
 - 13th September – SCC Highways meeting
 - 14th September – Parish Council Meeting
 - 15th September – LGR – SCC/Clerks Forum
 - 29th September – LGR – SCC/Clerks Forum

Assistant Clerk's Report:

- Actioned decisions made by Council.
- Attended virtual and actual meetings: Cheddon Fitzpaine PC, WM Liaison, SCC LGR, Parish Surgery.
- Distribution of newsletters ref corona virus pandemic.
- Parish administration
 - On-going liaison with Lengthsman's Services regarding jobs and priorities in the parish.
 - Lengthsman has installed notice board at Co-op. Only one key, another requested by phone 3/9.
 - Picnic benches installed at Farriers Green.
 - Attended presentation by ONS regarding how to handle and deliver census data collected. Interesting to know but doubtful that PC is sufficient of a user to contribute to how information is presented.
 - Painting at St Quintin's play area. Enquiry as to next scheduled refurbishment – SWT advise it will be 2023/2024. Martin Davies (SWT) suggests Probation Services may be able to do the painting – I've asked that the metal railings are included. Waiting to hear from Martin.
 - Purchased replacement keys for trophy cabinet, not arrived yet.
 - Drafted community letter, investigated position of volunteers for door to door survey ref GDPR and Tempo time credits for recognition of volunteers.
 - Opus energy- estimated invoice received for box at Brittons Ash Green – ordered keys from Fisher and Co to gain access to read meter. Opus chasing unpaid invoice – explained waiting for keys.
 - AGAR signed off by PKF Littlejohn. Audit compete.
- Neighbourhood Plan
- CIL projects:
 - Keep Lengthsman supplied with materials for footpaths project.
 - Safer route to school at CP ongoing.
- Planning
 - Applications forwarded and powerpoint presentations prepared. Check applications for compliance with NP. Request extensions to consultation period when required.
- Climate change
 - On-going with B Turner.

- Wildflower seed Initiative, ongoing, expecting invoice from M Elm for plant packs distributed. Bethan to buy decorative ribbon. Competition dates published.
- Attended day long seminar set up by SCC 'Carbon Literacy for Parish Councils': certificate applied for (by means of completion of a report). Awarded Certificate in Carbon Literacy.
- Meeting to discuss next 6 months programme
- Finance / Audit Working Party
 - Availability of Grants given breathing space by Bethan on community FB pages.

145/21 SCC Report from Cllr D Fothergill

Coronavirus infection rates: As at 29th August the number of confirmed Covid cases in Somerset was 33,812 (up from 26,526 on 25th June) and the number of Covid-attributed deaths 811. The rate per 100,000 stands at 459.1 (206.9) for Somerset with Mendip at 358.2 (234.5), Sedgemoor at 673.0 (195.7), South Somerset 410.5 (214.4) and SW&T at 417.1 (187.0). The number of total deaths across the County is currently 11% below the 5-year average and the latest R-value for Somerset is between 0.9 and 1.2.

Infection rates in Somerset are now amongst the highest in England. It is therefore important even for those who have had both jabs to remember to observe Social Distancing and to Ventilate indoor areas at all times.

Somerset Coronavirus Support Helpline: A single phone number continues to be available for anyone in Somerset who needs Coronavirus-related support. 0300 790 6275, is open seven days a week from 8am to 6pm.

Vaccination programme roll-out: Somerset continues to have one of the highest vaccination rates in the country with the latest figures showing over 94.5% of the adult population having had one dose of vaccine and 84.6% having had both doses. Work continues to encourage further take up particularly amongst younger adults and a real focus on ensuring the second vaccine to this group.

Local Government Reorganisation: Following the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) decision to support the move to a single Unitary Council across Somerset work has now commenced to refine the transition and implementation programme. The four District Councils and Somerset County Council are working closely with MHCLG to implement the decision. A recent request from Government to look at a maximum of circa 85 Councillors on the new Council has also meant that a review of Divisional/Ward boundaries is now being undertaken. In addition, the impact of a May 2022 Unitary election on Town and Parish Councils who are not due to elect until 2023 is also under consideration with the views of these Councils being sought on the options available. It is expected that statutory orders will be laid before Parliament in the late Autumn and a vesting date of the new authority as April 2023.

Somerset Medal for Community Groups: Groups, teams and other volunteers will be presented with the Somerset Medal on Wednesday 15 September at Taunton Rugby Club after being recognised as some of Somerset's many unsung coronavirus heroes. The Somerset Medal was launched by Somerset County Council to say a heartfelt thank-you to the best of the best. The first individual winners were announced on Somerset Day with a second round of nominations opened up to groups and teams.

Afghan refugees: Somerset County Council is committed to help a scheme to house Afghans who supported British military and to resettle interpreters and translators. People across Somerset have been stepping forward to help support Afghan refugees as the crisis being played out in the international spotlight deepens. The Council anticipates the Government will fund a number of places for refugees with strict rules on the types and locations of suitable accommodation. Anyone who would like to help in anyway should contact resettlement@somerset.gov.uk

Carbon Reduction: Over half of street lighting in Somerset is now eco-friendly and playing an important role helping the county work towards its 2030 carbon neutral target. Somerset County Council's Highway Lighting Team has started to reduce its carbon footprint in the past five years thanks to the installation of LED lanterns in 56 per cent of street lighting stock. The LED replacements have seen a reduction in the carbon produced per year, down from 9,522 tonnes in 2015/16 to 3,278 tonnes in 2020/21: a reduction of 6,244 tonnes of Co2 and resulting in a 31.75% energy saving equal to £950,00 per year.

The following questions were asked following Cllr Fothergill's report:

Cllr Gage asked if SCC had a policy to ensure traffic flow rather than pedestrian safety following the pedestrian crossing lights being turned off when temporary traffic lights were in use on Monkton Heathfield Road. When querying the matter with SCC Highways it was confirmed that if temporary lights are installed within 100 metres of permanent lights, they are temporarily taken out of use. The pedestrian lights were switched off on the first day back at school and many children were crossing the road through stationary vehicles. Cllr Fothergill agreed

to take the matter up and find out. Following the meeting Cllr Fothergill confirmed that no such policy exists whereby traffic flow is more important than pedestrian safety and that this is contrary to the principles of the Highways Authority.

Cllr Tully confirmed that heavy goods vehicles are still using the Monkton Heathfield Road and some satellite navigation systems are still directing them to do so.

Cllr Besley provided update from the meeting with SCC Highways. The signs for the 20mph speed limit and weight restriction are being installed and their installation will be complete in the next 10 days. SCC Highways are looking at changing the wording on the VMS to make the message stronger but the messaging that is allowed on the VMS signs is restricted by Highways England guidance. Additional black and yellow signs will also be arranged before motorists hit the junctions. SCC Highways are trying to expedite the traffic calming measures required to be installed by Persimmon but progress is slow. The plans that SCC Highways have received are not the detailed design plans required. The suggestion of a no right turn off A38 at Monkton Elm Garden Centre and no left turn from Taunton to Bridgwater were discussed further, both ideas are radical and therefore an immediate decision will not be taken without fully understanding the impact. The new weight restriction and speed limit cannot be enforced until they are in place for a couple of weeks. Modern web-based satellite navigation systems are up to date but older systems will require updating to show the changes. SCC Highways continue to monitor the situation, another meeting is planned in 4 weeks. SCC are going to also liaise with Persimmon about including traffic calming to enable the safe pedestrian / cycle crossing out of the Country Park. A safety audit of the Persimmon WRR work will be conducted. Permanent barriers at the Tudor Park end are planned but SCC approval needed before installation.

Cllr Tully reported that the details of Councillors have been added to Facebook to encourage parishioners to contact the Parish Council about the proposed 5G mast.

Cllr Tully reported that the new sign at Milton Hill roundabout is still obscured. Landowner obstructed the cutting of the vegetation, the matter was followed up with SCC Highways.

Cllr Tully asked if 'village traffic only' signs could be added to the entrances into the village. Cllr Fothergill wasn't sure, Cllr Tully to send example pictures to Cllr Fothergill to investigate.

Cllr Haskins requested an update on the road works at the bottom of Cheddon Road. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that the works are on time / to schedule but that they are very complicated so the programme of works is long. A member of the public asked why a crossing point couldn't be added for pedestrians at Tudor Park. Cllr Cavill confirmed that crossings have to be at least 70 metres from a junction and a minimum distance from other crossing points. Cllr Cavill confirmed that SCC Highways are looking at an awareness lighting system instead to warn drivers that pedestrians are crossing the road. The member of the public expressed his frustration that safe routes / crossing points aren't provided with the infrastructure.

Cllr Pritchard asked for an update on the works required to the surface of School Road. Some patching work has taken place but the road needs resurfacing. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that it was on the list of works to be done but would check when it is scheduled to take place.

A member of the public who is a resident on the WRR expressed his concern that the road looks like a road that can be driven at more than 30mph and the speed that vehicles travel on the road. The member of the public asked what measures are going to be used to monitor / enforce the speed limit. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that enforcement was a Police issue. Cllr Fothergill to request monitoring. It was noted that the road wasn't adopted yet and enforcement can't take place until it is adopted. It was confirmed that permanent fencing will be installed around the Play Area to replace the existing temporary fencing.

A member of the public asked if a single yellow line could be added along Mead Way up to Greenway as parked cars are causing an obstruction. Speeding is also an issue. Clerk confirmed that a request for lines and a waiting restriction have been made but SCC Highways aren't in support. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that if lines are added and parking reduced, the speed of vehicles will increase and that a waiting restriction would be difficult to enforce at this location. The member of the public suggested that the speed on Mead Way should also be 20mph. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that a speed reduction would need to coincide with traffic calming to reduce the natural speed of the road and that the Parish Council can make this request if it wishes but that the first step would be for speed measuring devices to be added. Cllr Fothergill requested that the suggested locations for monitoring be sent to him.

A member of the public requested an updated regarding the cones on Bridgwater Road on the built out sections between the Primary School and ATS garage. The bollards that were placed there have been knocked over and replaced with temporary signs / cones. The member of the public reported that children are playing with the

cones and placing them in the road. The member of the public also raised concerns about speeding vehicles on the road. Clerk to follow up progress with replacement bollards with Persimmon.

146/21 SW+T Council reports from Cllrs Cavill, Pritchard and Tully

Cllr Cavill reported on the following:

Local Government Reorganisation – Work is ongoing to develop a Town Council for Taunton, there was a wish to expand the area included to include the urban extension and the Nerrols development but the Secretary of State has confirmed that the Town Council will have to operate in the existing unparished area. It is hoped that an electoral roll will be formed and Town Council elections will take place next year.

Zero Carbon Task Force – 5500 council houses in SWT that need upgrading. Only 500 meet the regulations.

Phosphates – The problem still exists and it has already been causing delays for over a year. 2300 houses have stopped being built, another 470 partial builds have been stopped. Estimated that around £400m of building that can't take place which is damaging for the local economy.

SWT Executive – Meeting tomorrow evening, two items on the agenda relating to the Parish – MH2 and Land South of Langaller Farm regarding the concept and design guidance / masterplan. The recommendation is that the documents are not adopted. Since the documents were developed by SWT there have been a considerable number of new policies e.g. climate change, Garden Town, build back better. These policies contradict the documents.

Local Plan – the existing Core Strategy is overdue for review and is getting out of date. It is unlikely that the Local Plan will be developed before the Unitary Council is in place and it is therefore unlikely to be developed until 2023 – 25. The five year building supply of land is no longer certain.

Cllr Pritchard reported on the following:

Garden waste collections have restarted.

Heathfield Drive Hall is reopening.

Bus Stop outside Spital Almsouses – Cllr Pritchard asked if the bus shelter will be moved to the new bus stop position. Assistant Clerk confirmed that the movement of the shelter was included as part of Hartnells Development, it is hoped that new bus shelters will be placed on both sides of the road rather than moving the existing one. A concern about design of bus shelter was raised due to slim nature of footpath. Cllr Cavill suggested that a negotiation could take place with SWT about acquiring a patch of land behind the footpath to enable the placement of an enclosed bus shelter.

Cllr Tully reported on the following:

Recycling Centre - Biffa have bought out Viridor. Cllr Tully expressed his concern about the land to east of the recycling centre between the centre and Bathpool. Cllr Cavill confirmed that the land is protected in the Local Plan. Cllr Fothergill suggested talking to the Somerset Waste Partnership about the future use of the land.

The agenda was adjourned

Public Question Time

Cllr Ellis reported that she had received a phone call from the Merry Monk expressing concerns about open ends on the Country Park and the possible future use by travellers. Cllr Cavill confirmed that barriers / land banks / post and rail will be added when the design is agreed with SCC.

A member of the public raised safe / preferred cycling routes. The member of the public reported that there are a number of routes but no indication of what route cyclists should use and suggested that a map is produced to make routes clearer for cyclists.

Cllr Hall confirmed that SWT are developing a cycle path plan for the District and that plans are already available that have been developed by Sustrans and Taunton Cycling Association.

It was agreed to interrupt the agenda to take item 13 Reports

147/21 Reports, including recent developments, matters to consider and decisions to be made:

a) Bathpool Flood Warden: Mr Kevin Perry

Mr Perry sent his apologies but forwarded a report in advance of the meeting which was read to the Council.

- August rainfall amounted to only 65% of the 30 year long term average – and consequently no issues with river levels. However - one of the flap gates from the Old River Tone into the River Tone is wedged open following the rain last Thursday, and has been reported to the Environment Agency (the debris has potentially come from further tree pollarding in Acacia Gardens).
- Registered for some of the October Somerset Prepared events and will be watching some of the additional videos.
- Meeting scheduled at the Country Park with FWAG regarding leaky dams.

b) NP Delivery Group Chairman: Mr K Tutill / Assistant Clerk; Update.

Mr Tutill reported that the draft of the reviewed NP has been submitted to Ann Rhodes at SWT. For the submission to be formal a HRA and SEA is needed, a consultant has been appointed. Ann Rhodes has chased and it is hoped that the documents will be received this week. SWT will review and then forward. The outcome will determine the next steps. Phosphates may be an issue. A referendum could coincide with May elections if required.

c) Councillors with roles of responsibility (not all Councillors will have a report to make)

Footpaths

Cllr Gage confirmed that the stiles still need to be installed. Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman has been occupied with other items.

Cllr Pritchard reported that the footpath between West Monkton and junction 25 of the M5 doesn't have a slipway like all the other footpaths, this one leads on to mud and on roundabout and it appears to have been forgotten. A footway is needed to enable safe crossing. Cllr Pritchard to take and forward photos.

BACH Chairman;

Cllr Gage confirmed that he had nothing further to report.

Allotments;

Clerk confirmed that there was nothing to report.

Highways;

Cllr Besley confirmed that he had nothing further to report.

Water Resilience;

Cllr Cavill confirmed that there was nothing to report.

Public Open Spaces/ Children's Play Areas and Recreation,

In Cllr Hope's absence there was no report.

Cllr Haskins reported that the picnic benches have been installed in Farriers Green and reported that the grass on the area of land for children to play football is allowed to grow too long. Cllr Pritchard confirmed that he had raised the issue at SWT Community Scrutiny. SWT will be making sure that it isn't part of the long grass policy going forward. It was noted that the first cut needs to be collected. Cllr Pritchard to request. It was also reported that the sandpit was in bad condition, with weeds growing in it.

The ROSPA inspections commissioned by the Parish Council were discussed. Clerk to follow up progress and ask Persimmon to cover the bill.

Safe Routes to School;

Cllr Tully confirmed that he had nothing to report.

Transportation;

Cllr Elliston reported that because of the A38 closure the area is not covered by a bus route. The slinky bus is available but suggested again that thought is given to a community bus. Cllr Fothergill confirmed that he would find out who at SCC the Parish Council would need to speak to about setting up a scheme. It was suggested that the existing bus route could be re-routed to cover the area missed. Cllr Elliston to follow up with John Perrott at SCC. Item to be added to next Planning Committee agenda to discuss community bus.

It was reported that the bus shelter at Hankridge had been removed.

d) Communications Report - Clerk.

The Communications Report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Clerk had nothing further to report

e) GDPR

Nothing to report.

f) WMPC Chairman; Cllr Haskins

Cllr Haskins confirmed that he had nothing further to report.

Representatives on outside bodies/Response to Consultations:

g) West Monkton Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Tully reported that the Management Committee had a meeting a couple of weeks ago. The Committee are looking for new trustees from across the Parish.

h) The Spital Trust

Cllr Ellis reported that a meeting is scheduled to take place at the end of the month.

i) Any events at which WMPC was represented

No other events.

j) Consultations responses to be developed / approved for submission

No consultations.

The agenda was resumed.

148/21 Planning

a) To consider recommendations from the WMPC Planning committee on applications received by 7th September 2021 (listed on SW+T Council website); and to consider any others to date

48/21/0054 Demolition of buildings adjoining eastern boundary, change of use and adaptation of remaining buildings for convenience store (use Class E) with ATM and children's day nursery (use Class E) and erection of a single storey building for a pharmacy (use Class E) with provision of car and bicycle parking at the former Land Rover Garage, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool

Assistant Clerk confirmed that she had circulated some notes and suggested comments in relation to the Planning Application. Cllrs to send any suggested amendments to Assistant Clerk by close of play tomorrow (15th September) to include in the final comments.

The following recommendations from the WMPC Planning Committee on 7th September were considered. It was resolved to approve the recommendations for submission, proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed by show of hands. Cllr Tully abstained from voting or taking part in discussion in relation to all the planning applications.

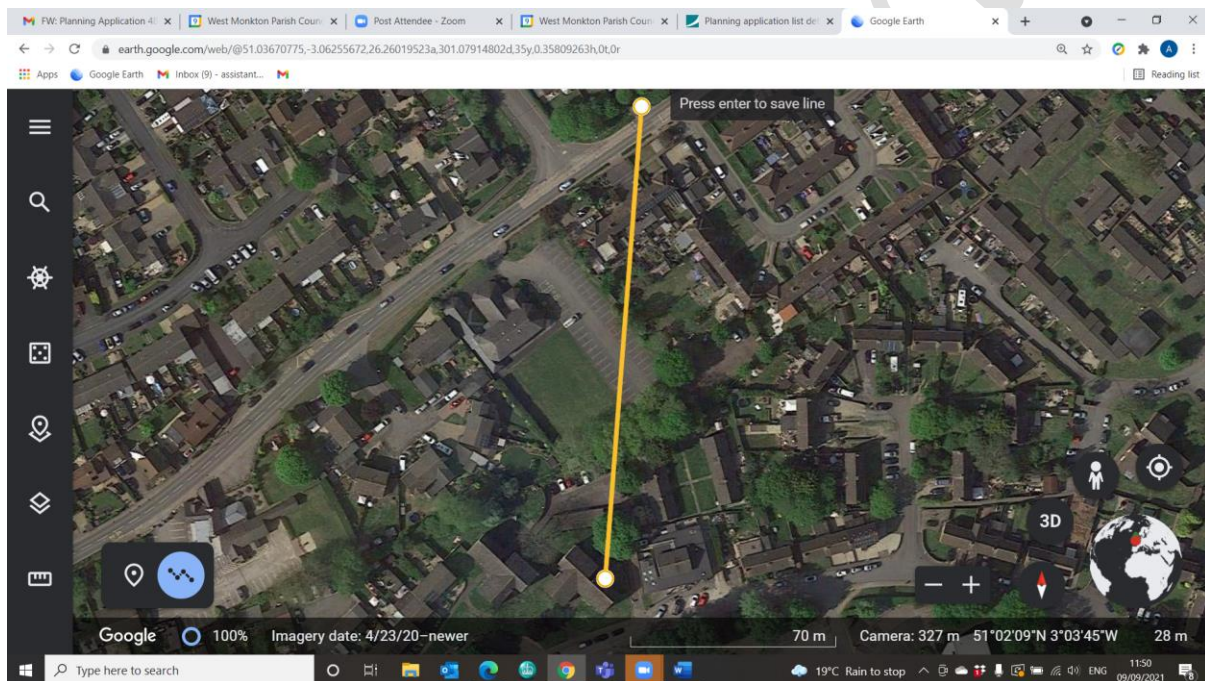
48/21/0049 Erection of a single storey extension to the front with construction of ramped access to front door at Musgraves Cottage, Blundells Lane, West Monkton (consultation extended to 8th Sept). Parish Council comment: The PC supports this application. In accordance with WM&CF Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Policy R1 Dark Skies: external lighting should be downlit and led and light spillage from the property should be limited. In accordance with NP Policy R3 rainwater run off should be dealt with by water butts, rainwater swales etc.

14/21/0024 amendments to red line outline (consultation period expired 19th August no comments received from Cllrs). Noted.

48/21/0048 Erection of a single storey extension to the side with conversion of garage into ancillary accommodation at Overton Cottage, Burlinch Lane, West Monkton. Parish Council comment: The PC supports this application. In accordance with WM&CF Neighbourhood Plan, Policy H2 materials, R1 Dark Skies and R3 Flood measures; the work should use materials in keeping with the local vernacular and Quantock Stone, external lighting should be LED and downlit, light spillage from the property should be limited, rainwater runoff should be collected in water butts or rainwater swales.

48/20/0050 To consider the letter from Jo Kemp, LNT (appended below) and to consider if a further comment should be added to those already made to SWT Planning Authority. PC Comment: PC agreed to forward the letter to SWT Planning Authority, explaining that the application is line with WM&CF Neighbourhood Plan Policy E4 Social Care Employment opportunities, and that the Parish Council is aware that local residents are significantly more in favour of this application than the current granted application for industrial units.

48/21/0055/CLA Notification for prior approval for the installation of 1 No. 15-metre-high monopole supporting 6 No. antennas, 4 No. equipment cabinets and development works ancillary thereto on land at Yallands Hill, Monkton Heathfield. PC Comment: the relative height of the mast in comparison with neighbouring house roofs and the adjacent traffic lights is too high. Bearing in mind the overbearing height of the proposed mast within a built environment, the Parish Council would recommend that an alternative location nearby is considered. Not far from the proposed site there are some three storey apartment blocks and the Parish Council would urge very strongly that the vicinity of the apartment blocks is considered for the installation of this mast. A screen shot to explain the proximity of the suggested site to the site in the proposal is included. The proposed site has no parking in the vicinity for service vehicles without causing significant obstruction to the very busy highway. The position suggested by the Parish Council would allow service vehicles to park beside the mast without causing obstruction to traffic.



48/21/0058/T Application to fell 10 Alder trees and 3 Poplars included in Taunton Deane Borough (West Monkton No.1) Tree Preservation Order 2011 at Riverside, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool (TD1090). PC Comment: The Parish Council does not support the wholesale clearance of the trees from within this site. The site lies on the main approach route to Taunton and the trees are evidence of the Parish Council's and SWT's position on Climate Change and Environment. There is therefore significant amenity and environmental impact. The Parish Council would recommend that an arboricultural report is obtained so that a decision can be made based on professional opinion as to what treatment is needed for these trees.

b) To note that Planning decisions made are available on SW+T Council website filed under the application number
Decisions noted.

149/21 MH developments

a) Update;

Clerk confirmed that Persimmon have indicated that the planning application for MH2 will be submitted in October and that there will be no prior consultation with the Parish Council. The application will include the phasing plan but the indication is that the first phase will not include the retail units / centre.

b) Ragwort: Update

Clerk confirmed that Natural England had followed up the removal of the Ragwort along the ERR and adjacent fields with Persimmon. Persimmon have agreed to clear the ragwort within 4 weeks where it is within 100m of a highway or grazing land. Natural England have confirmed that they will not close the complaint and will instead review the ragwort situation at the beginning of the next season.

c) ROSPA Inspections

Inspections discussed earlier in the agenda – nothing further to discuss.

d) Hartnells Farm Development: Update

Clerk reported that Persimmon confirmed at the WM Liaison meeting that all lighting in the development will be downlit / LED and that no date has been arranged for the play park installation yet.

d) Feedback from WM Liaison Meeting on 7th September

No other feedback to discuss.

150/21 Community Development Projects

a) Assistant Clerk 2 / Community Development Officer Recruitment: Update

Date for interview to be arranged after 27th September. Clerk to liaise with Cllrs Haskins, Hall and Elliston to identify a convenient date.

b) Sports Pitches: Update

Cllr Hall reported that he had contacted the surveying company that did the work at the Country Park to get a quote to conduct a survey. Until a survey is carried it isn't clear how much ground work is required. It was noted that the survey carried out by Persimmon was before more soil was added.

Cllr Hall reported that a MH2 contribution to the sports pitches is being considered by SWT.

Cllr Hall reported that there was little progress with Waterleaze junior play pitches which is holding up progress with the proposed change from footpath pitches to sports pitches.

Alternative locations for junior football pitches were discussed. Cllr Cavill suggested that the sports pitch provided by Persimmon next to the footpath between Bridgwater Road and School Road may be a possible location.

Clerk to arrange a meeting between Heathfield School, SCC and Parish Council to discuss.

c) Small Improvement Scheme Project: Update

No update.

d) CIL Projects

Footpaths / Renewing gates and stiles: Update

Cllr Gage confirmed that there was no further update to that discussed above.

Aginhills Footpath Diversion: Update

Cllr Hall confirmed that there was no update

Speed Indicator Device: Consider purchase

Assistant Clerk confirmed that the SID had been ordered. Payment will be required on delivery.

The agenda was interrupted to take Item 11 Environmental

151/21 Environmental

a) Climate Action Programme for the Parish – update and agreement of future planned communications

Assistant Clerk confirmed that the draft schedule for future planned communications and initiatives / events was presented and agreed at the Planning Committee meeting. The judging of the sunflower competition entries is now taking place.

The initiative to provide Hi Vis vests to school children was discussed. The purchase of vests for the initiative was agreed. The idea of including the provision of hi vis vests each year to school children was discussed, it was agreed to discuss the proposal at the Budget / Precept meeting in November.

b) Co-op noticeboard – update

Assistant Clerk confirmed that the noticeboard had been installed.

c) Defibrillator – update

Cllr Hall confirmed that the defibrillator at Tacchi Morris had been installed.

d) Land next to Old West Monkton Primary School – update

Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Parish Lengthsman had strimmed the land. The area will now be sprayed with herbicide.

e) Picnic Benches – update

Cllr Haskins confirmed that the picnic benches had been installed.

The agenda was resumed.

152/21 Community

a) Update; Cllr Elliston

Cllr Elliston confirmed that he did not have much to report. There has been a spate of thefts of milk for a couple of weeks. Caught on ring doorbells / CCTV. There has also been a bike and laptop theft.

b) Community Survey: Update

The approach / method of conducting the survey was discussed. It was agreed to proceed as planned.

c) Community Website Update

Clerk provided an update. A quote from SWS to incorporate a business directory on the website was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr Elliston, seconded by Cllr Cavill and agreed with all in favour to accept the quote. Website to be launched as soon as possible.

d) Community Funding Application: Update

Clerk to proceed with submitting the funding application.

153/21 Local Government Re-Organisation – update

Clerk confirmed that following the brief discussion at the Planning Committee meeting last week a list of possible assets and services from the One Somerset Business Case that could be devolved to the Parish Council was circulated. It was noted that the Parish Council Vision to be developed at the Away Day should help to inform what the Parish Council would like devolved to it.

154/21 Assets

a) Asset Register

Up to date.

155/21 Finance

a) BACH Finance to 31st August 2021.

Clerk summarised the BACH Finance report circulated in advance of the meeting which confirmed the income and expenditure in relation to the BACH up to the 31st August 2021.

b) AGAR

Limited assurance review for year ended 31 March 2021 has been completed by PKF Littlejohn, External Auditor.

It is a 'no comment' report.

c) Quotes

- Proposal to purchase native English bluebell bulbs for planting at Country Park.
Suppliers identified.
Habitat Aid based in Somerset, bulbs from known source in Wales cost per bulb 39p
Thompson and Morgan, nationally known commercial supplier, source not specified cost per bulb 33p
Proposal to purchase circa 400 bulbs for planting in the autumn, sown at recommended density of 25 per square metre.
Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Gage and all agreed by show of hands.
- Anticipated costs of supply and installation of Safer Route to School at Country Park on target for estimate up to a maximum of £12,000.00.
- Country Park Pond – Quote came in £53k initially. £46k of funding secured. Negotiation is continuing with the contractor to reduce the cost but subject to an amended quote being received it was agreed in principle to cover the remainder of the cost from CIL funding. Proposed by Cllr Gage, seconded by Cllr Cavill and all agreed by show of hands.

d) Receipts and payments

Information relating to named, or otherwise identifiable, individuals is confidential and has been redacted in documents placed in the public domain.

Receipts

Interest Lloyds	£ 0.91 Aug statement
Nationwide	£3.22 31 Aug, Sept to follow
PSDF	not received yet, aug
Refund on cancelled dropbox subscription	£77.33 (shown in Oct fin sheet)
Co-op grant to Youth club	£200.00

Payments

payee	Payment ex vat	Vat	Total	How paid	Budget line
A Pritchard litter picking				bacs	wages
Tailored auto-enrolment pension contributions	79.45			d-d	Pension contributions
A Shephard Clerks salary				bacs	salary
P Cavill assistant clerks salary				bacs	salary
HMRC month 6	449.21			bacs	Employer/NIC/PAYE
A Shepherd Homeworkers allowance	27.00			bacs	Homeworkers allowance
P Cavill homeworkers allowance	27.00			bacs	Homeworkers allowance
S Rolls Lengthsmans Services in aug	156.25			bacs	Lengthsmans services
B Turner Environment initiatives/comms	175.00			bacs	environment
				bacs	
Annual grants agreed at precept (same amount as last year)					
Village News	400.00			bacs	
Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance	400.00			bacs	
Citizens advice bureau	400.00				
St Margarets Hospice	400.00				

Musgrove Hospital	400.00				
WM grant to St Augustine's burial ground maintenance	1500.00				
Somerset Web Services (set up MM)	725.00	145.00	870.00	bacs	comms
Spital Trust rent allotments	15.00				allots
Spital Trust rent bus shelter site	10.00				bus shelters
B Gage expenses claim CP mower and FG table locks	159.97				CP vol
M Besley expenses claim signage	172.80				env
SLCC annual membership fee	144.00		144.00		subscriptions
Bollards for CP safer route to school	398.86	79.77	478.63		CIL
N Cavill expenses claim Postcrete for safer route to school	45.00	9.00	54.00		CIL
Terram for safer routes to school	360.00	72.00	432.00		
PKF Littlejohn Annual review (AGAR)	400.00	80.00	480.00		Audit fees
Burnham portaloos at CP	80.00	17.60	105.60		CP vol
Heathfield Window Cleaning Services (bus shelters)	170.00				env
<i>Survey monkey annual renewal</i>					
<i>Cost of SID device, due when delivered</i>	<i>1919.00</i>	<i>383.80</i>	<i>2302.80</i>		
<i>Further Costs associated w. safer route to school (hedge cutting by Mowgate)</i>					
<i>Ragwort clearance at CP</i>					

Any other invoices received before 14 September 2021 £ to follow, to be paid by bacs wherever possible.

Resolution: to make payments described above:

Proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Gage and all agreed by show of hands.

Payments made since last meeting of WMPC.

1. To note: Payments made using debit card

Upgrade to Dropbox Business Advanced Plan £540.00 +vat 108.00 = £648.00. Refund on existing subscription 39.55 +36.78 = 77.33. (shown in Oct column of fin sheet)

2. To note: Payments by bacs/transfer:

Replacement keys for trophy cabinet Access Displays 20.00+vat4.00=£24.00

3. To note: Payment by direct debit

Invoice 10203 August 25th Monthly payment of £12.00 + vat £2.40 = £14.40 to Tailored Auto Enrolment, for the servicing plan.

Tailored auto enrolment pension deductions: £79.45

Invoice SWS108686 Monthly invoice £59.80 + vat £11.96 = £71.76 to Somerset Web Services (13 mailboxes) April fin sheet)

Invoice SWS108574 Monkton Matters £725.00+vat145.00 = £870.00

4. Cheque

Nil

5. Transfer between accounts

11th Aug 2021 £10000.00 from Lloyds Business account to Treasurers Account.

e) WMPC Bank reconciliation

Bank reconciliation and budget check: please check on green financial sheet. Ask any questions by email. Bank reconciliation for 1st September is complete and balanced.

General notes on spreadsheet

Each column heading is dated first of the month.

Each monthly receipt column is a snapshot of what **has been received** in the month prior to 1st of the month.

Each monthly expenditure column itemizes payment that **will be made** (i.e., paying the last month's bills) after 1st of the month. These are the monthly list of payments for approval.

Bank statements for 1st of the month provide the figures shown on the financial sheet (bottom left - hand corner).

Specific notes for WMPC September financial sheet

WMPC Receipts

Shows receipts between 1 Aug and 31 Aug. Includes interest from bank accounts.

WMPC Expenditure details

Environment: expenses reclaim M Besley (signs) 172.80, bus shelter cleaning 170.00, set up Monkton Matters 725.00 +vat 145.00 = £870.00, Business all about you £175.00. Total 1387.00

Sundry Admin: Upgrade dropbox 540.00+ vat108.00 = 648.00, Access trophy cabinet replacement keys 20.00 +vat 4.00 = 24.00. Total 672.00

CPvolunteers Toilet hire 88.00 +vat17.60 = 105.60, expenses reclaim B Gage (diesel, padlocks chain) 159.97. Total 265.57

CIL: terram for CP track 360.00 +vat72.00 = 432.00, bollards for track 398.86 +vat79.77 = 478.63. Total 910.63

f) To note the next meeting of the Audit Working Party on Friday 22nd October 2021 at 9.00 am by zoom.

Notes from the meeting on 23rd July were attached to the end of the August R+P report.

156/21 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 4th October 2021

Noted

b) Parish Council Meeting Dates Schedule

The future of Parish Surgery meetings was discussed. Due to low attendance it was agreed to cancel Parish Surgery meetings going forward but that they continue to be available on request.

The proposal to change to two Parish Council meetings rather than one Planning Committee and one Parish Council meeting from January was discussed and agreed.

c) Parish Council Away Day to develop Vision

The Parish Council Away Day was discussed. It was agreed that the Away Day would take place one afternoon between 2pm and 4pm. Clerk to identify a suitable date.

Confidential Session

157/21 Country Park Update

An update in respect of the Country Park and Glebe Farm Proposal was provided.

158/21 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month

2021: 10th Aug, 14th Sep, 12th Oct, 9th Nov, 14th Dec

Planning Committee

First Tuesday in the month

2021: 3rd Aug, 7th Sep, 5th Oct, 2nd Nov, 7th Dec

Audit Working Party: 22nd October 2021 at 9.00am (Virtual)

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Annual Parish Meeting: 30th March 2022
BACH committee: 19th October 2021 at 7pm at the BACH
Budget and Precept Working Party 16th November 2021 at 7pm

Meeting finished at 11.02pm

Signed Chairman:

Date:

Adopted - Redacted