



West Monkton Parish Council

## ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 7.00pm.

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

**In attendance:** Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk and Mrs K Welsh Assistant Clerk Community.

### **357/22 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities**

Apologies were received from Cllr Norman Cavill.

### **358/22 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.

### **359/22 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. Subject to one amendment, it was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> January, proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Elliston and agreed by show of hands.

### **Public Question Time**

Clerk relayed a question sent by a member of the public in advance of the meeting which stated: 'Minute 192/22 of June 2022 included the words ' Upon the A38 through Bathpool being reopened the VMS signs and large SIDs will be removed but the black on yellow signs and 20mph speed limit would remain for as long as possible.' Unfortunately all the yellow signs have now been pushed over or blown over. Assuming it was SCC's decision to keep the signs for good reason can the Parish Council ask SCC to put them back up as soon as possible? Without them there is nothing to indicate that through traffic should use the relief roads rather than driving through Monkton Heathfield Road and Yallands Hill? Although the signs have limited effect, they do at least keep the message alive until such time as traffic calming or other measures are implemented.

Cllrs noted that speeds and traffic volumes through Monkton Heathfield have increased. Concern was also expressed about speeding past the primary school and cars being parked on the cycle path on Bridgwater Road.

Clerk to send a request to SCC Highways that the signs are reinstated.

Assistant Clerk Community to add a post to Monkton Matters reminding them about speeding and parking around the school.

Clerk to ask SCC for permission to place the SID near the Primary School.

Clerk to request Persimmon if speed data is available from the pedestrian crossing lights.

Cllr Elliston reported that since the last Parish Council meeting an initial Youth Club meeting had taken place but a Trustees Meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday. Cllr Elliston to provide an update at the next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Gage reported that the telephone box in West Monkton is dirty and some of the finger posts could also do with a clean.

Cllr Gage queried the ownership of the black bins outside the BACH car park entrance. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that they don't belong to the school.

Cllr Haskins reported that the area outside of the community fridge is muddy and that it would be re-seeded as soon as possible. Cllr Elliston confirmed that the area is part of the wider Community Garden extension plans.

Cllr Hope asked if the planning application in respect of the AMP site has been determined.

Cllr Gage raised the recent incident of a Farriers Green picnic bench being subject to arson. It was agreed to leave the bench there for now and eventually remove it.

Cllr Tully requested that an item is added to the agenda for the 14<sup>th</sup> February meeting for a presentation to be given on the Canal Model Solar Walk proposal.

Cllr Besley reported that the ditches are not coping with heavy rainfall and water is instead running down the road. Cllr Besley reported that this is in the main because debris is blocking the culverts and needs clearing. A picture was shared of debris as an example.

Cllr Besley reported that the gullies on the A38 are blocked.

Clerk to ask the Parish Lengthsman to clean the telephone box and finger posts.

Contents of bins to be transferred to the school bins in the bin store.

Clerk to check the status of the planning application and notify Cllr Hope.

Assistant Clerk Community to add information about the incident and photos to Monkton Matters.

Clerk to add an item to the agenda.

Mowgate to clear the debris. Cllrs to send Cllr Besley details of any debris that needs clearing from ditches in the Parish.

Clerk to report the blocked gullies.

### **360/22 Planning**

#### **a) To consider any planning applications (listed on SW+T Council website)**

There were no planning applications to consider.

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

48/22/0056 Replacement and enlargement of garage to the side, replacement of roof to rear extension with flat roof, raising of roof with formation of first floor and construction of dormer windows at St Hilary, Cheddon Fitzpaine Road, Goosenford, Cheddon Fitzpaine – Withdrawn

### **361/22 MH Developments**

#### **a) MH2 Update:**

Clerk confirmed that there wasn't anything further to report and that the design workshop is scheduled to take place on 3rd February at Creech St Michael Village Hall from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Clerk to take notes at the workshop and circulate them to all Councillors.

#### **b) MH1 Update; POS / Sports Pitch transfer, Attenuation Ponds**

The response received from Wessex Water in respect of the MH1 attenuation ponds was discussed. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply to Wessex Water and request confirmation that the ponds will be compliant with the planning requirements and request a copy of the inspection report when it is available. Non compliance with the conditions / requirement may become a planning enforcement issue.

Clerk confirmed that chaser emails have been sent to the solicitor regarding the MH1 POS and Sports Pitch transfer and S106 variation but no further update is available.

Clerk advised that an email has been worded ready to sent to the Managing Director of Persimmon Homes about the outstanding issues on MH1 to escalate concerns about the lack of progress.

The land allocated for a school sports pitch between Bridgwater Road and School Road was raised. Cllr Hall suggested that the land would be a good location for a Community Market Garden. Cllr Elliston to circulate details of the Market Garden proposal to all Councillors. Clerk to investigate who should be contacted at Heathfield School / Somerset County Council about the suggested alternative use of the land.

Cllr Hall reported that costings are being developed in respect of all elements of the sports pitch proposal. Costings for the car park and sewer connections are still required.

Cllr Hope raised the remainder of the trees that need replanting in MH1. Due to the hold up with the transfer of the POS it was agreed not to proceed with ordering replacement trees. In the meantime it was agreed to plant the SWT Free Trees around the Glebelands Attenuation Pond. Planting to take place at 2pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

### **c) Hartnells Farm Development Update**

Cllr Hall raised the S106 contribution from the development for off-site works to alleviate the flooding risk in Bathpool. Cllr Hall confirmed that he had received quotes for the cost of a permanent pump. The cost of a pump is approximately £58k but there would be further costs for housing, a slab and required pipes. An electric supply and land ownership also needs to be investigated. Clerk confirmed that a meeting has been requested with the EA to receive an update on the projects that will be funded from the Hartnells S106 contribution. Clerk reported that the S106 Officer at SWT had indicated that the cost of a permanent pump is included in the projects to be funded.

### **362/22 Highways Update**

#### **a) Update**

Cllr Besley reported that monitoring boxes have been reinstalled around the village and also that the TRO notices in respect of the permanent 20mph speed limit and weight restriction on Monkton Heathfield Road refer to the road as the A3259 which is incorrect. Clerk to email Andy Coupe at SCC in respect of both of these points.

Clerk reported that an email had been received from Andy Coupe from SCC confirming that the legal position in respect of the bus gate is still being investigated by lawyers and that the final traffic data isn't available yet and will be forwarded to the Parish Council as soon as it is.

#### **b) SID report from ERR**

Clerk confirmed that the report from the SID from when it was installed on the ERR had been circulated in advance of the meeting. High vehicle speeds in excess of 90mph were noted.

Clerk to send all SID data to Andy Coupe and the PCSO to enable police enforcement to be scheduled.

Clerk to install the SID at Milton Hill next.

### **363/22 Country Park Update**

Cllr Hall reported that school kids have been on the pond in the Country Park skating on the ice whilst other kids were smashing the ice. One child had to walk through the icy water to get to the pond edge. Cllr Hall confirmed that the Clerk has reported the incident to Heathfield School and the PCSO. Additional signage has also been ordered to display. Cllr Hall to be reimbursed for the cost of the signage (£39.90)

Cllr Gage suggested the removal of the fencing. Cllr Hall confirmed that the area had been reseeded and when this takes, the fencing can be removed.

Cllr Hall confirmed the intention to put stone gabions around the pond, for the area to be landscaped and fencing to be added. Quotes are being gathered for consideration by the CP Management Group. Applications will be made for grant funding.

The ongoing cost / maintenance of the Country Park was discussed and the implications of Cheddon Fitzpaine PC reducing in size. It was agreed that work to establish a Charity for the Country Park needed to commence as soon as possible.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Country Park Management Group should be scheduled for the beginning of March once the outcome of Cheddon Fitzpaine PCs legal action is clearer.

### **364/22 Community**

#### **a) Update; Approval of Safeguarding Policy**

The Safeguarding Policy which was circulated in advance of the meeting was discussed and a couple of amendments were identified. Subject to these amendments it was resolved to adopt the Safeguarding Policy. Proposed by Cllr Elliston, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.

### **b) Community Garden update**

Cllr Elliston provided an update on the expansion of the Community Garden into 100m<sup>2</sup> of growing area following grant funding being secured.

In quickly putting together the proposal, Cllr Elliston had to design how the space would be used and has now been able to meet with the volunteer team and retrospectively reach agreement on that design.

The intention is to use the new space to grow seasonal vegetables, that will be available throughout the year to support the local community through the community fridge, focusing primarily on the vegetables most commonly eaten in the UK and filling in the time gaps between those with other crops. A 'no dig' permaculture approach is being adopted with not using chemicals and investing in soil health. It might be environmentally sustainable, but it won't be financially sustainable as things stand. For example, as things stand, we'll have to buy in around 2.5 tonnes of compost a year. Likewise, there will be a need to buy seeds in each year, although there is some income potential there as, inevitably, all the seeds won't be used and they could be resold and, inevitably, more seedlings will be produced than can be planted and any extras could also be sold to help cover these costs. There's a question about how this happens when the garden is under the Parish Council umbrella and the bi-annual seed and plant swaps are hosted. It may be the case that it's easiest not to sell but that does leave us with a financial need every year.

In terms of start-up, orders have been placed and 10 tonnes of compost is arriving in February (plus a date of the 25th February to run a community event to create the new beds) and thousands of seeds have been ordered as well as appropriate crop covers and watering equipment. Thanks to links provided by one of our volunteers, we've got cardboard coming from a local company and woodchip from a local tree surgeon.

Before the beds are created, a rainwater harvesting system needs to be created. A couple of IBCs have been sourced, it was agreed that these should be purchased. There is also a need to organise a small work party to install them, having previously agreed how we're going to do this and ordered the necessary bits and pieces to make it happen.

Clerk advised that an expense form had been submitted for the orders placed so far for £1241.58 (including VAT). It was proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Gage and agreed with all in favour to reimburse Cllr Elliston's expenses.

### **c) Community Transport update**

Cllr Elliston reported that a meeting took place last week with Nick Margison from SCC about Community Transport options.

In short, the sense around the table was that, should the Parish Council be minded to push this project further, it should start with some form of community survey to assess need and, taking into account the findings, the Parish Council would probably be looking to set-up an 'uber-style' community transport scheme, where private individuals use their own cars to transport others in the parish in exchange for having their expenses paid. Such a scheme would then have a co-ordinator, who could be a single individual or could be shared between a team of volunteers using a single phone number and call diverting. SCC have a very helpful toolkit to support the development of such schemes and Nick Margison has also pledged to support any scheme starting up and well as facilitating connections with communities that are already running such schemes.

Two added thoughts here are that this could become a LCN-wide project and that we need a sustainable transport solution that is running from the off when MH2 starts, since from experience it is clear that leaving travel to the developers is likely to mean the introduction of a service so late than no-one develops the habit of using it from the start.

Cllr Elliston proposed that the same survey also examines the question of an e-Bike scheme as well. Cllr Elliston confirmed that he has visited some potential suppliers and it seems that a reasonable bike supplied by National e-Bikes, near the Cricket Ground, might be our best option. They have an extensive range and, as a wholesaler as well as a retailer, they always have parts availability. National e-Bikes are willing to handle the changeovers/maintenance between users (proposal is that a user can borrow the bike for a month). There are cheaper options with more limited range and, crucially, increased maintenance difficulties and costs due to the position of the motor in the rear wheel hub, e-bikes around the £2,100 mark seem to be the most sensible choice – German engineering, with quality BOSCH motors. Depreciation on e-Bikes is low, so any risk attached to investing in starting up the project is going to be lower. A component of the project would be to have regular rides with a trained instructor available for users, since many of them will be coming back to cycling after many years and may well lack confidence. Cllr Elliston has made contact with Cycle Somerset who regularly go on rides and one of their trained instructors lives within the parish.

A discussion followed and it was agreed that the insurance requirements of the e-Bike proposal need to be explored but that initially interest in the Community Transport scheme and e-Bikes should be ascertained in a survey.

It was agreed that the survey should be included in the next edition of the Village News and a survey should also be available on survey monkey and shared.

**d) Free Trees Planting**

Discussed at 361/22 b above

**365/22 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision**

**a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 6th February 2023 or 20th February 2023**

Clerk reported that she had met with the new Manager at the Monkton Inn. They have confirmed their interest in having a defibrillator, EV charging points and play equipment installed. Clerk to gather quotes / develop proposals for consideration at a future meeting.

Clerk reported that a request for litter bins at the Cricket Club had been received. Clerk liaising with the Cricket Club about the installation and emptying arrangements for the bins.

Clerk relayed the contents of an email received from the Spital Trust in respect of the boundary behind where the bus shelter was previously located. It was agreed that the request would be considered fully at the next PC meeting and that in the meantime the Clerk would request a copy of the record that the Spital Trust hold of a wall being removed in order for the bus shelter to be installed to justify the spending of public money on its replacement.

Assistant Clerk Community reported that details of grant funding which is available for the Kings Coronation has been released. It was agreed that a Working Party would be established to plan activities for the Kings Coronation. Cllrs Haskins, Elliston, Besley and Gage to form the Working Party. Date for an initial meeting to be agreed.

**b) Annual Report Contributions**

Noted.

**366/22 Dates of forthcoming meetings:**

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2023: 14th Feb, 14th Mar, 11th Apr, 9th May, 13th Jun, 11th Jul, 8th Aug, 12th Sep, 10th Oct, 14th Nov, 12th Dec

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

2023: 28th Feb, 28th Mar, 25th Apr, 23rd May, 27th Jun, 25th Jul, 26th Sep, 24th Oct, 28th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 20th January 2023 at 9.30am

Annual Parish Meeting: 21st March 2023

BACH committee 19th January 2023 at 7pm

Budget and Precept TBC November 2023

Meeting finished at 9.05pm

  
Signed Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023