



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 26th July 2022 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk, Mrs T Cavill, Assistant Clerk, Mrs K Welsh Assistant Clerk Community, Andy Pulleyn (Tacchi Morris Arts Centre)

Before the meeting commenced, Andy Pulleyn from Tacchi Morris Arts Centre gave a presentation providing an update on the Community Café and LED Lighting projects that the Parish Council has supported and an overview of the upcoming project to upgrade the upstairs bar area. The cost of the bar upgrade is expected to be around £30k of which the Tacchi Morris Trust has offered £15k towards if match funding can be obtained. Assistant Clerk Community to share the grant funding opportunities with Andy Pulleyn. It was agreed that an item would be added to the September PC meeting agenda to receive an update on progress with grant applications.

217/22 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities

Apologies were received from Cllrs Hall and Tully.

218/22 To note

- a) Declarations of Interest: None
- b) Dispensation Requests: None
- c) Amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: none had been notified to the Clerk.

219/22 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 12th July 2022

The minutes from the meeting of the Parish Council on 12th July 2022, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 12th July, proposed by Cllr Elliston, seconded by Cllr Cavill and agreed by show of hands.

Public Question Time

Cllr Cavill reported that although the netting around the Cricket Club has been lifted higher in most areas there is an area near the club house where it hasn't been, unfortunately 4 balls have landed in a garden in Hob Close. The Cricket Club are now looking at ways to raise the netting for this section. Some funding for this may be needed.

Cllr Haskins raised the diversion route in use during the Creech Castle night time road closures. It would appear that an old map was used directing traffic through Monkton Heathfield rather than on the ERR / WRR. The error has been raised with SCC by Cllr Fothergill.

Clerk reported that Andy Coupe from SCC had been in contact requesting locations that the Parish Council would like traffic counting to be carried out following the completion of the Creech Castle works. The following locations were suggested:

Clerk to confirm suggested locations with Andy Coupe at SCC.

- Greenway
- Bawler Road
- Dosters Lane
- Blundells Lane
- Milton Hill
- Monkton Heathfield Road at Yallands Hill, Garden Centre and Bus Stop (near the Merry Monk)
- WRR – Farriers Green area, Country Park area and near DWH development
- A38 / Bridgwater Road - Between Creech Castle and Canal Roundabout
- ERR – between Canal roundabout and Hardys Road roundabout and between Monkton elm roundabout and Langaller roundabout.

Cllr Haskins raised the possibility of hiring out the PC SID to other Parish Councils in the future.

Cllr Elliston reported that speedwatch volunteers have seen a reduction in speeding on Greenway since the scheme has been in place.

Cllr Elliston raised the ragwort growing on the Coker land.

Assistant Clerk reported that the Somerset Rivers Authority have given approval for the Leaky Dams proposed work at the Country Park. The forms have been signed and returned. Work should now be scheduled.

Cllr Haskins requested an update regarding the hedge cut back at Bathpool. Assistant Clerk confirmed that there was no news and that the SWT officer is on annual leave.

Clerk to write to Coker Engineering requesting removal of the ragwort.

220/22 Planning

a) To consider planning applications received

48/22/0005: Demolition of garage/workshop and erection of 1 No. detached dwelling with garages and associated alterations to access on land west of Church Hill, West Monkton (resubmission of 48/21/0005)

PC Comments:

The Parish Council notes the amendment and that the title of the access track appears to be disputed.

48/22/0042 Erection of a single storey extension to the rear of 123 Farriers Green, Monkton Heathfield
Assistant Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the Planning Officer confirming that on inspection of the site, only one small shrub will be affected by the application.

The Parish Council was content that the small shrub could be removed and a replacement planted.

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

Noted.

221/22 Community Governance Review to form Taunton Town Council consultation update

Clerk confirmed that a response to the second consultation in respect of the Community Governance Review to form Taunton Town Council was drafted and circulated. Some minor amendments were made and the response has been finalised and submitted to SWT as the consultation closes today.

SWT Full Council will consider the CGR at a meeting in September.

222/22 MH Developments

a) MH2 update

Clerk to schedule a further meeting with Persimmon / Redrow at the end of August.

b) MH1 update:

Clerk reported that Persimmon have a meeting with SWT regarding the S106 variation on 9th August. Cllr Hope reported that the play area repairs haven't been completed and expressed disappointment that they haven't been completed prior to the school holidays. Clerk to follow up with Persimmon.

c) Sports Pitches Update

Plans developed by Cllr Hall for the Sports Pitches were shared. Cllr Hall provided the following update prior to the meeting:

Consultation with Cricket Club and with the owner of the house alongside the sports pitches, they both have no problem with layout or with floodlighting. I have allowed a 4M strip alongside their property (from centre line of existing hedge to allow maintenance of his hedge which he will maintain and install fence. Not shown on drawings yet are tree planting and net on top of banking alongside their property to stop any wayward shots, probably only 8ft tall screened from there side by tree planting which will also shield floodlighting.

Currently in discussions with Cllr Haskins and it is felt that the positioning of the pavilion angled between the 2 sports pitches is still the better option with a sitting out area on the roof for the sports involved.

Eight trial trenches were dug on 22nd July. All mainly good except one area according to Tom Jones of WT & RJ Jones from Wellington pitch construction specialists. A quote is now being prepared to give costs to prepare pitches.

d) Hartnells Farm Development Update

Cllr Haskins confirmed that the contractors are expecting to be on site until Christmas as Persimmon keep finding additional work to do on site. Foundations are in for the last house of the phases currently being built. Cllr Cavill provided an update on phosphates issues. SWT have secured phosphate mitigation, approved by Natural England, through water saving devices. SWT are offering phosphate mitigation at £55k per kilo of mitigation. This could help builders get going again. A letter from Defra has also been received outlining the intention to put millions of pounds into water treatment plants which will also help to unblock planning applications stuck in the planning system.

Cllr Gage reported that some of the trees in the Hartnells Development are dying.

223/22 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Assistant Clerk reported that the Independent Examiner has now completed her report which has been published and circulated. Ann Rhodes at SWT has completed the suggested amendments and provided copies to the Ward Councillors and Portfolio Holder. The formal process of having a referendum for the NP has commenced - the date of the referendum will be confirmed in due course. It was agreed that a PR exercise was needed locally to encourage people to vote. Assistant Clerk confirmed that the new NP will be much stronger in respect of the MH2 planning application particularly in respect of design and climate impact.

224/22 Community Development Projects**a) CIL Projects:****Speed Indicator Device: Update**

Clerk confirmed that the SID is currently located at Milton Hill, the SID will remain at this location for another week or so and then the results will be circulated.

Land next to new Primary School: Update

No update received from Persimmon / Redrow.

Clerk raised the land next to the old Primary School and reports received from members of the public about it being overgrown. Cllr Besley agreed to cut the area as best he can with a tractor and flail and consideration would then be given to instructing Mowgate to deal with any brambles.

BACH Extension: Update.

Clerk confirmed that there was no update and that a response was awaited from the Diocese.

A38 Bridgwater Road Pavement: Update

Assistant Clerk confirmed that there was no update, the officer at SWT is currently on leave.

225/22 Country Park Update

Clerk confirmed that a request was received last week from the legal advisors acting for SWT for copies of both PC minutes showing resolutions to sign the lease / deed of covenant and statutory declaration. Clerk confirmed that the minutes were sent through last week. Upon receipt the SWT Legal Advisors pointed out that CFPC Minutes were in draft form pending approval at the next PC meeting. A further update is awaited. Cllr Cavill agreed to chase the matter and reported that he had been given assurance from Cllr Rigby that the lease would be signed by the end of July.

Cllr Gage reported that he has been cutting the grass at the County Park, areas 1 and 2 need a further cut. Clerk confirmed that Cllr Hall had met with the PCSO at the County Park regarding the damage to the Forest School structure. The PCSO is going to meet with the witness of the damage to obtain a statement to enable further action to be taken against the individuals concerned. Some improvements to the structure to prevent further damage have been suggested. A quote for these works will be available for the next meeting.

226/22 Environmental

a) Climate Initiative Programme update

Clerk confirmed that a new programme of activities from September is in process of being developed.

Cllr Elliston reported that a bus campaign by SCC is starting in September which should be included in the programme so that the PC can share the social media coverage.

Clerk reported that coverage of the Community Fridge is going into the Somerset County Gazette newspaper on 11th August.

b) Feedback from Climate Change Conference

Cllr Elliston provided feedback on the Frome Climate Change Conference:

The event, organised by Frome Town Council, was organised to showcase their Green & Healthy Future project and explore win-win-wins in terms of Community, Health and Climate. Each of these areas has funding restrictions, so looking for synergies is vital. They stressed that this search has to break the mould of business as usual, because business as usual isn't delivering the changes to a more sustainable and healthier way of living. There is a lot going on in Frome

They have lots of community participation including in setting Town Council budgets, developing a climate action plan and so forth.

They have 150 people who are trained as Green Community Connectors, which frankly made me green with envy. These volunteers are able to signpost others to the various eco and community projects going on. In partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, they have energy advice sessions and a group of volunteer Energy Advice Champions. Ian Preston from the Centre for Sustainable Energy was present and spoke about how, above all and out of all of the energy solutions out there, insulation is the most key. We need to focus not on producing more through PV panels etc, but on using less. To this end, they are developing a retrofit Somerset website at present, which should provide helpful advice, guidance and links, so this would be a good one to keep an eye on.

They have a Cycle Together scheme, which we might like to consider too. It provides community members with the opportunity to try out a loaned e-bike and equipment for a period of 4 weeks, during which they also get to join a cycling group with a cycle instructor if they wish. They've had good feedback, there's a long waiting list and the impact includes less journeys being made in the car.

And there's also Edventure, which is a community enterprise which seeks to support community entrepreneurship, educate community and engage in storytelling. Lots of initiatives are supported by Edventure, of which their community fridge is one. They got there by having an online brainstorm of ideas, then 3 ideas events and now have weekly meetings to chew over the ideas and take them forward. They've also challenged the business community to think about how they can put sustainability and health at the heart of their enterprises. I got to hear about 4 more of their other initiatives in some depth of which I'll speak about 3:

- “Everyone Needs Pockets” – 20% of all global waste is generated by the fashion and garment industry, making it the 3rd highest polluting business area. It’s estimated that there are currently enough clothes in existence to clothe the next 8 generations. In the face of such shocking statistics and, in the knowledge that reuse and repair is much better even than recycling, this group has a clothes library, a swap shop, a repair café, they teach sewing and have jumble trails – tables set out at the end of people’s driveways. Given those stats, I think that this would be a good area for us to think about too.
- “Frome Food Network” aims to make the local food system more accessible, equitable and sustainable. They provide information for producers on marketing and regenerative agriculture, they’ve just started a seed library, they aim for more local food on local shelves and organise “meet your growers” events, they’re influencing schools to change their menus and aiming for a “Sustainable Food Place” award.
- Frome Families for the Future, which is a group of young activist families concerned about climate change. They’ve done things like protests in front of Barclays Bank (at their unethical investment policy), have a Climate Superhero Stall at Fetes and Fairs, where people take their picture as a superhero in exchange for making climate commitments. They also organise litter picks, hoedowns, take to the streets to promote plastic free sanitary products and organise Eco Councils in local schools.

One thing that came out throughout the day was that community needs to be strengthened as a priority. I came away feeling that they are doing a lot and able to do it because there is a strong sense of community. They suggested helping to boost this through training and mentoring, through encouraging groups to form and creating as many opportunities for participation and empowerment as possible. And, on that note, through the whole day, a final common theme was an encouragement to consider who is not in the room; who is being excluded and doesn’t have a place at the table and a voice in the debate.

Following Cllr Elliston’s report a discussion took place about the possible initiatives that the Parish Council could explore / take forward including:

- A clothes swap, possibly as part of the Community Café.
- A bike/transport initiative. Cllr Elliston confirmed that nearly half of Somerset emissions due to transport Cllr Elliston to explore bike loaning with Mike Ginger from TMAC and Jim at National Bikes to see if they will loan bikes.

227/22 Community

a) Update

Cllr Elliston confirmed that he had nothing further to report.

b) Community Fridge update

Assistant Clerk Community reported that everything is going well and that a meeting has taken place with volunteers this evening. Sometimes there is a lot of stuff donated from Co-Op in one go which can be difficult for one volunteer to collect. Co-op have been requested to take a picture of the items to make it easier to establish how many volunteers are needed for the collection.

Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that she went to the Primary School and talked about the community fridge, the students asked lots of questions about the initiative. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that she is going to try to link in with the School Council to get students ideas on other initiatives.

Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that the turnover of food in the fridge is really high, that people are really engaged and that Children’s books in particular are going really quickly. Posters are going up at the allotments requesting surplus fresh produce and new volunteers are coming forward. Applications have been made for Fairshare and volunteers from Olio are also leaving food at the fridge.

Environmental Health are coming tomorrow to inspect the fridge tomorrow. Cllr Haskins confirmed that he would add the strip to the bottom of the door before the inspection.

Cllr Haskins reported that gravel is needed to complete the area, approximately 1-2 tons.

Clerk reported that items have been purchased from Bookers to the value of £106.72 for the fridge to ensure that there is something always available. The donation provided by a local business to purchase food for families in need will be used to cover this expenditure. Clerk requested authorisation to reimburse Assistant Clerk Community for the expenditure at Bookers. This was approved.

It was suggested that due to the number of people visiting the fridge, it would be a good location to site a noticeboard – Cllr Haskins to look into. It was noted that an A Board was available in the shipping container at the Country Park which could be used to promote the fridge. Assistant Clerk Community to liaise with Cllr Hall.

c) Community Café Update

Assistant Clerk Community reported that the Community Café was opened for Year 6 parents today for their last day at school and it was really busy.

Generally the Community Café on a Wednesday is getting busier as word spreads.

The collection of donations for refreshments was discussed and it was noted that one of the Parish Councils financial safeguards was not to have petty cash. If it appears that PC is receiving money then it needs to be accounted for. It was agreed to not collect donations for refreshments but instead put a notice up confirming that the PC provides the café free of charge but asking those that would like to make a donation to do so by buying something for the Community Fridge.

d) Community Garden Update

Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that Monkton Elm were looking at delivering and erecting the beds this week but a date hasn't been confirmed. It is hoped that the beds will be in place in the next couple of weeks, once they are people who are interested in getting involved will be invited to a meeting so that they can suggest what can be planted and take ownership of the community garden.

e) Community Transport update

Cllr Elliston provided an update on the Bus Back Better and Bus Service Improvement Plan initiatives that the PC contributed to. Essentially, the consultant looking at Somerset's buses have recognised that they were in a mess and asked for the Department for Transport for £163m out of the £3bn pot that had been announced. In the end, that pot was reduced to £1.1bn and Somerset was granted £11.9m which is really still to be spent. However, in the meantime, there has been a reduction in services or total withdrawal of a number of services across the county at a time when the cost of living crisis is making people think twice about using cars and whilst 50% of CO2 emissions in the county are generated on the roads. None directly affect this area at the moment, but there is the prospect of more cuts across Somerset in October as the COVID-related subsidies for buses come to an end. Ultimately with buses it's a case of use it or lose it so, led by the County Council, there is a CATCH THE BUS campaign running in September. There was a meeting last night about promoting this locally, and I have a link to a campaign pack which is mainly social media based to add into the Climate Initiative Programme.

f) Community Events update

Assistant Clerk Community reported that three events are planned at Tacchi Morris. Two quizzes, one in September and one in November and a Christmas celebration on 14th December.

A quiz master is needed for the Quizzes.

A band is available for the Christmas Celebration at a reduced cost of £200.00. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that the event would be ticketed. Assistant Clerk Community to check the safe capacity limit for the area with Tacchi Morris to see if a small amount for the tickets could be charged to cover the cost of the band. It was proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Cavill and all agreed by show of hands to proceed with booking the band at a cost of £200.00.

228/22 Other matters for report only – items for discussion - no decision

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 1st August 2022

Noted.

Cllr Ellis and Haskins confirmed that Councillors and Assistant Clerk Community attended the Spital Trust Tea Party on 15th July.

b) Reduction to one meeting a month in August and December.

Cllr Haskins outlined a suggestion to reduce the number of PC meetings in August and December to one so that only the meeting on the second Tuesday of the month takes place covering all matters that would normally be discussed at the first and second meetings. The suggestion was agreed.

Confidential Session

(Due to confidential negotiations with the Developer).

229/22 MH1 Tree planting, Play Park remedials, POS adoption and Sports Pitches update

As above (item 222/22b above)

Tree watering was discussed. It was reported that a few more volunteers were needed. It was noted that the next watering session would be taking place on Monday evening at 6pm. Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that she is trying to establish a wider volunteer Whatsapp group where a call for volunteers to help with watering would be added.

(Due to confidential negotiations regarding the lease)

230/22 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2022: 9th Aug, 13th Sep, 11th Oct, 8th Nov, 13th Dec.

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

2022: 27th Sep, 25th Oct, 22nd Nov.

Audit Working Party: 22nd July 2022 at 9.00am (Virtual)

Annual Parish Meeting: March 2023 TBC

BACH committee: 20th September 2022 at 7pm

Budget and Precept Working Party TBC November 2022 at 7pm

Noting that the Parish Council meeting was the last meeting for Tricia Cavill due to her retirement at the end of July, Cllr Haskins thanked Tricia for everything that she has done for the Parish Council during her almost 18 years working for the Council.

Meeting finished at 9.55pm

Signed Chairman: *A. Hall*

Date: 9th August 2022