



West Monkton Parish Council

Planning Committee 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 7.00pm

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021 at 7.00pm at the BACH.

Present: Cllrs Besley (from 8.05pm), Cavill, Elliston, Hall, Haskins, Hope and Tully.

Apologies: Cllr Gage.

In attendance: Mrs A Shepherd, Clerk and Mrs T Cavill, Assistant Clerk.

**1. Planning applications**

Any applications registered on SWT website up to and including 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

14/21/0024 Application for Outline Planning with all matters reserved, except for access and landscaping, for the erection of up to 35 No. dwellings with associated works, formation of access, landscaping, ground engineering and drainage works on land to the west of Derham Close, Creech St Michael.

Parish Council comment: as the neighbouring parish, West Monkton Parish Council offers the following observations on the application.

- WM&CF NP Policy R1 Dark Skies should be applied: therefore, all lighting should be LED and downlit including external lighting on dwelling houses. The footpaths from the site joining into the network of local footpaths should have low level lighting with PIR (Passive Infra-red sensor).
- WM&CF NP Policy R3 Flood attenuation should be applied, therefore rainwater capture from roofs must be applied either by swales or water butts or other means.

48/21/0041/T Application to carry out management works to one Holm Oak tree included in Taunton Deane Borough (West Monkton No.1) Tree Preservation Order 1998 at Little Marlows, Blundells Lane, West Monkton (TD775)

West Monkton Parish Council has no comment on this application.

48/21/0045/AGN Application for prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building for storage of machinery at Overton House, Coombe Lane, West Monkton

West Monkton Parish Council has no comment on this application.

48/21/0047 Erection of a steel framed agricultural building to accommodate a rotary milking parlour at Quantock Farm, West Monkton

West Monkton Parish Council has no comment on this application.

**2. Bus Back Better Scheme**

Cllr Elliston confirmed that he attended two webinars with the Assistant Clerk. £4bn of funding has been released by Government focussed on improving bus services. Each County must develop a Bus Service Improvement Plan which must be submitted to Government by mid-September. To inform the plan SCC are requesting feedback by 15<sup>th</sup> August.

Cllr Elliston suggested gathering views from Parishioners to inform the feedback that the Parish Council provides. It was agreed at the Cllr Elliston would develop a survey through Survey Monkey to share on the local social media groups.

Draft Parish Council feedback, incorporating the views of Parishioners, will be discussed and approved at the August Parish Council Meeting.

Cllr Elliston also raised the issue of the lack of public transport available in rural communities and suggested that the Parish Council could investigate operating a service similar to Wivey Link in West Monkton and possibly operate the service jointly with neighbouring parishes. It was agreed that further investigation would take place and a discussion of this project alongside other items that the Parish Council would like to have devolved to it through the Local Government Reorganisation would be discussed at the September Planning Committee Meeting.

### **3. Community Update**

#### **Community Funding Opportunity – Expression of Interest**

The information regarding the Parish and Town Councils Opening Up Safely and Reconnecting Communities Fund was circulated in advance of the meeting and discussed including possible items to include in the application for funding.

The possibility of paying members of the community to gather responses to the Parish Council community questionnaire by visiting residents was discussed. The implications of this idea including adding members of the community to the payroll, GDPR implications from the gathering of personal information from residents were discussed. It was agreed that these issues needed further investigation.

Discussion took place about developing a leaflet to go to every household in the Parish launching the work the Parish Council is doing to engage the community including the Monkton Matters website to raise its profile and the community questionnaire to gather interest including identifying some community champions who are interested in helping with the questionnaire.

The cost of the leaflet and its delivery to be established to include on the Fund application form. If the cost is less than £1500.00 the cost of the Monkton Matters website build will also be included. Application to be discussed again at the August Parish Council Meeting.

#### **Website Update**

Clerk shared the Monkton Matters website to show progress. A discussion took place and it was agreed that a request would be made to Somerset Web Services to add the Author and Publication date to each news article.

Website to be launched as soon as possible.

### **4. Speed Indicator Device (SID)**

Clerk shared the information that she had gathered from SCC in relation to the Parish Council purchasing and operating a SID in the Parish. Clerk also shared two quotes for SIDs gathered from companies recommended by SCC.

It was agreed that the purchase of a SID would be added to the Parish Council meeting agenda for approval. In preparation for the meeting Clerk to liaise with SCC about potential locations in the Parish to operate the SID. Locations identified by Councillors included: Bawler Road, Hardys Road, Pippin Road, WRR, ERR, Greenway, Goosenford, A3259 and Milton Hill. It was noted that some of these were unadopted roads; Clerk to check with SCC to see if it is possible to operate a SID on an unadopted road.

### **5. MH1 Ragwort**

Clerk outlined the communication that had taken place with Persimmon about removing the ragwort on the ERR. Persimmon have provided assurances that it will be removed but to date its removal hasn't taken place. Clerk outlined enquiries made about possible enforcement mechanisms. A complaint form can be completed and submitted to Natural England. Clerk presented the form and the questions / information to be included in the form.

It was agreed that the Clerk would complete and submit the complaint form to Natural England on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **6. Local Government Re-Organisation Update**

Cllr Haskins confirmed that a meeting with neighbouring parishes and representatives of SCC had taken place on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July. Nearly all the parishes contacted were in attendance at the meeting. The meeting

was very informative. Clerk to share the notes from the meeting with Councillors. It was agreed that further discussion regarding LGR and the possible assets and services that the Parish Council would like devolved from the Unitary Authority needed to take place and that an item would be added to the September Planning Committee agenda to begin discussions.

#### **7. Sports Pitches Update**

Cllr Hall provided an update. Cllr Hall confirmed that he had highlighted with Simon Fox at SWT during the WM Liaison Meeting that the FA seem to have too much control of the situation and are hampering the ability to move forward with the Sports Pitch proposals. Simon Fox confirmed that the FA had indicated that a way forward may be to include 2 junior football pitches in the Sports Pitch proposals. Cllr Hall confirmed that he had already developed a plan to enable the inclusion of junior pitches but it had previously been dismissed. Cllr Hall to share the plan with Simon Fox. Simon Fox had also indicated that the possibility of requiring two junior pitches as part of the Land South of Langaller Farm Design Guide may also be an option.

#### **8. Neighbourhood Plan Progress Update**

Assistant Clerk confirmed that Ann Rhodes at SWT is making enquiries to see if there is a way that the NP can progress without the need for another HRA. The concern is that if a further HRA is required progress would be slowed significantly. The outcome of Ann Rhodes enquiries is awaited.

#### **9. Country Park**

This agenda item will be held in camera, members of the public and Councillors with conflicting interests participating in the virtual meeting are kindly requested to leave the meeting at this point.

Cllr Hall provided an update.

Cllr Cavill confirmed that the safer route to school through the Country Park is progressing well. Plans have been drawn up and a site meeting had taken place with Andy Coupe from SCC. Costings for the route have been developed and shared with Councillors. Cllr Cavill confirmed that there is a need to move forward with the work to install the path quickly to ensure that it is available before the schools go back in September. The plan is to commence work in the third week of August. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council would likely need to cover the whole cost of the works.

Cllr Hall provided an update on the consultation event at the Country Park. 240 people attended. Copies of the feedback forms are awaited from Rural Solutions.

#### **10. Other Matters Discussed**

Cllr Hope requested an update in relation to the land next to the old West Monkton Primary School. The land is quickly becoming overgrown with brambles again. Assistant Clerk confirmed that the Lengthsman has been tasked with strimming and spraying the area. Assistant Clerk to follow up progress.

Cllr Hope raised the point discussed at the WM Liaison Meeting regarding the MH2 road network. A discussion took place about the implications.

There being no other business to discuss the meeting finished at 9.30pm.