

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on 18 October 2010 at 7pm

Parish Council: Cllr Kevin Murphy (KLM) (Chairman), Cllr Lyn Alvis (LA),
Cllr Ray Franks (RF), Cllr Alison Bossom (AB),
Cllr Alison Sturgess-Durden (ASD), Mrs Jane Angell Clerk

Others Present: Richard Jones Cotswold Voluntary Warden.

1 **APOLOGIES:** None

2 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

3 **MINUTES**

Minutes from Normal Meeting 9th September 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4 **Cotswold Voluntary Wardens:** Richard Jones explained there are two volunteer wardens covering Monkton Combe, Limpley Stoke and Winsley. The Cotswolds Conservation Board is the organisation that exists to conserve and enhance the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Contact details were passed to the Clerk. Run by a board the organisation has 6 permanent staff based in Gloucester with 350 to 400 voluntary wardens covering 4 areas of the Cotswold AONB. . Monkton Combe is in the oldest and largest AONB. The Cotswold AONB falls under the umbrella of Natural England. The organisation operates in 4 ways: 1) provision of volunteer parish wardens, 2) running guided walks, 3) organising works parties and 4) publicity events and education.

The volunteers aim to walk the footpaths of the area twice yearly and will report back to the Head Warden and liaise with parish councils, landowners and the highways agency to advise on repairs and maintenance work where necessary. Funding may also be available from the Countryside Fund for certain projects of ‘local importance and interest’ such as renewing a stile or a gate, benches or restoration work. The wardens welcome information from a parish council advising of any damage, to walls, paths etc. Other activities carried out by the volunteers include guided walks with themes which are lead by trained volunteers. They can also organise volunteer working parties for tree planting, dry stone walling and clearance and have access to tools and materials etc. . The specific aim is to protect and maintain the beauty of the AONB for all to enjoy. Whilst being a non-political organisation they will comment upon proposals that may have a significant visual impact upon the AONB and public rights of way.

Further information may be found on the Cotswold AONB website and in The Cotswold Lion newspaper Richard was thanked by the Chairman for his time and informative talk and left the meeting at 7.35pm.

5 **MATTERS ARISING:**

a. **Monkton Combe School**

- LA • Traffic in village – The possibility of introducing Community Speed Watch was discussed at length at the Annual Meeting. The general consensus of the Parish Council was that it was not a workable option. Traffic in the village will be on the agenda for the meeting with Amanda

Approved and signed 1st December 2010:

Chairman: Cllr Kevin Murphy

Cracknell (Bursar). Clerk contacted B&NES Traffic & Safety asking for a visit to see if there would be a suitable site to locate a VAS (vehicle activated sign) to reinforce the speed limit through the village. A reply from Chris Merchant, Traffic Technician advised that as a department they would have to justify the cost of installing a VAS and would be unable to arrange anymore until the next financial year. They were not aware of any particular issues within the parish that would prioritise this to the top of their list. Monkton Combe is on the temporary VAS rotation list and he would ensure that it remains on this list. – *Clerk to reply with thanks and ask when we would have temporary use of the VAS as it would be useful to know.*

Clerk

**LA/
KLM**

- Music Block planning application: *Discussed under Planning.*
- Monkton Mill Cllr Alvis contacted Amanda Cracknell (bursar) to enquire whether the School may have plans to acquire it and was advised they are interested. – *On the agenda for the forthcoming meeting with Amanda Cracknell.*
- A liaison meeting with Cllr Murphy and Cllr Alvis is to be set up with Amanda Cracknell in due course. *Cllr Alvis will continue to liaise with secretary to arrange.*

ASD Footpath alongside Monkton Combe Prep School / Combe Down Allotments.

Stuart Ballard of B&NES is discussing a proposal with Monkton School to have the path re-surfaced and bollards installed. Cllr Alvis has spoken to Stuart Ballard who advised this is on the Capital Plan for this year. Advised to speak to Colin Hudson (B&NES) to check that it was on the list. Cllr Alvis has spoken to Colin Hudson who advised that due to cost cutting requirements it cannot be confirmed that this will go ahead as planned. Cllr Sturgess-Durden has written to the Prep School to ask if they could write a letter to all users of the road asking them not to drive on the public footpath. The letter also asked if the path inside the fence on school property could be used by pedestrians at peak times when school traffic is heavy. . Cllr Sturgess-Durden has received a reply advising that a letter had been written by the headmaster to all parents and sports club members requesting car users not to mount the path. They also advised that the one way system is being re-instated and within the next two years it is intended to improve access. It is not possible to grant use of the footpath on school property to the public due to The Child Protection Act. *Cllr Alvis will speak again to Stu Ballard regarding the poor state of the footpath also speak to Richard Jones (Cotswold Voluntary Warden). Cllr Sturgess-Durden to send a copy of the response letter to Stu Ballard and request the possibility of a sign being installed asking not to drive on the footpath. Also respond to Amanda Cracknell advising that as a sports club member she had not received the letter, to suggest additional signage and the temporary use of mobile bollards to distinguish between the road and the path as the kerbs have were lost when the road was resurfaced by the school.*

LA

ASD

KLM Mill Leat – *It was agreed that this item would be revisited by the Parish Council in the spring when the future of the Mill was known.*

LA Fencing on Summer Lane- Barbed wire section – Cllr Alvis to continue to chase Nick Sperring (B&NES) as it is considered a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists.

Fencing further up Summer Lane toward Combe Down – B&NES have agreed this is in a poor state. Cllr Alvis has also discussed this with Nick Sperring who advised that B&NES Council will remove knocked down bollards and replace with new but no further progress as yet. Cllr Alvis has also contacted Cllr Symonds (Combe Down Ward) who will attempt to move this forward. *Cllr Alvis to chase.*

AB Brassknocker Hill – Water is flowing onto road again above S bend presumably because gully is blocked. *Cllr Bossom will contact Council Connect to take action. .*

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KLM Mapping Seminar / Parish Online - The opportunity for a Parish Plan was discussed at the Annual Meeting at which those present thought it worth considering Parish mapping, in association with B&NES and Bath Spa University. The Chairman considered ‘Parish Online’ could be a useful tool as it would be possible to add the position of such items as grit bins, signage and benches etc in the village which could be numbered for easy reference. A link from the Monkton Combe website may be possible for the public to access for information. Chairman will consider further and it was agreed this item becomes a key agenda item for future meetings. *To be added to agenda*

AB Phone Box – Future use as a phone box remains under threat the Parish Council will continue to gather ideas for its future use. – To be made a future agenda item.

AB Grit Bins – awaiting refill. – *Cllr Bossom to email Council Connect to request for them to be refilled.*

KLM Schedule of Roles & Responsibilities Document – The previously issued draft format for the minutes and the agenda was discussed. This includes review dates (also correlating to audit procedures identified by the village risk assessment) and the specific allocation of responsibilities. This might include, for example, all hedges to be monitored by one Cllr (with input gathered from others across the village) for discussion and action. In this particular instance the monitoring would be undertaken prior to the recommended time for hedge trimming to ensure protection of wildlife and associated habitat. This should hopefully simplify matters ensuring that all Parish Council responsibilities continue to be properly covered and items do not accidentally get over looked. The Chairman will do a revised draft, allocating responsibilities, to circulate for comment and additional suggestions of how it may work – *to be discussed at next meeting.*

KLM Viaduct Pub – The Chairman has contacted agents and been advised that it is still on the market.

6. PLANNING

a. APPLICATIONS

Course Of Old Somerset Coal Canal, Warminster Road. 10/02577/FUL

Change of use of land from car park to the stationing of 15 no touring caravans for a period of no more than 7 days each year during July and August. Application still pending consideration by B&NES.

Music Block Monkton Combe School Church Lane. 10/ 03615/FUL

Alterations and extensions to existing music school to provide new teaching practice and recording rooms and rehearsal and performance space together with landscaping. The Parish Council submitted Comments Only considering the proposals generally to be an improvement. Concerns were expressed regarding the issue of noise nuisance to local residents including the addition of an outside performance area that was not on the master plan. Some concerns regarding light impact were also raised together with some design issues that it was felt may, at a later date, become unsightly from Mill Lane if special consideration was not given to the specification of materials used. There were also comments raised about car parking numbers and the use of an existing entrance at the bottom of Mill Lane which no residents could remember previously being used as an entrance or exit for the car park. There was concern that if this was brought into use this could increase the traffic on the very narrow Mill Lane.

Parcel 0022 Brassknocker Hill Monkton Combe 10/3477/REM

Removal of Condition 1 of application 05/01929/REN (Retention of field shelter) – Pending Consideration by B&NES

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Mulberry Cottage Mill Lane 10/04113/TCA

- b. **KLM** Fell Leyland Cypress – The Parish Council RESOVLED to raise no objection.

Parish Planning Procedures – The Chairman will update Procedures in line with emerging procedures from B&NES – *for discussion at next meeting*

c.

Summer Lane Chicken Farm It was noted that a new shed has appeared on site. – *to be monitored*

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HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS

Closure of the footpath at the bottom of Mill Lane notices have been sent out to residents.

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CORRESPONDENCE

Clerk

ALCA Training Calendar – New Clerks Course 23 Nov 2010 – The Clerk confirmed a place on the course had been booked.

Barclays – *The Clerk confirmed that the Bond had been automatically re-invested.*

Computershare – Change of address – Clerk to ask for more information from previous Clerk.

B&NES - Quarterly Play Area Inspection – Will be circulated in Red Box for review.

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CLUSTER / LIASION MEETING

RF

Police Parish Forum – 6 October 2010 – Radstock Police Station - Minutes to be added to Red Box for information. Cllr Franks attended the meeting and summarised the key relevant items as follows:

- Halloween posters will be sent to all Clerks for distribution at local discretion. Can be used by those who do not wish to receive “trick or treat” visits.
- Police New Edition 3 is now in the red box. The first three editions were supposed to have been delivered to each household in the area but distributor failures prevented this happening.
- Beat Surgeries – Not well attended and may have to be scaled back. Clerks may be asked when would be the best time with a view to meeting as many locals as possible.

RF

Next Pact Meeting – **Next meeting 22 November 2010** – Cllr Franks will attend.

Next Police Parish Meeting – **19 January 2011** - Cllr Franks will attend.

RF

ALCA (Avon Local Councils Association) – (B&NES Group) - Meeting 29 September 2010 – Timsbury – Cllr Franks attended and the Minutes will be added to Red Box. In summary:

- Due to seriously depleted income following the resignation of four large councils and one medium sized council this year the future of ALCA is uncertain.
- At the Executive Committee Meeting on 26th August 2010 a “Way Forward Working Party” was set up consisting of one representative of each of the three groups (B&NES, North Somerset, and South Gloucestershire) chaired by a NALC representative. The working party concluded that ALCA was no longer sustainable for financial reasons and recommended its dissolution.
- It proposed that the B&NES and North Somerset groups should join Somerset LCA and South Gloucestershire group should join Gloucestershire LCA.
- A straw poll at the meeting indicated that by 21 votes to nil the B&NES group accepted the Working Party’s recommendations to dissolve ALCA at 31 March 2011.

ALCA AGM - The Folk Centre, Filton 14 October 2010 – minutes to be added to red box when available. In summary:

- The “Way Forward Working Party” presented its report. Following a lengthy discussion it was

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agreed that a Special General Meeting (SGM) to discuss ALCA’s future be convened.

- As neither the North Somerset Group nor the South Gloucestershire Group had yet met to discuss the report the SGM would be held once they had had their meetings.
- The ALCA Executive and in particular the treasurer, made an impassioned plea to allow ALCA to continue in a revised format.
- Should the SGM happen to be called in the first two weeks of November Cllr Franks would not be able to attend but it would be beneficial if someone could attend.

Parish Liaison Meeting – Next Meeting 20 October 2010 – Cllr Alvis will attend.

LA

Celebrating Excellence: The Chairman has been invited by B&NES Chairman Cllr Sarah Bevan to attend the opening of an exhibition celebrating the work of the parish and town councils outside of Bath. Chairman will attend on 27 October.

KLM

LA Valley Parishes Alliance – Next Meeting 4 November 2010 at 12.30 potentially at Monkton Combe Village Hall.

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BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

Payments	30.09.10	760a	Jane Angell	Salary	83.33
	01.10.10	760b	Ian Croker	Village Cleaning	243.31
	01.10.10	760c	B&NES	Car Parking	22.00
	18.10.10	761	Mazars	Audit Work	164.50
	18.10.10	762	Jeff Avis	Gardening	75.00
	18.10.10	763	Ray Franks	Mileage	48.10
	18.10.10	764	Jane Angell	Postage/Ink	17.25
Receipts	10.09.10	208	B&NES	Village Cleaning	243.31
	30.09.10	209	Nat West	Interest Sept 10	0.28
	30.09.10	210	Nat West	Interest Sept 10	0.29

Account Balances as at 30.09.10

Current Acc	100.00
Reserve Acc (Miss Davis)	2213.18
Reserve Acc (MCPC)	6639.20

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RED BOX

Nothing urgent to report.

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ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AB

Additional Councillors – The Parish Council is considering expanding to seven Councillors. It was agreed that a note would be placed in the Parish newsletter to determine the level of interest. Suggestions for potential candidates were discussed – *to be discussed further at next meeting.*

RF

Cllr Franks announced that he would not be seeking re-election on the 5th May 2011 and that if it would help the Parish Council he would be prepared to resign at 31 March 2011 to enable a replacement to be found. . – *To be discussed at the next meeting.*

Clerk

Date for Annual Meeting May 2011 – *to be arranged at next meeting.*

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Crossroad sign at the top of Church Lane is damaged – Cllr Bossom to report via email to Council Connect
Church Lane in a poor state of repair – Report by email to Council Connect

Clerk A large shed has been erected in the rear garden at Slade Cottage – Clerk to Email Development Control to determine size of shed that can be built under Permitted Development without planning consent. .

KLM Cllr Alvis enquired if the Monkton Combe photo had been sent to Cllr Sarah Bevan for the display in the Guild Hall of the Parishes. – *Chairman advised it had been sent.*

RF Cllr Franks advised the meeting he had received a complaint against him under code of conduct and would report further in due course.

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DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 1 December 2010 at 7pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 22.00hr

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