

MONKTON COMBE PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual meeting held in the Village Hall on 3 May 2012 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Kevin Murphy (Chairman)
Cllr Lyn Alvis (Vice-Chairman), Cllr Alison Bossom,
Cllr Ross Buchanan.

Clerk: Mrs Jane Angell

Others Present: None

Apologies: Cllr Gavin Douglas
Visitors: 9 visitors attended, including Ward Councillor for Monkton
Combe Neil Butters (in part).

Minutes:

1. The Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all the visitors to the meeting. The Chairman thanked the Councillors and Clerk for all their hard work in the previous year. The Chairman then went on to explain that there had been approximately twenty planning applications over the last 12 months. Amongst them the Governor's Field application which received a lot comments this was turned down by B&NES. Also Monkton Combe Prep School part of which is in the parish had two applications one for a new pre prep building this was withdrawn after an application to develop the access road was turned down by B&NES the Parish Council made comments only but had no problem in principle with the applications. The music block is now completed mostly people are pleased with just a few small issues to address. One of the Ralph Allen School applications included a new building on the all weather pitch. This is still pending a decision by B&NES.

Note: Cllr Butters arrives

2. Financial Statement

The financial statement for the year was discussed and agreed to be an accurate account. The statement will be appended to the approved minutes.

3. The localism Bill & Community Plan

The most impact will be from The Neighbourhood Planning Protocol Framework a much smaller document that will replace existing rules. B&NES consulting now the Consultation Draft published at the end of March and is available on the B&NES website. A Neighbourhood plan could set out the desires of the local community on development. Deciding what would be relevant to the area i.e. keeping the environment from becoming over developed or maybe increasing the development area to encourage business growth. The Neighbourhood Plan is not compulsory but could encourage development in a positive way. If a Neighbourhood Plan is produced it would become formal policy. Comments of the consultation will be due by 10 May. If there is no Neighbourhood Plan in place it will

be determined in the normal way by B&NES. A parishioner asked who would initiate a plan. This would be the Parish Council.

Note: Cllr Butters leaves

4. Approval of Minutes from Annual Meeting of May 2011

Minutes approved by all and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from Annual Meeting of May 2011

- a. ***Monkton Combe School:*** At the last meeting with the Bursar concerns were raised for the safety of the students crossing the roads in particular at the bottom of Shaft Road at the junction with Church Lane and also in Shaft Road crossing from the footpath to Nutfield. The Parish Council are mindful of the appearance of the village when adding more signage as elsewhere less signs are being used and this seems to create a natural caution because drivers are not sure of road conditions ahead. Also with more vehicles parking in the village this has helped to create a natural traffic calming effect.
- b. ***Waste Collection and Village Cleaning:*** It was raised that the time of the weekly collection by B&NES Waste Services varies causing a problem with birds pecking open the black bags waiting for collection. The Parish Council will contact B&NES waste services. Recycling bins and bags are still being left out. The Parish Council has looked into storage in the car park but this was thwarted by health and safety issues.
- c. ***Grit Bins and Winter Maintenance:*** B&NES decided against delivering salt bags for storage to be used in bad weather at the most dangerous spots. A new grit bin has been installed in Shaft Road opposite Ivy Cottages where an ambulance became stuck in snowy conditions
- d. ***Highways & Footpaths:***
Brassknocker Hill – The flooding problem on the double bend has been solved with extra manholes and drains installed. There were no problems with ice this year at the crossroads.
Mount Pleasant – The section of footpath from Mount Pleasant to the school has now been resurfaced.
Hedges – There are shrubs at the bottom of Shaft Road that have become overgrown and now obstruct the road view for drivers and pedestrians. It is owned by the school and will be mentioned at the next meeting with the bursar.
- e. ***Playground:*** Inspected quarterly by B&NES. Small maintenance issues carried out.
- f. ***Bus Service:*** Libra will continue the service for another year.
- g. ***Viaduct Hotel:*** Work has commenced. The two Horse chestnut trees felled in the car park were identified as requiring urgent action due to bacterial canker and severe crown die back by agents acting for the Highways Agency during a safety survey along the A36. Agents for the Viaduct Inn contacted B&NES prior to the felling.
- h. ***Combe Grove Manor:*** The Parish Council contact with the hotel is good and queries are dealt with rapidly. The damaged section of wall in Shaft Road has been made safe.

- i. **Mobile Library Service:** The Combe Down mobile library is being used now the village visit has ceased. There was a possibility of this service being withdrawn but it has been secured for the next 12 months.
- j. **Parish Policing:** No regular PCSO visits now but with a new Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator in place information is circulated promptly.
- k. **Oldfield Old Boys Rugby Club:** No complaints recently Parish Council would like to keep communication open with the Club.
- l. **Community Plan:** Limited response unable to move forward.
- m. **Village Hall Fence:** The farmer using the field needs the fence to guide livestock to the field and will remove damaged post and make fence safe.
- n. **Weir:** The school have no plans to do anything with it. It was once muted a small scale hydro scheme may be viable.
- o. **Increasing Councillors to Seven:** It was found to be a complicated procedure and it has been hard finding new councillors.
- p. **Wind Turbines in Neighbouring Parishes:** This could be a point in the Community Plan.

6. **Valley Parishes Alliance (VPA)**

The VPA have had a positive meeting with the Highways Agency who are interested in getting local people to feed information to them. I.e. to report accidents at present only fatal accidents are reported by the police but not smaller incident. Combe Hay will be included as there is a concern over the junction at Hinton. The Agency are providing names to contact direct at the Agency. An incident can be reported by the Parish Council via the VPA. Broadband speed issues are moving on, there is now an amalgamation of counties Devon, Somerset and B&NES.

7. **Website & Village Communication**

Promoting communication around the parish - it was thought a notice board at the A36 end of the village would be helpful. Perhaps being located near the garage. Facebook may be a way of encouraging younger members to get involved.

8. **Open Discussion**

- Parking issues - Sunday morning walkers arrive early filling the car park and area around the church leaving no room for church visitors with mobility problems that need to park. The suggestion was made to contact the school to see if their Mill Lane car park could be used if it is not being used by the school. For church visitors that have first dropped off their passengers at the church.
- There is little space for overspill parking from the car park in the village this is causing pinch points making it hard for large vehicle to get through such as the bus.
- The internal lighting in the music block Mill Lane is constantly on. Could they be changed to sensor lights? This will be raised with the bursar at the next school meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.07pm.