

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL
Draft Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Village Hall on 19th January 2015 at 7.30pm

Parish Council Members Present: Cllr Gavin Douglas, Cllr Lyn Alvis, Cllr Des Wighton, Cllr Ross Buchanan, Cllr Ann Stewart, Cllr Simon Call, Cllr. Mike Wareham, Mr. Geoff Davis – Clerk

1 **321 To receive apologies for absence – None**

2 **322 Declarations of interest and dispensations – None.**

3 **323 Confidential Matters - None**

4 **324 Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 17th November 2014** approved and signed by the Chairman.

5 **325 Budget for 2015/16 and Parish Precept**

The clerk presented a proposed budget and precept figures for consideration by council. Of primary significance was the requirement to restore reserves which had been significantly depleted by the exceptional expenditure, incurred in the year for repairs to the Lock-Up and other parish works. It was also agreed that further similar necessary expenditure could not be ruled out in the coming year and that therefore the precept should be set in order to raise the necessary additional funds.

Cllr. Ross Buchanan proposed that the precept should be raised by £6 per Tax Base household to raise approximately £1,000 more than last year. This was seconded by Cllr. Ann Stewart, and the motion carried with one abstention. The precept for 2015/16 was therefore set at £5,935. This precept figure, together with the Local Council Support grant, represents total funding of £6,045, an increase of £1,045 on the 2014/15 figure of £5,000.

326 Financial Matters The RFO Report was received and noted.

Payments made as standing payments or approved at the previous meeting:

01/11/2014	943a	Ian Croker	Village cleaning	253.67
08/11/2014	944	Swan Management	Website Domain Management	60.00
08/11/2014	945	Jeff Avis	Vegetation Clearance works 2/9 to	100.00
09/11/2014	946	Lyn Alvis	Expenses - Gift R. Croker	18.99
27/11/2014	947	Mr. G. Davis	Parish Clerk 26/10 - 29/11/14	209.09
01/12/2014	947a	Ian Croker	Village cleaning	253.67
23/12/2014	948	Mr. G. Davis	Parish Clerk 30/11 - 27/12/14	180.41
23/12/2014	949	HMRC	Qtr 3 Paye	139.20

Receipts since previous meeting:

12/11/2014	13	B&NES	Village Cleaning - November	253.67
11/12/2014	14	B&NES	Village Cleaning - November	253.67

Bank Balances as at 01.01.2015

Current	£4,417.31	Bath Building Society	£3,076.30
		Bath Building Society (Miss Davis)	£12,306.65

Payments for Approval

NONE			
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327 Clerks rates of pay – The clerk reported that the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services Pay recommendations have been implemented.

6 **Parish Matters and Works**

328 New Financial Regulations - New Financial Regulations are required for the next financial year to allow electronic payments. The clerk was instructed to amend the existing regulations to meet this requirement, for consideration, and adoption at the next meeting.

329 Request from St Michael's Church for donation towards cost of new Hospitality Suite (June 2013). The Parish Council met with the Church to discuss this funding. It was agreed that because the Parish Finances are in a significantly different position now, such a donation was no longer appropriate or expected.

- 330 **Un-Insured Risks** - The clerk reported that English Heritage were unwilling to advise on this matter and other organisations were similarly reluctant. The Parish Council formed the opinion that the risks to this building were not significant and could not be properly established. Cllr. Ross Buchanan proposed that the Parish Council should accept the risks themselves and not seek to insure this building. Cllr. Simon Call seconded this motion and it was carried unanimously.
- 331 Cllr. Des Wighton reported that the Village Hall Management committee had been offered insurance that could include the Car park and walls. It was agreed that he should ask the Village Hall Management committee to include the insurance of the car park and walls in their policy, and that the Parish Council could then re-imburse them by means of a grant.
- 332 **Two Tunnels Project** – It was reported that Wessex Water are prepared to meet the cost of installation of the two lower Deer Gates and so everything is agreed and in place for these. The third gate will be installed by B&NES PROW who will use the Cotswold volunteers to install it. This gate awaits signing of the agreement by Mr. Ken Horler and the Parish Council. Cllr. Ross Buchanan undertook to meet with Mr. Horler and get the agreement signed. He also undertook to obtain a formal quotation for the installation works so that Wessex Water had the necessary documentation to sign off the expenditure. The clerk was instructed to proceed with the purchase of the gates and to arrange installation.
- 333 **Repairs to Village Lockup** – Cllr Des Wighton reported no further progress on a quotation for works to the door. It was agreed that this matter should be put on hold, avoiding expenditure which is not essential until Parish Council finances are in a stronger position.
- 334 **Broadband Improvements for Monkton Combe** – No further progress to report.
Neighbourhood Watch – Cllr. Lyn Alvis reported a theft of a chainsaw and other items from a garden shed, and that there was a Neighbourhood Policing meeting in the pub at 11:30 on 20th January.
- 335 **Historic Documents** – The documents continue to be reviewed and their final destination will be determined following this.
- 336 **Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace** - It was agreed to put forward the names Gavin and Diane Douglas for the ALCA ballot for invitations to this event. The clerk was instructed to submit their names to the ALCA County Secretary.
- 337 **Review of Polling Districts and Places** - The clerk has responded to the consultation requesting that the Village Hall is re-instated as the Polling Station.
- 338 **Daffodil Bulbs for Schools and Community Groups** - The 5kg bag of bulbs was received and a working party of Des Wighton, Simon Call, the clerk and his wife planted them around the car park, and at the Brassknocker crossroads finger post.

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Planning

Place-Making Plan

- 339 **Housing Development Boundary Review** – Having responded to the previous consultation it was agreed that no further changes were appropriate. In particular that no opportunities for infilling were available.
- 340 **Local Green Space Designation** – Cllr. Des Wighton will review the character assessments previously submitted, identify any appropriate areas of Green Space that require designation and respond to the consultation
- 341 **Applications Received**
14/05671/FUL - Combe Cottage, St Michael's Court, Monkton Combe, Bath BA2 7EZ - Erection of single storey rear extension. The clerk was instructed to OBJECT to this application as it is considered an overdevelopment of the site and an unreasonable increase in volume, a previous 2006 application for a lesser volume having been refused for this reason.
- 342 **Planning Decisions by B&NES**
14/04911/FUL - Monkton Combe School, Church Lane, Monkton Combe, Bath BA2 7HG - Raising height of existing fence around East End of existing artificial pitch. **PERMIT**
- 343 **Decisions Pending**
14/05499/FUL - Tudor Cottage Mill Lane Monkton Combe - Erection of extension within the footprint of the existing garage and erection of shed. **OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE**
14/08543/FUL - The Stables Waterhouse Lane Monkton Combe Bath BA2 7JA - The retention of two equestrian buildings; retention of amended driveway position. **OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE**

344 ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

14/00302/ENF The Stables, Waterhouse Lane, Monkton Combe, Wilts – Wiltshire Planning Enforcement have received the planning application 14/08543/FUI above. It is Pending a Decision, the target date was 11/11/2014. A Call in Request has been lodged by Wiltshire Councillor Magnus Macdonald if the application is recommended for Approval.

Other Planning Matters

345 Monkton Combe School – Floodlighting of Hockey Pitch – It was reported that the Floodlights are temporary and that they have been used on four occasions between the hours of 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. and this has now discontinued. It was also reported that noise reduction boards have been ordered and will be installed as soon as they are delivered. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with the school on these issues.

346 Scrap yard at Monkton Combe by maintenance car park. It was reported that the owner is seeking to relocate the business to more suitable premises in Trowbridge, and this is expected to happen in due course. The Parish Council nonetheless requested the clerk to write to the owner in order to register their objection to this use of the site. Cllr. Lyn Alvis will continue to discuss the matter with the owner.

8 Highways and Footpaths

347 Brassknocker crossroads – The Chairman reported that contractors had been instructed to carry out the road painting works but had failed to do so. B&NES Highways will instruct them to fulfil this contract as soon as possible, and works are expected shortly.

348 Barrier at Limpley Stoke viaduct – The clerk reported that no progress has been made on this installation. The Chairman agreed to follow this up with Highways having received such positive outcomes to previous enquiries.

9 Reports

349 Parish Forum – There was nothing further to report.

350 VPA, Bath Preservation Trust & any other Meetings – It was reported that the next Bath Preservation Trust meeting will take place on 20th January. The VPA reported that the Inspection in Public of the Limpley Stoke and Freshford Neighbourhood plan will take place in January, and that the Kennet and Avon management group were robust in their enforcement of mooring issues on the canal.

351 Parishes Liaison Meeting - Report – The clerk reported that the next Parishes Liaison Meeting is scheduled for 25th Feb 2015.

10 Correspondence Received

352 Shaft Road, Combe Down – Traffic Issues and 'Access Only' signage. - No further action was considered appropriate.

353 Garden Rubbish and Fencing Issues on footpaths – The clerk reported these issues from a local resident. As the garden rubbish is thought to be entirely on the persons own land it is not a Parish Council matter. It is also the case for the redundant fencing left on private land. However, the Chairman agreed to inspect both locations and review and respond to the correspondence.

11 Other matters to report

354 Footpath to Midford – Cllr. Lyn Alvis reported that improvements have now been made.

355 2nd Bridge repairs – It was reported that no progress has been made to date. The Parish Council has agreed access with the relevant landowners, and the clerk was instructed to write to B&NES Council, informing them of this, and asking them to carry out the works.

356 Meeting with Monkton Combe school – Cllr. Des Wighton presented the minutes of the most recent meeting and reported on each item discussed.

12 357 Date Of Next Meeting

Parish Council Meeting – Monday 16th March 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The following future meeting dates were agreed:-

Annual Parish Meeting:- Monday 20th April 2015

Annual Parish Council Meeting:- Monday 18th May

The Meeting closed at 22:18