

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monkton Combe Parish held at 7:30 p.m. on 18th April 2017 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. Des Wighton (Chairman), and two other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, and 7 members of the Parish.

1. Apologies for absence: Gavin Douglas, Ann Stewart

2. Chairman's Report. The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then summarised the Annual Report which has been distributed to all households within the Parish. In particular the procedural errors by Wiltshire Planning Authority in respect of the failed enforcement action at the Stables, Waterhouse were discussed. Also highlighted was the new Bathavon Forum meetings for the Parish Council, the efforts being made to improve broadband in the village, the A36/A46 link and the Valley Parishes Alliance opposition to the proposal and that Highways England will not make a decision on the matter until their funding is agreed in November of this year.

Electors present also highlighted the improved widening of footpaths to the bridges and made the Parish Council aware that the B&NES Waterspace initiative also included the Somerset Coal Canal.

3a. Monkton Combe School: A formal report was not available as no one from the school had been able to attend.

3b. St Michael's and All Angels Church. Joan Mitchell gave a verbal report highlighting that the Reverend Paul Kenchington was retiring shortly, that the Annual meeting would be held this month, and the first full immersion baptism had taken place. There was also a discussion regarding the repairing and re-building of the churchyard walls and the landowner of the adjoining land agreed to enter into discussion about the works. Cllr Mike Wareham will arrange a meeting of both parties to progress this.

3c. Village Hall Committee: Councillor Des Wighton provided a report from the Village Hall Committee on the year's activities. He highlighted that they had maintained a stable committee – the only new member to be appointed being Andrew Hutchinson, replacing Tanya Coulson as representative of the school. The treasurer of the last three years, George Plumbly, has decided to stand down and his replacement is Stuart Mitchell.

Events in 2016 were the Burns Night Supper which was another full house and the WI provided an excellent meal and thanks were given to the WI for all their work and efforts. The village barbecue was also well attended, taking place this year in June, to coincide with the Queen's 90th birthday. There was no autumn function this year, but the Church's Harvest Lunch provided a very enjoyable alternative.

Maintenance as an on-going concern was highlighted but the availability of a grant to cover the installation of thermal insulation in the main roof was indeed fortuitous. The re-painting of ceiling and walls has certainly transformed the main room and freshened it up considerably. The best way to renovate the panelling is still being discussed but will be done before work on replacing the floor is undertaken.

Overall the future look promising, bookings are holding steady, income is going up and ways being sought to attract further grants. The aim of replacing the worn wooden flooring is still to be pursued as soon as funds are available.

He concluded by thanking all members of the committee for their hard work in the last year on behalf of the Hall and the whole community.

3d. Women's Institute. Joy Franklin gave a brief verbal report and raised the matter of larger tables being available and Des Wighton agreed to explore this matter further.

4. Other matters highlighted or discussed:-

Lyn Alvis gave a brief report regarding the Neighbourhood Watch. He highlighted the theft of a large stone cap from a gate along Tucking Mill lane, and the theft of working tools from a workshop in the village.

It was also reported that the telephone equipment had now been removed from the phone box.

The members of the public present thanked the Parish Council for their work throughout the year and for the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:45 p.m.