

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monkton Combe Parish held at 7:30 p.m. on 20th April 2015 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. Des Wighton (Chairman), and three other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, B&NES Ward Councillor Neil Butters and 7 members of the Parish.

Apologies for absence: Gavin Douglas.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then summarised the **Annual Report** which has been distributed to all households within the Parish, highlighting the extensive Parish work which have necessitated the increase in the Precept in order to restore Parish Council reserves in anticipation of further similar needs in the future. Among these works have been the Two Tunnels Information Boards and Soundstore device and the Deer Gate installations at Tucking Mill. The chairman thanked Ward Councillor Neil Butters for his support for these projects through grants from his Ward Councillors Initiative fund.

Monkton Combe School: A formal report was not available, but Councillor Lyn Alvis explained, that in addition to the link provided by Councillor Simon Call being a member of staff of the school, there were regular meetings between the school and Parish Council, at which an exchange of information took place. These meetings covered issues such as the removal of the wall for the large trucks which were removing spoil to the Mount Pleasant quarry, and bringing in large prefabricated section of the new build, as part of the works for the new Art block. The issue of noise and light from the hockey pitches near Mill lane was also discussed and the measures that have been taken to reduce and eliminate these. Finally it was reported that the current Principal, Richard Backhouse, is stepping down at Christmas to take up another post, so a new principal is to be appointed.

St Michael's and All Angels Church. No one was available to provide a report.

Village Hall Committee: Councillor Des Wighton provided a report from the Village Hall Committee on the year's activities, highlighting the new representative from the school on the committee. The main events such as the Burns night supper, the Autumn Barbecue and Barn Dance were also highlighted as well attended and particular thanks conveyed to committee members Alastair Love and David Le Tall for their barbecuing prowess. Attention was drawn to the planned Rock and Roll night later this year.

The village hall has had a good year financially, mainly due to hirer fees, making a profit of about £3,000. However, problems are ahead in the future as the floor is in need of replacement at an estimated cost of £18,000. It is hoped that grants may be available to support this work.

Finally, Des Wighton thanked the whole committee for their hard work throughout the year.

Women's Institute. No one was available to provide a report.

Other matters highlighted or discussed:-

A number of Planning Issues were raised as follows:-

The Stables Waterhouse Lane – It has been requested by Wiltshire Planning Authority that the overall size of the development is reduced and the gable removed. With Enforcement action if this is not met.

The PolyTunnel on the Coal Canal – This is a temporary structure which is shortly to be removed.

Waterhouse Licence – A Licence to sell alcohol has been granted with restrictions. The clerk outlined to the meeting the prohibitions on the consumption in outside areas after 21:30 hours.

Scrapyard at Monkton Combe by maintenance car park – It was reported that this business has now re-located to more appropriate premises outside of the Parish.

The weight limit on Brassknocker Hill was discussed, and B&NES Strategic Director intends to raise this issue again once the current A36 works are complete. Discussion with the police revealed that they do not have sufficient resources to enforce this matter.

The re-painting of fingerpost at the junction of Summer lane and Tucking Mill lane was suggested. It was further suggested that funding for this might be available from the World Heritage Enhancement Fund.

The hedge cutting along Tucking Mill lane was discussed as it was thought this was very late in the year.

Councillor Lyn Alvis highlighted the Combe Down Heritage Museum (open Sat. & Sun), in particular the current exhibition of photographs and the talk on 17th June 'Combe Down and the Somerset Coal Canal'.

Ward Councillor Neil Butters drew attention to the review of the Parish Sweeper scheme planned for June this year. He also thanked the Parish Council for all of their work during the year.

The meeting closed at 8:35 p.m.