

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting held in the Village Hall on 19th May 2010 at 7pm.

Present: Cllr Kevin Murphy (Chairman)
Cllr Lyn Alvis, Cllr Ray Franks, Cllr Alison Bossom,
Cllr Alison Sturgess-Durden
Clerk: Rachel Willcox

Others Present: Michael Rich (Community Speed Watch Clerk, Radstock)
Jane Angell, prospective clerk.
Apologies: None
Visitors: 13 visitors attended, including Ward Councillor for Monkton
Combe Neil Butters

Minutes:

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all the visitors to the meeting and introduced the new Clerk Jane Angell and new Councillor Alison Sturgess-Durden. The Councillors and Clerk gave a brief introduction of themselves and their connection to the village. The Chairman thanked the Councillors and the outgoing Clerk for all their hard work in the previous year.

Cllr Lyn Alvis proposed the re-election of the present Chairman which was seconded by Cllr Alison Bossom. The meeting duly re-elected Cllr Kevin Murphy as Chairman.

2. Community Speed Watch Scheme

Michael Rich was introduced and invited to explain how the Community Speed Watch programme had started and the way in which it operates. Mr Rich explained that it had been used in Radstock and Midsomer Norton areas and elsewhere and that a reduction in speed has been noticed. It is seen as a deterrent rather than punitive, the idea being to change the culture of speeding over time. He went on to explain how it would need to be organised, the various health and safety issues that would need to be addressed and the likely costs involved. If speeding was reported and considered an issue within Monkton Combe the Beat Manager would undertake an assessment to determine whether the village was a suitable location to operate the scheme. He would then invite the Parish Council, working with other residents, to put it into place if he thought it appropriate. A team of volunteers would be required with three people on at a time. Whilst the Parish Council RESOLVED to investigate further whether the village should consider the scheme it appeared that the roads in the village would not meet the criteria required to enable the scheme to work. For example, the 60m clear visible distance in each direction would be difficult to achieve in the village. It was therefore generally considered not to be appropriate. Mr Rich also advised that the Police would not enforce the existing 20mph village speed limit. Questions were taken from visitors and the Councillors.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Minutes approved : 9th September 2010

A visitor raised the issue of speeding on the Warminster Road. Mr Rich took down information and promised to pass this on to the relevant parties.

3. Clerks Report

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

4. Matters Arising from the Annual Meeting on 27th May 2009

- a. *Monkton Combe School*
Masterplan – The School undertook a public consultation on their proposed Masterplan and discussions have continued during the year with Amanda Cracknell (Bursar).
The noise problem associated with the Summer Lets in 2009 should not arise again in 2010 as One World will not be permitted to return. This year the lets will run from 16 July until the 19 August. Camping will take place 24th – 31st July. Information will be published in the newsletter.
Music Block Mill Lane: Improved sound insulation will be installed.
Governors Field: Proposals are being prepared to use this land for permanent car parking and to include a bus turn-in thus removing existing parking from the quadrangle. This will come forward to consultation in the forthcoming months.
- b. *Hedge Cutting:* Some Landowners are co-operative, other are still not. Generally the Parish Council have been successful in ensuring hedges remain cut.
- c. *Village Cleaning:* The addition of a new bin at top of Perryhill, (Church Drung), near to the bench has been considered as inappropriate by the Parish Council but suggestions to perhaps put it at the bottom of the drung leading from Mount Pleasant will be considered. Not all residents have received the blue bags for cardboard recycling. A note will be put in the newsletter advising residents to contact the Clerk with their address and B&NES Council will be notified. Food waste collections are due to start on the 4th October.
- d. *Dog Waste:* Problem areas around the churchyard, Mill Lane and the ‘island’ past the bridge at Mill Leat have been identified. B&NES Council have previously confirmed that it is no longer considered to be hazardous waste and can be disposed of provided it is bagged, in ordinary waste bins. A note will be put in the village newsletter to inform residents who may not be aware.
- e. *Fly tipping:* Nothing of significance has been reported since the last meeting.
- f. *Grit Bins:* Trollope’s Hill bin is empty. The grit bin in Summer Lane has been moved in front of the barbed wire. The name of the farmer that put the barbed wire up has been passed on to the B&NES Highway Inspector. There will be a review of grit bins later in the year.
- g. *Roads:* Double bend on Brassknocker Hill water has reappeared. Water running across the road at the crossroad with Church Lane and Trollope’s Hill the problem has been solved after installation of a new manhole. Speed signs at bottom of Brassknocker Hill have been put right. Shaft

- Road- Visitor requested a new width sign at the top to prevent large vehicles attempting to use it and getting stuck.
- h. *Drungs*: The Parish Council have successfully managed to get Innox Drung resurfaced by B&NES Council. Church Drung still pending.
 - i. *Drainage*: Shaft Road gulleys have been significantly improved by B&NES.
 - j. *Speeding*: Generally discussed under speed watch item above.
 - k. *Mill Leat*: Wessex Water will put in 2nd sewage pumping station, work to start end of October beginning of November 2010. The weir - previous repairs did not work. A general discussion followed and those present were asked to consider any new ideas for repairs as funding, and potentially, land ownership is an obstacle.
 - l. *Playground*: Grounds and equipment have been improved for safety.
 - m. *Frayling Land at Mount Pleasant*: Work has now been completed. Hydroc have stated the rut at the road edge was not caused by them. However this has since been filled by contractors.
 - n. *Bus Stop*: No problems reported.

Any Other Business (2009)

- a. *Viaduct Development*: The developer, Monkton Homes Ltd, has gone into liquidation. The property is to be re-advertised for sale. If no-one purchases the site it could possibly stay as it is for some years. The car park had access for turning left onto the Warminster Road. The Parish Council were considering having the fencing blocking the car park off, removed, to re-establish this access. However the meeting resolved that it might be better to leave the fencing in place to deter illegal parking.
- b. *Mount Pleasant Quarry*: No other plans at the moment.
- c. *Combe Grove Manor*: No more information on subsidence survey.
- d. *Mill Leat Hydroelectric Project*: Newsletter to ask for any further ideas for Mill Leat. It was suggested that this might be a project that the school might wish to undertake in partnership with the village subject to agreement with the owners.
- e. *Development on Hill Opposite Trollope's Hill*: This is in Limpley Stoke
Chairman suggested asking at the VPA meeting.

5. BT Phone Box

Phone Box Mill Lane: English Heritage has advised that they will not list it. BT will not do any further repairs, as it is not viable having only 3 hours of calls made in the last year. BT will only make it safe. The Parish Council can adopt it for a fee of £5. An item will be placed in the village newsletter to ask for ideas for future use and offers from volunteers to maintain it.

6. Funding For Valley Parishes Alliance (VPA).

Cllr Alvis explained that the purpose of the VPA is to bring local parish councils together to discuss cross 'border' issues in both B&NES and Wiltshire throughout the Limpley Stoke Valley. It would need a representative and the membership is £100 for the year. Cllr Alvis suggested that it be trialled for a year. The majority of those present agreed and the Parish Council RESOLVED to become members for 12 months.

7. Any Other Business

- a. *Mobile Library Service:* It has been brought to the Parish Councils attention that it is possible to pre-order a book to be brought out on the next round. Notice to be placed in village newsletter.
- b. *Parish Plan for Community Planning:* The Chairman enquired whether villagers would be interested in developing a Parish Plan. A number of those present thought this was worth pursuing. Cllr Butters suggested the Parish Council speak to B&NES to see which other parishes had implemented one.
- c. *Planning Applications:* The Chairman advised that the process by which applications were determined by the Parish Council would be placed on the village website in due course subject to further discussions with B&NES Council.
- d. *Oldfield Old Boys Ruby Club Shaft Road:* A hard copy of proposals was handed to the Chairman by a Parishioner. The Chairman advised that the rugby club had been encouraged to be open and to inform Parish Council of any plans to review.
- e. *Points Raised by Cllr Ray Franks for absent Parishioner.*
 - Litter around cycle track running through school. School to be asked to collect any litter found.
 - Suggested warning signs on Tucking Mill lane of cyclist / pedestrians. The Two Tunnel Project is due to be completed in 18 months time this problem should be solved then.
 - Dogs chasing cows and sheep. Farmer has now solved the problem but it is to be mentioned in the Newsletter.
 - The new tarmac on the Innox Drung is cracking and has weeds growing through it already. However it was agreed to monitor this as in the absence of evidence of faulty workmanship there is little more that can be done. It was agreed that it has been significantly improved.
 - Suggested that an events committee be formed to put on more events and to raise money for the re-building of the weir. The village Hall Committee will look into this.
 - Reported that village end of Winsley Road on opposite side to Brassknocker Basin has become dangerous because there is no barrier and the fence protecting people from a steep drop is now very rickety. The gate leading to Brassknocker Hill from the Warminster Road opposite the Viaduct Inn is often locked. Could whoever locks it be asked to leave it open during daylight hours? Cllr Ray Franks to investigate.
 - Concern has been expressed at the felling of trees on land owned by the new owners of Waterhouse. Are these protected? Cllr Lyn Alvis will approach the owners with a view to them writing an article for the newsletter.
- f. *Police Liaison:* The police are setting up a new Independent Community Advisory Group. This was brought to the attention of those present and will be publicised in the Newsletter.

The Chairman announced that the Parish Council was looking for new recruits and then thanked everyone for coming.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed:.....
Chairman

Minutes approved : 9th September 2010