

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held in the Village Hall on 20th January 2014 at 7.15pm**

Parish Council Members Present: Cllr Gavin Douglas (GD), Cllr Lyn Alvis (LA), Cllr Des Wighton (DW), Cllr Cllr Ross Buchanan, Mr. Geoff Davis - Clerk

Others Present: Ann Stewart, Ward Councillor Neil Butters

1 125 **To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr Peter Bossom sent apologies.

2 126 **Declarations of interest and dispensations** – None.

3 127 **Confidential Matters** - None

4 128 **MINUTES:** Minutes of Ordinary Council meeting held on 2nd December 2013 were approved and signed by Chairman of Council.

5 **Financial Matters**

129 **Budget for 2014/15 and Parish Precept** – A draft budget was presented by the clerk and items examined and queried. The Clerk was asked to contact B&NES Parks department and enquire what charges if any are made for the re-inspection of the play area. It was agreed that a surplus of income over expenditure of the order of about £1,000 was required (in addition to the extra £1,200 VAT being re-claimed this year) in order to build reserves for further Parish repair and refurbishment works envisaged in the future, there having been extensive works of the order of £8,000 in the current year.

The chairman proposed the resolution that the Precept should be set at £4,890 for the next financial year April 2014 – March 2015. This was carried unanimously.

130 **RFO Report** – Received and Noted.

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

02/12/2013	896	BB Interpretive	U-Turnaround Device for Two Tunnels Group	
02/12/2013	896a	Ian Croker	Village cleaning	
09/12/2013	897	Jeff Avis	Miss Davies Garden etc	
23/12/2013	898	Mr. G. Davis	Parish Clerk 1/12 - 28/12/13	
23/12/2013	899	HMRC	Qtr 3 PAYE Payment	

Receipts since previous meeting:

06/12/2013	282	B&NES	Village Cleaning	
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Bank Balances as at 30.11.2013

Current	£7,418.96	Bath Building Society	£8,000.86
		Bath Building Society (Miss Davis)	£12,305.65

Further Payments Approved

23/01/2014	902	Mr. G. Davis	Expenses - Stationery	14.98
		Swan Management Services	Design & Build PC Website	200.00

6 **Parish Works**

131 **Website** – The clerk has not made the desired progress on this matter. It is expected that documents will be prepared and loaded in the coming two weeks. The aim is to have a lawfully compliant website by the time of the Annual Meetings. Di Frank's has written to express her unhappiness that another Parish Council Website has been created. The clerk was asked to write to her and thank her for all her work on the village website and to explain the Parish Council need for a lawfully compliant and vastly bigger site than that provided on the village website, and that it would have been wholly unreasonable for the Council to expect her to undertake this and maintain it on our behalf.

132 **Two Tunnels Sound-Store device & Geology Board** - Work continues on this project. The Sound Store device has been delivered and is being loaded with the sound tracks. Frank Tompson of the Two Tunnels Group is in contact with Liz Lee about the Parish track. Works are expected to be complete by the end of March. It was also reported that complaints had been received regarding access to the Two Tunnels Path at this point. The Chairman agreed to contact the Two Tunnels Committee to discuss this.

133 **Broadband Improvements for Monkton Combe** – The various current developments and possible improvements for Monkton Combe village were discussed, and Cllr Des Wighton and Cllr Peter Bossom will follow up this up with Rodger Sykes of Claverton Parish Council, as they have already made progress in this area.

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Planning

134 Core Strategy and LDF

The Consultation on the Amendments to Core Strategy for Strategic Site Allocations, Site and Green Belt Boundaries, and Site Requirements closed on Dec. 21st 2013. The Parish Council has submitted comments. The Inspector has issued note ID/44 giving notice that the hearings will resume on March 25th 2014, with a full day set aside for the Green Belt changes at Odd Down on Tuesday 1st April 2014.

B&NES Place making Plan

The Parish Council has completed the Character and Landscape Assessments, and these have been compiled into an assessment summary which has been submitted to B&NES Council for inclusion in the overall Place-Making Plan. There were no sites identified for future development.

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

135 **13/05237/REN - Monkton Combe Garage, Warminster Road, Monkton Combe, Bath** - Renewal of 03/02202/FUL (Redevelopment of site to provide 2 houses). The Parish Council has NO COMMENT to make.

136 **14/00048/FUL - 1 Fox Cottages, Church Lane, Monkton Combe, Bath** - Erection of two storey rear and part side extension following demolition of an existing lean-to rear kitchen extension (Resubmission of 13/04394/FUL) – The Parish Council SUPPORTS this application as the proposal is wholly appropriate in order to bring the property to a modern usable standard and the design and materials are sympathetic to the village setting of the property. The Council requests that where slate tiles are required to match existing, reclaimed slate tiles should be used rather than new.

137 Planning Decisions by B&NES

13/04684/FUL - Monkton Combe School, Church Lane, Monkton Combe, Bath - Erection of two storey extension to the Art and Design and Technology Block - PERMIT

13/04394/FUL - 1 Fox Cottages, Church Lane, Monkton Combe, Bath - Erection of two storey rear and part side extension following demolition of an existing lean-to rear kitchen extension. - **WITHDRAWN**

138 Decisions Pending

13/01737/LBA – Combe Grange, Shaft Road, Monkton Combe, Bath - Internal alterations for works to restore and refurbish existing fire places and surrounds. NO OBJECTION.

139 Other Planning Matters to Report

Trialling of portable floodlights at Monkton Combe School – The Parish Council has received correspondence and reports regarding the trialling of a portable floodlight system at Monkton Combe School. The Parish Council is very concerned about such a development. It considers such a trial to be quite unnecessary as the use of such lighting is wholly unacceptable in any of the proposed locations and at any time. The chairman will discuss this matter further with the bursar of the school.

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Highways and Footpaths

140 **Missing Barriers – A36 Limpley Stoke Viaduct** – The Parish Council has been informed that that approval for these works is expected by March 14th, and that they would then be carried out in the following financial year.

141 **Mill Lane Closure – Report** Cllr. Des Wighton reported that works were scheduled to take up to 4 weeks but closure would be from Wed 22nd Jan. The actual duration of the work would be for an indeterminate period depending on the weather but would probably be more than 5 days.

142 **A36 Closure - Report** – It is currently reported that closure will occur between Mid March and Mid June, and nothing before 2nd March. There will be a consultation meeting before any closure takes place. In the meantime it is noted that Brassknocker Hill will be closed from 17/02/14 to 21/02/14 (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) for resurfacing.

143 **Re-Routing of National Cycle Network down Mill Lane** – It was noted that Monkton Combe School have withdrawn their support for the re-routing of the path. Cllr. Gavin Douglas will discuss this further at his meeting with the Bursar.

- 9 **Reports**
- 144 **Forthcoming Parishes Liaison Meeting (19th Feb 2014.)**
Forthcoming Parishes Cluster Group Meeting (11th March 2014.) – The dates of these meeting were noted. Requested agenda items are the A36 Road Closure and the changes to the number of Parish Councillors.
Parish Forum – No report
- 145 **VPA, Bath Preservation Trust & any other Meetings** – Cllr. Des Wighton presented the minutes of the most recent VPA meeting. It was noted that the next BPT meeting is on 4th February.
- 10 146 **Correspondence Received**
Requests for Parish Magazine Articles – The clerk was delegated to make decisions about which of these to forward for inclusion in the Parish Magazine.
Wansdyke Symposium – March 22nd – The event was noted.
New Public Rights of Way Inspector – Mrs Cheryl Hannan - Noted
- 11 **Other matters to report**
- 147 **Recent Accidents at Brassknocker Hill/Trollopes Hill junction** – It was reported that there had been two recent accidents at this location. Ward Councillor Neil Butters agreed to take this matter up with B&NES Highways.
- 148 **Neighbourhood Watch** – The Parish Council agreed to the request to fund four Neighbourhood Watch signs at a cost of £25.
- 149 **Playpark Railings** – It was reported that these are in a poor state of repair. Cllr. Des Wighton agreed to investigate and make any necessary proposal for repair or replacement.
- 150 **Village Hall Car Park Lighting** – In response to a report that the lighting is inadequate, the Parish Council agreed that it would be inappropriate to increase the level for reasons of light pollution in the village.
Innox Drung wall collapsing – It was reported that the owner will remove the trees that are causing the problem.
- 12 **Date Of Next Meeting**
- 151 **Next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 20th March 2014 at 7.15pm in Village Hall**

Annual Parish Meeting – Thursday 8th May 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Village Hall
Annual Parish Council Meeting – Thursday 8th May 2014 at 8:30 p.m. in the Village Hall

The Meeting closed at 21:50