

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monkton Combe Parish held at 7:30 p.m. on 18th April 2016 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. Des Wighton (Chairman), and five other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, and 9 members of the Parish.

1. Apologies for absence: Gavin Douglas.

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 he highlighted and explained the riverbank repairs indicating the future works that are planned, which involve temporary removal of the bridge and closure of the footpath.

3a. Monkton Combe School: A formal report was not available, but Councillor Simon Call being a member of staff of the school provides a communication link and there are regular meetings between the school and Parish Council, at which an exchange of information takes place. A point was raised that the school was not engaging with the community as previously, for example with the annual Carol Service. Councillor Simon Call will take this comment back to the school.

3b. St Michael's and All Angels Church. No one was available to provide a report.

3c. Village Hall Committee: Councillor Des Wighton provided a report from the Village Hall Committee on the year's activities, and highlighting the number of changes to the committee. The main events such as the Burns night supper again took place and thanks were conveyed to all who organised these and made them possible. The upcoming Barbeque on June 11th, in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday was highlighted.

The village hall has had a good year financially, mainly due to hirer fees, making a surplus of about £4,000. 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. Thanks were given to the WI for their donation of £200 towards the new Village Hall sign now installed

Finally, Des Wighton thanked the whole committee for their hard work throughout the year. He also thanked the various residents of the village who through their generous assistance with work on the hall substantially reduce the costs of the work.

3d. Women's Institute. No one was available to provide a report.

4. Other matters highlighted or discussed:-

It was asked that those reports which had not been available under the items above could be requested as written reports from the appropriate people if they were unable to attend.

A number of Planning Issues were raised as follows:-

Combe Grove Manor – Now that new owners have taken this over extensive works are anticipated. Councillors Ann Stewart and Gavin Douglas have met with the owners and discussed the plans for a new dining room, access and parking needed to update the facilities. The Parish Council will await the planning applications associated with this.

The Croft – Terry Dolman drew attention to the proposal to build a house in the road and highlighted the significant access issues that might ensue. The Parish Council has objected to the application on a number of grounds. However, as the road is not an adopted highway it was suggested that the residents take their concerns and objections to the school with whom they already have good relations and discuss matters.

The Bus Service 94 is under review and appropriate responses have been made to the consultation.

A number issues with cyclists riding through Tucking Mill and Village were raised and the Parish Council will take these up with Sustrans again.

The issue of appropriate Broadband access within the village was discussed. The Chairman pointed out that it was still a Connecting Devon and Somerset 'Grey Area' and so outside the current funding. Other avenues are being explored but with no success as yet.

A possible e-mail list for all residents was raised, and the Chairman agreed to take this further.

The alternative access to Governors Field was raised, but it was thought not likely in the near future as other developments were taking priority.

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

The meeting closed at 8:43 p.m.