

Monkton Combe Parish Council Newsletter

Annual Report 2016-2017

(This document and a comprehensive range of Monkton Combe Parish Council documents can be found on our website:- monktoncombepc.org)

There were no Parish Council elections were held this year and all Councillors have continued in their post for the year.

Parish Councillors and their individual responsibilities

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Lyn Alvis | Footpaths and Bridleways, Rights of Access and Stiles, Neighbourhood Watch, ALCA Representative, B&NES Parishes liaison, Village Bus Service; Bus Shelter, Planning |
| Ross Buchanan | Village Signs – footpaths, roads etc., Grit Bins, Village Sweeper Truck, Public Seating and benches, Planning |
| Simon Call | Road Safety, Broadband, and School Liaison, Finance, Planning, Mill Leat and Weir |
| Gavin Douglas – Vice Chairman | Graffiti and Litter, Fly Tipping, Litter bins, Dog fouling, Monkton Combe School liaison, Police Authority liaison, Planning |
| Ann Stewart | Footpaths and Bridleways Rights of Access and Stiles, and Hedgerows and Verges, Planning |
| Des Wighton - Chairman | Planning Applications, policy and consultation, Parish Plan, ALCA Representative Village Hall liaison, Village Hall Car Park and Garden, Village Playground – health safety and maintenance, Village Lock-up |
| Mike Wareham | Church liaison, Roads and Highways, Gullies and Drainage |
| Geoff Davis – Clerk | Responsible Financial Officer, Parish Notice Boards and Communication Telephone 840201. Email. clerk@monktoncombepc.org |

Meetings

The Parish Council met on 7 occasions during the period 2016-2017. There were 6 meetings of the Full Council, and one Planning Meeting. The meeting on the 16th May 2016 was the Annual Parish Council Meeting. The Annual Parish Meeting or Meeting of Electors took place on 18th April.

Councillors also attended meetings with other Parish Councils and B&NES at joint forums and met with related organisations such as The Bath Preservation Trust and Highways England in order to represent the electors and to be kept informed of any plans that may affect the Parish.

Planning

During the year we have considered many different planning applications for works in or near the Parish. We only comment on purely ‘Planning’ grounds, using Local and National planning policies for guidance which still support the purposes of Green Belts and AONBs.

The Parish Council also responds to Planning matters in the neighbouring county of Wiltshire, monitoring any activities on the Wiltshire side of the valley. Of particular importance this year has been the continued, but ultimately fruitless, enforcement action against the stables at Waterhouse Lane.

Village Cleaning

The Parish Council employs Ian Croker to keep our public footpaths maintained and the village clean and clear of litter. He continues to do a fine job throughout the Parish, so a huge vote of thanks is once again due to him. He clearly makes a very noticeable difference to the village and surrounding roads as a whole, and is one of the most important services we provide.

Footpaths and Open Spaces Maintenance

The Parish Council employs Jeff Avis Garden Services to keep the village car park area, Miss Davies’s Garden, and the playground mown and maintained. This also makes a very noticeable difference to the village and this fine job throughout the Parish also deserves a huge vote of thanks.

The council has also worked with B&NES Council and Landowners to maintain and improve footpaths and open spaces.

Parish Council Website

The Parish Council website is fully operational and a full range of Parish Council documents including this report can be found on this site at monktoncombepc.org.

Highways Maintenance

The council has worked with B&NES Highways to achieve a number of road safety improvements and continues to progress further works.

Parish Works – Repairs and Improvements

Village Playpark – Signs of the times: B&NES Council, which provided a free, quarterly inspection of the play park, now charges £100 for it to be done annually... The Parish Council feels this is still a worthwhile exercise as it may highlight the need for repairs or other issues required to keep the playpark safe for use.

Community Based Defibrillator – Working with the Community Heartbeat Trust and with much of the funding provided by Councillor Neil Butters Ward Councillors Initiative Fund, the Parish Council has had a Defibrillator Unit installed on the Village Hall wall opposite the Wheelwright Arms. Dee Clark from Monkton Combe School, agreed to monitor and maintain the unit as she also does this for the unit at the school. The Community Heartbeat Trust held a training seminar on Friday 25th November on its use.

Finger Post to Tucking Mill – The finger post was repaired and re-furbished, the site cleared and the post re-installed. An excellent job has been done, and thanks to all who participated in this project.

Phone Box , Mill Lane – The Parish Council agreed to adopt the Phone Box. This is proceeding with BT and once complete the Council will consider suitable uses for it.

Broadband Improvements for Monkton Combe – Your Council continues to work to improve the provision of Broadband to the village. Cllr. Simon Call has reported that the school has registered an interest with BT, and was looking at having fibre laid to cabinets in the village. To encourage BT to progress this, as many residents as possible should register their interest with BT.

Tucking Mill & the Viaduct – The fence along the viaduct has been repaired and the re-routing of the footpaths and fencing of the fishing lake will go ahead shortly.

Parish Council Finances

Following on from the deficits of £2,100 incurred in 2013-14, and £4,148 in 2014-15, the year 2015-16 generated a surplus of £1800 to begin to remedy the reduced reserves. The current year to 31st March 2017 has continued this process and we expect to record a surplus of the order of £2000. This surplus together with the planned surplus for the coming year of £1,500 will, in the absence of any further significant expenditure, restore reserves to the safe level of £12,000. To achieve this, the Precept has been set at £6,268 for the year 2017/18 which ensures no increase in the household contribution to the Parish Council. This year the council will also receive a Local Council Tax Support Grant of £50, which has again been reduced from £90 last year, and £110 the previous year, and it will disappear altogether the following year. The level of reserves is regarded as appropriate going forward to meet future demands for maintenance and development within the Parish as one major item of work has already been identified for the Village Hall garden walls.

B&NES Ward Councillor support - Finally, we thank Neil Butters, our Ward Councillor and recent Chairman of BANES, for his ongoing help and support throughout the year.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in Monkton Combe Village Hall at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 18th April.

This is an opportunity for all residents of the Parish to attend a meeting with the Parish Council and other local groups, the Church, the School and the W.I and allows us all to hear from you – question us on our actions, give us suggestions of what you'd like us to do in and for the village, and get involved.

Please try to support the Council by attending.

Des Wighton. Chairman, Monkton Combe Parish Council.