

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monkton Combe Parish held at 7:30 p.m. on 29th April 2019 in the Village Hall

Present: Mr. Des Wighton (Chairman), and the six other members of the Parish Council, the Parish Clerk, and 13 members of the Parish and/or Public.

1. **Apologies for absence:** None

2. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He then summarised the Annual Report, which has been distributed to households within the Parish, highlighting the main points. These included, of particular note, the revised funding of the Parish Sweeper, the village play park improvements, the refurbishment of the telephone box, and progress of Truespeed with updating broadband provision. He introduced Andreea Imecs, and James Bradby to the meeting who will become new Councillors at the Annual parish Council meeting on May 13th.

3a. **Monkton Combe School:** Simon Call gave apologies for Tom Davies who was on Paternity leave and so unable to attend himself. Simon said that Tom Davies welcomed feedback from all and could be reached at bursar@monkton.org.uk. Simon Call highlighted the main points from his report, in particular the completion of the Governors Field car park, and his apologies for the incidences of inconvenience which occurred during the construction and following. They are dealing with the issue of car parking elsewhere, along Church lane when this occurs as a consequence of the closure of the main quads to cars. With regard to the proposed re-routing of the cycle route, the School and Sustrans will be hosting a drop-in event in the Village Hall on the evening of 6th June. Other school refurbishment projects are expected to complete in early 2020. Finally, being aware of the cuts Parish Councils have suffered the School is keen to contribute to help address part of these cuts and the School might contribute to projects such as white lining of the car park; repairs of walls; refurbishment of the telephone box.

3b. **St Michael's and All Angels Church.** James Bradby addressed the meeting and highlighted that the Church is now just over 150 years old. In the year there had been 70 meetings, most of which were services, with an average congregation of 24, and maximum of about 200 at Christmas and Harvest. A link had been established with the school where leavers were invited to attend with their plans for the future, and this had been very worthwhile and valuable. The church had also been able to help a number of individuals with particular needs. It employs Roger Croker who makes an excellent job of maintaining the churchyard. The church is also in the process of installing a new heating system.

3c. **Village Hall Committee:** Councillor Des Wighton provided a report from the Village Hall Committee on the 2018 calendar year activities. D Clark had joined the management committee in the year, she also looks after the defibrillator on the hall wall. He reported that they had kept long term regular bookings which make a valuable contribution to hall funds, sufficient to undertake the replacement of the village hall floor, including the kitchen. He gave particular thanks to David Letall and Stuart Mitchell for their work in making this happen.

As in previous years there had been a number of social events, including Burns Night, and the BBQ for which thanks go to David Letall and Martin Tranter who served up a Bastille Day feast.

We look forward to the new year with confidence.

3d. **Women's Institute.** As the WI no longer meet in the village no one was available to give a report.

4. **Other matters highlighted or discussed:-**

David Letall highlighted that the school car park is rather full and suggested the school bus transfer, which is often quite empty, could be better used to alleviate this and reduce the traffic on Shaft Road.

Simon Call thought the bus used Brassknocker Hill as its route but will pass the comment to the bursar.

Gavin Douglas said that the visitors car park had been built as planned and not reduced. The green matting installed was for possible additional parking, particularly for events. It was suggested the school might allow use of this car parking for village events, when not needed by the school.

The rather over-grown state of the Island was highlighted, but the owner was not known to anyone. Ann Stewart had suggested the village bought the island, but there had been no interest whatsoever from the village for this project. It would have required some £50-60,000 to achieve and some enthusiasm. It was pointed out that in order to make the leet function again, the weir would need refurbishment. However, there was a new fence, and the vegetation cut by Ina Croker, so the path was wider and better.

It was reported that the roadside hedges on Shaft Road and Summer Lane were rather overgrown, but these cannot be cut between March and October. Neil Butters pointed out that bus companies will do this hedge cutting where they need the road as route.

Neil Butter then proposed a vote of thanks and round of applause for the Parish Council in recognition of their hard work throughout the year.

The chair thanked Simon Call and Ann Stewart for their work as councillors over the preceding years.

The meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.