

# Monkton Combe Parish Council Newsletter

## Annual Report 2022-2023

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

There were no Parish Council elections this year and all Councillors continued in post. However, Cllr Gavin Douglas resigned as he had moved away from the Parish, and Cllr. Andreea Imecs resigned as she was unable to resume attendance following Covid-19 restrictions. Charles Carr was co-opted as a member at the meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022, and Penny Tranter was co-opted as a member at the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022. There are Elections this year on May 4<sup>th</sup> 2023, and all Councillors have agreed to stand and serve again. They have all been nominated and are now duly elected for the next four years, as the Election was uncontested.

**Parish Councillors and their individual responsibilities** (to be reviewed and agreed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> May).

Lyn Alvis	Footpaths and Bridleways, Rights of Access and Stiles, Neighbourhood Watch, ALCA Representative, B&NES Parishes liaison, Village Bus Service; Bus Shelter, Planning, Village Sweeper Truck
James Bradby	Church liaison, Village Signs – footpaths, roads etc., Footpaths and Bridleways Rights of Access and Stiles, and Hedgerows and Verges, Planning
Adelle Brenner	Road Safety, Public Seating and benches, and Monkton Combe School Liaison
Penny Tranter	Graffiti and Litter, Fly Tipping, Litter bins, Dog fouling, Police Authority liaison, Planning
Charles Carr	Finance, Broadband, Planning, Mill Leat and Weir, Grit Bins
Mike Wareham	Vice Chairman Roads and Highways, Gullies and Drainage, 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, Mill Lane Phone Box
Geoff Davis – Clerk	Responsible Financial Officer, Parish Notice Boards and Communication

### Meetings

The Parish Council met on 6 occasions during the period 2022-2023 which were 6 meetings of the Full Council. The meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 was the Annual Parish Council Meeting. All meetings were held in the Village Hall, fully open to the public to attend without any Coronavirus restrictions.

The Annual Parish Meeting or Meeting of Electors took place on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2022, a little delayed from the normal April dates following the lifting of Covid restrictions, and was also held in the Village Hall in public.

Councillors also attended occasional other meetings with other Parish Councils and B&NES at joint forums and with related organisations such as The Bath Preservation Trust.

### Planning

During the year we have considered a number of 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. Comments have usually been agreed via e-mail, with as much consultation with residents as possible.

### Village Cleaning

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

To confirm again, Ian Croker’s work is now fully funded from the Precept, and paid according to Local Government Pay Scales.

### **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. Again this was deemed essential work and continued through the emergency. 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.

### **Highways Maintenance**

The parking restrictions for Trollopes Hill works have now been carried out, with both sides of the road having lines painted. Those on Church Lane have also been implemented, although not entirely as envisaged.

Drainage Works have taken place to remedy the problem of water running across Brassknocker hill and freezing.

### **Parish Works – Repairs and Improvements**

**Village Hall and Village Car Park** – There were no works to either the Car park or grants to the Village Hall.

**Village Playpark** – Other than the Playground Inspection by RoSPA Inspectors and some minor cleaning works, there were no works to the playpark.

**Drung Handrails** – A new handrail has been installed on Innox Drung at a cost of £2272. This work was generously supported by a grant for the full amount from Monkton Combe School. Also the Handrail on Church Drung was repaired by resetting it into the stone wall. This was at a cost of £450 which was met by B&NES Public Rights of Way.

**Miss Davis Garden** – A new bench was purchased at a cost of £110 and the usual general maintenance by Jeff Avis this year.

**Lockup Repairs and Maintenance** – The repairs as agreed with Historic England last year were carried out and cost the Parish Council £1,720. Also some further repairs to facilitate adequate drainage were necessary to prevent flooding. These at a cost of £550.

**Bus Shelter** – The Viaduct Bus Shelter (on the A36 which is owned by the Parish Council) needed repairs to the roof. We were unable to persuade either B&NES or WECA to fund this, so these were done at a cost of £600 to the Parish Council.

### **Parish Council Finances**

Parish Council Reserves at the end of 2022-23 have again reduced slightly from the previous year to just below what is considered a safe level of one times the Precept. The Parish Council has therefore increased the precept by £1,253 to £12,236 to address this by generating a small surplus in 2023-24 of about £900, which matches the deficit for 2022-23. The deficit comes about from the number of Parish Works detailed above, and the inflationary increases that have occurred during the year.

Full details of all the Councils Finances can be found on the website at <http://monktoncombepc.org/core-business/finance/> where the Audit is currently in progress.

**B&NES Ward Councillor support** - Finally, we thank Neil Butters and Matt McCabe, our Ward Councillors for their ongoing help and support throughout the year.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the VILLAGE HALL at 7:30 pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April.**

The Parish Council is required to hold such a meeting, in person and in public between 1st March and 1st June each year.



**Des Wighton. Chairman, Monkton Combe Parish Council.**