

**MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held in the Village Hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 7.00pm**

		<b>Parish Council Members Present:</b> Cllr. Adelle Brenner, Cllr. Charles Carr, Cllr Lyn Alvis, Cllr. Mike Wareham, Cllr Des Wighton, Mr. Geoff Davis – Clerk. <b>Others present:</b> Ward Cllr. Matt McCabe																
1	097	<b>To receive apologies for absence</b> – Cllr. James Bradby, Cllr. Penny Tranter																
2	098	<b>Declarations of interest and dispensations</b> – None.																
3	099	<b>Confidential Matters</b> - Item 13 on the agenda - EA/2022/0254; Monkton Combe Parish Council vs Information Commissioner.																
4	100	<b>Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023</b> approved and signed by the Chairman																
5		<b>Financial Matters</b>																
	101	<b>RFO Report and Payments for Approval</b> - The RFO Report was received, noted and signed by the Clerk and Cllr. Des Wighton.																
	102	<b>Bank Balances as at 01.01.2023</b>																
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	103	<b>Receipts since meeting on 28th November 2023</b>																
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	104	<b>Payments approved as standing payments or at meeting on 26th November 2023 which have now been made.</b>																
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	105	<b>Payments for Approval at Meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024</b> – None																
	106	<b>Budget for 2024/25 and Parish Precept</b> The Clerk presented a draft budget which generates a small surplus of £601 of income over expenditure, and which made provision for a 4% inflationary increase in costs and the Average Household contribution for the next financial year. This maintains reserves at the appropriate safe level of just over 1 times the precept. Councillors gave very careful consideration to potential impact of inflation and interest rates on the Parish Council finances for the coming year, and concluded that the 4% figure put forward represented a good estimate of the likely impact. They therefore resolved unanimously to accept the budget as proposed and to therefore increase the increase the Precept to £12,893 (from £12,236 in 2023/24), an increase of £657, representing an average contribution of £71.81 for a Band D Household, being an increase of the 4.00% (agreed), or £2.77 per household, on the previous year's Average Contribution of £69.04.																
	107	<b>Bank Account Mandate and Online Access with Metro Bank.</b> It is believed that Metro Bank have put the new Bank mandate in place, but have not yet arranged the online access. <b>The Signatories for Bath Building Society</b> The Clerk will collect the required personal details to set this up.																

<p>6</p>	<p><b>Parish Council Matters and Works</b> <b>Parish Council Equipment and Facilities – Checks by Councillors.</b></p> <p><b>108 Village Playground</b> – The moss &amp;/or green algae in the play park remains a problem, but as discussed at the last meeting the required solution will be purchased and the area treated later in the year once the weather is drier and warmer in the Spring.</p> <p><b>109 Neighbourhood Watch</b> – Nothing to report and it was discussed that the monthly meeting with the PCSOs might take place less frequently.</p> <p><b>Lockup Repairs</b> – Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>110 Miss Davis Garden</b> – It was reported that the last winter clearance has been done.</p> <p><b>Village Hall</b> – Nothing to report.</p> <p><b>111 Parish Council Noticeboard – A36 Petrol station</b> – The Clerk reported that the board has been decommissioned with a notice to that effect, and that has been in place for approximately two months without any comment whatsoever.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p><b>Planning</b> <b><u>Applications Received</u></b></p> <p><b>112 23/04451/FUL - Combe Grove, Brassknocker Hill, Monkton Combe, Bath BA2 7HS</b> - Installation of timber pergola structures, woven hazel privacy screens to replace existing structures, and replacement glazing to the southern elevation of the Garden Lodge (now 'The Barn'). <b>No Comment</b></p> <p><b>113 <u>PLANNING DECISIONS by B&amp;NES &amp; WILTSHIRE</u></b> <b>23/04335/CONSLT - Rally Field, Lower Stoke, Monkton Combe, Bath</b> - (CONSULTATION REQUEST FROM CAMPING AND CARAVANNING CLUB) Temporary Holiday Site No. THS2080/2024 at Brass Knocker Basin Camping, Limpley Stoke, Bath, BA2 7JD. <b>No Objection</b> <b>23/03419/FUL - Brewery Cottage, Brassknocker Hill, Monkton Combe, Bath BA2 7HU</b> - Erection of 2 storey side and rear extension <b>Permitted</b> <b>23/02768/AGRA - Combe Grove, Brassknocker Hill, Monkton Combe, Bath BA2 7HS</b> - Erection of polytunnel (following application 23/02103/AGRN) <b>Application Permitted</b> <b>22/01630/FUL - De Montalt Mill, Summer Lane, Combe Down, Bath</b> - Conversion of modern hipped roof to flat roof terrace <b>REFUSED</b></p> <p><b>114 <u>Decisions Pending</u></b> <b>23/03756/FUL - Monkton Combe Prep School , Church Road, Combe Down, Bath BA2 7ET</b> - Erection of building to be used as an engineering shed. <b><u>PLANNING APPEALS</u></b> - None <b><u>ENFORCEMENT UPDATE</u></b> - None <b><u>Other Planning Matters to Report</u></b></p> <p><b>115 Local Green Space Review</b> - The nominated Local Green Spaces are currently being reviewed against the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) criteria. It is proposed that in the Local Plan Options document (due to be considered by Cabinet on 1st Feb) we will set out those spaces which it is proposed to designate as Local Green Spaces.</p> <p><b>116 Local Plan Consultation</b> – Opens on 12<sup>th</sup> February and closes six weeks later. <b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>117 Government Consultation on Street Vote Development Orders</b> - The government has secured new powers in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 to introduce a new route to planning permission called street vote development orders. Street vote development orders are a new tool that will give residents the ability to propose development on their street. <b>Noted</b></p>
<p>8</p>	<p><b>Highways and Footpaths.</b></p> <p><b>118 Brassknocker Hill Speed Limits and Weight Restrictions</b> – Cllr. Charles Carr has written to Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley and awaits a response to take this further.</p> <p><b>119 Shaft Road - Tarmac drive extension protruding into road</b> –B&amp;NES Highways are believed to be discussing the matter with the owners of the property.</p> <p><b>120 Mount Pleasant Footpath</b> – BA16/1 Gate onto Shaft Road – Cllr. Mike Wareham investigated the matter and reported that it is an old and substantial gate, within the Conservation Area. It is not considered feasible to attempt to change it.</p> <p><b>121 Tucking Mill Toads - Tucking Mill Lane</b> – The TMT group have reported that an application to close Tucking Mill Lane for the 6 week migratory season has been unsuccessful. Signage provided by B&amp;NES Highways will shortly be installed at either end of the lane alerting drivers to toads. The TMT group ask all residents/parents/staff to avoid Tucking Mill Lane during the evening i.e. from dusk to midnight for the migratory period. This period is approximately from Monday 12th February to Sunday 24th March. This measure will go part way to protecting the toads and will be considerably safer for volunteers in the lane if the traffic is reduced.</p>

	<p><b>122 Metal fence on Church Drung</b> – It was reported that a large metal spike is protruding out of the dilapidated fence in a dangerous manner. The Chair will write to the owner to point this out and request remedial action/repair of the fence.</p> <p><b>123 Combe Down Allotments</b> – It was reported that the owner has given notice of termination of the lease of these allotments to B&amp;NES Council and that there is a petition protesting this decision. Monkton Combe Parish Council holds the position that if these allotments are to be closed then alternatives nearby must be provided. The Chair is meeting with the organisers of the petition.</p> <p><b>124 Footpath Closure BA16-18 due damage to the Bridge</b> – This was reported at the meeting and the Chair will investigate further and discuss as necessary with B&amp;NES Public Rights of Way.</p>
9	<p><b>Reports</b></p> <p><b>125 PARISH LIAISON MEETING</b> – Next meeting is on 28th February 2024.</p> <p><b>126 Bath Preservation Trust</b> – There have been no meetings recently.</p> <p><b>127 School</b> – There was a report of some nuisance from smoke from bonfires, and this will be mentioned at the next meeting.</p>
10	<p><b>Correspondence Received</b></p> <p><b>128 Police Funding Survey from Police and Crime Commissioner Mark Sheldford</b> - the Chair has responded to this survey.</p> <p><b>129 Invitation to a local parish councils climate and nature emergency networking meeting Friday 2nd February from 7pm-9pm</b> – Cllr. Penny Tranter is attending this event.</p> <p><b>130 B&amp;NES Parish and Town Nature Action Plans: Guidance for Parish and Town Councils, and West of England Rural Fund</b> - <b>Noted</b></p> <p><b>131 D - Day 80th Anniversary 6th June 2024</b> – Noted and the Clerk will keep this item on the agenda until nearer the time.</p> <p><b>132 Electric Vehicle Chargers in the Parish</b> – Councillors were asked to consider the proposal further.</p>
11	<p><b>Other matters to report</b></p> <p><b>133 Bus 94 Service Update – Report on the future of the 94 Bus 94 Service.</b> Ward Cllr. Matt McCabe reported that Wiltshire CC is continuing to fund until the end of the financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April 2024) and is willing to continue its 50% support beyond that providing the other 50% is met by either B&amp;NES or WECA. The B&amp;NES Chief Executive has written to the WECA Chief Executive pointing out that the 94 bus was missed from the schedule of supported Bus Services to go forward next year. In consequence there is an underspend of the B&amp;NES contribution, and so WECA are asked to re-instate the 94 service into the schedule and to therefore support it next year with the 50% contribution needed.</p>
12	<p><b>134 Date of Next Meetings</b> The Following Dates were confirmed, all at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday 26th March 2024 Tuesday 16th April 2024 – Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 14th May 2024 – Annual Parish Council Meeting</p>
13	<p><b>135 EA/2022/0254; Monkton Combe Parish Council vs Information Commissioner (ICO Case Reference: IC-160435-H5M4).</b> The Clerk reported nothing further.</p> <p><b>The meeting Closed at 20:40</b></p>