

**MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Monkton Combe Parish**  
**held at 7:30 p.m. on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in the Village Hall**

Present: Mr. Des Wighton (Chairman), Cllr. Lyn Alvis, Cllr. James Bradby, Cllr. Adelle Brenner, Cllr. Penny Tranter, Cllr. Mike Wareham, Mr. Geoff Davis – Clerk, Mr. Ray Franks, Nicole Oliver, Tim Rowland-Jones, Tania Orgill, Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley, Chantal Young – WERN Village Agent.

1. **Apologies for absence** Cllr. Charles Carr, Louise Jones PCSO
  
2. **Chairman's Report.** The Chairman opened the meeting, introduced the Councillors present, and welcomed everyone. He then summarised the Annual Report, which has been distributed to households within the Parish via the Parish Newsletter, highlighting the main points.  
In particular he highlighted that Ian Croker had retired from his work as Parish Sweeper, and that the Parish council is now seeking to employ someone to fill this role.  
The report is available as a separate document.  
Tania Orgill additionally reported on the Tucking Mill Toads that signage and High-Viz had been provided by B&NES Council, and she thanked Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley for helping to facilitate this. She also reported that volunteers had received training prior to this year's event and that as a result the rescue was far better and more effective.  
The Chair thanked Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley for all her work for the Parish, and especially on transport matters, particularly the 94 Bus, which has now been secured until April 2025. Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley highlighted the need for residents to make use of the Bus service so that a review of the service next year would not consider withdrawing it on grounds of usage.  
Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley also reported on the WestLink service, that to date it had not been very good, but that it has now been revised with smaller zones, so that hopefully it will prove more effective. She also highlighted the B&NES Community Transport Dial-a-ride service as a possible alternative.
  
- 3a. **Monkton Combe School:** Cllr. Adelle Brenner gave a brief summary on behalf of the School. That the Inner Quad has been re-surfaced. The Quarry site has been sold to Ashford Homes who will now build the four houses in the planning application. Also, one of the houses in the Croft has been sold. And finally that there will be works on the road to Limpley Stoke, adjacent to the School fields to improve drainage.  
The Parish Council have regular meetings with the School which are with Olly Lynn, now that Becki McKinley has moved on.
  
- 3b. **St Michael's and All Angels Church.** Cllr. James Bradby arrived too late at the meeting to give a report, however Tania Orgill reported that the Church had a regular gardening session, to which anyone can come and is welcome. The next is 11<sup>th</sup> May. It is as much about meeting and socializing as well as keeping the Churchyard looking good.
  
- 3c. **Village Hall Committee:** Cllr. Des Wighton, as chair of the Village Hall Management Committee read his report highlighting various points. He welcomed Tania Orgill to the Committee as a new Trustee. He drew attention to the further maintenance works needed which included the Entrance Doors and the Stage Curtains. Fiona Gourley suggested that the American Museum Quilters might be able to help with them.  
Cllr. Des Wighton also reported that bookings were down somewhat on last year.
  
- 3d. **Women's Institute.** In February 2024 Monkton Combe WI celebrated its 99th birthday. We aim to make it to 100 next year when we plan to have quite a celebration. Our long association with the Village Hall will be celebrated too, even though we have had to find an alternative place to host our monthly meetings. At these meetings we have hosted a variety of very interesting speakers and taken part in some amazing activities; we have raised money for various charities and also donated £50 to Monkton Combe Village Hall. Catering the Burns Supper each February keeps us in touch with our roots and is an association we cherish.  
Many rural WI's are struggling to keep going due to an aging membership. We also have to face this issue, but at least not until we have passed the 100 mark.

**4. Chantal Young – Village Agent – West of England Rural Network**

Chantal Young introduced herself to the meeting and explained her role and function. She has had several clients in the Village of Monkton Combe and she supports people to live independently at home. The service is available to any adult over the age of 18, it is free, confidential, and independent from any other agency, and she is available to visit if needed. Examples of the help provided are Blue Badge applications, accessing benefits, and even finding a gardener.

**5. PCSO Louise Jones – Report to the meeting**

The Clerk presented PCSO Louise Jones crimes statistics report to the meeting, which was discussed with interest. The Clerk was asked to report to her the problems with the Anti-Social activity of Motor Vehicles speeding up Brassknocker Hill and Summer Lane in the manner of a Hill Climbing race, and as is evidenced by tyre skid marks on the road.

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

- Tania Orgill drew attention to the Bin at the bottom of Church Drung which is being used for litter and general refuse. She also highlighted that Food Waste bins were being put out in the evenings and as a result wildlife was opening them and creating a mess. She asked that residents be asked to put them out in the morning instead.
- Tania raised the issue of Light levels within the Village, highlighting how these have increased and is reducing Bat populations. The parish Council will raise the issue of Light spillage from the School at their next meeting with them.
- Richard Bauly provided a report on the current position for The Wheelwrights Public House, which the Chair read out and the meeting discussed. Our understanding is that the owner and Richard are in discussion with the continued desire to keep the pub open and trading. The Village will await further updates.
- The matter of the loose rocks at the bottom of Church Drung was highlighted and the Chair has reported these to FixMyStreet.

The Meeting Closed at 20:55