

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes

Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 15th April 2015 at 7.30pm at Winterbourne Monkton Church

Cllr Bill Buxton (chair), Cllr Simon Mellor (vice-chair)
Cllr Lyn Bennett-Nutt, Cllr Nick Burnet, Cllr Tony Iles,
County Cllr Jemima Milton
Mrs S Mckeown, Miss P. Gold, Mr A Garrett, Mrs C Byron
Mr A George-Perutz, Mr D Mace, Mrs S Hall, Mrs J. Petchey, Mr S. Petchey,
Mr M Saunders, Mrs L Saunders, Mr B. Jago, Mr R Pawsey
Mrs T Fulford, Mr S. Fulford, Mr Nigel Fielder, Mr A Blow, Mrs S. Blow,
Mr T. Pearce, Mrs R. Pearce

1. Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Buxton welcomed residents of the villages and introduced Councillors
There was a minute of silence for Mr Len Adams who had recently died. Mr Adams
had lived in and made a significant contribution to the life of both villages.

2. Apologies

Ann Pawsey, Richard and Natalie Nutt, Sonia Buxton, Tricia Cosford

3. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th April 2014

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Any matters arising will be covered elsewhere in the minutes

5. Chairman's Report – Cllr Bill Buxton

A report had been circulated to those present outlining the work of the council in
the past year. Cllr Buxton offered his thanks to the councillors and to the clerk.

Cllr Buxton told the meeting that there had been a particular problem with absentee
landlords in the last year such that it wasn't possible to solve certain issues face to
face. In particular he referred to the owners of The New Inn, land on Church Lane
Footpath and the owner of Yatesbury Manor Farm

Cllr Buxton reported that there had been little progress as far as the re-opening of
the New Inn was concerned. The owners had erected a summerhouse in the car
park. This was being investigated by Wiltshire Council as an enforcement issue. It
was considered by Mr Fielder that the structure did not have foundations and
therefore did not require planning permission.

Cllr Buxton reported that the Manor Farm development was with lawyers working
out the Section 106 agreement. Cllr Milton recommended that Cllr Buxton contact
Peter Horton the planning officer concerned to check developments

Mr Fulford advised the meeting that new planning regulations would mean that if
the planning development for Manor Farm was submitted now then the developers
would not be required to include the social housing. Cllr Milton commented that
the social housing was a significant benefit to communities allowing young people

in particular to stay in or return to their home community. She advised the meeting that anyone wishing to take advantage of any social housing from either village should register with Wiltshire Council so they could be considered for affordable homes.

6. Financial Summary – clerk

The Parish Council financial year runs from 1st April to 31st March,

We began this last financial year with £1735.

We received £2235 in Precept, giving the council a total of £3970

A budget had previously been set allowing for £2236 expenditure.

Expenditure this last year has actually been £1866 so the council has come in under budget by approximately £370. Money was set aside in the budget for training and travel expenses of councillors which were not taken up although some councillor training is booked for May this year.

The year will end with a balance of £2045

The Precept for this coming year has been set at £2281 a 2% increase but which will result in a decrease in payment for Band D property due to an increase in number of Council Tax Payers

Wiltshire Council has reintroduced the levy on Parish Council elections. As Parish Councils must allow for this and cannot go into the red an estimated amount of £1000 will be needed to be kept in reserve in addition to any contingency for Parish Matters

In response to a question the clerk advised the meeting that the re-opening of the pub would not contribute anything to the local rate other than rates paid by the residents. Business rates are paid to Wiltshire Council and not the local council

7. County Councillor Jemima Milton to talk about Wiltshire Council Issues

Cllr Milton advised that the Wiltshire Council rate had been kept the same. Wiltshire Council budgets were very tight and cuts needed to be made but finance for adult care and childrens services had been protected. The area boards have some money that can be claimed by Parish Councils

Cllr Mellor asked County Cllr Milton what influence Wiltshire Council had over BT in its implementation of Superfast Broadband. Cllr Milton advised the meeting that BT should be attending a forthcoming Area Board Meeting and recommended that representatives from the community attend. County Cllr John Thompson is the Wiltshire Councillor responsible for the Wiltshire Council funding of superfast broadband. Cllr Burnet recommended that all residents contact BT to complain about internet speeds.

After discussion regarding speeds it became apparent that there was a significant difference between broadband speed received in different parts of the villages. This might indicate a fault in the cabling within the village. Again residents were recommended to contact BT

8. Update on new Community Facilities

Along with the new properties proposed to be constructed at Manor Farm Dairy in Winterbourne Monkton it has been proposed to build a small hall for use by the community and managed by the Parish Council. Progress in this has been delayed along with the housing development. The Parish Council had requested that the building be energy neutral and that a sum of money be also given to cover running

expenses and maintenance for 5 years. This was still in discussion with solicitors for Section 106 agreement

Mr Blow advised the meeting that he had experience of alternative energy supplies if it were useful

9. Proposal for new Cycleway/Footpath to Avebury

Cllr Buxton outlined the proposal which was instigated by the severe reduction in the Connect 2 service from the villages to Marlborough. The A4361 is considered too dangerous for casual cycling upon or for walking beside. The current footpath is circuitous and not suitable, for example, if going to work. The path also fits well with the World Heritage Site Transport Strategy which encourages better cycle and pedestrian access to the henge from neighbouring communities and accommodations.

The plan is very much in early stages. A plan is being drawn up to show a possible routes and the agreement of landowners will be sought. Avenues for fund raising will also be investigated. There was general support for the proposal

It was requested from the floor that the installation of a hard surfaced path across the land outside Middle Farm be investigated. It was thought the land belongs to Middle Farm and Cllr Mellor agreed to follow this up

10. Informal discussion

Traffic on the A4361 – Over the years many attempts have been made by the Parish Council to obtain a speed reduction on the A4361. Efforts will continue but are unlikely to be successful. Cllr Bennet-Nutt, however, is investigating the possibility of achieving a 20mph limit on the roads within the villages. There is a similar proposal from another Parish Council on the agenda at the next Community Area Transport Group meeting which Cllr Bennett-Nutt will follow

A request was made to have a mirror at the top of Church Lane to make it easier to see oncoming traffic. This request has been made to Wiltshire Highways already but the request was turned down on the grounds that glare would be distracting to traffic.

Mr Pawsey asked about the proposed closure of “the Avenue” between Avebury and West Kennet. Cllr Buxton advised the meeting that this proposal was a small part of the World Heritage Site transport policy. There was support at the meeting for a diversion around the whole of the henge but Cllr Milson said this would be too costly. Cllr Buxton will attend the World Heritage Site Steering Committee meeting this week and will keep informed of developments. Concern was expressed about the large pothole on the Avenue close to the A4. Residents were recommended to report the pothole to Wiltshire Council

Mr Pearce asked whether documents for meetings could be circulated via the new Parish Council mailing list with notification of the meeting. The meeting was advised that the mailing list was primarily for emergencies and short notice announcements but that anyone could ask the clerk for meeting minutes or other information as required.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm