

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held at Winterbourne Monkton Church on Wednesday 8th March 2017 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Bill Buxton
Cllr Stephen Fulford, Cllr Jill Petchey
Cllr Tony Iles, Cllr Lyn Bennett-Nutt
Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)
One member of the public

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr Nick Burnet, Cllr Simon Mellor
2. Declaration of Interests
There were no declared pecuniary interests in items on the agenda
3. Questions from the public
The member of the public present contributed to an item later on the agenda
4. Minutes of meeting of 11th January 2017
The minutes of the meeting were accepted as a true reflection of the meetings
5. Matters Arising from meeting of 11th January (not covered elsewhere in the minutes)
The hand painted sign at Berwick Bassett triangle has been removed as has the tree across the Bourne at Winterbourne House
Cllr Buxton had talked to the residents of The White House and Cherry Tree Lodge regarding the leaving of bins out for longer than necessary. This seems to have improved
The clerk reported that the dogs in The Beeches are reported to have been better contained. No approach was made to the owners by councillors or clerk
Cllr Petchey reported that DEFRA have lifted the requirement to keep poultry indoors in most areas although there are still some identified areas where the ban is still in place. The lifting applies to Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton although the area surrounding Wroughton is still shown as a higher risk area which is the least severe of the three forms of restriction
6. Reports
 - a. Finance
The precept request approved at the last meeting has been submitted but not yet accepted

It has been announced that the Marlborough branch of HSBC is to close on May 5th. As the Parish Council regularly needs to change signatories which requires visible proof of residency, as well as other banking activities that require multiple signatories, it is suggested that a change of Bank is made to another with a Marlborough branch such as Lloyds

Cheques since last meeting

100343	£220	Netwise Training (Website hosting)
100351	£ 15	Church Rental January
100352	£ 35	Data Protection

With the anticipated payment of rent for March the underspend for the year is £1100
This will leave a total bank balance (current, savings and transparency fund) of
around £4,800 to take forward to 2017

The Department for Communities and Local Government has confirmed that the appropriate sum for parish councils for the purposes of section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the 1972 Act”) for 2017-2018 is £7.57. For this Parish Council this amounts to approximately £700

b. Planning

There have been no planning applications

It is unknown whether there has been any interest in the purchase of The New Inn

c. Rivers

The water table is high but no incidents of flooding or water saturation

d. Footpaths

Footpaths are walkable. The footpath between Christmas House and Berwick Bassett is waterlogged beyond the stile at Christmas House. Cllr Iles aims to repair this area once his apprentices start work

There is a lot of dog excrement on the School Lane Footpath particularly in the area beyond the housing. The offenders are unknown. Cllrs will monitor the situation.

Residents will be requested to pick up after their dogs as part of the press releases.

Removable signs may be explored further after the cleaning day

e. Roads

Wiltshire Council has erected plastic safety fencing in front of the damaged fence at Berwick Bassett Bridge. It is scheduled for welding repair. Quotes have been sought from local professionals with a view to the Parish Council part funding if affordable in order to speed up the repair. It was considered that this was an expensive option and that it was preferable to wait for Wiltshire Council to carry out a repair

Cllr Fulford has reported the potholes in the main village road to Wiltshire Council but has had no reply

f. Broadband

Residents of Winterbourne Monkton have yet to see any improvement in broadband speeds following the upgrade of the junction box

Other Reports

g. Avebury World Heritage Site

There has been no meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting

h. Marlborough Area Board

There was nothing to report

i. Police

The Police continue to investigate the fly tipping at the New Inn. Thefts from cars parked in car parks are increasing with the onset of the tourist season

j. Clerk

The Clerk outlined procedures surrounding the Parish Council elections in May

7. Fly Tipping

A large amount of builders rubble has been deposited at the entrance to The New Inn. Wiltshire Council was contacted but they will not remove fly tipping waste from private property. The agent and owner have been made aware. The Police are investigating the dumping. There is a lot of other building waste on the car park generated from the New Inn itself. This includes a lot of plastic wrapping which blows onto the road in windy weather

Cllr Petchey added that a complaint was made by a resident to Wiltshire Council about some conifer trees which had been cut down and piled very neatly at the side of the entrance to the garages. It is believed that these were cut down by Aster but this is not confirmed.

8. Winterbourne Monkton Church wiring

There is a significant problem with the wiring in the church which will be expensive to repair, possibly running into several thousands of pounds. There are specific fund-raising activities underway. The Parish Council considered that a donation may be made as the church is the only community meeting place

9. Byway and Bridleway ownership and repair update

There has been little change in the condition of the bridleway but it is still being used by off-roaders. Mapping of the ownership of the minor highways continues. Action Cllr Buxton

10. Annual Parish Meeting Planning

This will take place on 5th April at 7.30. Cllr Buxton is compiling the Annual Report.

11. Village Tidy Day

There will be a village clean up in both villages on Saturday 13th May. 2 groups will start in their relevant village. The Winterbourne Monkton group will meet at the standing stones on the lay-by by Middle Farm and the Berwick Bassett volunteers will meet at the triangle at Berwick Bassett by Home Farm, both at 2pm.

It was agreed to purchase litter pickers and black bin bags. Action clerk and Cllr Petchey

12. Confirmation of items for Press Release

It was agreed to include information about elections of new councillors in May, the Village Clean Up and a reminder to clean up after dogs

13. Date of Next Meeting

5th April 2017 in Winterbourne Monkton Church – Annual Parish Meeting

10th May 2017 in Winterbourne Monkton Church – Annual General Meeting and first meeting of the new council

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm