

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes

Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 7.30pm at
Winterbourne Monkton Church

Cllr Bill Buxton (chair), Cllr Stephen Fulford
Cllr Jill Petchey, Cllr Lyn Bennett-Nutt,
County Cllr Jemima Milton
Mrs C Powell, Miss P. Gold, Mrs. S Hall, Mr. S. Petchey,
Mr. R Pawsey, Mr. Nigel Fielder, Mr. A Blow,
Mrs. R Pearce, Mr. T Pearce

1. Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Buxton welcomed residents of the villages and thanked everyone for coming

2. Apologies

Cllr Nick Burnet, Cllr Tony Iles, Cllr Simon Mellor,
Mrs R Pawsey, Mr D Mace, Mr R Nutt, Mr and Mrs M Saunders

4. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th April 2016

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting

5. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Any matters arising will be covered elsewhere in the minutes

6. 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 added that councillors had been pursuing faster Broadband speeds for both villages. Fibre optic cable has now been installed to the junction box in Winterbourne Monkton. Potentially this will give high speed Broadband in Winterbourne Monkton although no-one present had attained the higher speeds despite applying to providers. Advice was to continue applying to providers. There is no indication of any improvement in the provision of Broadband speeds in Berwick Bassett by British Telecom but residents have been able to access a service from Notspot using a grant from Wiltshire Council for installation of equipment. This does have financial overheads for each individual as the monthly tariff for the satellite provision is high. An opportunity to have private installation of fibre optic by a company called Voneus has been presented but this involves all the residents of Berwick Bassett signing up at the same time and some residents of surrounding villages to give the minimum number to make the installation cost effective. This was considered unlikely. Mr Petchey told the meeting that he had applied for superfast broadband and had been advised that it was not possible to achieve speeds greater than 15mbps at his property

The Parish Council continues to investigate the erosion of the Byway between Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton caused by 4x4 drivers. Wiltshire Council has offered to resurface the Byway and plan to do this in the year ahead. This should

remove the thrill of off-road riding but Mrs Powell commented that any blockages or deterrents that are installed encourage riders to travel a different off-road route.

Cllr Buxton said that he valued the openness of residents in our community and hope it continues. Cllr Buxton advised the meeting that he was not standing as a candidate in the upcoming election.

6. Financial Summary – clerk

The clerk reported that the council began this last financial year with £4164. of which £1701 is the remainder of a grant ring fenced for website and associated costs to raise transparency of council business

We received £3366 in Precept, giving the council a total of available expenditure of £5829

A budget had previously been set allowing for £3366 expenditure.

Expenditure this last year has actually been £2686 (£220 from website fund) so the council has come in under budget by approximately £900. Money was set aside in the budget for a parish project of which only £200 was taken up hence the excess. The excess from parish project funding will be carried forward for future projects

The Precept for this coming year has been set at £4052 a 19% increase The reason for this is the continued reduction of services from Wiltshire Council, specifically this year the reduction in ground maintenance and grass verge cutting which includes the verges on the A4361. Whilst a number of residents assist in maintenance of our villages in many ways, some jobs must be carried out by insured professional persons and this must be paid for.

Mrs Powell asked if some money might be available to repair the railings at Berwick Bassett. The clerk responded that quotations had already been sought for repair of the railings but that these exceeded available funds. Wiltshire Council has made the railings safe by the installation of Plastic Barrier fences and plan to repair the railings later in the year

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

Cllr Milton advised the meeting that she would not be standing for re-election at the forthcoming elections.

She reported that Wiltshire Council has a lack of funds. In line with other County Councils the cost of care for the elderly is rising dramatically. The cost of road repair is also a significant overhead to the council.

More decision making will be delegated to the Area Boards and in subsequent years they will have control over larger sums of money. Roads and other transport issues will be delegated to Community Area Transport Group. They will have the power to match fund local projects.

A vote of thanks was given to Jemima Milton

8. Update on new Community Facilities and Parish Projects

Cllr Buxton reported that there had been no progress on the development of the Old Dairy Site. There is 2 years until planning permission expires

The New Inn is currently up for sale. The site is very messy and rubbish from the site blows onto the road outside the premises. There has been some fly tipping of further builders rubbish on the entrance to the car park. Wiltshire Council will not remove fly tipping from private premises. The Police are investigating. It was suggested that the owner may be leaving the rubbish in order to deter buyers of the pub. Some present suggested that perhaps now was a time to cease opposing the redevelopment of the pub into a private house or Bed and Breakfast. There was some support for this but there was also opposition. It was felt that a pub and meeting place was required in the village. It was concluded that the Parish Council would request that the owner obtain

a skip for the Village Clean Up day and that the cleaning crew would clear up the fly tipping waste in support of the owner. They would not, however, clear the remainder of the building waste.

The clerk introduced a discussion about parish projects for which there was now funding available, from the Parish Council and Marlborough Area Board or Wiltshire Council.

At last years meeting it had been suggested that a semi hard surface be installed across the patch of land between Middle Farm and the top of Church Lane. The owner of the land did not want this to take place so the money was still available to transfer to this financial year. £200 had been spent on a party to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday.

Following a discussion it was decided to take further the Kissing Gate project. A gate was still available. It had been planned to install this by the soakaway opposite Monkton Lea but it is still not clear how this may progress. Since the original installations were planned a way to bypass the gate and stile at Christmas House (not a public footpath) has been blocked and residents find the stile at Christmas House difficult to cross. It was agreed to contact Mr Gantlett and Mr Dellar, owners of field and drive respectively, to ask permission to install the gate. The other stile by Christmas House on the path to Berwick Bassett was installed by Mr Dellar and is easier to traverse. Cllr Iles has offered to retrench the spring beyond the stile. When this is undertaken the installation of a further gate will be considered

The installation of a community defibrillator was reconsidered. Mr Dellar carries a defibrillator as part of his First Responder role although this would not be available if he were at work or during most school holidays. There is also a defibrillator at Tonic Construction but only available during working hours. It was agreed to get more information about the cost and installation of a defibrillator and circulated using the Parish email list so that locations in both villages might be investigated.

9. Register of Permissive Footpaths

The Parish Council is compiling a list of permissive paths which are significant in the area with a view to registering them before it becomes not possible to do so.

Suggested paths are the West side of the field behind the village of Winterbourne Monkton where people generally walk dogs round the whole field. Also the access across the verge at Middle Farm and across The Old Dairy site

10. Informal discussion

Mr Fielder asked about the provenance of the bench by the Bourne crossing in Winterbourne Monkton and whether it could be moved to a position more likely to be used. The clerk responded that the bench had been installed in memory of a previous council chairman. Mr Meeks kindly maintains the bench. Those present felt that the current position was the most appropriate.

Mrs Powell asked how she could install notices on Berwick Bassett notice board; she was advised of the names of key holders.

Mrs Powell asked what could be done to prevent vehicles heading for Tonic Construction coming into Berwick Bassett. The Parish Council had offered to fund the installation of a formal road sign directing traffic to farms and Tonic but a survey carried out in Berwick Bassett found that residents did not think that a suitable location could be found as, once a vehicle had left the A4361, it was committed to entering the village.

Cllr Buxton advised the meeting that he had tried to obtain a tree preservation order on a Weeping Willow on the footpath between Church and Bourne. He had been advised that a TPO was not usually given to Weeping Willows as the lifespan of willows was short in comparison with other broadleaved trees.

A vote of thanks to Cllr Buxton was given from the floor

The meeting closed at 9.15pm