

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held remotely by zoom on Wednesday 6th May 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Jill Petchey, Cllr Mark Saunders, Cllr Neil Kirk
Cllr Andrew George-Perutz, Cllr Gary Higgins
Cllr Helen Ramsay, Cllr Lyn Bennett-Nutt
Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)

1. Apologies for absence
There were none
2. Declaration of Interests
There were no declarations of interest
3. Questions from the public
There were no members of the public present.
4. Minutes of meetings of 6th March 2020
The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting.
5. Matters Arising from meeting of 6th March (not covered elsewhere in the minutes)
The No HGV signs have been erected at Berwick Bassett triangle
The invoice for the A4361 speed survey has been paid
6. Reports
Finance
The precept has been sent so the council is very financially buoyant
There is approximately £7,000 to carry over to next year. Some of this is allocated towards defibrillator future costs The amount required needs to be confirmed. Action Cllr Petchey
Money for defibrillator and A4361 may be moved to a separate account if there is a desire to separate it. There is a council savings account but interest is negligible
The council still hasn't received the VAT refund which adds another £1000 approximately
All excess funds will disappear into the A4361 improvements

The audit requires sign off of the accounts at a 'proper' meeting of the council. The deadline for submission has therefore been delayed (and may be cancelled)

It was decided not to furlough the clerk, the only Parish Council employee, for the duration of the Covid-19 lockdown period

Still outstanding is the amount to be paid out for First Responders supplies. First responders are expected to fund raise to maintain the supplies in their kit. Councillors agreed to pay £105.60 to bring the supplies up to standard and then support the first

responders in fund raising, for example collection boxes in pubs in all villages covered by the service

b. Planning

There has been no planning decisions made by Wiltshire Council planning department since 29th January 2020, which was Mr. New's permitted garage/utility extension.

There is currently no planning applications under review.

Cllr Saunders is communicated that, on reflection, he would not be sending a letter of disappointment to the senior planning officer with respect to what appears to be a disregard for the Parish Council comments on planning matters.

c. Rivers

There has been no further flooding issues to report

d. Footpaths..

The Village Clean up scheduled to take place on 2nd May was cancelled.

No progress has been made investigating improvements to School Lane Footpath including widening the last stretch to the bourne due to the lockdown. The overgrowth needs trimming back. This was undertaken by a resident last year

No meetings have taken place with regard to the footpath to Avebury

e. Roads

Cllr Bennet-Nutt has been informed that the steward has been to the Parish and has reportedly filled in pot holes. It was not possible for her to visit with the steward this time and so it is not clear whether all pot holes have been covered. If any potholes have been missed this needs to be checked and reported on the My Wiltshire app. There appears to be several outstanding including the drain alignments in the road surface by The Beeches. This may be because the Parish Steward is waiting for the use of a different machine. Action Cllr Bennet-Nutt

Some hedges, shrubs and long grass at some points in Winterbourne Monkton have been cut back but it is not clear whether this has been done by the Steward or a resident.

Drainage clearing was requested and it needs to be checked if this has been done.

Cllr Ramsay received an email last Sunday from Wiltshire Council to say that a request placed a number of weeks ago for cutting back of the overgrown grass and shrubs on the triangle at Berwick Bassett junction with the A4361 has been received. This request was made before the recent Steward visit ,however, so hopefully this will be done on his next visit.

Cllr Bennett-Nutt has put in a written request to Wiltshire Highways to remind them that with the up-coming road works on May 14th and 15th that the rumble strips must not be replaced but to go ahead with normal road covering. She also suggested that it would be cost effective for Highways at this time to do the work such as white lines and signage that will be up and coming with the reduction of the speed limit that will be taking place.

Cllr Bennett-Nutt was requested to write to Wiltshire Council again about the replacement of the rumble strips outside The Latch and to produce a timeline of communications with Wiltshire Council. Action Cllr Bennett-Nutt

An email has been sent to all residents in Berwick Bassett giving details of the road works and restrictions.

The Ridgeway is currently closed for repair

The speed limit report has been completed and MarlboroughCATG are assessing this for implementation. The stretch in this Parish was combined with the remainder of the A4361 in Avebury and Broad Hinton parishes. Neither of these councils are content with the outcome and are refusing to accept the survey. Until this is done then CATG will not progress the implementation. The implementation would be the first priority for the 2021/22 year. There is a project for 2020/21 in Froxfield that has been waiting longer which takes the funds remaining for the 2020/21 year.

The clerk attended the last CATG meeting and as asked Steve Hinds from Highways if this section can be separated from the other 2 parishes and this is being investigated.

f. Broadband

It was noted that the strength of broadband signal in some sections of Winterbourne Monkton was insufficient to reliably participate in full video zoom meetings

Other Reports

There were no other reports

8. Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting did not take place due to the lockdown.

9. Community Building

There has been no meeting about the Community Building. Building work has stopped due to the Coronavirus

10. Solstice Arrangements

It is deemed likely that the solstice celebrations will not take place this year. No actions will be required

11. Covid 19 Planning

The Covid-19 virus epidemic has had a significant effect in the country which is reflected in our Parishes. Many of our residents are older and have underlying health problems. These residents have been told not to leave their home or meet with anyone outside for several months. The council is not permitted to meet in person. The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the council were both cancelled. The New Inn has had to close. Avebury Community Shop continues to operate and provide a home delivery service

A team of volunteers has been formed. This includes residents who can provide shopping collections, prescription collections, It Support or someone to talk to. Wiltshire Council has established Healthwatch Wiltshire which coordinates a wider team of volunteers. They also have established a telephone support service known as the Wellbeing Hub.

The local group has issued a leaflet to every resident in both villages with contact details and an explanation of the support available from each group. A community facebook page has been established as has a community Whatsapp group

11. Refuse Collections at the White House Complex

Mr Godwin of Wiltshire Council has organised for the bins at the White House complex to be collected from inside the gates, removing them from the virtual footway. The request was made by the Parish Council last summer after complaints from residents that some of the bins were left out for much longer than necessary. For expediency Mr Godwin made a personal visit to each household leaving a letter or explaining the plans. Some residents are not happy with the new arrangement because the bins would be left on land belonging to the White House rather than on their threshold. As a result of this objection the new collection has been cancelled and residents will continue to be collected from outside the gate.

One resident has submitted a Freedom of Information Request for all correspondence to and from the Parish Council on this matter. The clerk was requested to produce a timeline showing the events connected with this matter and to produce a document for the Freedom of Information Request. Action Clerk

Following the receipt of the freedom of information request, it was felt that in the first instance a councillor should visit the resident to discuss the matter. Cllr Higgins suggested he could contact the resident to arrange a visit in an attempt to identify particular grievances. Concerns were voiced with respect to this potential course of action as it could have an adverse effect on the formal FOI procedure. The Chair asked the Clerk to secure legal advice on the matter before any further steps were taken. The proposal that Cllr Higgins visited the resident informally was voted on and carried by 5 to 2 with Cllrs Ramsay and George-Perutz voting against.

14. Confirmation of items for press release

Continued efforts to have A4361 repaired

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday July 1st

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

