

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday 1st July 2020 at 7.30pm.at Winterbourne Monkton

Present: Cllr Jill Petchey, Cllr Mark Saunders,
Cllr Gary Higgins
Cllr Lyn Bennett-Nutt
Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)

1. Election of Chair

Cllr Mark Saunders was elected chair of the Parish Council

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Neil Kirk, Cllr Andrew George-Perutz, Cllr Helen Ramsay

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

4. Questions from the public

There were no members of the public present.

5. Minutes of meetings of 6th May 2020 and Annual Parish Meeting

Some amendments were made to the draft minutes of the 6th May for clarification following the zoom meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council were both postponed due to restrictions imposed by the government as protection from Covid-19. This will be clarified in the minute set for completeness. The Annual Report that was to be delivered to every household will be attached to the Annual Parish minutes

6. Matters Arising from meeting of 6th May(not covered elsewhere in the minutes)

The FOI information requested on the issue of refuse collection at The White House complex has been collated into a document, approved by councillors and issued to the resident making the request. There has been no response from the resident and no further action taken. The collation of the documents had a significant impact on clerks allotted hours of work at a time when there was a significant overhead in additional correspondence due to the pandemic.

Cllr Higgins had attempted to contact the resident to arrange a direct meeting but was unsuccessful. A meeting was held with some residents of The White House Complex and Mr Godwin from Wiltshire Council. Residents were unhappy that they were being asked to do something that was against the council regulations even though they had been given permission to do so. It was agreed to cancel the new arrangements to collect the bins from inside the gate and revert to leaving the bins on the virtual footpath beside the wall of Cherry Tree Lodge

7. Reports
a. Finance

Cheques have been issued as follows

100411	152.62	Community First Insurance
100412	91.15	Walc

The council has committed to 3 years with this insurance scheme resulting in a reduction of annual payments

The accounts book for 2019/20 is not yet complete, due to other overheads. The official auditors' schedule for the paperwork production has been set to a later date so no penalties will be incurred

Wiltshire Council is in danger of entering a situation where all spending is stopped apart from essential services such as education and care. Wiltshire Council is critically short of funds. All funding for Marlborough Area Board grants and CATG has already been suspended. It is therefore unlikely that any funding or work will be obtained from Wiltshire Council at least for 2020/21 financial year

b. Planning

There are currently no planning applications under review and none awaiting adjudication from Wiltshire Planning. The residents at 3 Manor Farm Cottages have started their various extensions. (Planning approval number 19/11962/FUL)

Manor Farm Development - Riva, the developer, has bought additional land adjacent to the construction site as they needed an area to install a sewage treatment plant and associated foul water pumping station, to accommodate the new houses.

The area of land that was purchased is directly opposite the entrance to Manor House and Manor Cottage and comprises of the copse of trees, the tarmac road leading back to the rear of the Procum buildings (which currently has a metal five bar gate across it) and a small portion of the adjacent field. The area of the field that they now own has been segregated with post and wire fencing and will be the discharge area for the 'clean' water from the pumping station. It is understood that both the sewage treatment plant and the pumping station will be below ground.

The installation of the pipe from the housing site to the treatment plant (installed within the boundary of the copse) and the installation of the two main components will take approximately 2 weeks. A small number of trees will be removed from the copse to allow access for an excavator. The site foreman has requested permission to use Church Lane for the access and egress of a lorry to collect the spoil from the excavation works. The lorry will be parked on the aforementioned tarmac road whilst waiting or being loaded and will not cause any congestion. Currently it is undecided whether the copse of trees (which will be subjected to a process of coppicing), will be left for the site management company to maintain or whether it will be divided between the two new properties which back onto the copse, thus extending their rear gardens.

Acorn Construction will complete three social houses and three private houses this year, with the possibility of some additional house foundations being laid, dependent on the onset of winter. The remainder of the houses, cart shed, long barn and community hall will not be started until next year.

As concern had been expressed by some local residents an email was sent explaining the above to residents on the Parish email list.

The Parish Council was concerned that the Parish Council had not been advised of this amendment by Wiltshire Council and that the plans had not been shown on Wiltshire Council website

At the time of the meeting Wiltshire Council planning application pages on their website were not available at all

c. Rivers

There has been no further flooding issues to report

d. Footpaths...

Due the hot and damp weather many of the footpaths are now overgrown

There are 2 cans of paint ready for painting the bridge on Church Lane Footpath.

Volunteers will be sought. Action Cllr Saunders

There has been no progress with the footpath/cycleway to Avebury, mainly due to social distancing restrictions. Cllr Saunders will contact Mike Daniels to check on any progress. The National Trust continues to refuse permission for the path to cross their land on the outskirts of Avebury. It was suggested that funding should continue to be sought then pressure including publicity could be used. Action Cllr Saunders

Cllr Higgins will write to Rivar to confirm pedestrian access to the properties on the Manor Farm Development including the measures taken for pedestrian safety on the access road (Old Dairy Lane). Action Cllr Higgins.

e. Roads

The resurfacing of parts of the A4361, either side of the parish, was completed at the end of May 2020. The communication between Wiltshire Council and the Parish Council was very poor. Wiltshire Council advertised one set of dates, and then moved the works with no notice. There were issues where the contractor was told they couldn't close for the full time needed so the result was that the road was closed outside the advertised 9-3 times and also ran into a Saturday. Access to residents was not given during the first closure and residents had to carry out a half hour detour. This has been addressed with the contractor and access was promised for the second closure with proof of destination and good reason for example shop deliveries to customers.

It was agreed that a letter be sent to Wiltshire Council Highways. Action Cllr Bennett-Nutt

Cllr Bennett-Nutt has produced a time-line in relation to the correspondence with Wiltshire Highways regarding the decaying road surface by the Winterbourne Monkton main road entrance. There is no progress with having this replaced. Cllr Bennett-Nutt has composed a draft letter to Wiltshire Highways. Cllr Higgins will write to Wiltshire Council highways and Chief Executive and the MP. Action Cllr Higgins

Due to Covid 19 Cllr Bennett-Nutt has still had no walk around villages with the Steward to check potholes which are multiplying. She will follow up to see if they are willing to meet up now the restrictions are lifting. The Blocked drain outside 190 Winterbourne Monkton has been reported by My Wiltshire app.

The lay-by opposite Winterbourne Monkton has had fly tipping and has also been used as a toilet. Appropriate signage will be requested from Wiltshire Council. Action Cllr Saunders

Villagers will be asked to report road issues on the My Wiltshire App as this seems the best way to get things done.

f. Broadband

There was nothing new to report

Other Reports

g. Avebury World Heritage Site

Cllr George-Perutz is the council representative. It will be confirmed that he receives reports

h. Marlborough Area Board

All meetings have been suspended and grants ceased

i. Police

The PCSO has been away from work and no reports have been issued in her absence

j. Others – refuse collections

The launch of the new refuse collection regime coincided with the beginning of lockdown and other restrictions due to the Covid-19 virus. There were many teething problems with bins not being collected when they should have been. This was most evident in School Lane Footpath where it has taken until the last week in June to collect the recycling bin on the correct day. The refuse here is collected by a small vehicle

Others – Parish Council email list

The Parish Council holds a list of email addresses of some residents obtained with their specific permission and held securely. This is used for advising residents of urgent matters such as road closures or need for parking permits. Only around one third of residents are on this list despite original direct contact with each resident and subsequent advertisement or contact through the website. Renewed efforts will be made to increase the number of residents on this list.

8. Allocation of Councillor Roles

Since the last meeting Cllr Petchey has resigned as chair of the council. Cllr Saunders has been elected.

Cllr Saunders was Vice-Chair. Cllr George-Perutz was nominated as vice-chair. This will be confirmed at the next meeting

Cllr Saunders will take on the footpath/cycleway to Avebury project

It was suggested that the role of fund-raiser be established separate to that of the Responsible Finance Officer. Finance will be needed in excess of the precept to fund the creation of the footpath to Avebury and also to contribute to the fitting out of Community Building (although these funds will be held separately to Parish Council funds). It was

suggested that Cllr Ramsay may enjoy this role but this is to be confirmed. Cllr Bennett-Nutt will obtain the Avebury Community Centre Accounts for initial information.

9. A4361 issues and CATG progress

All meetings have been cancelled and works under CATG have been postponed for this financial year. It is unclear whether works will continue as scheduled in 2021/2 year which will position the speed limit reduction on A4361 to 2022. It is also not known whether Avebury and Broad Hinton Parish Council have paid their share of the A4361 survey. If not, then the speed reduction cannot take place unless Wiltshire Highways are willing to separate the Winterbourne Monkton and Berwick Bassett stretches from the rest (as originally applied for). This has already been discussed at the last CATG between clerk and Steve Hinds. A letter will be sent to Steve Hinds to confirm the schedule of works from CATG and the future prospects of the application from this council if the other Parish Councils will not comply. Action Cllr George-Perutz

10. Defibrillator Renewal

The defibrillators are due for renewal in 2 years time. Money has been set aside from the precept in order to fund the renewal. There may not be match funding available from Wiltshire Council.

Cllr Petchey advised that there was no maintenance requirement and she will obtain a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding to confirm the exact date of renewal.
Action Cllr Petchey

14. Confirmation of items for press release

Request for residents to provide email address for Parish Council email list

13. Date of Next Meeting

Wednesday September 2nd

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

