

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday 7th July 2021 at 7.30pm.at St Mary Magdalene Church Winterbourne Monkton

Present: Cllr Mark Saunders (chair), Cllr Andrew George-Perutz,
Cllr Neil Kirk, Cllr Colin Pattison Cllr Helen Ramsay
County Cllr Jane Davies

Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)
1 member of the public

1. Apologies for absence
There were none
2. Declaration of Interests
There were no declarations of interest
3. Questions from the public
The resident asked about the progress of the transfer of the Community Hall, consultation with residents, and potential costs to the Parish Council. These were answered in the discussion about the Transfer of the Community Building, see below
4. Minutes of meetings of 3rd March 2021
The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting
(There was no meeting in May due to elections)
5. Matters Arising from meeting of 3rd March (not covered elsewhere in the minutes)
There were none
6. Reports
The precept of £4562.00 has been received

Cheques paid out since March

100418	£152.62	Community First Insurance
100419	£ 91.12	WALC Subscription
100420	£ 22.50	Cllr Saunders (Village Hall Association Membership)
100421	£ 22.50	Mr Petchey (Village Hall Association Membership)

The insurance and WALC subscription are under budget, in total by less than the Village Hall Association Membership which was not budgeted for

There is a carry over balance of around £9,000 which is earmarked towards the A4361 road improvement scheme which is due this year. The exact amount has not been confirmed.

The certificate of exemption from Audit fees has been submitted

The Council currently holds a balance of slightly over £9,000. Most of this will be spent during the 2021/22 year on A4361 speed reduction implementation. It is still not clear how much this will be

b. Planning

The clerk took part in a webinar about Community Plans led by Wiltshire Council. There has been no response to requests made by some participants for assistance from Wiltshire Council for smaller communities. There has since been a survey in order to determine why smaller councils have not completed Community Plans. The clerk responded requesting movement forward with the registration of our Community Area and financial and practical assistance with the production of the final plan

The clerk reported that a resident has raised an enforcement issue with Wiltshire Council Planning as he believes the height of the roof of the main barn in the Old Dairy development is above that on the plans

There have been no planning applications since the last meeting in March

c. Emergency and Flooding

There have been no further flooding issues to report. There have been 2 early flood warnings due to heavy rain but no flooding.

Cllr Kirk will undertake the monthly defibrillator reports from the defibrillator by the church and collect those from Rathgael house

The defibrillator contract is due for renewal in mid 2022. Some money has been set aside from the precept each year to contribute the renewal cost. County Cllr Davies advised that as this Parish Council was in receipt of a grant from Marlborough Area Board when the defibrillators were first installed, it was unlikely that another would be awarded. There would, therefore, be a shortfall which would need to be fulfilled by a precept increase or fund raising. Cllr Kirk will investigate alternatives, for example purchase of the current machines.

An alternative location for the defibrillator at Rathgael House may be needed as the house is to be sold. Cllr Saunders will determine the urgency. Original suggested locations, not possible at original installation, may be considered including moving Rathgael defibrillator to The New Inn with the owners permission and the defibrillator near the church could move to the wall of the Community Hall

d. Footpaths...

Cllr Gunther from Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett PC is preparing some footpaths maps for Winterbourne Bassett Community Pub. He raised a concern about crops growing across footpath BBAS4 which links to WIBA3 at Whyr Farm. Cllr George-Perutz has spoken to the farmer concerned. Walkers may walk around the field without impedence and the footpath will be reinstated once crops are established

A North Wilshire Path Wardens Group has been established under the direction of Mrs Anne Henshaw. Cllr Andrew George-Perutz attended a recent Teams meeting

Another tree has fallen from the boundary of the School Lane Footpath to Berwick Bassett Footpath by the bench. Volunteers have cleared some and will continue the clearance.

Once social distancing regulations are lifted a village cleanup and/or repainting the railings on School Lane Footpath Bridge and in Berwick Bassett will be attempted. There may be help to be obtained from the Parish Steward although this may be more paint.

e. Roads

The A4361 was closed by the Winterbourne Monkton layby overnight on 30th April for resurfacing of the section of the A4361 by the layby which had the rumble surface on. There were a number of potholes in need of repair. The work was completed ahead of schedule and entrance and exit from Winterbourne Monkton for residents only was managed very well. The surface is now smooth tarmac. The clerk sent an email to Helen Pickett at Wiltshire Council to thank the workforce for their handling of the traffic and for the smooth surface

No notification has been received as to when the surface of Church Lane will be repaired as agreed by Wiltshire Council Highways earlier in the year. This has also been queried by a Church Lane resident who as been advised that he will be notified when the Parish Council is made aware of commencement of works.

There are potholes on School Lane Footpath. The Lane is an urban footpath with private vehicle access. It is unadopted as a road. Wiltshire Council are reluctant to undertake and work on the footpath caused by vehicle damage but may be gently persuaded when undertaking other work

The meeting of West of Marlborough Traffic Group with MP Danny Kruger at Avebury Manor on 11th June 2021 has been cancelled due to Mr Kruger being unable to attend.

f. Broadband

There have been no improvements to the broadband speeds

g. Community Building

See below

8. Other Reports

h. Avebury World Heritage Site

There have been no meetings

i. Marlborough Area Board

Virtual meetings are taking place..

j. Police

No reports of thefts or incidents have been reported.

k. Avebury Community Centre

Cllr Ramsay will attend the next meeting

k. Clerk

Solstice

Summer Solstice passed without any known problems to local residents. Parking Permits were distributed to those residents who usually park in laybys or on the roadside.

l. Other

A resident has requested the minutes of the last 6 meetings under Freedom of Information. They were referred to the PC website

A future resident of Old Dairy Lane has made enquiries about an allotment.

9. Traffic issues on A4361 and village roads

The advertisement for the A4361 speed reduction has been placed. . The cost of this will be £375 but an invoice has not been raised yet.. Despite a number of requests there is still no estimate of final costs

There is no progress on the recommendations made in Martin Cooks visit in March on Church Lane and Winterbourne Monkton Village Road

The road surface at the main junction of Winterbourne Monkton Village Road and A4361 will be reported again to Martin Cook . The noise generated by the decaying surface could be measured by Environmental Health

10. Community Building

Cllr Saunders presented a letter to obtain quotes from solicitors to handle the transfer. It was agreed to contact solicitors Royd Withy King and Merrimans in Marlborough and a formal quote from the ACRE solicitor whose listed costs would be around £5000.

Proposed Cllr George-Perutz, seconded Neil Kirk. There is sufficient funds in savings to pay this money from Council funds to reclaim from section 106 monies if possible.

The Section 106 document will be reviewed to establish whether some of the money can be used to pay for solicitors and other transfer costs and also to determine if there are any restrictions on usage

The wording of a survey to residents was agreed. This would solicit information about prospective lets and confirm that residents are in favour of adopting the hall.

An opening ceremony will be held. Cllr Saunders suggested an opening community barbecue

A cost analysis was presented by the clerk. There are essential costs such as Insurance and Business Rates. Energy costs should be covered by the photovoltaic cells on the roof. Should the hall remain empty and unused the costs will be minimal. In order to accommodate lettings, costs such as cleaning will be incurred. Based on letting charges of £15 an hour to external lettings and £10 an hour for local lettings and term time (35 weeks) rental, the hall will need to be let 4 to 5 times per week to break even costs and allow the hall to be used at more favourable rates for local benefit. It is hoped that some suggestions for possible lettings will come from the survey. All councillors will consider possible lettings.

The Community Hall Committee will revert to its informal status rather than a Parish Council Committee. Cllrs George-Perutz and Ramsay will represent the council. Cllr Saunders will chair the committee. The committee will act as a working group with a view to this group becoming the management committee of the Charitable Trust. Until the Charitable Trust is established major decisions and those involving money will be made or approved by the Parish Council Mr Petchey has resigned from the committee. Cllr Saunders expressed his thanks for the preparatory work undertaken by Mr Petchey. The hall committee will continue to investigate potential hirers, costs of equipments and sources of grants. The next meeting will be on July 19th.

A large amount of money may be given to the community for play equipment, The Parish Council owns no land so any equipment would need to be installed in the Community Centre Car Park eg a trim trail or on someone else's property. It is considered whether the New Inn would be an appropriate place if a means of transferring the finance and ultimate ownership of the play area (and therefore insurance and maintenance) was acceptable.

11. Confirmation of items for press release

Cllr Ramsay will compose an article about the history of the speed review on A4361 and the clerk will add a reminder for residents to complete the hall survey (the Upper Kennet News will be published on 1st August)

13. Date of Next Meeting

A meeting in addition to the usual schedule will be held on August 4th

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

