

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday 4th August 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

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 7th July 2021

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meeting

5. Matters Arising from meeting of 7th July (not covered elsewhere in the minutes)

There were none

6. Reports

Finance

There have been no cheques since the last meeting

Telephone banking has been confirmed

The cost of the A4361 speed reduction advertising has been confirmed at £375 but no invoice has yet been received and no indication of final cost of implementation not yet confirmed

A new banking mandate will be submitted with new signatories. The standing orders have been slightly amended permitting electronic bank transfers with the same guidelines currently in place as for other banking transactions. All banking transactions must be approved by Council either explicitly in the budget or at a Council meeting.

The period of public accessibility of accounts has been set for 6 weeks from July 1st 2021

b. Planning

There have been no planning applications since the meeting in July

c. Emergency and Flooding.

Cllr Kirk has taken the monthly defibrillator reports from the defibrillator by the church and Rathgael house

Cllr Kirk has investigated alternative arrangements for replacing the defibrillators. He has calculated that the purchase of machines will cost approximately £40 per machine less than the current rental agreement but the rental agreement offers other additional advantages such as replacement on breakdown

On renewal the Winterbourne Monkton machines may be moved to The New Inn and the Community Hall. The one currently on the wall of Rathgael House may move earlier

d. Footpaths...

Cllr Gunther from Broad Hinton and Winterbourne Bassett has recently re-walked footpath BBAS4 which links to WIBA3 at Whyr Farm and confirmed the path cleared. He expressed his thanks to the landowner

The North Wiltshire Path Wardens Group is compiling a spreadsheet of footpaths. Sheets for Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton have been sent to the clerk for completion

A limb has fallen from another tree by the boundary of the School Lane Footpath to Berwick Bassett Footpath by the bench. Volunteers have moved the limb but there remains debris on the footpath. Cllr Ramsay will submit a request for clearance to Wiltshire Council through the Wiltshire Council app. The clerk will contact ex Cllr Bennett-Nutt for direct contact details for the Parish Steward

e. Roads

The Parish Steward has visited Winterbourne Monkton and cleaned road signs He commented on the state of the road by The Beeches, in particular where the parked cars on the Beeches side of the road have caused erosion to the opposite side of the road. He pointed out that it was not the responsibility of Wiltshire Council to extend the width of the road into the verge in order to permit vehicles to pass the parked cars

The Parish Steward is aware of some potholes at the top of Mill Lane. This is actually road subsidence which is making turning for vehicles difficult. This will be reported through My Wiltshire to ensure it is recorded. Independently a resident was advised by another resident that the East section of Mill Lane to Windmill House is not an adopted highway. This will be verified.

There has been an accident on A4361 North of Berwick Bassett. A Vauxhall corsa took action to avoid a head on crash with a white van travelling north and overtaking .The Corsa ended up on its roof. There were no serious injuries

f. Broadband

There have been no improvements to the broadband speeds but Cllr George-Perutz is investigating the company F1 which has some local connections

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.

This council will access grants for equipment for the Community Building

j. Police
Cllr Kirk has made contact with the local police. He will apply to receive the regular police reports

k. Avebury Community Centre
Cllr Ramsay attended the recent meeting

9. Traffic issues on A4361 and village roads

The conclusion of the speed reduction survey is imminent leaving way for the implementation. Cllr Ramsay composed a report for the Upper Kennet News following enquiries after the speed reduction consultation notices were displayed

10. Community Building

Cllr Saunders has received responses to the tender for solicitors to handle the transfer. Royds Withy King no longer handle asset transfers but the estimate from Merriman's compares favourable with that of the Acre solicitor. It was agreed to ask for confirmation of quotes in writing prior to appointing Mr Tm Cameron (Proposed Cllr George-Perutz, seconded Cllr Ramsay). It was agreed unanimously to proceed with the transfer. It was decided not to proceed with the adoption of a charitable trust at this point in time although it was noted that considerable help with this was available from Wiltshire Village Halls Association.

No transfer documents or updated anticipated dates have been received from Rivar's solicitors or Wiltshire Council. The Rateable Value has still not been set

Concern was expressed about the height of the drop from the low wall round the churchyard to the gardens in the new development. The wall was previously backed by the wall of a stabling unit so there was no drop. Cllr Saunders will ask Rivar if any fencing will be erected.

The residents' survey has been circulated to every resident in both villages. A good number have been returned. Responses were unanimously in favour of adopting the hall. There were several offers of help and an assortment of suggestions for use. A reminder has been placed in the Upper Kennet News and the clerk will send the survey to those on the Parish Council email list in an attempt to get further responses. Cllr George-Perutz will circulate a more definitive analysis of responses

Cllr Ramsay recommended determining as many sources of grants as possible

A Community Hall in Ashton Keynes is replacing its chairs. These are upholstered chairs in a burgundy fabric with gold painted legs. The chairs are stackable and will cost £5 each. A sample was brought to the meeting. There is a long wait list for new chairs It was agreed to purchase 60 of the better chairs. These will be available in September. The clerk will check the cost of tables. Rectangular ones as in the church were preferred. The cost of a projector and screen was being investigated by the Community hall committee.

Avebury Sports Club has one. Cllr Saunders will investigate

The Community Hall Committee held a meeting on July 19th. They were able to have an internal inspection of the hall which is almost complete although the outside area is not Cllr Saunders has met with the owners of The New Inn to discuss the possibility of the Council providing some of the Playground money from the development towards the construction of a play area for Community Use with ownership (and responsibility) being passed to The New Inn. This is being considered. Other options include fitness equipment on the area by the School Lane Footpath Bridge or in the hall car park. .

11. Confirmation of items for press release

Cllr George-Perutz will compose an article for the September issue of Upper Kennet News

13. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on September 1st

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm