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Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes

Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 2022 at 7.30pm at
Winterbourne Monkton Church

Present – Cllr Mark Saunders (chair), Cllr Andrew George-Perutz, Cllr Neil Kirk,
Cllr Colin Pattison, Cllr Simon Petchey, Cllr Helen Ramsay, Cllr Ben Woodward
Cllr Stephen Stacey (Avebury Parish Council)
County Cllr Jane Davies
Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)

1. Introduction and Welcome

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

2. Apologies

Miss P Gold

4. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meetings

Due to the Covid virus there has been no Annual Parish Meeting since 2019. Minutes in 2020 comprised only of an annual report as the meeting was cancelled due to a national lockdown. Both were accepted as a 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 Mark Saunders

A report had been circulated to everyone in both villages outlining the work of the council in the past year. Cllr Saunders added that lots of events have occurred since the last Annual Parish Meeting in 2019 including a worldwide pandemic, the war in Ukraine and leaving the EU. Cllr Saunders thanked councillors and clerk for continuing to work throughout difficult times ensuring the progression of larger projects including the A4361 speed reduction and the transfer of the Community Hall and also the ongoing issues of banking, road signs at Old Dairy Lane and potholes.

Cllr Saunders announced that there would be a Village Spring Clean on Saturday 28th May. Help would be appreciated at any time between 10 and 4.

Potholes in the roads within both villages continue to be the source of many complaints. The lower end of Church Lane has been resurfaced but the promised works to the main village road through Winterbourne Monkton have not occurred.

Resident A said that he had continued to ask Wiltshire Council to replace the surface on the A4361 by the bus stops in Winterbourne Monkton where the rumble strips are deteriorating. He feels that his property is incurring structural damage because of the vibration from traffic on the road and may take legal action. He observed that the traffic is still speeding despite the speed reduction on the A4361. It was commented that, although not immediate, as the road deteriorates it will be resurfaced and the rumble strips will not be replaced.

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6. Financial Summary – clerk

The clerk reported that the precept for the year 2022/2023 is £5,045. This is the Parish Council section of the rates. This is a 5.6 % increase on last year.

Parish Council finances are on track with around £11000 in credit but much of this is already allocated to spending this year. The three defibrillators will be replaced at a cost of £3800. The implementation of the speed reduction on A4361 also needs to be paid for which will cost another £3000 to £4000. There will also be a contribution to the Jubilee Party. Much of the savings have been made because of careful spending in recent years in preparation for these bills and the very valuable voluntary labour that residents willingly contribute, for example in village clean ups. There has been no expenditure on Parish Projects in recent years because the two biggest requests, the footpath to Avebury by the A4361 and the hard surfacing of a footpath on the verge outside Middle Farm have reached dead ends with no implementation possible. It has not been possible to gain a right of way across land owned by East Farm. The owner of Middle Farm is happy for residents to continue to cross the verge by the farm but does not want to have a designated hard surfaced footpath.

There will be finance available for local projects

7. County Councillor Jane Davies to talk about Wiltshire Council Issues

County Cllr Jane Davies complemented the Parish Councillors for their hard work. She particularly mentioned Cllr George-Perutz who is the councils representative at Marlborough Area Board and Marlborough Community Area Transport Group. County Cllr Davies advised the meeting that Wiltshire Council is responsible for schools, care and age related facilities as well as roads and potholes all at considerable cost.

Wiltshire Council is actively working to house displaced people from Ukraine. To date 288 homes in Wiltshire have been matched with families from Ukraine. There have been 57 school applications with 3 Ukrainian children starting school in Wiltshire at the start of the summer term. There must be checking of receiving households to ensure the families will be safe. County Cllr Davies claimed that Wiltshire Council had the highest receiving rate of all unitary authorities. Anyone wishing to find out more about receiving refugees can contact refugees@wiltshire.gov.uk.

County Cllr Davies said that 95% of all applicants had been given places at their first choice primary school. There will be a new state of the art special school in Rowde and a school for children with Autism in Salisbury.

Residents who pay their council tax by Standing Order will have the grant for the energy fund paid direct to bank accounts

8. Discussion about Wiltshire Council Issues

Cllr Ramsay asked County Cllr Davies why there were so many inaccurate and conflicting responses from Wiltshire Council when complaints are received. In particular there had been issues with bin collections from Old Dairy Lane. Complaints made by various residents received different inaccurate responses including bins not being put out on time and the bins remained unemptied. County Cllr Davies asked that these issues be sent to her for her to forward

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9. Update on new Community Hall and Recreation Space

Cllr Saunders outlined the current status of the Community Hall. The Hall is complete and ready for transfer to the community. A Community Hall Committee has been formed and now has 6 members and legal advice from another resident. The committee has applied to the Charities Commission for a CIO Charity. Parish Councillors had voted by a majority to have the hall transferred from the developers direct to the Charity. Wiltshire Council is the authority managing the transfer and they have been asked to make the transfer direct to the charity. Currently the Charities Commission are waiting for Wiltshire Council to formally agree to that. The Committee are aiming to have the hall ready to use for the Jubilee Events at the beginning of June.

90 pre-loved chairs are already in place. Some expenditure will be needed but a sum of money from the developers will be transferred with the hall.

The results of the questionnaire have been collated and will be implemented. There will be a grand opening and definitely a Friday morning coffee morning led by Cllr Saunders

As part of the Wiltshire Council conditions of the Section 106 agreement for Old Dairy Lane is an amount of money to be spent on play and leisure. Traditionally this money would be spent on a children's playground for the development but there is no land spare on the development that could be given for this purpose and the Parish Council does not own any land. Cllr Saunders outlined the plans currently being explored: Donating money to The New Inn towards the cost of an adventure playground in the grounds of the New Inn owned by The New Inn (including maintenance and insurance) but open to the public, Environmental Hides or other project on farmland in Berwick Bassett and static outdoor gym equipment in the grounds of the Community Hall or elsewhere. A discussion was held to identify other land which may be used. There is a plot of land near Chemega which was meant to be used for a new small industrial unit which was dropped from the plans. It is possible this land may be used for more development when the Chemega lease comes up for renewal. There is a piece of land at the bottom of School Lane Footpath next to Middle Farm. The owner has now been determined and he may be willing to have it used for a playground. There is a time limit believed to be 12 months for the project to be complete which may rule out acquiring land prior to construction of play area. This would also leave the support and maintenance as a Parish Council liability.

10. Conclusion of A4361 Speed Reduction

Cllr George-Perutz reported that the speed limit for traffic on A4361 has been reduced to 50mph. Thanks was expressed to Cllr Ramsay who wrote the proposal and Cllr George-Perutz for pursuing the issue at each CATG meeting. Cllr George-Perutz also thanked County Cllr Davies and CATG for progressing the project to implementation. One side effect, however, of the speed reduction on A4361 are signs at the end of entrances into the villages highlighting the National Speed limit (60mph) within the villages which is inappropriate for the type of road. Discussions are currently taking place with Wiltshire Highways.. Cllr Stacey said that the same signage was erected at the entrance to Avebury Truslue. He suggested that Avebury Parish Council and Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council work jointly on redeeming this situation. County Cllr Davies recommended involving the cabinet officer at Wiltshire Council (Mark McLellan)

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Residents suggested that a 20mph limit be applied for within the villages. This would involve further cost. County Cllr Davies advised that villagers would need to show that the current average speed through the villages was 24mph or less Resident C suggested that residents need to take personal responsibility for keeping to a safe speed within their community

Resident A claimed that there was no noticeable reduction of speed. County Cllr Davies said that it often takes a period of time for the speed to settle as regular drivers get used to the new speed. No monitoring of highway speed can be conducted where the limit is over 40mph but the police could be asked to do spot checks. Cllr Stacey advised that the speed monitoring sign at the entrance to Avebury, where the limit drops to 30mph, does not identify individual vehicles but does send information about traffic speed to the Police. **Cllr Ramsay requested that Resident A identify company vehicles that exceed the speed limit so that the companies concerned can be written to.**

11. Defibrillator Replacement

Cllr Kirk confirmed that the defibrillators in both villages will be replaced this summer. The defibrillator currently on the wall by the church will be moved to the Community Centre. A training session will be held. Cllr Kirk advised attending but also described how easy the defibrillators were to use as audible instructions guided all operations. A defibrillator is also held by the First Responders of which there are 2 in Winterbourne Monkton. There is also a defibrillator at Manor Farm

The First Responders are volunteers and not always available. Additional volunteers are always welcome and full training will be given.

There is a paramedic dedicated to the support of the First Responders and it will soon be possible for the First Responders to transfer patients to hospital if appropriate to avoid the use of an ambulance.

12. Planning

Cllr Pattison reported that there had been a number of planning applications in the last 12 months but none had generated objections

13. Arrangements for Queens Platinum Jubilee Event

Cllr Woodward reported that Cllr Pattison had produced a questionnaire that had been circulated throughout both villages, The majority suggested that a garden party be held in the garden of The New Inn. Many residents had offered help. There may be Parish Council funding to pay for ingredients if residents do catering. The event will be free and open to all residents of both villages

14. Solstice Arrangements

Cllr Stacey advised that the arrangements for the solstice would be similar to previous years but the administration of Parking Permits would be handled purely by Avebury PC potentially with an arranged session for residents to go to collect permits from Avebury. The clerk suggested that distributing the permits by this Parish Council for its own residents may be more appropriate. Cllr Stacey advised that the arrangements were governed by Wiltshire Council

15. Suggestions for Upcoming Projects

Cllr Saunders suggested that lighting School Lane footpath, particularly on the Church side of The Bourne should be explored. It may be possible to install solar

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lighting although there is significant tree cover. The nearest electricity supply is in a nearby rented property which may not be appropriate, Supplying power from the Community Hall may be investigated. Cllr Petchey suggested that the size of the hedge be reduced.

A vote of thanks to all councillors was given from the floor

The meeting closed at 9.15pm

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