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Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday March 6th, 2024, at 7.30pm. at Winterbourne Monkton Community Hall.

Present: Cllr Ben Woodward (chair),
Cllr Colin Pattison, Cllr Jill Petchey,
Cllr Philip Scott
Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)
County Cllr Jane Davies (part)

1. Apologies for absence
Cllr Tim Swinyard

2. Declaration of Interests
There were no declarations of interest other than those on specific agenda items.

3. Questions from the public
A resident from Berwick Bassett raised some issues particular to Berwick Bassett although unable to attend the meeting. They raised particular concerns about signs on A4361 that had fallen, the unpassable condition of the Winterbourne Monkton end of the main footpath from Berwick Bassett and the painting of Berwick Bassett Bridge. They also described the unprecedented amount of flooding in the village caused by the amount of water running off the fields.

Resolved: The road signs have been reported to Wiltshire Council, the area of footpath discussed needs some major changes to channel the spring than runs across it. The bridge painting will take place in the summer if sufficient volunteers are available. Cllr Woodward will investigate a rear access to the properties in Berwick Bassett in the case of flooding preventing access to the A4361 for the Emergency Plan

4. Minutes of Meeting of February 7th, 2024
The minutes were accepted as true reflection of the meetings and signed by the chair

5. Matters Arising from meeting of February 7th not covered elsewhere.
a. Millenium Bench, A smaller bench has been put in the place of the broken bench. The broken bench will be removed.

Resolved: Cllr Scott will remove the broken bench. The potential of making an improved seating area using money from the Recreation Grant will be investigated.

b. Noticeboard in Berwick Bassett. The clerk is investigating the possibility of a new door as an alternative to replacing the whole door.

Resolved: As the noticeboard is too small to hold minutes and other notices, a new noticeboard will be sought

c. Council standing orders

Resolved: Clerk to circulate the current NALC model standing orders to councillors.

d. Council emails. Cllr Petchey had proposed that councillors should revert to using personal email addresses rather than bbwmpc.org addresses. The clerk reported that the web hosting company advised that government recommendations are that council

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specific emails are used for all correspondence. There would also not be a reduction in costs should all the email addresses not be used. A further recommendation is the pc change domain to a .gov domain.

Resolved: Continue as current with email addresses and await notification and possible financial incentive to change domain

e. Old Dairy Lane Sewage Processing Plant. Cllr Petchey advised that the plant remained ineffective and the warning light was continuously on. It is believed this is due to the high-water table. Cllr Scott confirmed that the manholes at the community hall were also filling up with groundwater immediately after emptying, Cllr Petchey advised that the contents of the plant were being discharged onto adjoining land with the potential for it reaching the bourne.

Resolved: Clerk will identify bodies to whom complaint may be made

6. Reports

a. Finance

Cllr Swinyard was unable to attend the meeting or send a report.

Resolved: Cllr Swinyard to be added to Lloyds Bank signatories

b. Planning

Cllr Pattison reported that he was still awaiting response from Wiltshire Council regarding any restrictions on vehicle access in Church Lane. The appropriate Wiltshire Councillor has been on annual leave.

Resolved: Await response from Wiltshire Council. Cllr Scott to advise resident making the report of investigations taking place.

There are no new planning applications

There is a tree preservation order request to fell a Beech Tree on the border between Winterbourne House and Tonic, applied for by Winterbourne House.

Resolved: Councillors had no objections

c. Emergency and Flooding.

The Winterbourne had breached to a level of around 6 feet above bank level at the beginning of March. Water did not enter any properties but had encroached onto garden land and into sheds and summerhouses. The main village road had become unpassable due to the inability of the soakaway at Winterbourne Lodge and the gully at 190 to cope with the water. All bridges over the bourne were submerged cutting off some individual properties, the church, and properties at the bottom of Church Lane and Berwick Bassett Village

Cllr Woodward has applied for more gel sacs and flood signs.

Resolved: Additional flood signs will be requested

The 2 areas of flooding on A4361 that had resulted in vehicles being stranded have been reported to Wiltshire Council

Discretionary gully cleaning is taking place in the Parish Council Area in Week 13.

The clerk has requested cleaning of soakaway at Winterbourne Lodge, drain at 190, gully at top of Church Lane. The Parish Steward has looked at these as best he can with limited equipment and also dug out some runoffs to ditches

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A defibrillator awareness session had been held. It was well attended by residents. The Parish Council has been advised that the defibrillator rental scheme is ceasing. At the end of the rental period the defibrillators existing in the community will be gifted to the community by the Ambulance Service that currently lease them. They will then need new batteries and pads. Batteries will need replacing every 4 years at a cost of around £550 per battery, pads need replacing annually or after each use at a cost of £10 per set. This is less than the current provision made in the precept and would allow the 3 current defibrillators to be retained. Inspections by the ambulance service will stop requiring more inspections by someone local.

d. Footpaths.

Wood chippings have been applied by a team of volunteers to the path by Lower School Lane Bridge. More work is required.

Resolved: Volunteers to revisit with more chippings and reposition memorial bench when weather permits

The clerk has made contact with the newly re-established Combined parishes Right of Way Group

Resolved: The village clean up will be on 6th April

e. Roads

The request for speed reduction to 20mph has progressed. It is possible to have a free metro count check to ensure that an average speed limit of 24mph is attainable, however, this will cause a delay to the main application for the speed reduction and is not considered required. A metro count will be required once the application for speed reduction is submitted. This will cost approximately £600. It may be difficult to carry out any metro count in the villages due to the lack of streetlights for the monitor to be attached to. Those that exist are on bends or junctions which are not recommended places for the placement of the strips. Cllr Davies advised that the potential usefulness of the metro count would be assessed by Highways prior to installation and another means of assessment may be used.

It was acknowledged that the primary reason for this application was the new signage installed after the speed reduction on A4361 implying that it is safer to drive on the village roads than on the A4361.

Resolved: The application for speed reduction will be made to LHFIG. Cllr Woodward will attend the meeting at which the application will be considered.

Cllr Petchey has contacted Maggie Lewis of Avebury Parish Council to confirm that this council area wished to be included in the Temporary Traffic Regulation Order for this year's Summer Solstice. Cllr Lewis confirmed that she would include this council in the application this year but stated that this council may want to consider a separate application in the future to attempt to solve issues about parking permit. Avebury Parish Council is planning to revisit the issue of permits after this year's Solstice with a view to improving procedures and they would include this council in any meetings they have in this regard.

In the past a representative from this council attended the Avebury Solstice Operation Planning meetings which included those directly involved in the planning and organisation of the Solstice. The National Trust are in overall charge and felt that any

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more representation would make the meetings unwieldy as there are often 12-15 people in attendance. Therefore, this council would not be included but Avebury Parish Council will pass on any relevant information and copy this council in on emails sent to Chris Clarke at Wiltshire Council applying for the TTRO.

Cllr Petchey commented that in the application for the TTRO Avebury Parish Council have included Old Dairy Lane, which is classed as a private road, it will not be known if it has been included until the TTRO is granted.

7. Other Reports

No external meetings were attended.

8. Open Spaces Recreation Grant

Cllr Woodward declared an interest in the following item.

Cllr Woodward presented a proposal for the children's play area in the grounds of the New Inn. It includes some climbing apparatus, slide and large independent swing. He also proposed an allotment site adjacent to the play area. The cost of this would be in the region of £20,000 which is around 2/3 of the funding coming to the Parish Council. As a result of the play area some of the remaining funding can be used to repair and improve footpaths which would include the Winterbourne Monkton to Berwick Bassett footpath and any engineering work required to contain the spring between Christmas House and Tonic. Some funding could also be directed to a contemplative meeting place in Winterbourne Monkton Churchyard and leave money in reserve. Cllr Scott advised that a covenant would need to be put on the land with the playground so that public access would be maintained should the pub change hands. Cllr Pattison advised that planning permission needed to be sought for any additional vehicle access. Cllr Woodward advised that he intended requesting planning permission for the playground and vehicle access alongside an application for additional accommodation for the pub. This would not incur costs from the Parish Council
Resolved: Cllr Woodward will prepare a presentation for the Annual Parish Meeting. The clerk will prepare a grant application form for Cllr Woodward to submit.

9. Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Resolved: The meeting will be held on 3rd April in the Community Hall. Cllr Jane Davies and the local PCSO have been invited. Cllr Woodward will chair the meeting and give a presentation on the proposed recreation facility. Cllr Woodward will prepare the annual report. Cllr Swinyard will produce a brief finance report for the Annual Report and a financial summary with incomings and outgoing for the meeting.

12. Confirmation of Items for Press Release

Resolved: The clerk will post an invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting on noticeboards and in Upper Kennet News

13. Date of Next Meetings

Resolved. The Annual Parish Meeting with the public will take place on 3rd April. There will be no Council meeting in April with the Annual Meeting of the Council and Council meeting taking place on 8th May. All meetings will be advertised on

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website calendar. The set meetings will be the first Wednesday in each month. The clerk had booked the Community Hall for meetings for the year

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

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