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Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes

Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 3rd April 2024 at 7.30pm at
Winterbourne Monkton Community Hall

Present – Cllr Ben Woodward (chair), Cllr Colin Pattison, Cllr Jill Petchey, Cllr Philip Scott, Cllr Tim Swinyard

Mrs Janice Pattison (clerk)

1. Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Woodward welcomed residents of the villages and thanked everyone for coming.

2. Apologies

One resident

3. Minutes of Previous Annual Parish Meetings

An amendment to a financial amount was made to the minutes. The minutes were accepted as a representation of the meeting and signed by the chair

4. Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

Any matters arising will be covered elsewhere in the minutes.

5. Chairman's Report – Cllr Ben Woodward

A report had been circulated to every household in both villages outlining the work of the council in the past year. Cllr Woodward referred to the report. He advised of the transfer of the 3 defibrillators to the Parish Council taking place in 3 years time, at the end of the current rental contract, enabling the council to retain all 3 defibrillators with some maintenance overheads. He referred to the Village survey. The most popular project from the responses was the reduction of speed to 20mph on minor roads in villages. An application has been made to Wiltshire Highways for this.

Flooding of the Winterbourne Monkton village road caused concern to several members of the public (residents A and B) as it did last year. Cllr Woodward advised that the resident on whose land the soakaway is was planning to excavate a drainage channel so that excess water would run away from the road and into the field. Resident B advised that there are large bore pipes under the field.

Cllr Woodward highlighted some long-awaited success stories of the year including the resurfacing of A4361 and the change of bus collection of schoolchildren to the village side of the A4361. Resident C observed that there did not appear to be any reduction in speed of traffic on A4361 although the noise had reduced due to the removal of some of the rumble strips. Cllr Woodward advised that speed checks could not be done on A4361 whilst the speed was over 40mph, but a Community Speed watch could be set up on the minor roads when the speed limit was reduced to 20mph. Cllr Woodward acknowledged that the maintenance of the footpath surface by Lower School Lane Bridge had been difficult due to the weather conditions. Chippings had

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been added to the surface, but these are now soggy. Resident B suggested that chalk be used instead of chippings as this would have a longer life.

6. Financial Summary – Cllr Swinyard

Cllr Swinyard reported that Parish Council finances are good with around £5000 in credit. He presented the budget for 2024/5 highlighting the reduction of Parish Project accrual to enable a lowering of council tax. The Parish Council part of the Council Tax bill for each household has reduced slightly as a result of these savings.

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

County Cllr Jane Davies did not attend the meeting or send a report

8. Discussion about Wiltshire Council Issues

9. Proposal for use of Open Spaces Grant

Cllr Woodward declared an interest in this item as the owner of The New Inn, Winterbourne Monkton. An amount of money around £30,000 is available to provide recreational space within the 2 villages. All suggestions for the use of this money involve land and the Parish Council does not have any. Only land at The New Inn has been proffered. The New Inn has offered to construct a Play Area with a grant from the Parish Council taken from the Open Spaces Monies. The New Inn will manage the site with no liability from the Parish Council. The New Inn will own the equipment once the grant is given. The equipment will cost between £20,000 and £27,000 for a climbing tower with slide, a large swing and a sprung animal. The expected lifespan of the equipment is 15 years. In answer to a query from a member of the public (Resident A) Cllr Woodward confirmed that a covenant will be made such that the agreement to provide access to the public will remain for the 15 years.

The remainder of the money may be used to improve footpaths to access the Playground, but the playground must be complete before the money can be used to repair the footpaths. Resident D asked if alternatives to play equipment had been investigated, for example a football pitch or basketball court.

10. Arrangements for Village Clean Ups and Other Volunteer Projects

A village cleanup will take place on Saturday April 6th. Volunteers should meet at The New Inn at 12 noon for refreshments and collection of equipment.

There were no residents from Berwick Bassett at the meeting. It is intended to repaint the bridge over the Bourne at Berwick Bassett but additional volunteers from Berwick Bassett will be sought.

11. Suggestions for Upcoming Parish Projects

There were no suggestions for new Parish Projects to be researched. Resident D said that he would rather have a lower Council Tax unless any specific works were required.

12. Informal Discussion

Resident E asked what the official status of Old Dairy Lane was. Cllr Petchey advised that the roads with Old Dairy Lane housing and the road to A4361 eventually be owned and managed by a Management Company consisting of residents from the estate and some through routes may not be passable.

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Resident A asked about Solstice arrangements for this year. It was confirmed that parking permits would be available as in previous years and arrangements for collection would be confirmed when known to the Parish Council. Resident A advised that last year there were some revellers who passed out on verges within Winterbourne Monkton and requested that more police be present. Resident B thought that the parking bollards throughout the area were unnecessary.

Resident E thanked the council for its work.

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Section 2

The resident apologising for non-attendance was Sheila McKeown

Resident A Justine Cooper-Pearce

Resident B John Pearce

Resident C Nigel Fielder

Resident D Dan Mace

Resident E Stella Hall

Residents present

Nigel Fielder

Stella Hall

Dan Mace

Rose Pearce

Tim Pearce

Archie Galbraith (The Manor)

Natalie Galbraith

Justine Cooper-Pearce

John Pearce

Penny Gold

Jenny Scott