

Berwick Bassett and Winterbourne Monkton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the council held on Wednesday May 8th, 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)

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

There were none.

4. Minutes of Meeting of March 6th, 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true reflection of the meetings and signed by the chair.

5. Matters Arising from meeting of March 6th, 2024, not covered elsewhere.

a. Noticeboard in Berwick Bassett. The clerk gave approximations of cost for noticeboards made of different materials.

Resolved: That a noticeboard of 8 A4 sheet size be sourced. The preferred materials were solid wood or plastic wood. A budget of £750 to £1000 was agreed, proposed Cllr Woodward seconded Cllr Petchey.

b. Old Dairy Lane Sewage Processing Plant. The clerk advised that the organisations to consult about potential leaks from the Sewage Plant at Old Dairy Lane were Action for the River Kennet and the Environment Agency. Cllr Petchey advised that the plant appeared to be working better following some work carried out at the plant.

Resolved: No further action will be taken until there are further complaints about the plant

6. Reports

a. Finance

Cllr Swinyard was unable to attend the meeting or send a report. Cllr Swinyard currently holds cheque books for both accounts so is the only person who may make payments.

Resolved: Cllr Swinyard to be added to Lloyds Bank signatories with on-line banking
The exemption from Public Audit declaration was deferred to the next meeting.

Resolved: The clerk's salary was confirmed as 3 hours per week at minimum wage £11.44. The clerk's pay scale will not be adopted by this council. Cllr Scott will take responsibility for payment of clerk's salary in addition to HMRC correspondence. Cllr Scott will apply for online banking at Lloyds in order to amend Standing Order

b. Planning

Cllr Pattison reported that he was still awaiting response from Wiltshire Council regarding any restrictions on vehicle access in Church Lane.

Cllr Scott has advised the resident making the report that the matter has been investigated and no further action is envisaged.

There are no new planning applications.

The tree preservation order request to fell a Beech Tree on the border between Winterbourne House and Tonic, applied for by Winterbourne House has been approved.

c. Emergency and Flooding.

Cllr Woodward has applied for more gel sacs and flood signs but these have not arrived.

Resolved: Cllr Woodward to remind Wiltshire Council of the request

Discretionary gully cleaning should be 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 gullies at 190 and Winterbourne Lodge had been cleared in April with the resultant sludge discharged to the ditch at 190. The road still flooded at both places when there was heavy rain the week after. Cllr Woodward will assist the resident of Winterbourne House in plans to create a ditch to take away some of the groundwater.

d. Footpaths.

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

The clerk has made contact with the newly re-established Combined parishes Right of Way Group. They have requested that member councils perform an audit of hardware such as stiles and kissing gates.

Resolved: Cllr Petchey will perform the audit. The clerk will deliver definitive footpath maps.

e. Roads

The request for speed reduction to 20mph has progressed to assessment by Marlborough Local Highways and Footpaths Group (LHFIG). Cllr Woodward attended the recent meeting. It was acknowledged by those attending the meeting that the positioning of signage at the entrances to the villages, implying that a speed of 60mph was acceptable, was inappropriate and approval to progress was given.

Wiltshire Highways will look at both villages to determine whether a metro count is appropriate or even possible due to lack of power supply or whether to move directly to implementation of 20mph.

Resolved: Maintain contact with LHFIG and Wiltshire Highways

The clerk reported that there was a significant accident on the A4361 around midnight 19th/20th April. A car left the road and came into the field near the Mill Lane

Crossroads at almost the same place as the fatality a few ago. There were young adults in the car. No-one appeared to be hurt and were assisted by cars which appeared to belong to friends. A further accident had occurred on the morning of May 8th resulting in a car leaving the road just south of the Gourmet Goat Farm entrance, Police Attended.

Resolved: Cllr Petchey to confirm that police are aware of the first accident

7. Other Reports

Other than the LHFIG meeting described under Roads above, no external meetings were attended.

8. Open Spaces Recreation Grant

Cllr Woodward declared an interest in the following item.

Cllr Woodward had presented a proposal for the children's play area in the grounds of the New Inn to residents at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Resolved: Cllr Woodward will apply for the Open Spaces Contribution from Wiltshire Council. The clerk will prepare a grant application form for Cllr Woodward to submit to the Parish Council to obtain some of this money.

9. Arrangements for Solstice 2024

Cllr Lyndsey Paradise of Avebury Parish Council has taken over responsibility for distribution of parking permits. She will advise of collection points.

Cllr Petchey confirmed that Old Dairy Lane, which is classed as a private road will not be included in the Parking Restriction Order.

Resolved: Confirm approximate number of permits required for residents of Winterbourne Monkton. Advise Old Dairy Lane Residents Group that the 'no parking' coning will not apply to Old Dairy Lane

10. Matters Arising from Annual Parish Meeting 2024

The actions from the request to address the flooding in the main village road were addressed under 6c above.

The village clean up took place on 6th April. Many bags of rubbish were collected much of which from the ditch by The Beeches. The painting of the bridge over the bourne on Lower School Lane Footpath was started and will be completed when weather permits. A resident of Berwick Bassett will form a working group to paint the Berwick Bassett Bridge.

Some residents had requested additional bins for dog poo. It was noted that there are already 3 litter bins in Winterbourne Monkton into which bagged dog faeces can be placed. The clerk has investigated the cost of an additional bin and requested a quote for emptying from Idverde, the Wiltshire Council contractors who empty the existing bins.

Resolved: Await quote from Idverde. Identify location where an additional bin would be placed.

11. Vacant Land Adjacent to Middle Farm and School Lane Footpath

The Parish Council has been made aware of a dispute over land ownership in this area.

Resolved. No Parish Council action is required.

12. Confirmation of Items for Press Release

Resolved: An update on the village speed reduction will be placed in Upper Kennet News

13. Date of Next Meetings

Resolved. The next meeting will be held at Winterbourne Monkton Community Hall on 5th June. All meeting dates for 2024/25 will be shown on on-line calendar.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

