

Monkton
Parish Council



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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
7th March 2024 at 7:00pm Monkton Village Hall**

- Present** Parish Councillors Gilly Brown [GB], Davina Ransom [DR], Steve Bennett [SB], Andy Kershaw [AK]
- In Attendance** Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, PC Andy Howe, plus 6 members of the public.
- 68/23-24** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies had been received from Cllr Button – Holiday, District Cllr Sam Bambridge, KCC Cllr Linda Wright.
- 69/23-24** **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**
No interests declared.
- 70/23-24** **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**
Members of the public were invited to make comments and raise any concerns they would like the Parish Council to address.
- A question was raised as to why the Coles Yard plans do not include a new village hall. Cllr Bown confirmed that although the idea was originally considered, it did not become part of the eventual planning application.
 - It was noted that the flooding on the marshes was significantly impacting the ability to farm the fields in Monkton, with many crops being damaged. The Environment Agency had been requested to review the system, which is currently gravity fed, to enable the ground water levels to be reduced and capacity in the river to be increased. This could be achieved by dredging the river, which would also improve the wildlife habitat.
- 71/23-24** **MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**
It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 1st February 2024 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Ransom and Seconded by Cllr Kershaw and duly signed by the Chair.
- 72/23-24** **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Cllr Brown explained that Canon Peter Gausden has previously raised concern regarding the condition of the stocks. It is noted that the left hand side upright is unstable, and the woodwork is splitting several places, generally showing signs of age/deterioration. As the stocks are Grade 2 listed, it is necessary to apply for listed building consent from TDC Conservation Officers for any works to be undertaken.
It was therefore proposed that the Clerk contacts the Conservation Officer at TDC in the first instance, to initiate the restoration process. **Action SA**
Cllr Brown advised that the Parish Council were eligible to apply for a framed copy of the King's official portrait, which is free of charge to civic and public bodies. Once received, the Village Hall Committee would be approached for permission to display the portrait in the Hall.
Cllr Brown expressed her disappointment that District Councillor Abi-Leigh Barlow remained absent at the Parish Council meetings, despite being contacted about her lack of attendance at meetings since her election last May. It is understood that Cllr Barlow has defected from Conservative party – under which she was elected as our District Councillor – and is now sitting as a Labour representative at TDC, still as a District Councillor for the Villages. It is hoped that following this change, Cllr Barlow will support the village issues she campaigned to fight for on behalf of residents.
- 73/23-24** **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS**
To receive updates for the following:
- a) County Councillor – **Cllr Crow-Brown** advised he had attended a KCC Highways Transportation meeting. Audits of the road closures had been undertaken by the Corporate Director of Transport, Simon Jones, of the 59 audits, 18 faults had been found and would be investigated further.
Cllr Crow-Brown had also issued a corporate complaint to South Eastern railways with regard to the short notice cancellations of the school train to Sandwich. South Eastern had advised the issues were electrical failures due to the age of the points and rails in this area. Sir Roger Gale had written to the Transport Secretary to support the concerns raised.
It was noted that Cllr Crow-Brown had been circulating relevant planning information regarding the application by Gladmans at Foxborough Lane, Minster.

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- b) District Councillors – **Cllr Abi Smith** offered her apologies as she had been misinformed by TDC, that the recent reported online services outage at TDC had not been a cyber attack. It had indeed been an attack, however, it had been reported to the National Cyber Service and no personal data had been lost in the incident.
Cllr Smith had attended a presentation from the Home Energy Advice Service. Funding had been secured for the service, which was considered to be a welcomed initiative in the area.
Residents were encouraged to comment on TDC's parking strategy consultation, the closing date of which had been extended to 10th March.
A motion had been carried unanimously supported, by members cross-party, at TDC, to call for an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in Gaza.
- c) Parish Councillors – **Cllr Bennett** had attended the CPRE meeting which had been well supported. The sub-station at Minster marshes had been the primary point of discussion, together with the impact of climate change.

Cllr Ransom advised she had attended a TAC meeting which discussed community resilience planning. The recent water outage which affected the Village was an example of why a resilience plan would be beneficial for Monkton. The Plan would require community involvement in order to be effective. It was discussed, and confirmed that the Village Hall held a stock of items for emergencies and an updated list of vulnerable people would be useful. Volunteers would be welcomed, and the initiative would be advertised in the newsletter. **Action DR/GB**
It was also noted that the Government were looking into modifying the current planning law, to enable developments of less than 10 units to by-pass local Councils and be decided directly upon by the Secretary of State. KALC were involved in the consultation and would be advising local Councils of any action.

Cllrs Brown/Bennett/Button had attended a meeting with the Football Club with regard to the proposal to extend the car parking capacity at the Recreation Ground. It had been suggested that the existing rotten sleepers could be replaced with posts, and the boundary moved further into the grassed area, in order to accommodate additional vehicles. A grant of £500 towards the project had been received with grateful thanks to the KCC Councillors. The Football Club were contributing to the project by offering their labour and would be in a position to undertake the work on 24th March.
Cllr Brown advised that at the meeting, a suggestion to increase the boundary further had been discussed. Concern was raised that this could potentially be a significant loss of the grassed area to parking, which would principally benefit the Football Club, rather than the local community. The location of the pedestrian gate would also need to be taken into account.
The suggestion to move the posts closer into the memorial garden was considered, however, it was felt this would not be appropriate and should remain protected.
Discussion took place at length, and it was agreed that the Football Club would be advised that the original plan, to replace the sleepers with posts and move the boundary a maximum of 1m was preferable. **Action GB/SB/JB**

- d) Ward Police Officer – PC Andy Howe advised there had been an increase in vehicle thefts in the Thanet area, particularly of high value vehicles such as keyless Land Rovers, BMWs and Abarth (Fiat 500). Protection advice such as using tracker devices, cameras and 'tags', was given and would be published on the village social media pages to remind residents to be vigilant.
A recent incident of criminal damage to a vehicle was being investigated.
Two people had now been arrested following the thefts from motor vehicles during the Christmas period. An incident of anti-social behaviour at the Foxhunter Caravan Site, involving an e-scooter, had been dealt with accordingly.
School parking had been monitored with no significant issues raised, and speed checks had been undertaken with no incidents of concern. PC Howe advised the wheelie bin stickers were an effective, low cost reminder for speed awareness and may be worth consideration. It was noted that TRRG aided the funding for 20mph stickers in Acol. The Clerk would make enquiries. **Action SA**
Suspicious activity at the Farm had been reported and was under investigation, along with a recent incident of fly-tipping at the closed end of the street.
Police Surgeries were being held in the Villages on a rotational basis. Resident's were welcome to attend and raise any issues of concern.

74/23-24

FINANCIAL MATTERS

- a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments below, which had been previously circulated.
This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Bennett.
T. Marsh - Christmas Tree £290.00
CPRE - Membership Renewal fee £60.00
Hugofox - website hosting DD £11.99
Receipts:
KCC Grant towards Car Park refurb £500.00
- b) The banking reconciliation for February was considered and approved.
This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Ransom.

Signed.....

Date.....

- c) It was noted that the Clerk had applied to the National Lottery - Awards For All grant funding scheme, for a grant towards the CCTV upgrade. The application was in the process of being considered, and hopefully, if successful, the project to upgrade the cameras and introduce an ANPR unit would take place in the next few months.

75/23-24

PLANNING

- a) To note any new Planning Applications.
TCA/TH/24/0207 - Monkton Court Farmhouse, Monkton Court, Monkton
3No Sycamore - Pollard to height of 15ft
No objections raised.
- b) **F/TH/23/0485 - Unit 1, Ivy Way, Monkton** *PENDING*
F/TH/23/1613 - Phases 1B And 2D North Of Spitfire Way And East Of, Columbus Avenue *PENDING*

76/23-24

RECREATION GROUND AND PLAY AREA

- a) Cllr Bennet had made enquiries with regard to the repair of the boundary fence near the Foxhunter Caravan Park, however, due to the material of the fencing, it was expensive. It was suggested the Minster Handyman was approached for a quote to carry out the repairs. **Action SB**
- b) The Clerk advised she had been approached regarding a potential regular hire of the Pavilion for an after-school club. The Football Club had confirmed this would not encroach on their training sessions. Enquiries were being made with the parents at the school, and if the proposal was supported, further consideration into using the Pavilion facilities would be given.
- c) A written inspection report had not been completed for this month, however, a visual inspection had been undertaken with no issues to note.

77/23-24

HIGHWAYS

- a) Cllr Kershaw advised the blue cycle path signs which had been vandalised and removed from their posts, both at the top of Willets Hill and bottom of the Hill by the mini-roundabout would be replaced by KCC in due course.
The fly tipping signs at the top of Willets Hill would be replaced by TDC accordingly.
A mains water leak near to the School had been reported and Southern Water had attended and repaired the leak as a matter of urgency.
A misaligned manhole cover opposite the new Sunningdale development had also been repaired promptly by KCC.
Concern regarding the disconnected streetlight at the same site had been raised. KCC and UK Power Networks were aware of the issue and were making arrangements to reconnect the lamppost on 8th March.
- b) The revised route of the Hughes Historic Car Rally was noted. Interested residents could observe the rally along A253 rather than through the Village.
- c) The damage to vehicles parked adjacent to the Sunningdale development was discussed and noted. The parking at this stretch of road effectively restricted the highway and thus increased the potential of parked cars being accidentally hit by passing traffic. Residents were advised to report any collisions to the Police. PC Andy Howe advised he would make enquiries into any notifications he receives concerning this matter.

78/23-24

D-DAY COMMEMORATION

It was noted that the D-Day Commemoration fell on the same weekend as the Open Gardens event. In view of this, the WI would be serving refreshments in the Village Hall in the style of a NAAFI Café. Residents would be encouraged to decorate their gardens patriotically. The Parish Council would contribute to the commemoration by way of funding if required.

79/23-24

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held on **9th May 2024, 7:00pm in the Village Hall.**
Peter Hunt – Fernfield Homes had been invited to attend.

Future dates: 11th July, 5th September, 7th November 2024

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 8:30pm.

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Date.....