

Monkton
Parish Council



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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
26th March 2018 at 6.30pm at Monkton Village Hall.**

- Present** **Parish Councillors** John Way [JW], Teresa Brown [TB], Chris Ransom [CR], Gilly Brown [GB] and Steve Bennett [SB]
- In Attendance** Sara Archer (Clerk/Responsible Finance Officer) [SA], District Cllrs Derek Crow-Brown, KCC Cllr Emma Dawson, David Mills – MFC plus 9 members of the public.
- 53/17-18** **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Cllr Reece Pugh unable to attend due to unforeseen circumstances

Cllr Way welcomed and introduced Cllr Steve Bennett the newly elected Councillor and Cllr Gilly Brown, a familiar face who had also recently been appointed as a result of co-option.
- 54/17-18** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
None.
- 55/17-18** **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**
Cllr Way proposed Cllr Gilly Brown to be elected as Vice-Chair, this was seconded by Cllr Teresa Brown and all were in favour. It was therefore resolved to elect Cllr Gilly Brown as Vice-Chair.
- 56/17-18** **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**
It was resolved to accept the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15th January 18. These were proposed by Cllr Way seconded by Cllr Ransom and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 57/17-18** **CHAIRMANS REPORT**
Cllr Way made reference to the recent co-option and election processes. It was also explained why the recent raise in Council Tax had been necessary. Unfortunately some funding had been cut by TDC which caused a shortfall in the Parish Councils finances. Grants had been sought for various projects which have helped enormously, thanks for such were extended to Cllr Emma Dawson for assisting with the funding to replace the water supply pipe to the Pavilion.
Cllr Way reported there was new legislation being introduced regarding Data Protection regulations. The necessary processes to ensure compliance were being implemented.
Reference was made with regard to the Travellers that had been in the local area. Thanks were extended to those who raise and lower the barriers daily at the Recreation Ground. Grateful thanks were also paid to Heather Gunton for her recent work on the War Memorial.
- 58/17-18** **RECREATION GROUND**
a) Cllr Way advised that after a recent inspection, the play equipment was in reasonable shape. Some repairs had been carried out and a new piece of equipment may be installed to replace the defective springer boards that had been removed, in due course. Dependant on the weather, the equipment would be repainted. Concern was raised regarding the brambles that surround the play area and car park, quotes would be obtained to remove this. Cllr Way also confirmed that the CCTV at the Recreation Ground had been upgraded and extended to assist with deterring criminal activity in the area.
b) The Clerk confirmed that following discussions and a site visit with Southern Water, the meter had been replaced as a precaution. However, after a couple of weeks, it had become apparent that this was faulty and was reported to Southern Water who attended and confirmed this was the case. They subsequently replaced the meter and advised that the leak had got worse. Quotes have been obtained to replace the pipe which have been circulated to the Parish Council. After consideration, it was agreed to appoint CWS moling to go ahead with the works. A grant from KCC towards the costs of the installation had been authorised by Cllr Dawson and was currently pending.
- 59/17-18** **FINANCIAL MATTERS**
a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments which had been previously circulated. Cheques signed as appropriate. A transfer of funds letter was signed in order to transfer monies from the reserve account to the current account.
b) Cllr Way advised that he had been approached by PCSO Shane Arniszewski who wished to hold a monthly Surgery to enable residents to raise any concerns they may have, with him. It was suggested the Methodist
- Police

Signed..... *Date*.....

Church Hall would be a suitable location for this and Cllr Way proposed the Parish Council fund the costs to hire the Hall on behalf of the PCSO, this was seconded by Cllr Gilly Brown. It was resolved to agree to pay a £20.00 monthly fee for hiring the Hall for an initial period of six months. It was suggested the surgery was held during the evening in order to enable as many residents to attend as possible.

60/17-18

PLANNING

a) A list of current Planning Applications had previously been circulated to the Cllrs. All applications available online via the TDC website. Decisions were noted as below, and no further issues were raised.
F/TH/18/0079 – Permission granted
F/TH/18/0017 & F/TH/18/1756 – No decision made.

61/17-18

HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Way advised he had reported the potholes at the mini-roundabout online to KCC. The traffic management during the recent closure of the Monkton roundabout was discussed. The diversion directions were confusing and led to many motorists getting frustrated. The gate at the closed end of The Street was forcibly opened on two occasions during this period which put motorists at risk.
b) Cllr Way confirmed that the Parish Council had instructed FGS gritting contractors to service the roads missed by KCC during the recent snowy weather. This had been positively received by those living in the affected areas. KCC Highways, Paul Valek, had been contacted to express concern that the piece of road between the mini-roundabout and Parsonage Fields, a bus route, had been missed from their gritting program. Paul advised that all of KCC resources had been taken up on the primary network and Monkton Street from Willets Hill to Parsonage fields is not included as part of the salting route. Unfortunately KCC do not have the resources to salt all bus routes in Thanet. It was confirmed that should a similar situation occur in the future, the Community Wardens were equipped to assist with grit spreading. All were in agreement to continue to use the services of FGS as necessary.

62/17-18

INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a) County Councillor – Cllr Dawson reported that £8.1 million had been earmarked for pothole repairs, many caused by the recent weather. Paul Carter was lobbying the Government in respect of the high rate of Council Tax paid by residents in Kent in comparison to the London Boroughs. There will be a public consultation held to receive comments/suggestions on the bus service needed, residents were encouraged to provide feedback. Miles & Barr Estate Agents had approached Highways for permission to use speed awareness symbols on their signs. This had been approved by KCC and the Police. Birchington PC were hosting a meeting to discuss the Local Plan on 31st May and various speakers had been invited to discuss the issues.
- b) District Councillor - Cllr Derek Crow-Brown reported that the Housing team at TDC had won a prestigious award for their initiative with KCC to turn derelict houses into habitable homes. With the warmer weather imminent, residents were encouraged to ensure they use reputable companies who hold appropriate licences for rubbish removal. The Parking Enforcement team are focussing on unlawful parking at all times of day.
- c) Village Hall Committee – No meeting held.
- d) Thanet Rural Regeneration Group – Meeting to be held 16/4/18
- e) Thanet Area Committee – Concern with regard to the Travellers was discussed, residents should report concerns using 101 and to the Community Wardens.
- f) Parish Council Forum – Meeting to be held 19/4/18
- g) MFC – The alarm had recently been serviced. A number of potholes had appeared within the car park and parking area in front of the Pavilion. Users of the area were reminded to take care when walking due to the uneven surface. Estimates were being obtained to repair the damaged areas. It had also been noted the windows and frames in the Pavilion were in need of maintenance and possible replacement.

David Mills – Chairman of Monkton Football Club was introduced and invited to speak. He was advised of complaints regarding the speeding traffic using the approach to the Recreation Ground and confirmed that players, parents and visitors are constantly reminded to watch their speed. David expressed concern with regard to the grass cutting by Serco. Issues have arisen whereby the grass has been left too long before being cut which not only kills the grass underneath but also causes problems for line painting. David advised the Football Club were making enquiries into purchasing a ride-on mower to undertake their own cutting as necessary. Storage and security of the mower were issues of concern, however, the Parish Council were supportive of the suggestion. The Serco contract had been renewed for a further year, during which time, the proposal could be looked into further. It was requested the speed limit signs on the road were repainted, David had offered to use a marshall at the top of the road to monitor the speed of the vehicles using the access road.

63/17-18

DATE/TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting would be held on 21st May 2018, 7:00pm in the Village Hall. This would also be the Annual Parish Meeting.
Future dates: 30 July, 24 Sept, 26 Nov

Signed.....

Date.....

The Public were then invited to raise any issues of concern.

- Enquiries were made with regard to the 'no through road' sign near the church. Discussion took place with regard to problems with traffic, in particular large HGV's, incorrectly driving up to the closed end of the street. Cllr Dawson would speak to the Highways Manager on behalf of the Parish Council, to request a larger 'No through road' sign to be erected at the bottom of Willetts Hill.
- The Resident's Association advised they had written to the Practice Manager at the Doctors Surgery at Minster to express concern with regard to the difficulty in making appointments. It was requested the Parish Council supported this action and wrote a similar letter.
- The possibility of producing a Neighbourhood Plan was discussed. The Resident's Association would be keen to be involved and a number of resident's had offered to assist. The Parish Council would look into grant funding for the project.
- The new housing development was discussed. It was suggested that any future planning applications on a similar scale should be discussed at an extraordinary meeting.

The meeting closed at approximately 19:50hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....