

*Monkland and Stretford Parish Council*

*Minutes of the meeting of Monkland & Stretford Parish Council held on  
Tuesday 21st November 2017 from 7.30pm  
in Monkland Village Hall, Monkland.*

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Barnes (Chairman) Cllr M. Weatherhead (Vice Chairman);  
Cllr K Hindle; Cllr. Alan Turner.

**Also Present:** Parish Clerk: Mrs Lesley Hay; Ward Cllr Trish Marsh and  
Two members of the public. Leoni Linton - Ignite cic – rural communities.

*Chairman welcomed those present.*

1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence:** Cllr R Allen;
2. **Declarations of interests,** Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests – none received.
3. **To receive a report from the local Police Officer** – No representative present.
4. **The Chairman welcomed Leoni Linton** who gave a very interesting presentation on the aims and achievements of the Ignite programme. There is no funding available to cover Monkland but Leoni would be happy to help arrange a Taster Day in order to promote Ignite and to assess the response and interest shown by residents.

It was agreed to run an information page in the next Newsletter – perhaps with a tear off response slip. It was acknowledged that there is very little in the way of organised activities for children in the village or for the more mature residents.

Leoni will put together an information package and will liaise with the Clerk with regard to inserting an article in the Newsletter.

The Chairman thanked Leoni for a very interesting presentation.

5. **Ward Councillor Trish Marsh** reported on the various meetings she had attended recently within Herefordshire Council and the two meetings she had attended at Monkland would be discussed within the meeting.
6. **Footpaths Officer's report** – no report available.
7. **The Chairman invited topics to be discussed with the open the session to include matters raised by local residents.**

Two of the issues raised were associated with the Common.

A resident had emailed reporting that a recent shooting party had parked on the common despite signs requesting that folk do not park on the common because it causes considerable damage to foliage and leaves deep tyre marks. After discussion it was agreed to send a letter to the local landowner/game keeper with a polite request to in future refrain from parking on the common.

A separate email queried if the wording on the two new signs recently erected on the common was a too forceful. However, during discussion it was acknowledged that these signs were being completely ignored by some local landowners and it was agreed that the wording on the signs was appropriate. The matter to be monitored and discussed again at the next meeting.

Cllr Hindle raised the issue - in the light of recent planning applications and the possible increase in houses in the village – should the Parish Council be discussing the possibility of future problems associated with sewage. To be discussed at the next meeting. Ward Cllr Marsh was surprised that Monkland properties were served by private septic tank sewage systems.

#### **The Chairman Closed the Open session.**

8. **The minutes** of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2017 were accepted as a true record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

#### **Parish Clerk's Update:**

7.1 New Website - grant. The Clerk explained that it was now essential due to the Transparency Code requirement for every Parish Council to have their own dedicated website. The Government are offering a grant of £500 towards the setting up of each website and the Clerk has been in touch with Mark Millmore via HALC. Mark has kindly agreed to set up the website – and it was agreed that the domain name would be – monkland.org. Cllr K Hindle together with the Clerk, would like to take advantage of the two-hour training session offered within the £500 setup costs.

Clerk to send letter of thanks to Greg Hanley who had set up and managed the Monkland Community Website for the past few years.

It was agreed that the next Newsletter will be end of January when, hopefully, there may be news on the reopening of The Monk and the defibrillator. There will also be an opportunity to circulate news of the new website. Details can also be included with regard to the increase in Precept/Budget for 2018-19 financial year and an explanation with regard to the discontinuation of the lengthsman budget etc.

It was discussed and agreed to keep to four issues per year.

#### **8. Finance.**

8.1 Up to date accounts/schedule of payments – had been circulated.

8.2 Payment since last meeting – a cheque had been sent to Barrington Print in lieu of payment for the newsletter.

8.3 To consider invoice payments: schedule of payments had been circulated and it was agreed by a unanimous vote that these outstanding invoices be paid and cheques were raised and signed.

8.4 After lengthy discussion it was agreed by a unanimous show of hands to increase the Precept by £7000 to £7,700 for 2018/19 financial year – this increase partly to take into account the discontinued lengthsman grant via Balfour Beatty. Clerk to complete request form and send before 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

8.5 Clerk confirmed receipt of a ½ yearly VAT reimbursement.

8.5 Financial support – Monkland 2018 Village Autumn Show. Whilst it was agreed in principal that a refundable float from the monies left over from the Millennium could be made available towards setup and running costs of the Monkland Autumn Show 2018 - after some discussion, it was agreed to ask the Show Committee for some idea of these costs and decision on the amount to be deferred until the next meeting.

## **9. Highways and Environmental Matters.**

Signage Monkland bend – what would appear to be the first phase of the work has been completed but there are still quite major works outstanding. Second phase to include moving the 50 mph signs further up the road towards Leominster - to be funded by Balfour Beatty as part of their TRO Programme. The slow markings on red will be done probably in the Spring when the weather is better. The anti-skid surfacing is still to be programmed in but this is being funded by Herefordshire Council.

Tagwell Lane - In the first instance speak to James Howells – Locality Steward – with regard to the horse warning signs.

9.1 Clerk has written to Ray Wallace from Balfour Beatty asking for an idea of completion dates.

It was agreed to delay completion of the Police Commissioner's sign off document until the work had been finished and signed off. Clerk to liaise with the Police Commissioner's Ambassador and explain the current situation and reasons for delay in completing the form.

Ward Cllr Marsh will liaise with Simon Hobbs with regard to the confusion with regard to outstanding £711 that Herefordshire Council have offered to pay towards the signage improvement on the A44 Monkland bend. Clerk to forward copies of recent emails to Ward Cllr Marsh.

9.2 **Update on meeting Speed limit data** with Ian Connolly/ADL representative Amol Pisal. The final report drawn from the ADL findings is being assessed by Balfour Beatty. The Safer Roads Team will still not support a reduction in the speed limit. The problem remains on going but Ward Cllr Marsh will continue to support the Parish Councils when and where ever possible in their attempts to get a reduction in the speed limit from 50mph to 40 mph.

As one of the main users of the A44 through Monkland is Tarmac - it was suggested that the Clerk write to Tarmac and ask if it would be possible to have some indication of the average speed of their lorries whilst travelling along the Monkland bypass.

9.2(a) **Kingsland traffic diversion.** The meeting with Ray Wallace with regard to the proposed diversion of traffic away from Kingsland village was discussed and the Parish Council expressed their concerns about the proposed rerouting of traffic via Lawton Cross (a known black spot) and the possible adverse impact on the A44 at Bainstree Cross and through Monkland to the Barons Cross junction.

The Clerk to write to - Kingsland Parish Council to ask for a response to these concerns and that Monkland Parish Council would hope they would have the courtesy to liaise with the surrounding parishes before any decision is made.

Locality Steward – Clerk asked to again report the blocked drain at the entrance to the Cheese Factory and to request a visit from the road sweeper particularly along Old Road. In addition, to discuss the cleaning the existing black and white posts/bollards along the road side by the bridge which are so dirty they are ineffective.

Cllr Turner reported that he had attended the annual Balfour Beatty meeting during which various senior management gave reassuring talks to the Parish Councillors present on the future – in particular their aim to continue ‘working with the community’ – and that the Herefordshire Challenge Funding for 2018 will focus on the A44.

9.3 Lengthsman Scheme – Nov/Dec work sheet – nothing noted. It was confirmed that Derrick Richards has been asked to cut the Daffodil banks – Cllr Weatherhead will remind him.

9.4 Monkland Common – despite two emails to George Thompson there has been no response with regard to arranging a site visit. Ward Cllr March will follow this up and try to get a convenient day and time before George retires next year. Ward Cllr Marsh will liaise with the Clerk.

9.5 Illegal Notice Board - Bainstree Cross – the Clerk asked the Locality Steward to remove the Notice Board. It was acknowledged that it is both illegal and dangerous to erect random Notice Boards along main A roads.

## 10. **Planning issues –**

10.1 Update Stagbatch Poultry Houses – No 172845 – it was acknowledged that a letter to the Parish Council from the applicant had been received and circulated. No further action.

10.2 Wall End Farm – 173606 – no objection but Clerk asked to make comment that the Parish Council is concerned with regard to associated extra traffic on the approaches to the Main A44.

11. It was with regret that the Parish Council accepted Chairman Cllr Jenny Barnes wish to retire as Chairman from Parish Council with immediate effect

11.1 Cllr M Weatherhead proposed Cllr Alan Turner to take over the role as Chairman and this was seconded by Cllr K. Hindle. Cllr Turner accepted the proposal but that he would stay in post until the May Annual Parish Council Meeting when the Chairman and Vice Chairman are re-elected for the 2018-2019 year.

Cllr A. Turner signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Chairman

11.2 Cllr Jenny Barnes then informed the Parish Council that she also wished to retire as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.

The Clerk to inform the Elections Officer and notices of the vacancy will be displayed on the Notice Boards. The Parish Council should then be in a position to co-opt a new Councillor at the January meeting.

11.3 It was with regret that the Councillors then received the news that Cllr M Weatherhead wishes to resign as Vice Chairman and as a Parish Councillor as from the March 2018 meeting.

This will enable the vacancy to be advertised and hopefully a new Parish Councillor can be co-opted at the May Annual Parish Council meeting.

The Parish Councillor expressed the gratitude to Cllr Barnes for her long and dedicated service to the Parish Council. The Clerk to arrange for a card and flowers to be sent to Cllr. Barnes.

## 12. Correspondence

12.1 Community Housing Fund – circulated – no further action.

12.2 Traveller Sirs – circulated – no further action

12.3 Poppy Wall visit – discussed – no further action

12.4 Safe Guarding Issues – to be deferred until the next meeting. Cllr M Weatherhead reminded those present that he is named as 'first call' in the event of an emergency etc. This to be discussed further once the safeguarding statement and associated requirements are known. Clerk to report back to next meeting.

12.5 Information Corner – circulated – no further action by Councillors but Clerk to attend HALC training on Data Protection and Legislation with regard to Common land.

13. **Items for next agenda (no discussion)** Defibrillator. Monkland Sewage system; Safe Guarding issues; Monkland Autumn Show.

**Date of next full council meeting** – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30p.m.

Chairman closed the meeting at 10.05p.m.

Signed:

Date: