

*Monkland and Stretford Parish Council*

*Minutes of Monkland & Stretford Parish Council meeting held on  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 from 7.00pm*

*in*

*Monkland Village Hall, Monkland.*

New website: monkland.org

**MINUTES**

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

**Present:** Parish Clerk: Mrs Lesley Hay; Ward Cllr Trish Marsh and  
eight members of the public. Chris Blaydon – Footpath Officer.

*Chairman welcomed those present.*

The chairman opened the meeting by reminding those present that this evening the Parish Council would sadly be receiving the resignation of Cllr Malcolm Weatherhead. The Chairman invited Dr Jenny Barnes to present Cllr Malcom Weatherhead with a card and voucher on behalf of the Parish Council in a small recognition of his time and dedication to the Parish Council over a period of 29 years or so. A bouquet of flowers was presented to Mrs Weatherhead in recognition of her support to her husband and the Parish Council during those many years.

1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence** – Cllr R Allen
2. **Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests. None
3. **Presentation by Lewis Goldwater – Herefordshire Tree Warden scheme**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Lewis Goldwater.

Mr Goldwater explained that for some time, he had been involved in the Herefordshire Tree Warden Network, which at one time was overseen by HCC but is now an entirely volunteer-led initiative. Its aims are to promote the Tree Warden scheme in the county so that every parish or parish group might take on a Tree Warden. The tree warden network is supported nationally by the Tree Council.

The role of a tree warden is to be active in promoting wider awareness of trees, organising planting initiatives, local tree surveys and education events in their local parish now, liaising with the parish council and even landowners. This is becoming more prevalent with issues around tree diseases such as Ash dieback and Oak decline which will have significant impacts on our road-side hedgerows, woods and the wider landscape.

Mr Goldwater explained that the annum subscription to be a member of the Tree Warden initiative is £25.00. After discussion, and it was agreed that Monkland and Stretford Parish Council would benefit from being a member of this scheme - however, it was dependant on getting a volunteer to undertake the role with its training programme etc. It was agreed the position be advertised in the next Newsletter and the item to be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **4. Ward Councillor's report**

Ward Cllr Marsh reported on several local issues including the concerns with regard to the air quality that could be associated with the proposed Barons Cross development – investigations are being undertaken.

There is discussion locally that some of the financial refunds due from Amey could be used towards the lengthsman scheme.

There are investigations into how Leominster Town can grow without causing and/or increasing the already high air pollution levels.

The Stagbatch Poultry Houses - Ward Cllr Marsh explained that amended reports on heritage, landscape, manure management, odour, flood risk and landscape had been submitted last month and re-consultation on the amended application officially ends on 21st March, 2018.

Ward Cllr Marsh explained that with 224 representations already on line it was most likely that, if the Planning Officer recommends it for approval, it will go to committee.

Ward Cllr Marsh did not have any further information with regard to the proposed traffic diversion associated with Kingsland – and it was acknowledged that Balfour Beatty had recommended to Kingsland Parish Council that they liaise with neighbouring parishes on this issue.

#### **5. Open session - Matters raised by local residents.**

Cllr Allen, in her absence, asked for the following two items to be highlighted.

- (a) The local police officer had not yet interviewed Cllr Allen with regard to the shooting on the common last month. Cllr Allen will attempt to re-arrange.
- (b) It was reported that recently a suspicious truck had been seen shining lights onto the common. The following day a dead rabbit was found near to where the truck had been parked – there are concerns someone may have been lamping. Local residents are asked to keep an eye out for suspicious vehicles and to ring 101 if they are concerned.

There was discussion on the recent request for the Village Hall to apply for a permit in order for their rubbish to be collected. It was noted that this is first time in 28 years that they have been asked to register for a permit and that the rubbish is now considered to be industrial waste. Item to be discussed and addressed by the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Weatherhead expressed his concern about the number of moles that are currently appearing on the common. Cllr Weatherhead will let the Clerk have the telephone number of the mole man and it is hoped he will be able to eradicate them before the grass is ready to be cut for hay.

Cllr Weatherhead agreed he would again negotiate with Mr Jennings with regard to purchasing the hay crop from the common this year. Cllr Weatherhead will report back to the Clerk before the next meeting

### **With no other items raised the Chairman closed open session**

6. **Approval of minutes** from 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – it was accepted that there were a true record and it was unanimously agreed they be adopted and were signed by the Chairman.

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

7.1 Defibrillator – now in place at The Monkland Arms. Training to be arranged.

7.2 Newsletter – circulated. Next edition will be 1<sup>st</sup> June – Summer. The Clerk asked if there was any objection to the Monkland Show Schedule forming part of the next newsletter as a 'pull out' centre pages – there was no objection and the clerk will liaise with the Show Committee.

7.3 Website – up and running. Clerk explained that the grant of £500 had not yet been reimbursed but that she was liaising with HALC on this outstanding issue.

7.4 Monkland Arms – open but restricted hours until Easter.

7.5 Ignite Day – brilliant success. Much enjoyed by those who attended.

7.6 Information Corner – items discussed included the new external audit and new Data Protection laws.

### **7.7 Data Protection -**

Update Data Protection / Officer - the Clerk explained that HALC had sent out an Information Corner with a 63-page attachment (circulated) – New Data Protection Laws – A GDPR Toolkit of local council – February 2018.

HALC suggested that a GCPR working group be set up to consider NALC's GDPR toolkit and to report back to the next meeting of the Parish Council. However, the Clerk explained that she had recently attended a Herefordshire Council training day and was now waiting their toolkit which promised to be simpler and easier to follow.

A local resident very kindly offered to assist the Clerk with various issues associated with the forthcoming Data Protection Laws and the Clerk will liaise during the few days.

Following this, if necessary, a working group would be formed to prepare policy templates compliant with the Data Protection requirements ready for adoption and display on parish website. In the meantime, however, the Clerk reassured the Councillors that she was already preparing for the deadline of 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

The Clerk highlighted the responsibilities of the Village Hall Committee who would also have to follow the new Data Protection Laws in making sure any data they have is secure

and password protected etc. A copy of a Village Hall Data Protection toolkit had been forwarded to the Village Hall Committee.

This is an ongoing item and will be discussed again at the next meeting May

### **7.8 SLCC membership**

It was discussed and agreed that the Clerk apply to become a member of SLCC - Society of Local Council Clerks – this would enable her to have access to their Data Protection toolkit/ideas etc. The subscription is £148 plus £12.00 joining fee – it was agreed that this sum be divided between the Clerk's four Parish Councils and a cheque was raised for £40.00 as Monkland's contribution.

### **7.9 Safe Guarding Children and Adult Statement**

The Clerk explained that she had now finalised a Monkland and Stretford Parish Council Safeguarding Children and Adult Statement. A list of local Herefordshire telephone numbers with regard to reporting safeguarding issues is ready to be displayed on the Notice Boards but, as previously agreed, the Statement will be further discussed and adopted at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May before being displayed on the Notice Boards and website.

## **8. Finance.**

8.1 Up to date accounts had been circulated and it was explained that funds had been transferred from the Business Account into the Current Account in order to meet the outstanding invoices.

8.2 To consider invoice payments – a schedule of payments had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed that these invoices be paid and cheques were raised and signed.

In addition, it was discussed and agreed to re-join HALC for 2018/19 and a cheque was raised for the subscription.

Churchyard donation – payment of £150.00 to be deferred until the new financial year.

Cheque for Village Show – as agreed a cheque for £200 was raised from the Millennium funds. This is in the form of a loan/float and it was suggested that the loan was repaid over the next few years from show profits. The Clerk will liaise with the Show committee.

Clerk's salary and hours 2018/19

Further to the minutes March 2017 – *The Clerk's salary would rise by one increment to Grade 23. It was also proposed and unanimously agreed that as from April 2018 the Clerk would receive an annual increment of one spinal column point until the top Grade of 27 was reached.*

Further to this 2017 minute - it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk's salary would increase to Grade 24 as from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. The Clerk explained that there had been no indication, as yet, of any 'cost of living' increase for 2018 -19 – any information with regard to this usually comes via HALC.

After discussion, it was agreed between the Clerk and Councillors that her hours would remain at 6 hours per week – but that any increase would be discussed at the budget/precept setting meeting in November.

8.3 Cllr L Brook confirmed that she is now a Parish Council Bank Account Signatory. Cllrs Hindle and Allen have the application forms to become account signatories but are yet to register with the bank.

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

9.1 Signage Monkland bend – no further action due to inclement weather conditions.

9.2 Lengthsman to liaise with Cllr Weatherhead with regard to erecting a kissing gate by the village hall. Clerk to liaise.

The drain by the Cheese Shop is blocked again and overflowing and further along the common road, between the Cheese shop and the village hall, there is a tree stump which is causing a blocked a gully/culvert. There is also a blocked drain opposite the Splash further along the common road - Clerk to liaise with Locality Steward with regard to logging these defects.

The clerk confirmed that she had applied for full reimbursement of the lengthsman and P3 grant monies from Balfour Beatty.

The Clerk explained she had reported the smashed bollard in front of The Monkland Arms on the A44, and the Locality Steward has logged for a replacement.

9.3 Monkland Common – general discussion on George Thompson’s recent visit regarding common issues. It was noted that his deputy Helen Beale will be taking over upon his pending retirement.

9.4 The Clerk reported that litter picking along the A44 had been done by the lengthsman and approximately 50 the bags together with tyres; posters etc had been collected for disposal by Balfour Beatty.

## **10. Planning issues –**

10.1 Update - Old Road - work continues. The name for the new development was discussed and it was unanimously agreed that Pleck Orchard would be 1<sup>st</sup> choice as this is the name shown on the 1840 map. Pleck Meadow and Pleck Close were 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice. Clerk to inform agent.

10.2 Update Wall End Farm – some amendments to original planning had been circulated.

10.3 No new planning applications had been received.

## **11. Footpath Officer report**

11.1 Footpaths Officer reported that footpaths were in good order allowing for the time of the year and the recent inclement weather conditions. Erecting a kissing gate by the village

hall was discussed and it was agreed that Cllr Weatherhead and the lengthsman would discuss. Cllr Hindle kindly offered to store the spare kissing gates at the cheese shop. Clerk to liaise.

11.2 The Footpath Officer explained there was a neighbouring Memorial Footpath Scheme underway where memorial plaques were being positioned along local footpaths to honour local soldiers who lost their lives during the 1<sup>st</sup> world war and he wondered if Monkland would like to follow on with this idea.

This idea was unanimously supported. It was agreed that the Footpath Officer would go ahead and find out some costing for brass plaques duly engraved which would be erected at the entrances to some of the local footpaths. These plaques would be to honour and remember soldiers local to Monkland who lost their lives during the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> world wars. It was agreed that the local landowners would have to be consulted and there was always the threat that these could be stolen or vandalised.

Item to be deferred until the next meeting.

**12. Correspondence:** Commonwealth Big Lunches; Fly the Flag Day had been circulated.

At this point, the Chairman accepted Cllr Malcolm Weatherhead's official resignation from his position as Vice Chairman and as Parish Councillor for Monkland and Stretford Parish Council. The Clerk will inform the Elections Officer.

It was proposed and unanimously agreed that Cllr Karen Hindle would cover the post of Vice Chairman until the formal election of officers at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

**Date of next full council meeting** – Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2018 with a 7.00p.m. start.

Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45p.m.

Signed:

Date: