

Monkland and Stretford Parish Council

*Minutes of the meeting of Monkland & Stretford Parish Council held on
Tuesday 9th October 2018 from 7.30pm
in Monkland Village Hall, Monkland.*

Website address: monkland.org

PRESENT: Cllr L Brook (Chairman) Cllr A Turner; Cllr R Allen.

Also present: Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) Ward Cllr T Marsh.

Members of the public: one

The Chairman welcomed those present to the October meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES:

The Chairman explained that she had, since the last meeting, received a letter from Cllr Karen Hindle in which Cllr Hindle outlined her wish to resign as Parish Councillor representing Monkland and Stretford Parish Council.

The Chairman confirmed she had replied expressing her regret but accepting Cllr Hindle's decision.

The Clerk confirmed she had informed the Election Officer; Notice of the Vacancy had been displayed on the Notice Boards; in the recent newsletter and on the website and that the Parish Council were now in a position to co-opt a new Parish Councillor.

- 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence** - Cllr T Neave.
- 2. Co- option of new Parish Councillor**

The Chairman explained that one letter of interest had been received with regard to filling the current vacancy created by the resignation of Cllr. Hindle and introduced Mr Peter Povall as a prospective Parish Councillor.

Mr Povall was invited to give a short presentation. The Chairman asked if there were any further applications – as there were none, it was unanimously agreed to invite Peter to become a Parish Councillor. Mr Povall formally accepted the invitation and signed the appropriate forms. Mr Povall then joined the table as a Parish Councillor with full voting rights.

- 3. Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests – none declared

4. **To receive a report from the local Police Officer –no representative present.** It was noted that PC Dean Wall had recently been present on the A44 Monkland by pass with a speed gun and the clerk was asked to enquire if there was any data available on results of his visit.
5. **Footpath Officer's report** – Mr Blaydon was not present at the meeting. The Clerk reported that there had been no up dated footpath report since the last meeting.

Further to the letter sent to landowners with regard to the Parish Council undertaking some strimming on the footpaths etc. The clerk confirmed there had been one response to the letter from Mr Bengough who had been advised to liaise with the Footpaths Officer. As there had been no further feedback and the date for a response to the letter had now passed, Cllr Povall will now start to trim footpaths where required.

6. **Ward Councillor Trish report Leominster West July – September 2018**

Working with residents on various issues, including speeding, footpaths, parking at the Primary School and planning.

Re-consultation on the McDonalds planning application at Morrisons is now underway – there are no obvious changes to the application and strong local opposition. Transportation have advised rejection on Highways grounds.

There has been some reorganisation of Herefordshire Council as Geoff Hughes, long time director of People and Places, leaves at the end of the month.

Directorates will now be: Adults and Communities, Children and Families, Economy and Place. These will be supported by a corporate services division. Richard Ball will become interim director of Economy and Place.

Saddened by loss of two posts in Herefordshire council's Community Development team – a funding officer and the parish council liaison officer. The funding for these posts will now be transferred to Economic Development. I mourn the reduction in capacity and expertise for local communities and organisations seeking external funding. And I am mystified why the parish post is being cut when there is apparently increased emphasis on working with parish councils.

A summit for parish councils is to take place on October 17. The annual HC budget consultation is underway.

As far as I can see, the decision on the Monkland TRO speed limit is still outstanding since our comments at the end of July. I have sent chaser emails out.

Route speed enforcement is due to start shortly on the A4110 Canon Pyon road as this road has an above average number of accidents. The aim is to reduce casualties by enforcement of the speed limits.

Much enjoyed Monkland Show.

Following the withdrawal of the original developers, consultations were in progress with alternative developers with regard to the new housing development at Barons Cross.

Discussion remains on going with regard to the feasibility of a Leominster by pass – but this is dependent on other major building developments which are being considered in the area. There are definite major concerns with regard to over stretching the infrastructure if these development plans go ahead in the area.

Ward Cllr Marsh reported that Kingsland Parish Council are considering applying to extend the 30mph speed restriction further to towards the Burnt House junction.

7. Chairman's report

7.1 The Chairman welcomed Peter Povall to the Parish Council. The Chairman stressed the importance of having a full turnout at meetings whenever possible, with such a small number of councillors, the Parish Council need to have all views represented. The Chairman suggested, in future, dates for at least the next two meetings are agreed in advance. Clerk to book village hall.

7.2 The Chairman expressed thanks to Karen Hindle for her hard work during her time on the Parish Council. It was agreed the Chairman would purchase and deliver a gift and card in recognition of her contribution.

7.3 The Chairman expressed thanks to:

- a. Alan Turner and Mick Louth for 'tidying up' the bus shelter.
- b. Julia Bestall, Lynne Hanley, Rachel Allen for organising the very successful village show in August which attracted much support and interest.
- c. Wendy Jancey, Dee Griffiths and Janet Bottom for working so hard to put on the very successful Macmillan coffee morning which raised over £3,000.

7.4 Traffic – on Wednesday 26th September PC Dean is thought to have been monitoring speed on A44. The Chairman asked the clerk to find out if there was any feedback available as a result of this exercise.

7.5 The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council may now need to consider other courses of action to help reduce speeding along the A44 e.g. hiring a speed indicator device (SID) via Balfour Beatty. The clerk to provide information for further discussion at the Precept/Budget meeting in November with regard to the financial commitment associated with the initial installation costs and annual hire charges for a SID via Balfour Beatty.

It was suggested that the Clerk approach the Public Works Loan board for information with regard to applying for a small loan to finance the initial costs of a site inspection; base installation and maybe the first year SID hire costs.

7.6. Finances associated with the Precept/Budget 2019-20 need to be discussed and agreed at the next meeting. The Clerk to circulate a forecast of the expected expenditure between now

and the end of the financial year information to allow Councillors an opportunity to consider these figures in advance of the meeting.

7.7. The Chairman reminded Councillors that finances associated with the P3 scheme for maintaining the footpaths will cease at the end of the financial year and again this will need to be discussed at the Precept/Budget meeting.

7.8. Village Calendar – The Chairman informed Councillors that Chris Bestall has very kindly offered to produce a village 2019 calendar with proceeds going towards a cancer charity.

This offer was discussed at length and eventually it was agreed due to a considerable number of uncertainties between now and the New Year the Parish Council would not consider being involved with the production of a calendar this coming year 2019 but to plan ahead and consider one for the following year 2020.

Despite this decision, the Parish Council support the idea of generating a local calendar and asked the Chairman to thank Chris for his suggestions and efforts to date. It was also acknowledged that Chris does have a number of fantastic photographs of the village and wherever he is next summer, the Parish Council hope that he would consider submitting some photographs for consideration. The Chairman will write explaining the Parish Council's decision.

Open session:

Ward Councillor Marsh was asked to raise the issue regarding the financial implications of withdrawal of lengthsman and P3 funding by Balfour Beatty and the subsequent impact on residents having to pay twice for maintaining their villages i.e. through the rates and again via the precept/budget.

There was discussion on this subject. Ward Cllr Marsh agreed to take these concerns forward to Jonathan Lester, Leader of the Herefordshire Council and for possible discussion at the next full council meeting. (a copy of that email is filled with these minutes for information).

The Chairman closed the Open session.

- 8 **Approval of minutes** from Annual Parish Council meeting held on the 24th July 2018. It was agreed these to be a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

Parish Clerk's Update:

8.1 Newsletter – the Autumn edition had been circulated to all households in the village. The next edition will be January – although it was acknowledged that there may be a necessity to have a smaller edition printed in December if it was thought an explanation regarding the setting of the Precept/Budget was necessary. To be discussed/agreed at the November meeting.

8.2 Annual Show - it was unanimously agreed that it had been was a huge success. The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the Parish Council to all concerned with the organising throughout the year and the actual running on the day. The sum of £63.65 was donated to the MacMillan Coffee Morning.

The Parish Council were very pleased to hear that Cllr Allen had now taken over as lead on the 2019 Show – and she explained that the date of the 2019 show had been agreed as the **7th September** due to judges' availability.

It was agreed that the £200 float/loan provided by the Parish Council would now be re paid back into the Parish Council account but that it would be made available again next year to enable the organisers to finance the start-up costs associated with the 2019 Show.

9. Finance.

9.1 Up to date accounts – circulated

9.2 To consider invoice payments: an up dated Schedule of Payments had been circulated. Due to the late cancellation of the September meeting –it was unanimously agreed, retrospectively, that the September invoices should be paid and the clerk confirmed that she had raised the cheques and these had been signed. The Clerk confirmed that there were three invoices outstanding for October – these had been added to the schedule of payments which had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed that the cheques be raised and signed.

10. Highways and Environmental Matters.

10.1 Signage Monkland bend - no up to date information available but discussions/representations remain on going.

10.2 Speed in the A44 – item discussed as minuted above.

10.3 Tagwell and Pleck Lane signage – no up to date information available but, it is understood, discussion/representations remain on going.

10.4 Clerk to liaise with Derrick Richards with regard to strimming the daffodil banks.

10.5 Lengthsman – to be asked to inspect the bollards that surrounded various pieces of land on the common. Clerk to request a quote for the replacement/repair of the damaged bollards and to report back to the next meeting.

10.6 Clerk to liaise with the Locality Steward with regard to two items:

(a) The fly tipping at the far end of the Pleck Lane.

(b) The replacement/repair of the broken drain outside Manor Cottage.

11. Planning issues –

10.1 To consider any new applications – none to date

12. Correspondence: nothing not covered in minutes

Date of next full council meeting – Tuesday 20th November, 2018

Please note earlier start of 7.00p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm

Signed:

Date:

Marsh, Trish (Cllr) <trish.marsh@herefordshire.gov.uk>

Wed 10/10/2018, 16:31

You;

Lester, Jonathan (Cllr);

Leader of the Council

☒

Dear Jonathan

I was at Monkland PC meeting yesterday and they asked me to raise the following issue next week.

As it is quite technical I thought it would be helpful to have it in advance.

I assume many parishes may have questions along similar lines.

We as a parish remember well the happy days when we had not only a grant for the lengthsman, but also a grant to administer the paperwork for the scheme.

Then we got some of the amount.

Now from next April we are going to get none of it.

A former councillor suggested handing all the work and responsibility back to HC, reverting to the situation before the scheme. He has a point.

Monkland Parish expect to continue doing some works and paying for them.

However, HC remains the Highway Authority with all the legal duties that this entails and we would like clear assurances that by undertaking lengthsman works we will not be exposed to liability for any matters that are the responsibility of the Highway Authority. For instance, if we cut a hedge on a minor road junction and there was still an accident due to poor visibility. Or a pothole we mended on a minor road failed and caused an accident.

We would also like to be crystal clear on what HC is offering next year (and in future years' s if possible) so that we know where we are with regards to HC input when we set our precept next month.

Specifically we are assuming that HC, via BB, will :-

- Continue to be legally responsible for the Highways and associated matters as before
- Continue to cut the verges on A roads twice a year
- Cut vegetation on verges of main roads and on minor road junctions to main roads to maintain visibility as required
- Liaise with landowners to point out their duties to cut hedges to preserve visibility on main roads and on minor road junctions
- Undertake cuts to hedges where there is a serious danger to safety, even if it's not a highways hedge
- Take enforcement action as necessary against landowners who fail to protect safety by maintaining their hedges appropriately
- Continue to provide the services of a Locality Steward with a similar budget to the one they have this year

Please let us know if this list is correct and adjust it as necessary so we are quite clear where we stand.

And please tell us who would should contact if we believe the situation is dangerous or have queries about our respective roles.

We would also appreciate guidance re landowner responsibility so that we are clear about these responsibilities, both on roadsides and for public footpaths,

From next April we will have lost all the financial incentives for the lengthsman and P3 schemes.

Before we go any further we ask HC to provide a clear picture for parishes on this matter so that we can plan effectively and responsibly and explain the situation to residents accurately.

Many thanks

Trish Marsh