

Monkland and Stretford Parish Council

*Minutes of the meeting of Monkland & Stretford Parish Council held on
Tuesday 19th March 2019 from 7.30pm
in Monkland Village Hall, Monkland.*

Website address: monkland.org

PRESENT: Cllr L Brook (Chairman) Cllr A Turner; Cllr R Allen; Cllr P Povall and Cllr T Neave.

Also present: Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk)

Members of the public: one

The Chairman welcomed those present to the March meeting.

MINUTES:

- 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence** – Ward Cllr Marsh
- 2. Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests – none declared
- 3. To receive a report from the local Police Officer** – no representative present.

However, the Clerk reminded Councillors that she had received a recent email with regard to Crime Prevention Advice. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would invite Paul Crumpton to the May Annual Parish Meeting to give an hour-long presentation to the Parish Councillors and members of the general public. It was agreed that a leaflet drop with an invitation to parishioners to attend this meeting will be organised by Cllr Turner. It will also be advertised Notice Boards and on the website.

It was agreed the Annual Parish Meeting would start at 6.30p.m. – serve tea/ coffee and cake with the Annual Parish Council meeting starting at 8.00p.m.

4. Footpath Officer's report – Mr Blaydon was not present at the meeting.

There was some discussion with regard to a recent email received from Mr Blaydon with regard to the MK8/MK10. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Locality Steward to clarify the exact route of these footpaths –in association with MK12,

5. Ward Councillor Trish Marsh's report for Leominster South – apologies received.

6. Chairman's report to Parish Council March 2019 – brief notes

(i). Thank you to:

Peter for preparing and laminating new bus timetables and pinning these up

Tony for information on Glasdon village gates

Alan for re-instating the signage outside the village hall, it looks fantastic!

Rachel for information re the Common

Trish for following up various issues for us

Thank you to everyone for their help in arriving in the parish precept for 2019/2020

(ii) Welcome to new people in the village

New folk have moved into Janet Butler's house. Thank you to Lesley for calling to visit and delivering a village magazine etc.

Three of the houses on the new estate Pleck Orchard have now been sold and one garage being re –designed.

More house moves: Hopbine Cottage now sold to Mr and Mrs Owen Weatherall; John Edwards and Harry Lee's houses are both up for sale.

So more new faces for us to welcome into the village during the spring and summer.

(iii) A busy time ahead, to be discussed in more detail later:

a. Potential local election in May – happens every 4 years - to be discussed later

b. Monkland Common issues: fly tipping, damage to grass, cutting a hay crop, harrowing, tree safety.

c. Road Safety – still to be considered and confirmed. We voted not to consider installing SIDs at our last meeting. Possibility might be some village gates or?

d. Summer coming – seasonal growth, so work on footpaths and stiles will now increase.

Thank you to everyone for your support and hard work.

7. Monkland Common issues:

7.1 There was further discuss the safety of trees on the common and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to Mr Marfell (land owner) with regard to the very poor condition of the tree opposite Pleck Cottage.

7.2 There was discussion with regard to the common grazing rights – it was agreed that the sheep will be removed from the common by the end of May.

7.3 Vehicular damage to common – this remain an ongoing problem with little hope of imposing any restrictions that will be adhered too.

7.4 Sale of common Hay – after discussions it was agreed that Mr Weatherhead would again approach Mr J Jenkins with regard to purchasing this year's common hay crop. It was also suggested that the hay could be advertised on the Leominster Sales Facebook page – Cllr Povall will follow up this suggestion.

7.5 Harrowing common – the clerk will contact Mr D Richards with a view to getting the common harrowed.

The Chairman opened the Open session:

The resident present at the meeting asked for an explanation why the 2019/20 Parish Precept was, in his opinion and that of other residents, a large amount compared to other parishes as listed in The Hereford Times.

The Chairman explained that the figure had been reached taking into account the possibility of future road safety measures being introduced along the A44 now that the application for a reduction in the speed limit had again failed to gain the support of the ALD acting on behalf of Balfour Beatty together with the Police Speed Awareness Team.

It was also explained that the parishes have now lost the lengthsman and the P3 footpath grants.

Should there be an election of Councillors expenses associated with the 2nd May elections these would have to be covered by the Parish – and it has been suggested that at least £1500 should be set aside to cover this eventuality – although Monkland had set aside a smaller amount.

In addition, it was acknowledged that Monkland Precept/budget had for many years been kept at a very low level with minimal increases – unfortunately, with the real possibility of future capping of the Precept, the Parish Councillors are trying to make up ground in order to have a reasonable amount available in the Business Reserve Account to meet any future unexpected expenses i.e. and unforeseen legal expenses etc.

It was agreed that the Chairman would write an article outlining these issues for the next Newsletter due out at the end of May.

The Chairman closed the Open session.

8. **Approval of minutes** from Parish Council meeting held on the 15th January 2019. It was agreed these to be a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.
9. **Parish Clerk's Update:**
 - 9.1 HALC – information corner circulated.
After some discussion it was unanimously agreed by all Councillors present that Monkland and Stretford Parish Council would not renew their annual subscription with HALC for this coming year.
 - 9.2 Newsletter – the clerk confirmed the next edition would be at the end of May to allow for election results and the election of Monkland Parish Councillor Officer etc.
 - 9.3 Cllr Allen confirmed that arrangements for The Annual Monkland Autumn Show were all in hand. Hopefully, the schedule should be ready in time to be included as a 'centre pull out' in the next newsletter. Clerk and Cllr Allen to liaise.
10. **Finance.**
 - 10.1 Up to date accounts and schedule of payments had been circulated. It was unanimously agreed that the March invoices should be paid and the clerk raised the cheques and these were signed.
 - 10.2 After discussion, it was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary point from Grade 24 to Grade 25 as from the 1st April 2019. The Clerk explained that there

had been no indication, as yet, of any 'cost of living' increase for 2019 -20 – any information with regard to this usually comes via HALC/SLCC.

After discussion, it was unanimously 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.

11. Highways and Environmental Matters.

11.1 Lengthsman work sheet for March / April.

11.2 Annual Litter pick – the clerk was asked to liaise with D C Gardening for a litter pick along the A44 in line with the Herefordshire Spring Cle nip scheme.

11.3 It was agreed that the Clerk would again lassie with Ray Wallace from Balfour Beatty with regard to a site visit to discuss further the Gateway Scheme – 4th April at 9.30a.m. was suggested as a convenient date for those present. Clerk to confirm.

12. Planning issues – To consider any new applications – none to date

12.1 it was confirmed that the new development at the end of Old Road will be known as Pleck Orchard.

12.2 With regard to the land at the other end of Old Road various surveys on going and soil drilling is being carried out at the moment and it was rumoured that ground works could begin in the summer. It was noted that should the Parish Council be asked about naming this development of three houses – many years ago the area was known as Turnpike.

12. Correspondence: nothing not covered in minutes

12.1 Code of Conduct –HALC had recently circulated information with regarding proposed to changes to the Code of Conduct. The Clerk reminded Councillors that Herefordshire Council had in June 2018 revised their Code of Conduct and it was agreed that any decision with regard to changing Monkland and Stretford's Parish Council's Code of Conduct will be deferred until further information is available and any revised Code will be discussed; agreed and adopted at the May Annual Parish Council Meeting.

12.2 Election day - 2nd May 2019. The Clerk confirmed she had attended a meeting in the Town Hall on Wednesday 6th March when nomination papers were made available.

The Clerk distributed these papers with a short 'crib sheet'. The Clerk explained the importance of completing these papers which have to be completed by Councillors and returned in person (or by a person of trust) to the Town Hall before 4.00p.m. on the Wednesday 3rd April, 2019.

The Clerk confirmed she has an up to date Electoral Roll for each parish – and can make electoral roll numbers available for proposers and seconders as required.

The Clerk asked those present to confirm they were willing to stand as a Parish Councillor for the forth coming election. It was this point that Cllr Rachel Allen confirmed that she would not be standing again for re-election at these forthcoming elections.

The Chairman expressed her regret but totally understood the reasons which supported this decision and thanked Cllr Allen for all her hard work, particularly matter associated with the common, during her 4 years in office.

13. Date of next full council meeting – Tuesday 21st March 2019. Annual Parish Meeting – Please note early start of Start: 6.30p.m. Cllr Turner to bring cake; Clerk will bring tea/coffee/milk

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm

Signed:

Date: