

## **Monkland and Stretford Parish Council**

### **Minutes of Monkland & Stretford Parish Council held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 from 7.00pm**

Website address: monkland.org

Clerk's email address: thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk

**Due to present Government restrictions this meeting was a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr L Brook (Chairman); Cllr A Turner (Vice Chairman) Cllr P Povall; Cllr Tony Neave and Cllr M Louth.

Present: Lesley Hay (Parish Clerk) Ward Cllr Trish Marsh;

Present: 3 members of the public

The Chairman welcomed those present to the November virtual/Zoom meeting.

### **Minutes**

- 1. Acceptance of apologies for absence:** No apologies received
- 2. Declarations of interests,** Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests. No interests declared.
- 3. The minutes of the Parish Council** meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2020 were agreed as a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.
- 4. Chairman's report -**

A very quiet month – although it has become a bit more autumnal and more rain – reminding us of the need to keep an eye on overflowing/blocked water courses, and drains etc. It does appear that we are not able to apply for additional drainage grants under Phase 2 of the drainage Grant scheme as this has been largely reserved for those Parish Councils who didn't apply for Phase 1. Also, applications closed in early September and we weren't informed. We

may be able to apply for a grant under Phase 3 in 2021, if it were to materialise.

Thank you on several counts:

- Alan for rebuilding the PC Notice Board which had just about Disintegrate.
- Tony for preparing a very comprehensive Road Safety Report
- Alan and Tony for repairing at short notice the felt on the bus shelter roof.
- Peter and Sally for preparing a wonderful firework display for Bonfire Night (6th actually!)
- Village children for carving pumpkins for Halloween, and putting them out for all to see.

The police were at The Monkland Arms carpark during October with their hand-held speed guns – no results available yet.

Our Locality Stewards visited the village to discuss drainage problems at the east end of Old Road but as no grant can be applied for, this potential project is on hold.

The Lengthsman is due to commence work on the drainage problem near the Cheese Shop at the end of October/early November – work has not started yet.

Harper's the builders came to cut the huge and overgrown hedge opposite Manor Cottage in Old Road in mid-October but the hedge needs to be reduced in height as it getting tangled up with the telephone wires.

Lesley Brook  
Chair Monkland and Stretford Parish Council

Cllr Turner reported that he had now emailed and telephoned Harpers on several occasions – but had received no response whatsoever – he asked if the Clerk could write and ask again if the contractor could return and reduce the height of the hedge.

There was discussion on the recent police presence at The Monkland Arms with a speed detector gun and whether it was possible to get any feedback on their findings. The Clerk will approach the local PCSO.

There was some debate on the ownership of the road down passed Mill House and Mill Cottage. It is thought to be an unadopted road and therefore the upkeep is the responsibility of the residents and not Herefordshire Council.

**5. Ward Councillors Report** please full report attached at the end of these minutes

The Ward Councillor mentioned that there is a case of avian flu / bird flu in the area and asked for residents to be vigilant when dog walking and report seeing any dead birds to DEFRA.

**(5.1) Open session** – the members of the public requested to be able to speak during the A44 item.

There was a general agreement how well Monkland had come together during the Covid19 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown periods – and it was agreed that sometimes – “out of adversity comes good”.

**(5.2)** The Chairman closed the open session.

**6. Lengthsman Highways and Environmental Matters –**

(6.1) A44 speeding issues

The residents attending the meeting gave a detailed account of their experiences living on the main A44 – noise and speeding being the two major problems. It was stressed that if the speed limit could not be reduced – then to encourage drivers to keep within the 50mph was of the utmost importance for health and safety reasons and to provide a more pleasing atmosphere/environment in which to live.

The Chairman explained that Cllr Neave had collated a document and this compared all the various issues and ways available to assist reducing the speed plus a detailed piece on noise reduction. It was also thought that maybe double white lines throughout the village – to prevent overtaking- might help reduce speeding- however, the Ward Cllr Marsh rightly pointed out that this would need a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) and would take years to implement.

There are main three options thought financially viable to Monkland and these have been detailed in the document – which will now be included in the Winter Newsletter with an opportunity for residents to ‘Have Their Say’.

The cut off date was agreed as the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 and a working party of Cllrs Turner; Povall and Louth will get together before the next meeting to collate the responses and bring their findings back to the next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Cllr Neave agreed to research costs for suitable devices to help record road noise, also for the next meeting.

It was acknowledged how difficult, even dangerous, it is when pulling out from the various driveways onto the main road at the top end of the village; from Tagwell Lane upwards due to reduced visibility with the road bending. There have been three accidents in the last 20 years, one near fatal involving a motorbike, the most recently last year when a car ran into the side of Revd John Theaker as he was pulling out.

It was also acknowledged the difficulty residents have of pulling out from Pleck Lane and attempting to turn right from the end of Old Road.

There was discussion regarding approaching the school bus company; maybe liaising with Tarmac and perhaps replacing or even cleaning the existing village signs to make them more obvious - however, it was agreed that these options should be deferred until the responses to the leaflet have been discussed.

(6.2) The clerk confirmed that she had again provided the Lengthsman with a letter confirming that he was considered a Key Worker during the current lockdown.

## **7. Footpath Officer’s report and Monkland Common**

Footpath Officers Report – November 2020

What strange times we are living in but it’s great to see more and more people out and about and using the footpaths.

I am continuing to renew the footpath signs as required so hopefully you will have seen these changing over the last few months. With the

vast majority of the crops now cut all of the paths should be open on their correct routes and I'll try to keep these open and accessible. If you find a path that it's accessible then please let me know.

You may also have noticed some temporary signs going up reminding people to clean up after their dogs. Following a few complaints it was noticed that there was an increase in dog mess on the footpaths and in the fields. Whilst I would hope everyone makes the effort to clean up after their dogs your extra vigilance is appreciated. I have also spoken to one person who is travelling into the area to exercise their dogs about cleaning up after them. Hopefully we will also see an improvement and please remember that livestock graze many of these areas.

Lastly, I still have copies of the local footpath map if anyone would like one, either printed or electronic.

Peter Povall

#### Common Report – November 2020

Very little to report this month other than the weather and vehicles are having an impact on the common. Following the spate of wet weather and the farmers having to extract their harvest and get the new planting done the tracks across the common are in a fairly poor state again which was inevitable. Please avoid driving on the common wherever possible to reduce the impact. Thank you also to those people who have no choice but to drive across the common for keeping those journeys to a minimum and doing their best to minimise the impact.

The Chairman reported that the overgrown grass area by the telephone box and the adjacent village green had now been cut and made tidy for winter. Chairman expressed thanks to Mr Wheeler for strimming around the bollards and cutting the verges on either side of the road in front of Pleck Cottage.

#### **8. Finance: Accounts**

(8.1) Finance: Accounts sheet/schedule of payment sheet had been circulated.

(8.2) It was unanimously agreed to pay of outstanding invoices.

## **Budget 2021-2022 Financial Year**

(8.3) To consider for approval Budget for 2021-2022 (circulated)

There was some discussion on the budget figures and, in particular, regarding future speed restriction costs - it was unanimously agreed to increase the budget to £10,000 for the 2021-2022 financial year.

(8.4) It was unanimously agreed to request a Precept of £10,000 for the forthcoming 2021-2022 financial year. The Clerk will submit the application form before the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### **9. Planning issues - non to date.**

It was noted that The Barn has again been sold.

10. **Amendment to Standing Orders re Zoom/Virtual meetings**  
Standing Orders – There was discussion with regard to an amendment to the current standing orders regarding virtual meetings. It was unanimously agreed to adopt the amendment that had been circulated and this appendix will be filed with the current document.

### **11. Date of next Meeting:**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – 7.00p.m. start.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Ward Report for Leominster South, November 2020

Dear All

It's sad that we are all so much more constrained now than when we last met in September. The centre of Leominster seems very quiet, so I am glad to see the Christmas lights going up and the tree ready for the Square. We all need some cheering up!

Rates of Covid infections in the county have risen considerably over the last month, though they are still lower at the time of writing in North Herefordshire.

I'm sure this is due in part to the excellent advice and help of the Monkland support network. Thanks to you all for keeping to the Hands, Face, Space precautions, however tired we all are of them. They do make a difference!

I'm so glad that the Monkland support network is back in action and supporting purchases from local businesses in the run up to Christmas. We have such a lot of quality local food and drink producers. The Leominster Town Council and Herefordshire Covid helplines are also open again now: call on 01432 260027 or email [talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk](mailto:talkcommunityhelpline@herefordshire.gov.uk).

I was delighted that Monkland's harvest festival service could take place in October, with a collection for the Leominster Foodbank. And I am impressed with the poppies in the church for Remembrance Day, when tighter restrictions were in place.

Herefordshire Council work continues with briefings and meetings taking place via Zoom. Recently we went to a fun Arts Alive Village Hall cabaret event on Zoom - human ingenuity is a wonderful thing! And much needed, as social restrictions are likely to be with us for some time to come.

Herefordshire Council annual budget consultation will start shortly. There has been a drop in several income streams and also increased expenditure, which has not been fully covered by grants from central government. So, we face some difficult decisions on the revenue account. There is still scope for capital schemes - for instance, proposals for building council owned housing have moved along considerably. Please keep an eye out for the budget consultation and take part. You can sign up for your own choice of alerts from the Council, with choices including consultations, news, planning applications, school closures and bus transport, Council meetings, rubbish and recycling and Social care at <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/council/sign-alerts?documentId=832&categoryId=200148> Herefordshire Council website also has information on the new November 2020 Covid-19 Restrictions Grants for businesses from central government.

And finally, this year has taken a toll on many people's mental health. Visit <https://www.healthyminds.whct.nhs.uk/> to see what is available locally. Our NHS Healthy Minds teams provide a range of free, confidential support including:-

- Online therapy which you do at your own pace and in your own time
- Groups and Courses where you can share (as much or as little as you wish) and learn from others
- More traditional 1:1 support
- The service can also help you access some of the great resources available in your local area which might be more appropriate for you, or which can complement the service we provide

Best wishes to you all for the remainder of 2020,

Cllr Trish Marsh

Ward Cllr for Leominster South and Monkland  
trish.marsh@herefordshire.gov.uk,

Cllr Trish Marsh on Facebook

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