

Monkland and Stretford Parish Council

Minutes of Monkland & Stretford Parish Council held on Tuesday 19th January 2021 from 7.00pm

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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)

Present: Ward Cllr Trish Marsh; 4 members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the January 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 17th November 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**

Monkland and Stretford Parish Council - Chair's report January 2021

Another fairly quiet month or so unsurprisingly as we are all fully 'locked down' now.

· D. C Gardener carried out some ditch clearing work by the Cheese shop entrance and along the field to the river in late November – funded by a Grant from Herefordshire Council.

· The latest Newsletter was produced and circulated to everyone in the village before Christmas – a bumper issue! Many thanks to Lesley H for editing and preparing it – a great job done! The next issue will be in early Spring.

· Many thanks indeed to Alan, Peter and Mick for carrying out the Litter Pick on 8th January along the A44. Not a nice job and potentially a very dangerous one

but once completed improves the look of the village enormously. They collected 6 black bags of litter!

- Derek is unable to cut the daffodil bank for us this year because of ongoing and serious back problems. Peter is kindly investigating other options for us. Important for it to be tidied up very soon. We need to consider a suitable timetable for bank cutting to ensure that the show of daffodils is as spectacular as possible and that the bank looks neat and tidy during the rest of the year. Peter tells me that the bank should be cut by A. Anderson later this week (11- 18th January) – actually cut on Thursday 14th.

I do think we should consider having the banks cut twice a year – once at the end May/beginning of June to tidy up after the daffodils have died back – and again end December.

- Both the Cheese Shop and The Monkland Arms will remain closed during lockdown. The pub is to offer a limited takeaway service and some online/click and collect type sales of gifts and Monkland cheeses.

- We now have a COVID test site in Leominster and the Bridge Street Sports Centre is being used as the local hub for COVID vaccinations. Many of our neighbours have now had two doses of the Pfizer vaccine and as from today we have the first batch of Oxford vaccine which doesn't require deep freezing so makes things easier.

- Delighted that John Benson is mending well after his ‘adventures’ in the mud/river just before Christmas. A horrific accident that could have been much worse. Best wishes to him and Pat for a speedy recovery.

Lesley Brook

Chair Monkland and Stretford Parish Council

5. **Ward Councillors Report**

Please see full report at the end of these minutes.

(5.1) Open session –

A local resident approached the Parish Council with an idea of developing a Community Orchard on the piece of land that runs behind The Monkland Arms up to the T junction where the footpath bears left or right. This area of land measuring 1.2 acres is owned by Mr J Bengough.

Possible landscaping plans were discussed at length and whilst there was general support in that this would certainly be a nice additional asset to the

village - it was agreed this was not a project that could be managed by Parish Council.

It was agreed that the local resident and Peter Povall will arrange to visit Mr Bengough in the first instance. They will outline to him the possibilities of taking over the general maintenance of this area to include mowing; hedge trimming and perhaps planting a few native fruit trees. They will, of course, stress there is no threat to ownership.

Item deferred until the next meeting.

(5.2) The Chairman closed the open session.

6. Lengthsman Highways and Environmental Matters –

There was a lengthy discussion on the various ditches; culverts and gullies associated with the area leading from the Cheese Shop to Pleck Cottage. It was agreed that there is still outstanding drainage work which would benefit this area - for example: to blow through the culvert under the road by the cheese shop at an estimated cost of about £2000.00.

Cllr Povall reported, however, that he had been quoted a provisional figure of £3,500 from a Contractor who would completely dig it out and start again.

A resident asked if the ditch in front of Pleck Cottage could be dug out and lowered - however, it was pointed out that Lugg Drainage are responsible for this particular ditch and the resident will now liaise with them in the first instance.

It was acknowledged that any additional drainage work would have to be funded by a Phase 3 drainage funding grant if it becomes available in 2021.

A resident reported that there is a large beech tree over hanging near the 1st watersplash and made a request for it to be felled. Cllr Povall has been to see the resident and explained that any such decision must be made by the three commoners. However, it was acknowledged that this tree does present some health and safety issues and it has been agreed, in the first instance, to get the tree pollarded.

(6.1) A44 speeding issues

Cllr P Povall reported:

Following the appeal for views from the community regarding traffic calming, we have now reviewed the response received and they are unanimously in favour of the white gates. One resident has also offered a substantial donation towards the cost of the gates, which is very much appreciated.

Taking other suggestions into consideration we also discussed the following as part of the traffic calming survey response:

- Additional signage may be required along the A44 to remind traffic of the speed limit. There are some repeater signs but perhaps more could be added.
- An additional sign at the west end of the village drawing attention to “Concealed Entrance”
- Additional signage near Tagwell Lane entrance to draw attention to “Farm Traffic Turning” and/or “Traffic Emerging”

We also discussed the companies which are using the A44 heavily and felt it could be appropriate to approach them for financial support with regard to the white gates. Initially the following companies were suggested to be approached.

- Tarmac
- Tyrrells
- Kingspan
- Harpers

It was felt that the first course of action would be to move ahead with the white gates and then follow this up with the noise survey and SID if the white gates do not make a noticeable impact.

It was agreed that Cllr Neave will now get up to date costing for sets of white gates.

The Clerk will liaise with Balfour Beatty about arranging a site visit to assess positioning; type of gates and, perhaps, at the same time ask about the positioning of a SID.

Cllr Neave and Cllr Louth will get together to draft a letter to the various companies mentioned above – to ask about financial sponsorship towards the purchase of the gates or flower displays.

7. Footpath Officer’s report and Monkland Common

Footpath Officers Report – January 2021

Very little to report at this time.

I am continuing to renew the footpath signs and complete basic maintenance of the paths and signage as required. The finger post from the A44 towards the Village Hall (Path MK5) has been erected again. A recent walk along the

bridleway which joins the A44 to the A4110 revealed a finger post which is down so I will be erecting that again shortly.

If you become aware of a path which is inaccessible or if repairs are needed then please let me know. I also have copies of the local footpath map available if anyone would like one, either printer or electronic.

The Ramblers Association are working to potential restore up to 49,000 miles of “lost footpaths” throughout England and Wales before 2026. You can find out more and view the interactive map at:

<https://dontloseyourway.ramblers.org.uk>

The signs reminding people to clean up after their dogs appear to be having some impact and a few more signs will be added over the next few days in areas where problems persist. Thankfully the bulk of owners are responsible and that is appreciated.

Spring is just around the corner and I look forward to seeing the flowers across the common again.

Peter Povall peter@hufc.com

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.

Cllr Povall asked if it would be possible to increase advertising funding to support the printing costs of the Newsletter. The Clerk explained that all advertisers had paid £20 for four issues up to and including the December 2020 issue and that the current advertisers now need to be approached for the 2021.

It was suggested that a possible way to increases advertisers would be to put an email on the Monkland Email site.

9. Planning issues - none to date.

10. Date of next Meeting:

Tuesday– 7.00p.m. start.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Ward Councillor report Leominster South and Monkland January 2021

Thanks to the Monkland team who have once again gone into action in this latest lockdown to provide support, information and good cheer. And to the Parish Council for their many works.

And many thanks to the volunteers and medics rolling out the Covid 19 vaccination programme at Bridge St Sports Centre. Definitely the busiest place in Leominster just now!

In the last few months I have:-

- Worked with other ward Councillors to retain the School Crossing Patrol job at Leominster Primary: now we just need to find someone who would like to do it
- Attended training on pensions, trees and adoption and briefed on works to reduce flooding in the town along the Lugg - what a wide range of issues local councils are involved in!
- Helped residents respond to planning applications and ensure conditions are being met

Market Town Investment Plans are now being drawn up for each of Herefordshire's five market towns, including Leominster. These are funded by Herefordshire Council. The process will:-

- be **locally led**; identifying the long term vision for growth of the towns; and current issues/ barriers and opportunities to sustainable economic development
- recognise the **market towns' critical role in the county's economy**: as focal points for employment, retail/ tourism/ leisure/ culture, business investment and growth, housing and access to services

Rose Regeneration has already started work with local stakeholders, including Leominster Town Council, to develop *an investment plan* for each of market town that will identify:

- a vision for growth; and
- opportunities to enable economic development

The aim is that this work will benefit both the town and the local villages that surround Leominster and come in for goods and services.

Timescales and outcomes: there are two main milestones:

- Mid Feb 2021 – **draft plan** to be validated with local stakeholders
- End of May 2021 – **agreed market town investment plans**

The outcome will be a shared vision and a programme of potential projects to deliver the vision together with potential funding sources. The plans and business cases will start to identify potential sources from a range of potential sources of funding

Early research for the plans came up with the following facts, which will inform this work:

Leominster is :-

- Largest settlement outside of Hereford.
- 5% higher proportion of over 65s than England
- Particularly low on skills compared to the English average (3rd decile)
- Lower on income and employment than the English average
- Modestly smaller stock of jobs than the Herefordshire average. 240 jobs lost 2015-18.
- Higher proportion of workers in: manufacturing, construction, wholesale/retail, health, entertainment than the national average
- Increase in benefit claimants by 8%
- Significantly higher proportion of low value properties than the national average: over 75% of Leominster homes are in Council tax bands A-C
- A place people come to work (in normal times): over 500 people commute each day from Hereford- and over 600 travel in the other direction

Cllr Trish Marsh, Leominster South