

**MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Village Hall on 1 December 2010 at 7pm**

**Parish Council:** Cllr Lyn Alvis Acting Chairman (LA), Cllr Alison Bossom (AB),  
Cllr Alison Sturgess-Durden (ASD), Mrs Jane Angell Clerk

**Others Present:** Peta Hooper – Resident

**APOLOGIES:** Chairman Cllr Murphy and Cllr Franks

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**MINUTES**

Minutes from Ordinary Meeting 18 October 2010 were approved and signed by the Acting Chairman Cllr Alvis duly appointed due to absence of Chairman.

**Bills and Accounts**

<b>Payments</b>	28.10.10	764a	Jane Angell	Salary	83.33	
	28.11.10	767a	Jane Angell	salary	83.33	
	01.10.10	764b	Ian Croker	village cleaning	243.31	
	01.10.10	764c	B&NES	car parking	22.00	
	01.12.10	765	ALCA	new clerks training course	30.00	
	01.12.10	766	Ray Franks	mileage	8.80	
	01.12.10	767	Jane Angell	Ink & mileage	35.57	
	01.12.10	768	Lyn Alvis	mileage	12.32	
	<b>Receipts</b>	07.10.10	211	B&NES	village cleaning	243.82
		07.10.10	212	B&NES	car parking rebate	20.02
01.10.10		213	B&NES	precept (part 2)	1800.00	

**Account Balances as at 30.10.10**

Current	100.00
Reserve (Miss Davis)	2213.18
Reserve (MCPC)	8165.80

**MATTERS ARISING:**

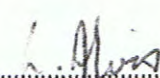
**Monkton Combe School** – Chairman Cllr Murphy and Cllr Alvis met with Amanda Cracknell (bursar) points raised and discussed:

a.

*LA /  
KLM*

- Traffic in village – Advised bursar that introducing a Community Speed Watch was considered in general not to be a workable option and also that a reply from Chris Merchant from B&NES Traffic & Safety regarding the installation of VAS (vehicle activated sign) to reinforce the speed limit through the village could not be justify due to the cost at this stage of the financial year although Monkton Combe is on the temporary VAS rotation list.
- Music Block planning application – Amanda Cracknell advised that there would be no outdoor performance area as suggested on the plans and that there had never been an intention to add this feature. Also the suggested access in Mill Lane to the lower car park was not part of the plan. The main building preparation work is due to start in March 2011.
- Monkton Mill – The school have acquired the Mill and have plans to relocate the maintenance department there as soon as possible. The purchase does not include the island but the school will

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Acting Chairman Cllr Lyn Alvis

be responsible for the Mill Leat gates. John Critchley will maintain access to the island via the bridle path. The access road leading to the mill will be owned by the school.

- Governors Field – Plans for car parking and an arrival/drop off point are due to be submitted anytime now the original plan has had the extended parking reduced to be only being necessary for functions. - *Clerk to request an extension for the submitting of comments to allow a suitable time to consult with residents.*
- Junior School Plans – Due to be submitted in January 2011. In two parts (1) Access and (2) Building.
- Contacting School – For incidents ring reception they will give the relevant number for contact. – *to be put into newsletter.*
- Plan Application Course of Old Somerset Coal Canal – no response reference the caravan site. – Details under planning.

**b ASD Footpath alongside Monkton Combe Prep School / Combe Down Allotments.**

Stuart Ballard of B&NES is discussing a proposal with Monkton School to have the path re-surfaced and bollards installed. Cllr Alvis has spoken to Stuart Ballard who advised this is on the Capital Plan for this year. Advised to speak to Colin Hudson (B&NES) to check that it was on the list. Cllr Alvis has spoken to Colin Hudson who advised that due to cost cutting requirements it cannot be confirmed that this will go ahead as planned. Cllr Sturgess-Durden has written to the Prep School to ask if they could write a letter to all users of the road asking them not to drive on the public footpath. The letter also asked if the path inside the fence on school property could be used by pedestrians at peak times when school traffic is heavy. Cllr Sturgess-Durden has received a reply advising that a letter had been written by the headmaster to all parents and sports club members requesting car users not to mount the path. They also advised that the one way system is being re-instated and within the next two years it is intended to improve access. It is not possible to grant use of the footpath on school property to the public due to The Child Protection Act. Cllr Alvis has been unable to contact Stuart Ballard regarding the poor state of the footpath. It appears Stuart works on a part time basis now making contacting him difficult. Cllr Sturgess-Durden sent a copy of the response letter to Stu Ballard and requested the possibility of a sign being installed asking motorist not to drive on the footpath. Cllr Sturgess-Durden replied to Amanda Cracknell advising that as a sports club member she had not received the letter and to suggest additional signage and the temporary use of mobile bollards to distinguish between the road and the path as the kerbs were lost when the road was resurfaced by the school. *Cllr Sturgess-Durden advised there has been no improvement and will request again the possibility of using the mobile bollards as a temporary measure in the new year if the problem persists.*

LA  
/ASD

**c KLM Mill Leat – It was agreed that this item would be revisited by the Parish Council in the spring when the future of the Mill was known.**

**d LA Fencing on Summer Lane-** No improvement to barbed wire section which is considered a hazard to pedestrians and cyclists. Cllr Alvis sent another letter to Nick Sperring (B&NES) only to receive a letter with apologies. – *Cllr Alvis will continue to chase.*  
Fencing further up Summer Lane towards Combe Down – B&NES agreed this was in a poor state. The damaged bollards have now been replaced, but it has been advised that the fencing is the responsibility of the land owner.

**e AB Brassknocker Hill –** Water is flowing onto road again above S bend presumably because gully is blocked. The gully has now been cleared and a soak away has been added. No water has been running across the road but there has been no rain to test this work out. It was reported that there is water still

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*L. Alvis*  
Acting Chairman Cllr Lyn Alvis

running onto the road at the top of Church Lane. - *Cllr Bossom will contact Council Connect to take action.*

f **KLM Mapping Seminar / Parish Online** - The opportunity for a Parish Plan was discussed at the Annual Meeting at which those present thought it worth considering Parish mapping, in association with B&NES and Bath Spa University. The Chairman considered 'Parish Online' could be a useful tool as it would be possible to add the position of such items as grit bins, signage and benches etc in the village which could be numbered for easy reference. A link from the Monkton Combe website may be possible for the public to access for information. Chairman will consider further and it was agreed this item becomes a key agenda item for future meetings. - *To be discussed next meeting.*

g **AB Phone Box** – Future use as a phone box remains under threat the Parish Council will continue to gather ideas for its future use. – *To be made a future agenda item.*

h **AB Grit Bins** – Now all refilled.

i **KLM Schedule of Roles & Responsibilities Document** – The previously issued draft format for the minutes and the agenda was discussed. This includes review dates (also correlating to audit procedures identified by the village risk assessment) and the specific allocation of responsibilities. This might include, for example, all hedges to be monitored by one Cllr (with input gathered from others across the village) for discussion and action. In this particular instance the monitoring would be undertaken prior to the recommended time for hedge trimming to ensure protection of wildlife and associated habitat. This should hopefully simplify matters ensuring that all Parish Council responsibilities continue to be properly covered and items do not accidentally get over looked.

The Chairman will do a revised draft, allocating responsibilities, to circulate for comment and additional suggestions of how it may work – *to be discussed at next meeting.*

6. **PLANNING**

a. **APPLICATIONS**

**Course Of Old Somerset Coal Canal, Warminster Road. 10/02577/FUL**

Change of use of land from car park to the stationing of 15 no touring caravans for a period of no more than 7 days each year during July and August. Application still pending consideration by B&NES.

**Music Block Monkton Combe School Church Lane. 10/ 03615/FUL**

Alterations and extensions to existing music school to provide new teaching practice and recording rooms and rehearsal and performance space together with landscaping. The Parish Council submitted Comments Only considering the proposals generally to be an improvement. Concerns were expressed regarding the issue of noise nuisance to local residents including the addition of an outside performance area that was not on the master plan. Some concerns regarding light impact were also raised together with some design issues that it was felt may, at a later date, become unsightly from Mill Lane if special consideration was not given to the specification of materials used. There were also comments raised about car parking numbers and the use of an existing entrance at the bottom of Mill Lane which no residents could remember previously being used as an entrance or exit for the car park. There was concern that if this was brought into use this could increase the traffic on the very narrow Mill Lane. Application still pending consideration by B&NES.

**Parcel 0022 Brassknocker Hill Monkton Combe 10/3477/REM**

Removal of Condition 1 of application 05/01929/REN (Retention of field shelter) – Permitted by B&NES.

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**Mulberry Cottage Mill Lane 10/04113/TCA**

Fell Leyland Cypress – The Parish Council RESOVLED to raise no objection. - No Objections by B&NES.

b. *KLM*

**Parish Planning Procedures** – The Chairman will update Procedures in line with emerging procedures from B&NES – *for discussion at next meeting*

**Summer Lane Chicken Farm** It was noted that a new shed has appeared on site. – *to be monitored*

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**HIGHWAYS & FOOTPATHS**

*LA/* Innox Drung Hand Rail - Cllr Butters (ward Cllr) contacted Cllr Alvis to advise he had been to visit  
*KLM* Mary Smith of the Croft regarding the possibility of having a hand rail installed at the bottom end of the drung. Sheila Petherbridge (Rights of Way Officer B&NES), advised Cllr Butters the cost would be £600. Various avenues for funding are being explored. Cllr Vic Pritchard (B&NES) confirmed that Housing Services Disabled Facilities Grant is restricted to within the building. Paul Pennycook (Strong Community Manager B&NES), is looking into the matter. It is possible that help with funding may be available from The Quartet Community Foundation. The Foundation is based in Bristol but also covers Bath. They make “one off” payments to help with improvements that benefit the community. - *Cllr Murphy will make initial enquires.*

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**CORRESPONDENCE**

*Clerk* From B&NES – Quarterly playground Inspection Report – *Clerk to enquire when the annual report is due.*  
From B&NES – Parish Precept Requirements 2011/12 – *To be added to agenda*  
From SLCC – Membership - *To be added to agenda*  
From Cllr Butters – Emergency Planning in case of Power Cuts. – *Added to red box for notes*

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**CLUSTER / LIASION MEETING/VALLEY PARISHES ASSOCIATION**

*RF* **Pact Meeting – 22 November 2010** – Held at Camerton Village Hall. Only 15 people attended of whom only 3 or 4 were members of the community the rest being Parish Councillors. There were 7 people on the top table including 4 from the police and a B&NES representative. The meeting lasted an hour as did the last one. There was only one new topic, speeding in Blind Lane, Dunkerton. Cllr Franks thinks it is a good idea to still attend although they seem to have little relevance to smaller villages like ours.

**Next PACT Meeting 14 March 2011 7pm at Shoscombe Village Hall**

**Next Police Parish Meeting – 19 January 2011 - Cllr Franks will attend.**

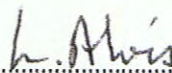
*LA*

**Parish Liaison Meeting – Meeting 20 October 2010** – Parish Charter- Feedback had been requested unfortunately the return date was very short and not workable. The Decision on the final draft will be made in January 2011 and the adoption of the Parish Charter is scheduled for February 2011. Grit Bins – it is now the case that a request will need to be made to have grit bins refilled.

**Next Meeting 16 February 2011.**

*LA* **Valley Parishes Alliance (VPA) – 4 November 2010 at 12.30 at Monkton Combe Village Hall. –**

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The VPA have now appointed a clerk Angela Clark who is also the clerk for Claverton and Freshford. Reports from the VPA have been sent off to Duncan Hames MP (Chippenham), Rees Mogg MP (North East Somerset) and Don Foster MP (Bath). Parish Councils will be told and names included of Parishes on items for voting, but not for none voting. Cllr Alvis to respond on behalf of the Parish Council. The VPA have two seats on the steering group for The Kennet and Avon Canal which is to become a charity. Some members of the VPA attended the B&NES Council Meeting at the Guildhall to make a request to add representatives from the VPA to the steering group Committee for Transport issues in general. The Transport Commission has been set up to look at issues from parking to public transport and make recommendations to the local authority.

10 **RED BOX**

Nothing urgent to report.

11 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

*ALL* Additional Councillors – The Parish Council is considering expanding to seven Councillors. It was agreed that a note would be placed in the Parish newsletter to determine the level of interest. Suggestions for potential candidates were discussed – *to be discussed further at next meeting and to be added to newsletter again.*

*RF* Cllr Franks announced that he would not be seeking re-election on the 5th May 2011 and that if it would help the Parish Council he would be prepared to resign at 31 March 2011 to enable a replacement to be found. . – *To be discussed at the next meeting.*

*Clerk* Date for Annual Meeting May 2011 – *to be arranged at next meeting.*

*LA* **Bath Preservation Trust (BPT)** – Cllr Alvis reported a consultation exercise had been carried out on Low Carbon Bath with views from members of local groups, architects and developers, sixth form students and members of the public. There was a clear consensus that the heritage of Bath should be protected while also reducing carbon through improvements to traditional buildings such as looking at addressing window insulation. Also discussed was that the AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) is prepared to extend which would encircle Bath. The application for 64 solar panels to generate electricity for The Galleries Shop & Cafe at Freshford has been turned down as though excessive fencing needed to keep live stock out would have an adverse impact on the Green Belt. **Next Meeting 25 January 2011.**

12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 17 January 2011 at 7pm in the Village Hall

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 21.10hrs

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Acting Chairman Cllr Lyn Alvis