

MONKTON COMBE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual meeting held in the Village Hall on 27th May 2009 at 7pm

Present: Kevin Murphy (Chairman)
Councillors: Lyn Alvis, Ray Franks and Alison Bossom
Clerk: Rachel Willcox
Apologies: Simon Ling
Visitors: 11 visitors attended, including Ward Councillor for Monkton Combe Neil Butters

Kevin Murphy was elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year.

Minutes: Minutes of the Annual meeting of the previous year held on the 19th May 2008 were approved and signed.

1. Chairman's Welcome

THE CHAIRMAN welcomed all the visitors to the meeting including Cllr Neil Butters.

The Chairman thanked:

- The Councillors for all their hard work,
- The Clerk for her work of the previous year.

The Chairman shared a few of the main areas dealt with by the Parish Council in the previous year, these included Planning applications on Summer Lane, grnt bins, waste collections, drainage and highway issues aswell as liaising with the school regarding development issues and parking/speeding. The Chairman highlighted the roles of the parish councillors, that they discuss and set the precept as part of parishioners council tax, spend time liaising with elected members of BANES council, commenting on emerging policies and papers aswell as attending other evening meetings including Police Liaison meetings, Parish Cluster meetings and the Bath Preservation Trust sub committee meetings.

The Councillors and Clerk gave a brief introductory speech about themselves and connection to the Village and Parish Council

2. Financial Statement

The financial statement for the year was discussed and agreed to be an accurate account

3. Matters Arising from Last Annual Meeting

- a. *Monkton Combe School*: Parish Council has requested the school to consult widely with regard to their Masterplan for Development of the school.

Signed:


Chairman

Approved: 24th August 2009

Meetings are being held regularly with the Parish Council. There will be a public meeting on the 23rd June – venue to be confirmed.

Cllr Neil Butters will be meeting with the school on the 2nd June, the Parish Council on the 4th June.

Suggestion from visitors to the meeting that a member of school staff should be on the Parish Council – a co-opted member.

Concerns have been raised regarding CCTV security cameras alongside Mill Lane, Kay Franks has been to see the area covered by the cameras and is happy that it is just school property that is under surveillance. Villagers have also expressed concern regarding the state of the site and road when the school was building its most recent development. A method statement may be requested at the planning stage for future projects. There was agreement with those in attendance that the school must keep the Village and Parish Council better informed.

- b. **Hedge Cutting:** Summer Lane hedge has mostly grown back after savage cut last year. Parish Council is trying to maintain lanes; some Landowners are co-operative, others are not. Lyn Alvis is speaking to BANES re the removal of the barbed wire along Summer Lane – it is covering a grit bin as well as being hazardous to cyclists, motorists and pedestrians. BANES is still trying to contact the landowner
- c. **Village Cleaning:** Waste Collection has now been restructured, so issues should soon be resolved. The situation will be monitored. The suggested shed at the bottom of the drung would have been a Health and Safety issue so has not been pursued. There is a possibility of installing a rubbish bin at the top of the Drung near the bench opposite Tithe Barn – however there are feelings that it would be visually intrusive so no decision has been made yet.
- d. **Dog Waste:** still an issue on the footpath from Combe Down to Mount Pleasant – to be monitored and reported to Council Connect (01225 394041)
- e. **Flytipping:** to be monitored and reported to Council Connect (01225 394041) for removal.
- f. **Grit Bins:** Summer Lane grit bin replaced despite being told it's Parish Council's property and on an inappropriate gradient. We are still awaiting for the other grit bins to be refilled.
- g. **Roads:** pavement at top of shaft Road will not be reinstated. Rugby club to trim hedges to keep way clear. Summer Lane Hedges have been cut by the landowner above the 1m level that BANES do – greatly appreciated by parishioners. Shaft Road surfaces have been marked with white paint, but seems to stop at the Village sign – not sure why. Potholes are dealt with efficiently if they meet the criteria.
- h. **Drungs:** very poor surfaces Innox and Church drung to be replaced, top of Innox is a priority for BANES. The Drung by Tabora has now been resurfaced by BANES.

Signed:


Chairman

Approved: 24th August 2009

- i. **Drainage** Church Drung – hole now put into bank for drainage so much better with water flowing into field rather than down Innox Drung damaging the surface and ending up in the bottom of the Village.
- j. **Speeding:** This is an ongoing issue in the Village. Lyn Alvis has contacted the Road Policing Unit. Monkton Combe is low priority and there is no funding so they are highly unlikely to come and do speed checks. Peter Bossom volunteered to train for Community Speed Watch scheme. More volunteers are needed if the scheme is to be viable.
Concern for safety of school children expressed by visitors to the meeting, especially crossing down Shaft Road to Chapel. Suggestion of speed vehicle activated sign. Cllr Neil Butters said that these can be requested through BANES. School has suggested installing low level lighting on the road that is activated by a child walking past it. Any form of traffic calming in the Village including rumble strips or narrowing the road at natural choke points would involve a formal traffic order process. Cllr Butters did add that there is a general nationwide move towards slower speeds on the roads.
- k. **Mill Leat:** Wessex Water are now going to be doing something about this issue this year. Details have not been confirmed yet. Allan Bratt – BANES Environment Officer has pursued this. Ownership is still unclear.
- l. **Playground:** currently getting quotes for gate and railings along front to prevent falls. Kevin Murphy is liaising with the Village Hall Committee.
- m. **Limpley Stoke** – works going on with access to field now completed. PC is now consulted by West Wiltshire Council on all works in bordering parish of Limpley Stoke.
- n. **Frayling Land** – BANES kept PC informed. Tree works have been carried out. Reseeding bank later on this year. Mr Frayling will be erecting a post and rail fence later this year.
- o. **Bus stop sign** – returned by BANES
- p. **Signage on Brassknocker Hill** – there are discrepancies on signage, Lyn Alvis in discussion with BANES regarding crossroad – ongoing concern in Village re safety.

4. Any Other Business:

- a. **Phone Box** – BT not entitled to remove it, so it will remain. This was confirmed by Cllr Butters. No response from English Heritage re application submitted for listing Phone Box and Letterbox.
- b. **Viaduct Pub** – concerns re squatters and health and safety risk. Landowner is in receivership and therefore uncontactable. Suggestion that Nick Jeanes from BANES knows previous owner – Lyn Alvis to follow up.
- c. **The Quarry** – all weather hockey pitch has been approved by BANES. Parish Council to monitor this piece of land – will be discussed in MasterPlan meeting with school.

Signed:


Chairman

Approved: 24th August 2009

- d. **Combe Grove Manor** – survey underway currently re the golf course and subsidence. To be monitored
- e. **Hydroelectric Project** – suggestion from visitor to the meeting that there may be a potential site for a small project on the Mill Leat. This may be a project that the school could undertake in partnership with the Village.
- f. **Shop** – possibility that the garage on the A36 may be re-opening their shop. Work is underway. No plans/licensing applications have been seen by Parish Council. Clerk to check BANES planning lists.
- g. **Development on hill opposite Trollopes Hill** – large excavation work being carried out. Unsure of extent and purpose of works.

The Chairman thanked everyone for coming. The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed:


Chairman

Approved: 24th August 2009