



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 23rd September 2025 at 7.00pm.

Present: Cllrs Besley, Cavill, Chapman, Cronshaw, Ellis, Gage, Haskins and Munson.

In attendance: Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community, Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator and two members of the public.

125/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

No apologies were received.

126/25 To note.

a) Declarations of Interest: No change.

b) Dispensation Requests: None

c) Amendments to the Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest: None had been notified to the Clerk.

127/25 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th September 2025.

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 9th September 2025, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 9th September proposed by Cllr Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson, and agreed by show of hands.

Public Question Time

Cllr Gage reported that the triangle at the Street needs a cut.

Clerk to ask Lengthsman to cut.

Cllr Haskins raised required footpath surface improvement works.

Clerk to ask Lengthsman to progress the works.

Cllr Cavill raised the legal advice obtained by Cheddon Fitzpaine Parish Council in relation to the decision in respect of the Lyngford Lane development.

Clerk to add an item to the agenda to the next meeting to discuss.

128/25 Planning

a) To consider any planning applications (listed on the Somerset Council website)

Cllr Cavill, as a member of the Somerset West Planning Committee did not take part in discussions of the planning applications to avoid fettering his discretion.

48/25/0047: Variation of Condition No's 02 (approved plans), 03 (alteration of wording to require compliance with previously approved Method for Demolition and Construction), 04 (alteration of wording to require compliance with submitted Preliminary Risk Assessment and Geo Environmental Assessment: Addendum), 07 (plan reference updated), 12 and 14 (for updated Drainage Strategy to be secured through the imposition of a suitably worded compliance condition) of application 48/21/0054 at the former Land Rover Garage, Bridgwater Road, Bathpool.

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

b) To note that Planning decisions made are available on Somerset Council website filed under the application number

Noted.

Clerk to confirm current status of planning applications 48/25/0029 and 48/25/0032.

129/25 Community:

a) General Update

Events Survey created and shared on social media, 7 positive responses so far. This will continue to go out on social media in order to collect more responses.

Events Meeting – 9th October at 2pm, will include feedback from Funfest 2025 and event dates for next year.

Assistant Clerk Community met with Rachael Knight, Village Agent and introduced her to headteacher at West Monkton Primary School. Rachael is keen to work closely with us and any other parties and is proactive in her approach. There will be a drop in café at Monkton Elm on the morning of the first Wednesday of every month.

Jon Nicolle, a volunteer at the Community Café since it began, is stepping down. He has been a reliable and supportive member of our team, and we wish him all the best and thank him for giving his time to support the community. It was agreed to purchase a voucher to the value of £40 for a meal at the Merry Monk in recognition of Jon's work as a volunteer.

b) Volunteer Evening/Volunteer Awards Proposal

Volunteer Festive Evening to take place on Tuesday 2nd December from 7pm to 10pm – Josh from Newport Catering is to send us some menu options.

During this event we would like to propose that Volunteer Awards are given out to people who have significantly contributed to the 6 strands of our Strategic Plan; Local Environment Award, Local Community Award, Your Parish Council Award, Delivering our Projects Award, Delivering Our Vision for Our Assets Award, and Delivering the Neighbourhood Plan Vision Award. We may like to purchase some glass trophies or frames for awards/certificates. It was agreed to proceed with the Volunteer Awards and purchase glass trophies and delegate the decision regarding recipients of the awards to Cllrs Haskins and Noel in consultation with the Clerks.

c) Youth Provision Update

Research Report completed and distributed – awaiting Somerset Youth Theatre research report from West Monkton Primary School.

- A total of 54 young people completed surveys in West Monkton Parish
- Among these young people, 37 already attend sports clubs, 11 participate in the Youth Café, 11 are involved in drama or dance activities, and 5 attend either Scouts, Guides, or Cadets.
- Interest in community activities is high; 40 young people expressed a desire to engage in sports activities, 34 would participate in events at their local park, 26 showed interest in arts or drama activities, 27 would like to join a Youth Club, and 6 young people would appreciate the presence of a Youth Worker outside of a club setting.

HYPE have a schedule of proposed activities for between now and Christmas, add creative sessions to existing youth provisions as well as Boombox activities in key areas in the LCN at October half term. We are working with SASP to look at sports activities, however they are unable to come out to deliver sessions during term time but are supportive in sharing ideas for sessions inside and outside for youth workers to deliver. This is an issue for our Youth Café as neither Mandy nor Kate are physically able to deliver these sessions.

A CV has been received for our Youth Worker position which we advertised before the summer from an experienced Sports Coach interested in joining us on a self-employed basis. The applicant is also keen to undertake Youth Work training which is available free of charge through the Youth Alliance. The Youth Café would benefit from a male Youth Worker who can lead sport sessions for our young people and connect with the

young men that attend. Should we look to take employ this person, we would look to pay £18 an hour and on completion of Youth Work Training Level 2, we could look to pay £22 per hour. To consider this proposal, we would need to employ them for 2 hours a week in term time and further hours in the school holidays to organise sports activities for young people in the community. It was resolved to proceed with employing the applicant on a self-employed basis for two hours a week initially. Proposed by Cllr Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour.

Research has taken place to look at funding opportunities to enable HYPE to continue with this youth provision beyond April 2026, Million Hours Funding from the National Lottery is to be looked into further by the HYPE group.

Data from youth provisions needed for Youth Alliance – meeting to be organised with Hannah Snowdon from the Somerset Youth Alliance

Summer Youth Café – was well attended, Mandy ran these sessions while Kate was recuperating with the support of Amy/Jess and Mary (Youth Café Volunteer). Feedback from sessions were positive, although it has been decided that one session a week for a longer length next summer would work better and enable young people to engage in some more exciting cooking activities.

Mandy Cooper, Volunteer is now in the process of attending/completing her Level 3 in Youth Work through the Youth Alliance, she has committed many hours to this. Mandy will be delivering sessions over 5 weeks as part of her Level 3 portfolio to support young people with their mental wellbeing at the Youth Café, resources have been purchased for these sessions.

Youth Café attendance was good in first week and a session was delivered by Go Create which enabled Mandy and Kate to use youth work skills to engage with young people and have meaningful discussions, something which was difficult before the summer holidays, due to high numbers attending.

130/25 Highways, Footpaths and Safe Routes to School

a) General Update

Clerk reported that the cheque from the Avon and Somerset Police Community Trust for two solar powered SID devices has been received. Following the cheque being banked an order will be placed for the devices.

Clerk reported that the existing SID will be taken down from Greenway later this week and then placed on Monkton Heathfield Road following reports of tractors speeding on Monkton Heathfield Road.

It was reported that the speeding tractors may be delivering soil in the village. Clerk to make enquiries and ascertain who the operators of the tractors are.

b) Yallands Hill Crossing Point; update

Clerk reported that Taunton Town Council have commissioned Somerset Council to carry out a road safety audit for the proposed Tudor Park crossing point. Following conclusion of the audit, a joint consultation exercise with the community on both the Tudor Park and Yallands Hill crossing points will take place.

c) Mead Way parking issues / Hinkley Bus route; update

Clerk reported that she has passed further information to the operators of the Hinkley bus service to aid their consideration of changing the bus route to go through the bus gate rather than on Monkton Heathfield Road. Clerk requested that any pictures of vehicles parked on Mead Way be passed to her to aid requests for double yellow lines to be added at the junction of Mead Way with Monkton Heathfield Road.

d) Layby opposite Thornash Close improvements; update

Cllr Besley confirmed that he had sprayed the brambles in the layby. The ground should be ready for planting hedging in a few weeks.

Clerk confirmed that she is gathering quotes for hedging plants for inclusion in the October finance report.

Clerk reported that the Lengthsman is looking at the pavement obstructed by vegetation near the bus gate at Bridgwater Road. It was noted that although the parked cars are also obstructing the pavement, the PCSO has confirmed that the Police will not take any action.

A member of the public raised the path near the canal roundabout which is sinking again. The condition of the fence adjacent to the path was also queried. Clerk to raise both issues with Persimmon to understand who is responsible for the surface and adjacent fence.

e) Visibility at bottom of Maidenbrook Lane; discuss potential improvements.

Clerk reported an incident of a child being involved in a collision with a vehicle whilst crossing Maidenbrook Lane a couple of weeks ago. It was agreed to perform a greater hedge cut on the junction to improve visibility and approach traffic management at Somerset Council about the possibility of adding signage on Maidenbrook Lane to inform drivers of children crossing the road.

131/25 Assets

a) MH1 POS; Update

Cllr Chapman provided an update on progress.

There continues to be concern locally about the period included on the service charge bills.

Information included on the invoices, in particular titles, added by the Managing Agents is also incorrect and has led to a number of complaints.

13 people have expressed an interest in becoming Directors of the Management Company. A shortlisting exercise is now planned to take place over the next week or so with a view to appointing Directors as soon as possible.

Councillors thanked Cllr Chapman for his ongoing work.

Cllr Chapman also reported that one bench slat in Brittons Ash is broken. A supply of replacement slats will be ordered to enable a repair of this bench and any future broken slats.

b) Country Park and Somerset Wood.

(i) General update.

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator provided a general update on activity in the Country Park including:

- Work on the trees, replacing mesh etc.
- New bin platforms have been installed at the pond.
- Racking added in the storage container. The contents from the top container have now been moved down to the 30ft racked container.
- Anti-vandal paint has been added on the Forest School
- Waymarkers are going to be installed during the first week of October. Posters for the Waymarkers are being worked on.

Candy also fed back some suggestions for the Country Park from the volunteers, including:

- Can a Maidenbrook Country Park flag be ordered for the flagpoles?
- Should the planters be painted? It was agreed not to plant the planters.
- Could a friendship bench be added. Clerk confirmed that there is year 2 lottery funding available for benches.
- Could information about the sports pitches be made available at the Country Park to raise awareness of the facility – this was agreed.
- Can a gate be added into the Forest School area. It was agreed to add a gate if interest is expressed from a school to use the area.

(ii) Lottery Project Progress Report, Trenching quotes, Deliverables Quotes including fencing; (R);

Cllr Cavill provided an update on required trenching work to provide an electrical supply and water supply to the volunteer compound and up to the old container. Around 450m of trenching is required. Trenches are being combined where possible, in the main between the volunteer compound and old container. Trenching work is

expected to commence on Monday. A board will be added to the 30ft container and then electric will be distributed from it to the toilet block, kitchen and up to the old container.

It was agreed to add a board / cabinet for electric near the events area on the run up to the old container.

The total cost of the cabling and electrical work is awaited.

The precise position of the gas main is also required prior to commencement of the works.

The completion of the treatment plant works is delayed by a requirement for a water vole survey of Allens Brook to take place. This could delay confirmation of the drainage solution from the treatment plant by 4 months. In order to install the fencing around the compound, work to install the treatment plant and pipes to the other side of the fence will take place, with connection beyond being added later once agreed.

A discussion took place about combining the drainage with the electric trench. It was agreed to add 32mm pipe to the electric trench for drainage use should draining into the Brook be agreed. The cost of the pipe is approximately £200.00.

Clerk provided an update on other elements of the lottery project. The lottery have agreed that the money allocated for surfacing the compound area can be repurposed for cladding the containers. A discussion followed about the type of cladding and how it can be fixed to the container. Quotes for the cladding and fixings to be obtained for consideration at a future meeting.

Clerk confirmed that she had looked into paint for painting the containers. The cost of the primer, paint and equipment will be up to £500.00. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of the paint subject to Cllr Haskins checking prices with a local business. Second coat of paint not to be added until fencing is put up around the compound.

Clerk reported the ride on lawnmower has been purchased from the Hunt Forest Group. A price was agreed with the Hunt Forest Group for the mower, a bumper kit, a mulching kit, a tracker, training and delivery within the amount allocated from the lottery funding. Delivery of the mower is expected shortly.

Meetings are taking place on site with contractors to gather quotes for CCTV for the compound and the Country Park. Quotes will be available for consideration at the next meeting.

Quotes for compound fencing had also been obtained and were shared. It was noted that Dunn Bros Auctions have security fencing lots in their upcoming auction. Clerk to make enquiries prior to a quote for the fencing installation being approved.

Clerk advised that she has taken advice from insurance companies, who have advised to add the buildings and equipment being installed in the Country Park to the existing PC policy rather than creating a new policy for the Country Park. Clerk will do this and advise of the premium increase. The Lottery funding will be used to fund any increase.

Clerk finally reported that she had received a phonecall today from Building Control to indicate that an application may be needed for the canteen and toilet block. Clerk confirmed that enquiries are being made, and Reed Holland are assisting.

The Maidenbrook Lane pedestrian gate to the Country Park was discussed, Clerk to discuss with Lengthsman.

c) BACH

(i) General update; contaminated water; boiler replacement

Clerk reported that cold water at the school / BACH is safe to use, this has been confirmed by the school following testing.

There is no hot water currently. Cllr Gage confirmed that the iron hot water cylinder needs to be replaced by the school, but this may take 6-8 weeks and is likely to be installed mid to late October. There is a potential that the school may charge a proportion of the replacement costs to the BACH.

Clerk confirms that the water boiler replacement in the kitchen has been ordered – installation date to be confirmed.

(ii) Solar Panel update

Cllr Cavill confirmed that he had no progress to report due to the school holiday period. Cllr Gage suggested aiming / planning for installation in the Christmas school holidays.

d) Community Fridge update.

Assistant Clerk Community confirmed that electric / lights and CCTV has now been installed in the Community Fridge, enabling us to monitor any unwanted activity. Reports have been received that a group of individuals are taking more than one bag of food when they go into the fridge. The CCTV has been reviewed and there is no evidence of this. Better signage is being displayed at the fridge confirming the rules regarding only taking one carrier bag of food from the fridge and providing contact details for any incidents or concerns to be reported to.

e) Community Garden update.

Summer Harvesting has come to an end and there was a successful harvest this year, despite the lack of rain and heat which did affect some crops like the broccoli and carrots.

In the coming weeks, garlic and onion sets will be planted and there will be 600 flower bulbs planted ready for a mass of colour in the spring/summer.

There have been a couple of donations from local contractors recently, Rob Glover, a landscape gardener in our parish donated 2 bags of compost/manure mix. Alan Vardey brought a trailer load of woodchip.

Volunteers have dwindled and will need to have a recruitment drive for next year.

Compost has been ordered and delivered to the garden.

A discussion about holding a flower show at the BACH / community garden next year was discussed. It was agreed that a date and arrangements would be discussed at the Events Working Group meeting in October.

132/25 Projects

a) Poppy of Honour update; to agree towing arrangements for future events

Cllr Cronshaw provided an update on Poppy of Honour fundraising.

The Poppy of Honour will be at the Country Park for the service headstone unveiling on 1st November and at Southend on Sea on 5th November for which towing has been arranged.

Cllr Cronshaw confirmed that a request submitted to a local groundworks company to complete the foundation work for the Pavilion is being considered by the board of directors tomorrow. There are two other potential companies who can be contacted if the request isn't successful.

It was agreed to defer discussion of arrangements for towing the Poppy until the next meeting. Cllr Besley to share ideas with the Clerk in advance of the meeting.

b) Hyde Park Sports Ground

(i) Update.

Clerk reported that Durant Cricket commenced work on site on Monday on the cricket nets and artificial cricket square. Water is required for the work. Cllr Gage to deliver the water bowser to site tomorrow.

Clerk outlined quotes received from Taunton Fencing and J Down Contracting for 1.8m high vmex security fencing to be installed on the sports pitch site of the ditch on the entrance boundary of the sports pitches.

It was resolved to appoint J Down Contracting to carry out the fencing work but that a site meeting should be arranged to agree the fencing requirements prior to commencement of the work. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Munson and agreed with all in favour. Fencing requirements for the other boundaries of the sports pitches to also be reviewed during the site meeting.

(ii) Pump track

Cllr Gage asked if the procurement exercise for the pump track could start. It was agreed to start the process. Specification / design of the pump track to be agreed upon which information will be published, and tenders will be invited.

c) MH2 Update; Feedback from meeting on 16th September and meeting with CSM PC on 22nd September. Parish Boundary / CIL / MH2 implications. Agree response to updates to planning application.

Clerk confirmed that the updated proposals in relation to the planning application have been submitted to the Planning Authority, the deadline for comments is 7th October.

Clerk confirmed that signage has been displayed on noticeboards and information has been added to Facebook / Monkton Matters about consultation, providing information about how to submit comments.

Clerk to draft PC comments in relation to the updated proposals to circulate and agree by email. In addition to reiterating the previously submitted comments, additional comments will be submitted relating to the following:

- Disappointment that Somerset Council have indicated that they will not commit any of their proportion of the CIL money from the development on infrastructure in the development or the surrounding area.
- Disappointment at the reduction in affordable housing being delivered from 25% to 5%.
- Disappointment that only a primary school will be delivered and not a secondary / through school as originally intended.
- A request for an extension of the 20mph speed limit on Monkton Heathfield Road to the Dosters Lane junction.
- A request for a cycle / footpath from the development to Creech St Michael.
- Requesting further detail about the Monkton Heathfield Road sustainable transport contribution, the delivery of MH1 traffic calming measures for Monkton Heathfield Road, how the contribution for the bus gate and Hartnells puffin crossing will be spent on improvements on Monkton Heathfield Road.
- Request that Boome Lane is closed or partially closed at Adsborough Hill.
- Ensure that the phasing of the highway works includes the Monkton Elm junction works taking place first and prior to commencement of building houses.

Upon agreement and submission of the comments, it was agreed to publish them on the PC website and Facebook Page and share them with the MP.

It was also agreed that a public open evening would be arranged at the BACH prior to 7th October to enable parishioners to view the updated proposals and submit their own comments in relation to the planning application.

Clerk provided feedback from Creech St Michael PC about the proposals presented to both Parish Councils by the Planning Officer. Clerk confirmed that Creech St Michael PC would be discussing this further at their next PC meeting on 6th October. A discussion followed, the PC confirmed that it was generally happy with the Planning Officers proposals in relation to the delivery of infrastructure in MH2 and its ongoing maintenance. Next steps were agreed including finding out more about possible boundary changes, stewardship and advice on matters that may be included in the S106 agreement for the development.

d) Bridgwater Road Football Pitch; Update

Clerk reported that she is trying to arrange access to the pitches to enable the grass to be cut. Persimmon are arranging for the vegetation on the outside of the fence to be cut.

e) Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation Project; Update

Cllr Besley reported that the Red Hill culvert / grill works are nearly complete and the works by Mowgate to cut the verge / hedge and clear the ditches and reinstate the banks has been completed.

Clerk confirmed that the final thing to complete is the sucking of the gullies from The Street, down Blundells Lane to Monkton Heathfield Road. Quotes for the gully sucking will be gathered for consideration at the next meeting.

Cllr Haskins took the opportunity to provide feedback on the Hartnells Farm – Public Art Strategy meeting on Friday. The walkway through the arboretum was discussed, initially the plan was to install a 3m wide pathway. During the meeting it was agreed that this wasn't required. The connection point of the pathway with Greenway was also discussed. Persimmon are going to do some management work on the arboretum to thin out the trees and cut back the undergrowth this will help with setting the position of the path. Persimmon have agreed to share a plan showing the position of the path. Art will be included along the route to fulfil the public art requirements of Garden Town policies.

133/25 Parish Council IT Equipment Security Protection; consider quotations (R)

Clerk reported that QSS IT, the company that provides the PC with IT support set up all laptops with security software provided by ESET. QSS IT are moving away from ESET and have provided a quotation to install their own security software on the PC devices.

Clerk outlined the quotation provided by QSS IT for self-managed and fully managed security on the devices and outlined alternative quotes from Cloudy IT and directly with ESET.
It was resolved to purchase security software directly from ESET at a cost of £239.04 per year for all PC devices.
Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.

134/25 Other matters for report only – items for discussion at next meeting

Assistant Clerk Community thanked the Parish Council for nominating her for a Somerset Council Chairman's Award.

Cllr Besley reported that COWMS have learnt about the Dosters Lane development and are not happy with the proposed single access point from Dosters Lane. COWMS have commissioned legal advice from a Barrister and traffic surveys.

a) Items for next meeting agenda – by Monday 6th or 20th October 2025.

Noted.

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted

92/25 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2025: 14th Oct, 11th Nov, 9th Dec.

Fourth Tuesday in the month (Community / project focused meeting)

2025: 28th Oct, 25th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 17th October 2025 at 9.30am.

Annual Parish Meeting: TBC 2026 at 7pm

BACH Committee 21st October 2025 at 7pm

Budget and Precept Working Group: TBC November 2025

Sports Pitch Committee 7th October 2025 at 10.30am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.58pm

Signed Chairman:



Date: 14th October 2025