



West Monkton Parish Council

ADOPTED

Minutes of the Meeting of West Monkton Parish Council held on Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 7.00pm.

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

In attendance: Amy Shepherd, Clerk, Kate Welsh, Assistant Clerk Community (via zoom), Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator and Dawn Watts, Village News editor.

217/25 To receive any apologies (with reasons), introductions with responsibilities.

Apologies were received from Cllr Munson.

218/25 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.

219/25 To adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th January 2026.

The minutes from the Meeting of the Parish Council on 13th January 2026, having been previously circulated, were taken as read. It was resolved to adopt the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 13th January proposed by Cllr D. Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Chapman, and agreed by show of hands.

Public Question Time

Flooding experienced in the Parish and actions being taken were discussed.

Cllr Haskins reported that the work on Blundells Lane has sped up the flow of water, comes round back of the Monkton Inn, and then there is a 90 degree bend, the pipe is not block but can't cope with the volume of water. Need to check that there are no stones in the pipe. This area is an issue and consideration needs to be given to slowing the volume of water before this point.

The bottom of Blundells Lane is also becoming overwhelmed. It was noted that comment needs to be made at the reserved matters stage of the MH2 application in respect of the site opposite the Garden Centre requesting that an attenuation ponds connects with this and that the culvert underneath Monkton Heathfield Road is upgraded.

Cllr Haskins reported that water is flowing through the culvert at Gotton Lane but it is overwhelmed.

Clerk reported that flooding of properties in Bathpool was experienced overnight / this morning. The levels of water were higher than the levels recorded in 2023 /24. Pump was working continuously (since Tuesday) but became overwhelmed. Sewer discharge also experienced in Acacia Gardens and Hyde Lane. The issue has been escalated again with Wessex Water.

Clerk reported that the Bathpool Flood Warden has requested that a letter is sent to properties in Acacia Gardens that back onto water courses requesting that tree cuttings / debris is not left on the bank – the debris is blocking the flap gates, 12-15ft tree trunks have been found.

Clerk to write a letter to properties reminding them of their riparian duties.

Clerk also reported that conversations with Somerset Council have taken place today during which contact details for Hyde Lane Park Homes were requested, along with a request that anyone that has had their home flooded report it to enable additional resources to be made available. SC have also offered to escalate the installation of the permanent pumps at Bathpool and the sewer discharge issues in Bathpool with the Environment Agency and Wessex Water.

Cllrs to share contact details of anyone affected by flooding with the Clerk.

Clerk reported that a post was added to Facebook providing details of the resources available to the community if they are affected by flooding. 30 gel bags have been dispersed by the Parish Council to residents in Yew Tree Lane.

Clerk reported that the Old River Tone levelled out this afternoon at 11.18m – previous highest recorded was 11.13m in December 2023.

Clerk reported that the SC Highways Maintenance Plan indicates that gully sucking is due to take place in the Parish in 2026/27. Cllr Haskins confirmed that SC do not carry out road sweeping.

Clerk to add street cleaning to the forward plan for December 2026.

220/25 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.

48/26/0001: Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 48/23/0021 to add the second floor at Uplands, Church Hill, West Monkton.

The Parish Council supports the granting of permission.

48/26/0002: Variation of Condition No. 02 (approved plans) of application 48/23/0021 to move dwelling to the west by 1.5m, changes to ground floor, removal of swimming pool for garage/workshop, shorten of rear length by 1.5m and changes to first floor at Plot 3, Uplands, Church Road, West Monkton.

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

Clerk reported that the self-storage business advertisement signs on Bridgwater Road and Pippin Road have been reported to planning enforcement.

Clerk also reported that Alder King are running an online consultation about the proposed development on land adjacent to Dosters Lane. The consultation runs until 20th February. Clerk to circulate details to Councillors.

221/25 Community:

a) General Update

Community Café – now being advertised as an opportunity to find out about volunteering opportunities. The café is very quiet until the families arrive after the school day.

Bereavement Café – attendance steady

Repair Café – steady flow of residents coming in for repairs

Companion Volunteers – Continues to support a number of people in the parish with varying roles, lifts to hospital appointments, shopping and stopping with some for a tea and a chat.

Litter Picking – A few more litter picking volunteers have signed up, these are young people who are volunteering for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Bingo – The next bingo sessions are the 3rd February and then 7th April. Need someone to call Bingo for the Bingo on the 9th June 2pm – 4pm if anyone is available.

b) Feedback from Events Working Group Meeting on 15th January and consider recommendations

Winter 2025 Events

Positive feedback both online and in person on Tractor/Trailer Event – great way to get on the ground with residents and connect. Thanks to Mark for the use of his tractor/trailer and to Kev for his support with the tracker.

A discussion took place about increasing the area we cover, perhaps running it over 2 evenings.

2026 Events

4th April – Easter Egg Hunt - 150 eggs to be purchased this year. 19 Stakes are in good order and can be reused this year. Jess to order blackboard spray and chalk pens to re-do the eggs.

18th April - 11am to 3pm – Clothes Swap (SWISH Event)–loaning clothes rail from CAG. Idea to have cheese and wine available. Have applied for £300 funding from CAG

26th April – Farm Walk – Bethan organising this with Mark and will be running on a Sunday this year.

9th May – Grand Opening of Maidenbrook Country Park – Spring Shindig –

- Schedule
 - 2pm Dog Show
 - 3pm – First Hog Roast
 - 3pm to 5pm – The Britones
 - 5.30pm to 7.30pm – Chrystal Bliss
 - 8pm to 9.45pm – Bird Dog
 - 9.45pm to 10pm – Beacon Lighting and Fireworks
- Hog Roast and Josh from Newports Catering to put together an option for Vegan/Vegetarian and other dietary options
- Cllr C Cronshaw to organise raffle prizes
- Kev Stratton booked for Tech Support
- Beacon Lighting
- Awaiting quotation from Sonic Fireworks for display
- Giveaway ideas – bands, seeds, light sticks, keychain - ongoing
- More adult orientated but will have some activities for children ie – inflatables, face paints, football goals and basketball hoops plus nature trail
- Newport Catering to put together some ideas for creative activities to run on the day and to visit MCP to see Forest School space.
- Open mic for children from 2pm to 3pm
- Walking tours of MCP and services stones/areas
- TENS applied for
- Log as Somerset Day Event – Assistant Clerk Community to do
- Costings spreadsheet being developed.
- Clerk to obtain quotes for event insurance
- Assistant Clerk Community to create list of people to invite formally as supporters of MCP

6th June – Share event

11th July – Funfest

- Save the dates have been sent to sellers/potential sellers
- Kev Stratton's Band (The Chosen Few) booked
- Skittles/Games as last year
- David Fothergill to compere again
- Push for more interesting vehicles when promoting
- ECO zone – for 'On your Bike' services – Bethan to organise

- Research ongoing for activities/displays and schedule for the event

1st August – Monkton Market Produce and Flower Show

- Village Agents have their Centenary this year and would like to be involved in this as part of their celebrations and will help with organisation
- Awards – rosettes
- Chocolate trophies for children
- Ideas for categories: Baking, Crafts, Preserves, Flower Arranging, Biggest Vegetable, Veg Box, Wonky Veg, Photography, Garden Comp (by video)
- Judges – Parish Councillors as judges (choose 5 for children, 5 for adults)
- Categories for children: Drawing, Poem, Mini Garden, Egg Painting, Colouring Comp, Code breaking – Assistant Clerk Community to research and discuss with young people from Youth Café to get ideas
- Possible Cake Baking/Decorating on the day – Bake Off style
- Head Teacher, Helen Newstead agreed we can use of the School Car Park for the event – where stall holders can use the parking area
- Suggestion also to use the sports pitch across the road and the BACH car park
- Josh (Newports Catering) is currently pulling together local producers and crafters for his business – Josh to manage this part of the event

23rd August – St Giles Summer Dog Show – need to take money from car park to cover cost of toilets etc

General Update re Events

- Posters have been created and the events have been added to facebook as an event.
- Costing to be discussed about the purchase of a Fridge Trailer
- Newport Catering has space to store the fridge trailer should we need it
- Assistant Clerk Community met Andy from Tacchi Morris at MCP to discuss open air theatre, now awaiting a reply about whether they want to run it.
- Assistant Clerk Community has contacted Breweries to look at prices for beer/cider for events, awaiting reply.
- Benches that were ordered are sturdy. It was resolved to order a further 18 benches (making a total of 20 benches) £49.96 plus VAT for 2 benches – Total £449.64. Proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr Besley and agreed with all in favour.
- Cups – It was resolved to order 750 pint cups - £820 and 250 half pint cups - £310. Total £1130. 5% discount to be applied. Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Ellis and agreed with all in favour.
- Dates of next meetings – 26th February and 26th March at 2pm at the BACH.

Clerk outlined a request received to borrow tables and marquees for the WM Street Party on Saturday 2nd May. It was agreed to lend the equipment on the understanding that the group organising are responsible for the equipment and for returning it in the same condition.

c) Fridge Trailer purchase consideration

A paper providing quotations for new and used fridge trailers was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. Used trailers are advertised at a cost of around £3000. It was noted that a storage solution has been found and that the cost of hiring a fridge trailer is in the region of £300 per weekend. The trailer could also be hired out. It was resolved to delegate the purchase of a trailer to the Clerk in consultation with Cllrs Haskins and Gage up to a value of £3500.00. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr C Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

d) Youth provision update including Youth Café.

HYPE – 3 Grants have been applied for, Awards for All (Lottery), HPC Fund (Limited to provision at North Petherton) and Norman Family Trust, awaiting news.

The 3 youth hubs have both TYCA and GoCreate attending a number of additional sessions until March. The Boombox will be going out to 2 locations in the February half term.

Youth Café – Continuing to be busy with approximately 20 to 30 young people staying for activities each week, with many more popping in for hot chocolate and toast/snacks.

Display boards for our young people have been set up which can direct them to various organisations for further support for wellbeing should they need it. As young people are settling into the group they are sharing their worries, stresses and concerns and we are offering wellbeing support for these young people. Having now employed a Youth Coach this has freed up more time to support more young people on a 1:1 or in small groups.

We have also developed additional policies in line with current Youth Work Legislation to support the work we do with young people and to ensure we are working in line with current youth work practices, thanks to Mandy for supporting me with this.

Mandy has now completed and passed all units for her Level 3 in Youth Work and is now qualified and happy to lead the Youth Café while I am off for my knee replacement. Any safeguarding concerns will be passed to the Clerk in my absence. Carol is attending the Award Event for Mandy at Glastonbury on the 5th February.

Cllr Haskins reported that there is £58k of SALC HWB funding left which is being targeted at smaller parish council projects

222/25 Village News; future development and distribution.

Dawn Watts, Editor of the Village News attended the meeting to discuss the future arrangements for the development and delivery of the Village News.

Some of the volunteers who deliver the village news have given up. Cllr Gage reported that new volunteers have come forward to deliver the Village News with the exception of someone for Richards Crescent. Cllr Chapman confirmed that he would volunteer to deliver the village news to Richards Crescent.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue to fund the printing of 100 additional copies of each edition to be made available at the three pubs in the parish, Monkton Elm Garden Centre, the BACH and the Co-Op. Discussion turned to the future development of the village news. Dawn confirmed that although she doesn't have any immediate plans to stop developing the Village News within the next 12 months, a plan is needed of who will carry out the role when she does stop.

A discussion took place, it was noted that delivery of hard copies of the Village News was valued by members of the community. It was agreed that an advert should be added to the next edition of the village news to see if anyone is interested in taking over. The opportunity could also be promoted at the upcoming events, on the noticeboards and on Monkton Matters. It was agreed to try promoting the position and see what interest there is.

223/25 Highways, Footpaths and Safe Routes to School

a) General Update

Clerk reported that the SIDs are up on Monkton Heathfield Road. The mobile SID will be put up on Bridgwater Road in Bathpool.

Cllr Cavill raised the gate at bottom of School Road and the need to replace it with staggered T bars. Clerk to investigate with Somerset Council Highways.

It was noted that surfacing on Monkton Heathfield Road has been worn away and a weight restriction sign needs replacing. Clerk to follow up with Traffic Management.

Clerk reported that roadworks are scheduled for resurfacing at beginning of February including the ERR, sports pitch roundabout and canal roundabout. Drain covers on Bridgwater Road and Milton hill (from Canal Roundabout to Farriers Green). The works are likely to have an impact on night time traffic going through the village.

b) Yallands Hill crossing point; update

Clerk reported that the Town Council have received the Road Safety Audit for the proposed Tudor Park crossing point. The audit has suggested a traffic survey to identify the best crossing point solution. The Town Council are establishing the cost of carrying this out in advance of the Report and crossing proposal being discussed at the

Town Council meeting on 10th March. Clerk is meeting with Town Council representatives in advance of the meeting on 10th March to discuss next steps.

Clerk asked if the Parish Council would like to await the outcome of the Town Council meeting on 10th March or if they would like to move forward with the next step outlined in the Feasibility Study; local public consultation on the proposed Yallands Hills Crossing Point. It was agreed to progress with local consultation on the Yallands Hill crossing point proposal.

224/25 Environment

a) Improvements to layby opposite Thornash Close; update.

Clerk reported that she has measured the layby, it is approximately 40 metres. Clerk to place an order for 200 hedge plants. Parish Lengthsman to plant.

b) Church Hill; consider improvements.

Cllr Haskins raised the untidy condition of Church Hill in West Monkton Village. Some potential improvements were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Besley would ask COWMS for their view on potential improvements in the Village and that information would be added to the next edition of the Village News requesting feedback / views on improvements.

c) Monkton Heathfield Road hedge; update.

Clerk reported that no response has been received from the bus company that operate the Hinkley bus that caused damage to the hedge / verge on Monkton Heathfield Road.

Cllr Cavill agreed to follow the issue up with SC Highways.

d) Bridgwater Road Bins, to consider quotations

Proposal to locate one bin next to each bus shelter located on Bridgwater Road (between Roys Place and the bus gate).

Option 1: Glasdon Jubilee Litter Bin

£431.60 per bin + VAT

[https://uk.glasdon.com/glasdon-jubilee-tm-110-litter-](https://uk.glasdon.com/glasdon-jubilee-tm-110-litter-bin?mx=1&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21700877014&gbraid=0AAAAADNP1nNKj5j405KCgQuor3DCsUArW&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY7yEtn9ziPVohjY7_ZrPnxiZ26hOz0Zbxb5sGG5Z5fcs6g7NmoUBoCclEQAvD_BwE)

[bin?mx=1&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21700877014&gbraid=0AAAAADNP1nNKj5j405KCgQuor3DCsUArW&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY7yEtn9ziPVohjY7_ZrPnxiZ26hOz0Zbxb5sGG5Z5fcs6g7NmoUBoCclEQAvD_BwE](https://uk.glasdon.com/glasdon-jubilee-tm-110-litter-bin?mx=1&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21700877014&gbraid=0AAAAADNP1nNKj5j405KCgQuor3DCsUArW&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY7yEtn9ziPVohjY7_ZrPnxiZ26hOz0Zbxb5sGG5Z5fcs6g7NmoUBoCclEQAvD_BwE)

Option 2: Litterbins.co.uk

£442.95 per bin + VAT

[https://www.litterbins.co.uk/products/heavy-duty-outdoor-steel-litter-bin-112-](https://www.litterbins.co.uk/products/heavy-duty-outdoor-steel-litter-bin-112-litre?currency=GBP&variant=55923202687355&stkn=f49069a13fba&utm_source=google&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=23311739980&gbraid=0AAAAADM2Uu3IB1Qte3kCqJpLxCSccGvLN&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY71XkJ6_8OSmcGTiZ4ck-sb7EilzmEWwGRHxZTBr_d-gqk7dOQ5BwshoCHaYQAvD_BwE)

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Option 3: Heyn

£310.00 per bin + VAT

[https://heyn.co.uk/environmental/litter-bins/free-standing-](https://heyn.co.uk/environmental/litter-bins/free-standing-bins/MLB90%20Steel%20Litter%20Bin?Productid=1175&sku=%7C345-1973%7C346-1978%7C347-1980&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21845642625&gbraid=0AAAAADyULJUcTiQvJpO41aWjsmyLFO6z0&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY7wPMH23uu7x359my5sv3XEySi2y2EYSt0lWa_LN1keU7sVWTzAsXsxoCkOYQAvD_BwE)

[bins/MLB90%20Steel%20Litter%20Bin?Productid=1175&sku=%7C345-1973%7C346-1978%7C347-1980&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21845642625&gbraid=0AAAAADyULJUcTiQvJpO41aWjsmyLFO6z0&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY7wPMH23uu7x359my5sv3XEySi2y2EYSt0lWa_LN1keU7sVWTzAsXsxoCkOYQAvD_BwE](https://heyn.co.uk/environmental/litter-bins/free-standing-bins/MLB90%20Steel%20Litter%20Bin?Productid=1175&sku=%7C345-1973%7C346-1978%7C347-1980&gad_source=1&gad_campaignid=21845642625&gbraid=0AAAAADyULJUcTiQvJpO41aWjsmyLFO6z0&gclid=CjwKCAiAj8LLBhAkEiwAJjbY7wPMH23uu7x359my5sv3XEySi2y2EYSt0lWa_LN1keU7sVWTzAsXsxoCkOYQAvD_BwE)

Resolution to proceed with the purchase of two litter bins from Option 3. £620 + VAT for two bins.

Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

225/25 Assets

a) The Heathfields POS (MH1) ; Update, Feedback from Management Company. Progress with bin installation, knee high fencing, platinum walk sign and noticeboard installations, consideration of

installation of football posts. Authority to sign S104 agreements and Deed of Grant in respect of sewers and surface water out outfall adoption

Cllr Chapman provided feedback from the Management Company. Progress is still quite slow with payments. Saxons are about to send final demands for 2025/26 payments. A meeting of the Directors has taken place to review half year progress and feedback has been provided to Saxons. Directors have been invited to attend Saxons offices to see how the office operates.

Management Company are planning a budget meeting for 2026/27 next month and an AGM in July to enable a review of a full year.

Bins installation progressing. 3 more bases to do, 2 bins have been replaced. There are issues with the new Deer Park bin, door not square in frame and needs a bit of adjustment, sign to be added in the interim to bin emptier requesting that they close door properly after emptying. There has been a further issue with bin emptying vehicles driving across the grass, matter has been reported to SC, no further issues since the report was made. Knee High fencing remedials almost complete. Contractors are working around the estate. Replacement fencing, identified during the pre-handover walk at Hob Close isn't on the contractors list. Cllr Chapman to request again that the fencing is added to the contractors list as it was highlighted during the pre-handover walkaround. Play park remedials are taking place and are nearing completion.

A paper outlining some options for football posts to be located at Central Park was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on the screen. It was agreed that the posts should be 8x4ft rather than full sized. Clerk to gather further quotations for the next meeting.

Clerk reported that the S104 agreements and Deed of Grants for the sewer adoptions in MH1 need to be signed by the Parish Council as the land owner. It was resolved that Cllrs Haskins and Gage would sign the agreements in the presences of the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr C Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

b) Country Park and Somerset Wood;

i. General update.

Candy Sully, Volunteer Coordinator provided an update on work and progress in the park including:

- Coppicing training being looked into with Somerset Wildlife Trust
- Management plan for the park in development with support from partners.
- Somerset County Gazette have requested two further articles during 2026 about the park.
- Some issues being experienced with dogs not being on their leads / out of control.
- Antisocial behaviour around pond on Monday afternoon, dead hedge, sign / stakes damage. Captured on CCTV, reported to the Police. Clarification on whether images can be shared on social media to be checked and policy to be reviewed.
- Rotary area quite wet, drainage solution being looked into.
- Gas leak at the bottom of the park has been fixed.
- Hedge planting around compound fence to take place when dryer.
- Method of securing the new water bowser being explored. Suggestion that it is padlocked to the other trailer
- Mower has been serviced. Tracker to be fitted on both mowers on 5th February.
- Further Duke of Edinburgh Volunteering enquiry.
- Google profile up and running. Clerk to share link.
- Waymarker poster designs have been completed and are now with Signs Express for production.
- Big mower coming back – tracker to be fitted on both mowers on 5th February.

Cllr Gage reported that Bridgwater Mowers identified an oil leak near the back wheel of the mower. Volunteer Drivers to keep an eye on it. If it needs to be repaired it is likely to be expensive. Bridgwater Mowers also advised that the radiators need to be kept clean to prevent the engine from overheating.

Cllr Cavill reported that SW Drainage were going to do soil tests today but the wet weather prevented them from doing so. Cllr Cavill also shared that Ray Hall, a supporter of the Country Park since the installation of the dedication stone has sadly passed away. Cllr Cavill to share the details of the funeral when they are available.

Clerk reported that 4 or 5 self employed cleaners have been in contact interested cleaning the volunteer compound. It was agreed to delegate the decision of which cleaner to appoint to the Volunteer Coordinator.

ii. Lottery Project Progress Report.

The Lottery Progress Report was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. Clerk confirmed that the CCTV installation work has been completed and that the picnic benches were delivered last week. Clerk also reported that a capital claim has been submitted to the lottery for the compound fencing, CCTV and picnic benches.

iii. To consider and approve tender for pathway installation (R)

A Country Park pathways tender submission evaluation paper was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on the screen.

The cost of the materials required was discussed and it was agreed that the most cost effective way of delivering the pathways was to proceed with a tender without materials and for the Parish Council to obtain the required materials.

It was resolved to accept Tender A provided by Keals Fencing, Garden and Property Repairs . Proposed by Cllr Chapman, seconded by Cllr Gage and agreed with all in favour.

c) BACH

i. General update;

Cllr Gage provided a general update on the BACH and confirmed that a BACH Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on 3rd February at 7pm.

The blinds in the activity hall have been damaged and need to be repaired or replaced.

ii. Solar Panel proposals; consider and agree PC position regarding ongoing ownership / installation vs grant to Primary School. Approve proposed amended Memorandum of Understanding

Consideration was given to a proposal whereby rather than the Parish Council installing solar panels on the School roof and retaining ownership of them, a grant is instead given to the Primary School to install the solar panels. This would mean that the Primary School would own the panels and be responsible for their ongoing maintenance. The Memorandum of Understanding with the primary school would be amended so that the BACH isn't required to make a contribution to the school utility bills going forward. A discussion followed. It was agreed that the MOU would need to state that there will be no utility charge for the life of the panels. It was agreed to proceed on this basis. Proposed by Cllr Besley, seconded by Cllr Cavill and agreed with all in favour.

Updated MOU and a grant application from the school to be considered by the Parish Council at the next meeting.

iii. Consider two grant funding applications for Educational Advancement and Welfare of Young People

Clerk outlined two grant applications that have been received to support two young people attend school trips. Both applications have been supported by the respective educational establishments. Clerk reported that £508.00 of funding remained in this financial year.

A discussion took place and the following was agreed:

Application 1: £260.00 for a year 6 West Monkton Primary School student to attend a residential school trip.

Parish Council to grant 80% - £208.00. Amount to be paid directly to the educational establishment.

Application 2: £770.00 for a year 10 Monkton Wood School student to attend a history trip.

Parish Council to grant 80% - £616.00. Amount to be paid directly to the educational establishment. £300 now and £316.00 in April.

It was further agreed to update the grant policy to confirm that the Parish Council will contribute up to 80% of the cost of a school trip and that grants will be paid directly to the educational establishment for school trips.

d) Community Fridge update; surface between gate and pavement

Drainage issues resolved thanks to Cllr Haskins. In December Assistant Clerk Community met with Fareshare who completed a safety check, we have since purchased stickers for produce that goes into the freezer to ensure we do not keep items in the freezer longer than we should. Assistant Clerk Community and Admin and Events Assistant have completed Level 2 in Food Safety and always ensure all the volunteers complete their

Level 1 in Food Hygiene. We have had 3 new Community Fridge volunteers join us this month, 2 of which were employed via the Spark Somerset Volunteer Bank.

Although we purchased a freezer for outside use, it still seems to switch off at certain low temperatures, we will monitor this and employ someone to look at this should the issue arise again.

During the winter it has been more apparent that we need to do something about the surface outside the Community Fridge as mud is being brought into the fridge area, making it difficult to keep clean.

We also received an email from Environmental Health asking us to complete a questionnaire rather than pay a visit to the fridge, which has been completed. Need to review the HACCP report and other documentation and have this has been diarised to be undertaken.

Cllr Haskins confirmed that a working group will be organised to replace the surface between the fencing and pavement with gravel.

e) Community Garden update;

The new volunteers at the Community Fridge may be interested in helping out at the garden and will check in with them again in the spring.

226/25 Projects

a) Poppy of Honour update; agree information to be presented to POH Memorial Group at next meeting.

Cllr C Cronshaw provided an update on progress with some research that she has been carrying out since the last meeting including looking into paper for new poppies that is more resistant to fading. Terry Williams has also been looking into a film to cover the glass. No work will be carried out until the PC has a further meeting with the POH Committee on 17th February.

Further discussion to take place at the next PC meeting to finalise the PCs position in preparation for the meeting on 17th February.

b) Hyde Park Sports Ground

i. Feedback from Sports Pitch Committee meeting and consider recommendations (R)

A copy of the draft minutes from the Sports Pitch Committee Meeting on 20th January were circulated in advance of the meeting. Clerk provided feedback and summarised the discussions and recommendations. These included that the pitches will be used for junior fixtures in February and that toilet hire was needed for these dates. Clerk outlined quotes received from three companies and it was noted that Travis Perkins provided the most competitive price. Clerk is now liaising with the contractors who are working on behalf of Persimmon to install the utility connections, meters to be installed on the right hand side of the pedestrian gate as close as possible to the hedge. The priority order for works on site are; Floodlighting, car parking, pavilion and perimeter fencing.

WeeTrees are providing trees for planting at the sports ground. Alan Hall liaising with Cllr Cavill and Wee Trees about the location for planting.

It was resolved to accept the recommendations of the Sports Pitch Committee, proposed by Cllr C Cronshaw, seconded by Cllr D Cronshaw and agreed with all in favour.

ii. To consider and approve tender for flood light installation (R)

The redacted tender submissions and a tender evaluation document was circulated in advance of the meeting and shared on screen. Clerk summarised the tender submission and the evaluation / scoring.

It was resolved to accept Tender A, subject to a revised quotation being provided for 6 columns, none demountable. Clerk to obtain the quotation and report back to the next meeting.

c) MH2 Update; S106 / CIL delivery of infrastructure update.

Clerk confirmed that an email received from Simon Fox providing an update has been circulated. A meeting of the Clerks and Chairs of WMPC and CSMPC has been scheduled to take place on 29th January.

d) Bridgwater Road Junior Football Pitch; update

Cllr Cavill confirmed that there is no progress to report and that he will continue to chase Somerset Council.

e) Blundells Lane Flood Alleviation project; update / gully sucking progress.

Clerk reported that gully sucking took place in December of all the gullies specified apart from those on Blundells Lane due to the speed limit and traffic management being needed whilst the works are undertaken. Clerk confirmed that she has requested a quotation from the contractors for the traffic management for the gully sucking to take place. Quotation awaited. Clerk to bring back to a future meeting.

227/25 Other matters for report only – items for discussion at next meeting

a) Items for next meeting agenda - by Monday 2nd February or 16th February 2026

Cllr Chapman requested that an item is added to the agenda for the next meeting regarding bus shelters in the parish and to discuss repairs.

Cllr Chapman raised the condition of the surface at the junction of Milton Hill with School Road. Cllr Cavill to raise the issue with SC Highways.

b) Dates to note over the next 14 days

Noted

228/25 Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Parish Council:

Second Tuesday in the month (Business focused meeting)

2026: 10th Feb, 10th Mar, 14th Apr, 12th May (Annual PC Meeting), 9th Jun, 14th Jul, 11th Aug, 8th Sept, 13th Oct, 10th Nov, 8th Dec.

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

2026: 24th Feb, 28th Apr, 26th May, 23rd Jun, 28th Jul, 22nd Sept, 27th Oct, 24th Nov.

Audit Working Party: 24th April 2026 at 9.30am.

Annual Parish Meeting: 24th March 2026 at 7pm

BACH Committee 3rd February 2026 at 7pm

Budget and Precept Working Group: November 2026 at 7pm

Sports Pitch Committee 17th February 2026 at 9.30am

Somerset Wood Joint Committee TBC

There being no further business to discussed, the meeting ended at 21.56pm



Signed Chairman:

Date: 10th February 2026