

MONKSILVER PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Quarterly Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 7.30 in the EMN Hall

Present: Cllrs. Mervyn Orchard-Lisle (chair), Andrew Howe (vice-chair), Christopher Hill, Kate Adams, John Stace, Sue Westbury. Somerset Cllrs. Marcus Kravis and Christine Lawrence. Dan Cox, Avon & Somerset Police. In attendance Mary Jacobs (clerk).

- 1, Apologies for absence: Dan Cotterill
- 2, Approval of the minutes of the last meeting 27th February 2023 were approved. Proposed and seconded.
- 3 Declaration of interest. Mary to obtain the latest forms and guidance. No declarations were made.
- 4, **Presentation by Dan Cox, Road Safety Officer for Avon and Somerset Police.**
Dan's role is funded by offenders. He is working with John and Katherine Tyson from Somerset Council on the possibility of reducing the speed limit in Monksilver to 20 mph. He explained that there are 8 engineers employed by Somerset Council each covering specific areas. The Police assist Somerset Council by providing data capture. The Police now prosecute from dash cam videos and encourages everyone to submit footage to assist the Police. Changing the speed limit to 20 mph is a matter for Somerset Council but the data captured proves that the average current speed of vehicles through the village is 22 mph. Councillor Lawrence informed the meeting that changing the speed limit has a significant cost impact for new signage and asked MPC to consider contributing towards the cost. John, with Chris, Mervyn and Andrew is meeting Katherine Tyson to walk through the village on Tuesday 22nd May focussing on the danger spots.
- 5, **Matters arising:**
Newsletter
Monksilver Movers has ceased operating. The Wivvy Link and Watchet Drives and Bickwatch are possible alternatives.
Coleridge Way path through churchyard. There may be a grant available through SALC to improve the accessibility through the Churchyard. As well as providing access to the church, this is part of the Coleridge Way within Somerset's iconic path network.
- 6 **Somerset Unitary Councillors' reports**

Marcus Kravis advised about a new telephone number for the Somerset Unitary Authority: 0300 123 2224, this being serviced daily from 9:00am to 5:00pm.

Marcus Kravis reported that Networks will replace Area Panels. Exmoor's Network is on 8th June. Marcus will ascertain which network Monksilver falls within. See also minute 16.

Christine Lawrence's report is appended.

7. **Need to co-opt new Councillor:** See under Annual Parish Meeting Minute 6.

8. **Planning applications:**

Paul and Susan Pryor's application has been approved.
No decision has yet been made on Shelagh Bellamy's application

9. **Flooding issues and updates:**

Flood Plan.

Kevin Bridgwater, Somerset Council, will be visiting Monksilver, but a date is still awaited from him. Bryony and Viv will be invited to the meeting with Kevin in order to make him aware of their specific problems. John, Mervyn, Chris, Kate and Andrew will be available to join the meeting. Subsequent to this council meeting the meeting with Kevin was postponed but a separate meeting was arranged in June with Kali Martin.

Somerset Cllr. Kravis stated that he is the local authority representative on the Wessex Regional Flood and Coastal Committee (RFCC). This group ensures there are coherent plans for identifying investment in flood catchment areas.

Telemetry Devices: Nothing further to report.

Blocked drains

Mud slides are filling drains after they have been cleaned. There appears to be a lack of coordination between drain clearance and the road sweepers. It is understood that some drain jetting occurred on the 9th March.

10. **Highways**

Speeding and Traffic calming (refer to Minute 5 above),

John asked the Somerset Councillors whether it is possible to get a report of all road closures in the area to avoid the recent chaos. The meeting also stressed the importance of removing road closed and diversion signs on completion of the work.

As reported in Minute 10 above, a separate meeting with Kevin Bridgwater (Highways) will be held later.

11. **Pathways and deer management**

In the absence of Dan, Pathways and Deer Management is held over until August.

12. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Michelle, the Community Officer has been asked for Neighbourhood Watch signs.

13. **Website Update and further development**

The website is maintained by Black Cat. David Vere Hodge's incapacity has left the transfer of administration to MPC in abeyance. The Code of Conduct, Minutes and Agendas, Finance and Declarations will need to be uploaded. There are three options for the way forward: (1) to stay with Black Cat, (2) to have a combined website with EMN Hall with a Parish portal or (3) to go with another website designer. Georgina Cotterill has expressed an interest in developing a website for MPC. Sue advised that a combined website was not an option as the EMN Hall did not want it.

Mervyn and Christopher will explore the options and report back. Subsequent to the meeting, Chris discussed the matter in detail with Black Cat. The financial and other implications of the options were put to all the councillors and there was a unanimous decision to stay with Black Cat.

14. **Finance**

The annual precept has been received. A cheque for £112 in payment of the insurance premium was signed.

The AGAR return has been deferred. It will be emailed for approval before submission to the external auditors. Sarah Watling will be approached to internally audit.

Mary to liaise with NatWest about updating the change of clerk details.

Mary to ascertain whether SALC membership renewal has been made.

Mervyn to ascertain what the Zurich insurance premium covers, and send a copy to John.

15. **Local Community network**

Marcus reported that a pilot is being undertaken by the Exmoor Network. Marcus will ascertain whether a pilot is to be undertaken within the other networks.

A meeting is proposed for the 8th June, with Monksilver being in the Minehead and Watchet LCN. Marcus will check.

16. **Village defibrillator.** A fundraiser has been arranged for 2023. The question arose as to whether annual fundraising should continue or whether it should be funded from the precept from 2024. A future discussion is required.

17. **BT Openreach:** Andrew to contact Ian Bird at Openreach. It is illegal to attach to the electricity poles.

18. **Matters outside Monksilver**

Mervyn expressed concern to the Somerset Councillors over the amount of new build in Watchet and Williton and asked the Councillors whether the infrastructure was in place to service the new development. Cllr Kravis explained that under the new Somerset Council when a Planning Panel disagree with Officer recommendation the

planning application will be referred to the Ward Councillors for the final decision.
That does not answer the question raised.

19. **Any other business.** None.

20. **Dates of the next four meetings:**

- 14th August 2023
- 27th November 2023
- 26th February 2024
- 13th May 2024 (7.00pm)