

## **MONKSILVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**AUGUST 2024**

### Parish Council Meeting - 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024

The quarterly Parish Council meeting was held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024 in the EMN hall. The minutes of that meeting are displayed on the village noticeboard at the accommodation block of the Notley Arms. Minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council website: <https://monksilver.org/minutes>

### Notley Arms Community Asset Status

In the June newsletter we reported that an application had been submitted to renew the Community Asset status of the Notley Arms. Somerset Council considered the application and it was refused. The reason for the refusal was because the Notley Arms was now operating more as a hotel, which falls outside of the Community Asset legislation.

### EMN Hall Village Survey

The EMN Hall Committee, which comprises Paul and Delia Brandwood, Anna Thomas, Shirley Wallace, Ged Goldsmith, Pam Young and Gemma Jeffries would like to thank everyone who took the time and trouble to complete the EMN Survey. The survey ran through June and July and was sent out to 172 households in the Elworthy, Monksilver and Nettlecombe Parishes. The full results have been sent to the Parish councils for consideration and onward distribution. In summary the results will be used to help prioritise improvements and enhancements to the village hall facilities, to better understand what residents and users of the hall would like to see and to generally gain a better understanding of the challenges halls such as ours face. If anyone would like an electronic copy of the full survey or has any specific questions then please e-mail [paul@brandwoods.com](mailto:paul@brandwoods.com) and he will be happy to share that via email.

A number of projects have been suggested including, better heating, lighting and insulation, better external decoration and improvements to grounds, car park etc. Many of these will require capital grants and/or fundraising activities so watch this space and any contributions of manpower/support would be greatly appreciated. Suggestions around other activities have been welcomed with a consistent request for further coffee mornings and music events. Consequently the committee are seeking individuals who would be willing to take on and lead any of these to please contact [delia@brandwoods.com](mailto:delia@brandwoods.com) if interested.

### Communication Survey

The Parish Council is seeking to update the way we communicate with our parishioners. Communication may be necessary for a variety of reasons including letting you know when the Council meetings are, when the minutes and newsletter are available on the website, or if there is urgent neighbourhood watch information. Parishioners will soon be receiving a survey asking their preferences regarding how they would like to be kept informed with different types of communication.

### First Aid Training

Subject to there being sufficient interest, first aid and defibrillator training session(s) will be arranged at the EMN hall this Autumn. These sessions will be free and subject to a limit of 20 people per session. Extra sessions can be arranged if there is sufficient interest. Information will be included in the communication survey letter, with details of how to apply.

## Neighbourhood Watch

As always residents of Monksilver should be alert to anyone cold calling whether it is knocking on front doors or unsolicited phone calls. Please do look out for elderly and vulnerable neighbours and pass on this information verbally to them as not everyone has access to the internet. Anyone who requires information in a printed format can contact Lydia Appleton on 07912 025678.

Latest advice from the neighbourhood policing team:

Ensure all doors and windows are locked when leaving your premises as it is surprising how many burglaries take place by opportunists. Don't forget to secure outbuildings and fit padlocks where necessary.

Fit alarms to your property which will also ensure others can be alerted to possible intrusions and if vulnerable or elderly, consider a personal alarm.

Scams.

This is a growing concern for the police and banks as it is easy for a scammer to begin the process of collecting information about victims over a long period of time. Criminals will often use social media platforms, post fake photos, use stolen identities and build up their target's trust over a long period of time until they have developed a rapport with their target until they are trusted and considered 'genuine'.

In their search for targets, scammers often use sophisticated software and send out numerous messages to different numbers in the hope that they get a response. They might say something along the lines of "Hi Sarah, it was great seeing you last week...we should do this again sometime". If the receiver of the message responds telling them they have the wrong number, the fraudster will attempt to strike up a conversation to begin striking up a rapport. **DO NOT RESPOND** at all to any message from a recipient you do not know. If you do, you are giving the criminals their first piece of information about you. A file on you can then be compiled for the next piece of information they try to "harvest" until

they have built up enough information about you to eventually apply for financial products in your name. Once they convince you to trust them, you may be offered investment advice and they convince you that you will be expertly guided through the investment process. Often you can be given your own online financial platform to access which has been set up by the criminal which is fraudulent and being accessed the whole time by the criminals. These online platforms or apps are not genuine. Scammers clone genuine platforms so they appear genuine to the victim. Victims put money into the investment platform and see what they believe to be real time data and watch their investments making them money and may even be able to withdraw a small amount of money from the platform. The reassurance of the withdrawal will encourage them to invest much larger amounts, as they are under the illusion that they will be able to withdraw funds at any time. Once the scammer has as much of the victim's money they think they can get, they disappear. Prior to this, however, they may convince you to part with even more money on the promise of a really good investment that is too good to miss.

The police advice is to just say "NO." Don't invest or part with money from someone you have only met online or received communication from or you do not know or trust. Avoid anything with the promise of guaranteed rates of return or promises you will double your money. If it sounds too good to be true then it probably is. Any time you invest, you need to do thorough research and seek independent financial advice. It is often difficult to tell a genuine investment opportunity apart from a fraudulent one. Even experienced investors can get caught out.

Useful Contacts/Further reading:

The Little Book of Big Scams

Copies available from your local police station

Other useful contacts:

[www.met.police.uk/littlemedia](http://www.met.police.uk/littlemedia)

Telephone Preference Service (TPS) you can register your wish not to receive unsolicited sales and marketing calls.

[www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk)

Tel: 0345 070 0707

The Silver Line

Confidential free helpline for older people across UK, 24 hours 7 days per week. They offer telephone and friendship schemes where volunteers are matched with older people based on interests and local services in your area etc.

[www.thesilverline.org.uk](http://www.thesilverline.org.uk)

Tel: 0800 470 80 90

Stay Safe Online

[Www.staysafeonline.org](http://Www.staysafeonline.org)

### Miscellaneous Information

#### Wessex Water Community Outreach

Wessex Water are holding drop-in sessions around their supply area to allow customers to come in and talk to them face to face. During the drop-in sessions, Wessex Water can help customers with enquiries about their bill, offer advice on what help is available if they are struggling to pay, or refer them to get the support they require. Wessex Water will also be able to offer advice on saving water and avoiding blockages as well as information about their water quality, plumbing, or drainage.

Wessex Water have arranged to be in Taunton Library on Wednesday 2nd October from 10am. The drop-in session will be run between 10am-11am, with bookable slots available between 11.30am and 2.30pm on their website. Further sessions in Taunton will be on 4th December, with dates into 2025 to be confirmed.

To find out more, visit: <https://www.wessexwater.co.uk/community-drop-ins>

### Somerset Prepared Resilience Roadshows and Flood Warden Sessions

This year the Somerset Prepared partnership is excited to announce that there will be four community resilience events in addition to the annual conference. With one event in each old district, we hope that we can support Parish, Town and City councils, flood wardens and residents at a more local level. One of these events will be on: **Monday 7 October – EMN Hall, Monksilver**

Each event will offer Flood Warden support and guidance in the morning, 10.30am-12.30pm, followed by an afternoon of community resilience support from 1-3pm when parishioners can attend.

There will be both 1:1 sessions and workshops from partners such as Somerset Rivers Authority, Somerset Council, the Environment Agency, Avon and Somerset Police, and the Emergency Volunteer Action Group (EVAG).

### Rare butterfly found on Exmoor

One of the rarest species of butterfly in the UK, the Heath Fritillary, has been spotted at a new location on Exmoor National Park land at Ashton Cleave about 8km west of Hawkcombe Woods.

The Exmoor team have been engaged in a long-term project to restore oak coppice in Hawkcombe Wood National Nature Reserve near Porlock to help the recovery of this nationally rare butterfly, also traditionally known as the “Woodman’s Follower” because of its habit of occupying recently coppiced areas. It has been breeding successfully in Hawkcombe for a few years.

The first butterfly this year was spotted by a holiday maker in the area, they sent their findings to Butterfly Conservation, who work in partnership with Exmoor National Park Authority.

### Second Somerset & Exmoor Coast Festival

Organisers of the second Somerset and Exmoor Coastal Festival are on their marks and getting set to make this year's event even bigger and better than the first, having added trail running to the mix.

The festival, scheduled for September 21 to 29 2024, is put together by the King Charles III England Coast Path team based at Somerset Council, which this year has teamed up with local outdoor events organisers, Channel UK Events CIC to offer new challenges.

As well as the 80 Miles in Eight Days walking challenge - starting at Brean Down and ending in Porlock via County Gate - this year's festival will include trail running events with a Marathon and a 100km Ultra Marathon on the penultimate day, September 28, courtesy of Channel Events. Both trail running distances will finish with a lap of Brean Down, the 100km starting in Minehead and the marathon starting in Bridgwater.

There are already 60 events on the website and organisers are delighted that the festival is running at the same time as the wonderful Somerset Art Weeks and the fabulous Brean Country and Western Festival, giving visitors a great range of activities to choose from.

The idea behind the festival is to showcase Somerset's unique yet often overlooked coastline and all it has to offer residents and visitors. Organisers are working with tourism and hospitality businesses close to the coast to raise awareness of its beauty, history and heritage.

## Somerset Bus Partnership passenger feedback survey

Somerset Bus Partnership would like to collect your opinions about the buses in Somerset, how they can be improved, and the major issues affecting your use of the bus. They will use the results of the survey to help influence the future bus network in Somerset by sharing them with the media, bus operators, and Somerset Council. Your personal details including your name and email address will be kept confidential.

Here's the link to the survey: <https://forms.gle/dUqunif6f8eAiWhS8>

## Dates of next Parish Council meetings

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:

25th November 2024 at 7.30 p.m.

24th February 2025 at 7.30 p.m.

12th May 2025 annual meetings at 7.00 p.m.

All meetings are held in the EMN village hall and the public are invited to attend.

Contact details of all Parish Councillors are published on the Parish Council website <https://monksilver.org/>

**MONKSILVER PARISH COUNCIL**

**<https://monksilver.org/>**

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