

## **MONKSILVER PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER**

**NOVEMBER 2024**

### Parish Council Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> November

The quarterly Parish Council meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 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>

### Riparian Responsibilities

The Monsilver river is currently running freely, however riparian owners are asked to check their river banks to ensure this situation continues. Due to Parish Council intervention, the bank at the bottom of Pond Orchard was recently cleared by Magna Housing. This is the time of year when we need to be most vigilant to ensure water coming into Monksilver passes through the village as quickly as possible to minimise the risk of flooding.

### Pond Orchard footpath

As a result of the Parish Council making contact with Magna Housing, the footpath leading to the footbridge at Pond Orchard has now been cleared. Prior to this any pedestrian using this route had to walk in the road.

### Monksilver Movers

Monksilver Movers has now ceased to operate. The account has been closed and funds split between the defibrillator fund, Dorset and Somerset Air ambulance and EV accessible taxi Bicknoller/Watchet

### Monksilver Fete

There have been suggestions that the Village Fete should be reinstated next summer.

Holding a successful Fete requires a considerable amount of advance planning and organisation, all performed by volunteers from the Village.

We are anxious to better gauge the Village interest and appetite for holding another Fete for our Community and to raise much needed funds for our lovely historic church.

We would be grateful for the residents of Monksilver to express their enthusiasm or otherwise by responding to this message by email to [ros@vexford.com](mailto:ros@vexford.com) or by written note to Ros Stace, The Green, or telephone 07407 515 387 explaining whether you : -

- Would be interested in a Village Fete
- Would be happy to volunteer to help in the planning beforehand, help on the day of a Fete and the dismantling and clearing up afterwards.
- Have no interest in a Village Fete

It is important we make the right decision and your help in allowing us to do so would be much appreciated.

### Communication Survey

Monksilver Parish Council conducted a communication survey to all households in the Parish during September/October. There was a good response resulting in email and WhatsApp groups being established to facilitate Parish Council communications. Should you wish to be included in these groups, please contact Paul Appleton at [paulmappleton@gmail.com](mailto:paulmappleton@gmail.com)

### Defibrillator Training

Two training sessions, hosted by Monksilver Parish Council, were held at the EMN hall during November. These training sessions gave interactive guidance on what to do with an unconscious person and the use of a defibrillator. An important point raised in addition to this training is the need to be able to summon help with the following points to be considered

- Who can you contact for help?

- How do you contact them including at night?
- Can they get in to help if your house is locked?

Parishioners are urged to consider these issues and make emergency arrangements with a friend or neighbour.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch communications need to be circulated in a timely manner and often cannot wait until the quarterly newsletter is published. For that reason all Neighbourhood Watch communications relevant to our area are now circulated on the email and WhatsApp groups that were formed following the communication survey.

If you would like to be included in these groups, please contact Paul Appleton at [paulmappleton@gmail.com](mailto:paulmappleton@gmail.com) or via WhatsApp at 07960608219.

### 20mph speed limit

In October the work was carried out to implement a 20mph speed limit through the village. All signage has been installed and the 20mph road surface markings have recently been completed.

This was a community funded project and our thanks are given to the many Parishioners who contributed to raising the necessary funding.

### Miscellaneous Information

#### Somerset Rivers Authority Draft Strategy and Flood Action Plan 2024-34

Somerset Rivers Authority (SRA) has published the SRA Draft Strategy and Flood Action Plan 2024-25. The SRA is seeking to get people's views about this draft strategy, and they have set up a temporary website where people can answer questions, make comments, and pinpoint flood concerns on a map.

It's at [srastrategy.co.uk](http://srastrategy.co.uk) and it's live until 31 December 2023. To get straight to the map section of the site, go to [SRA Flood Action Plan](#) and scroll down.

## White-tailed eagles to be released on Exmoor

Exmoor National Park is planning to release more white-tailed eagles into the area to support conservation efforts for the species.

The Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation and Forestry England have been reintroducing white-tailed eagles into southern England since 2019 and plan to release a small number in Exmoor National Park.

A total of 37 eagles have been released through the project and in 2023 a pair bred successfully for the first time.

Zoe Smith, of the Roy Dennis Wildlife Foundation, said: "The brilliant thing is we've seen what positive impact this bird has had on the ecosystem."

Exmoor is the ideal environment for the white-tailed eagle, say conservationists. White-tailed eagles are the largest bird of prey in the UK, with a wing span of 8.2ft (2.5m). The young birds appear brown all over and it is not until their fourth or fifth year that they develop a white tail and yellow bill.

"Since 2019 we've been releasing white tailed eagles on the Isle of Wight and that project has gone really well," Ms Smith said, "Exmoor has been identified as an area they really like," she added. "They have a long stretch of coastal woodland and moorland. They also have a lot of prey on Exmoor."

## Dates of next Parish Council meetings

The dates of the next meetings were confirmed as:

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/>

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