

MONKSILVER PARISH COUNCIL
Quarterly meeting held on Monday 12th May 2025 commencing at 8.00 p.m.
(as amended)
at the EMN Hall, Monksilver

Present:

Paul Appleton (PA)
Dan Cotterill (DC)
Ian Timmins (IT)
Tom Murray (TM)
Mervyn Orchard-Lisle – Vice-Chairman (MOL)
Catherine Sleep (CS)
John Stace – Chairman (JS)

In attendance: Mary Jacobs (MJ)

Minute No.		Action Required By
1.0	Apologies for absence were received from Somerset Councillors Christine Lawrence and Marcus Kravis.	
2.0	The minutes of the meeting held 24 th February 2025 were approved and signed.	
3.0	No reports had been received from the Somerset Councillors. MPC wish Councillor Christine Lawrence a speedy recovery and understand that Councillor Marcus Kravis has an extensive workload at present. Accordingly, MPC welcome electronic reports from Somerset Council.	
4.0	Matters arising:	
4.1	Bleed Kit. This has been delivered. PA will fix in the Donkey house at The Notley.	PA
5.0	PA attended the 10 th April 2025 local community network meeting.	
5.1	MAGNA reported that it has improved communications. PA tested the website prior to this evening's meeting and it does not appear operational yet.	
5.2	The B3191 road closure was time limited and the continued closure is now illegal. This is causing loss of business in both Watchet and Williton.	
5.3	IT will represent MPC at the 16 th July 2025 meeting.	IT
6.0	Finance:	
6.1	The Precept of £3,300 was received from Somerset Council 11 th April 2025.	
6.2	The following payments were approved:	

- Zurich Insurance Company Ltd. Insurance renewal 2025 £112.
- SALC & NALC affiliation fees 2025-2026 £56.19
- M.E. Jacobs reimbursement of Bleed Kit purchase £247.75
- D. Sykes, Black Cat Computers April website upload – to be invoiced.

7.0 Pond Orchard

7.1 The ground clearance work has been completed. A maintenance plan is in place. PA will monitor. **PA**

7.2 The communal land is owned by MAGNA. There is sometimes a parking problem and the bench is dilapidated. PA will draft an email for MJ to send to MAGNA **PA/MJ**

8.0 Highways

8.1 The speed control works are almost complete. Payment will not be made until this is complete.

8.2 The speed checking training will commence on 27th May 2025. Initially 5 volunteers will undergo the training. Speed checks will be held in two places in the village. The use of mobile phones will be recorded where possible. DC commented that the new speed control will be a deterrent from increased traffic arising from the Watchet new build using Monksilver as a rat-run.

8.3 The 7.5-ton weight limit from Elworthy Cross through to Faircross has not yet been implemented. JS confirmed that this will not affect deliveries and is supported by the Road Haulage Association.

9.0 Flooding and drainage

9.1 There is still a problem at Beech Tree Hill and Watchet Lane. PA will follow up. **PA**

9.2 The cover to the foul drain running through the churchyard was cracked. As this is adjacent to the footpath it was dangerous. Wessex Water has refitted the cover.

10.0 Footpaths and deer management.

10.1 DC was asked if footpaths were the responsibility of Somerset Council. He explained that half the village came under Somerset Council and half under Exmoor National Park and that the deterioration of the footpaths is the responsibility of Somerset and ENP.

10.2 DC explained how the Combe Sydenham deer herd had increased to over 200 some time ago. It was the reason we started the Monksilver Deer Management Group. At the same time Combe Sydenham put up a deer fence which certainly helped. However the wild deer population is still high around Monksilver and remains most difficult to control in the forestry areas. They are mainly Fallow deer with some Roe deer, lovely when there are not huge numbers of them!

The keepers at Combe Sydenham do work hard on the problem, which is a relatively thankless task since it is not really their job.

- 11.0** The revised Summerleigh planning application was withdrawn and the property sold.
- 12.0** Any other business – none.
- 13.0** The dates of the next meetings:
11th August 2025 at 7.30 p.m.
24th November 2025 at 7.30 p.m.
23rd February 2026 at 7.30 p.m. apologies JS
11th May 2025 annual meetings commencing at 7.00 p.m.
- 14.0** There being no further business, the meeting closed at 08.25p.m.