

MONKTON NEWS

MARCH

2021



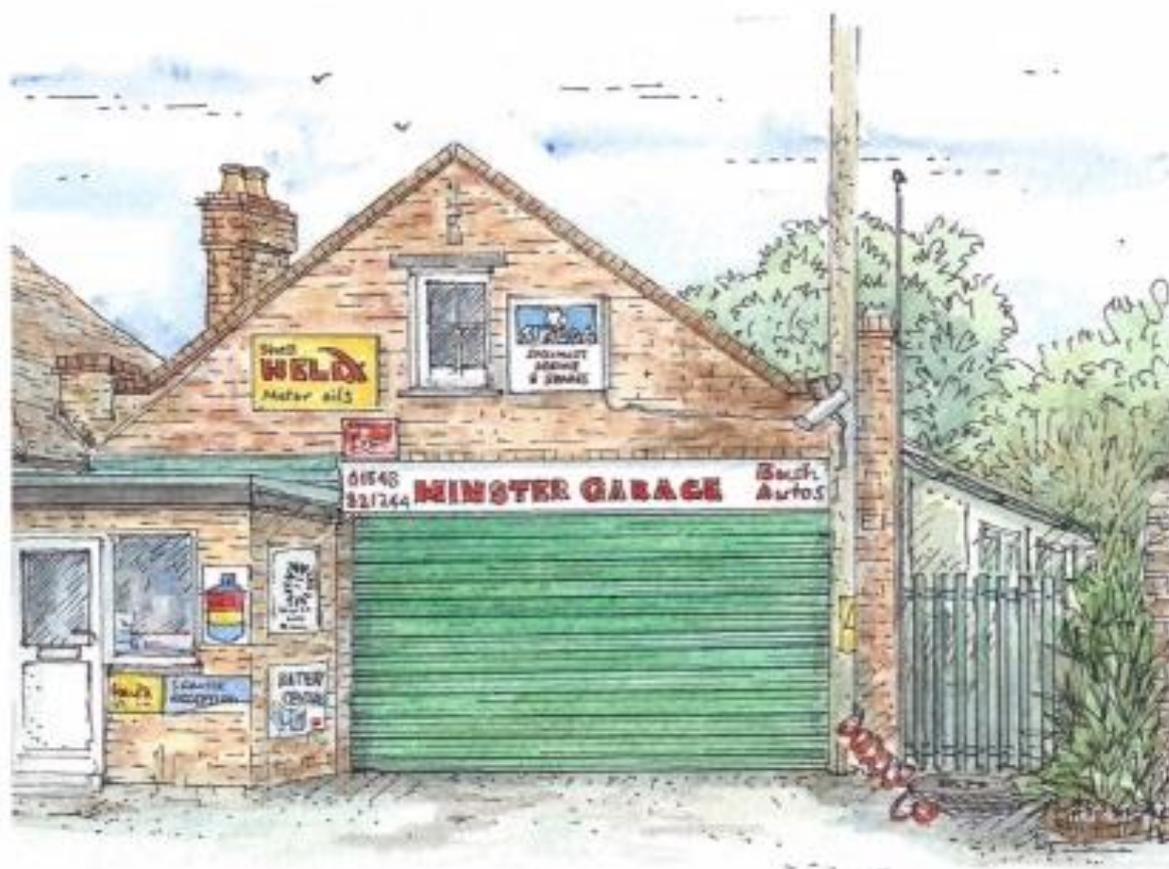
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WHAT'S IN YOUR MONKTON NEWS FOR MARCH 2021

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33	ADVERTISING SECTION
THE END BIT	LATE EXTRA – THE WAY OUT OF LOCKDOWN GOVERNMENT 'S ROADMAP FOR THIS MONTH – 8 TH TO 29 TH MARCH. This information is as announced on 22 ND and 23 RD February. It may have been altered or changed so check with the media sites or news for accurate updates.

Mothing Sunday or Mothers' Day is on Sunday, 14th March.

"March comes in like a lion and goes out like a lamb"

"March winds and April showers brings forth the May flowers"

A message to Monkton children – as families will not be able to go out for a celebration lunch on Mothing Sunday, here is your chance to put your skills together and make a treat for MUM at home. Why not try baking the cake recipe on page 31, or create a special card for her.

Send the editor a picture of anything you made.

Thank you mothers everywhere.

WHO DOES WHAT IN MONKTON NEWS?

editor	Denyse Cole	Tel: 01843 821657 denysecole@btinternet.com
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To advertise in Monkton News, contact the editor

Distribution: Kay and Harry Horne. Tel 01843 823849.

'KayHorne' <shudy@talk21.com>

Articles and letters for Monkton News should be sent to the editor as above or 112 Monkton Street, BY THE 19TH OF EACH MONTH.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, MONKTON

We are part of the benefice of the Wantsum Group which comprises the Church of England parishes of Minster, Monkton, St. Nicholas with Serre and Chislet. This benefice also belongs to the SEAMARSH group of parishes

TO ARRANGE BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS OR FUNERALS AT ST. MARY MAGDALENE PLEASE CONTACT THE VICAR

VICAR		Rev. Dr. Richard Braddy	821250 Richard Braddy <arichard.braddy@gmail.com>	Minster and the benefice
ASSITANT CURATE		Rev. Vicky Coneys	Vicky Coneys <vickysconeys@hotmail.com>	
ASSISTANT CURATE		Rev. Michael Darkins	Michael Darkins <revd.michaeldarkins@gmail.com>	
Group administrator		Matthew Hergest	823347 mjhergest@hotmail.com	For the benefice
RET CLERGY		Rev. Canon Peter Gausden	peter.gausden374@btinternet.com 825374	
METHOIST MINISTER		Rev. Wes Hampton	.. <wesley.hampton@methodist.org.uk>	The village and Thanet

USEFUL NUMBERS AND CONTACTS

POLICE NON-EMERGENCY 101	MINSTER DOCTORS' SURGERY 821333. Out of hours call 111
CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555 111	SOCIAL SERVICES 860000
COMMUNITY WARDEN – KARL AYLETT 07811 271 299 Karl.aylett@kent.gov.uk	MONKTON C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL 821394
PCSO Adrian Butterworth. To contact email 56550@kent.pnn.police.uk PCSO Debbie Forsyth 60457@Kent.pnn.police.uk or call 101	MINSTER LIBRARY 03000 413131
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HELP 07926 842 183 www.domesticabuseservices.org	SOUTHERN WATER to report a leak 0800820999 Supply or sewage problems 0330 303 0368 Billing 0333 200 3015
CHILDLINE 0800 1111 Free and confidential.	Parish clerk – Sara Archer 821989 clerk@monktonparish.co.uk https://www.hugofox.com/community/monkton-parish-council-18134/home/ . WEBSITE
THANET DISTRICT COUNCIL – for all department information https://www.thanet.gov.uk PHONE 577000	RSPCA 0300 1234 999
Recycling and fly tipping 577115	LOCAL RETAILERS offering deliveries. Attwells, Touchwood chemists. Brills DIY, Birchington. And others on enquiry. .
Planning 577591	NEAREST POST OFFICE Minster 821291
Dog warden and noise control 577580	MONKTON VILLAGE HALL BOOKINGS 821439
QEQM HOSPITAL 225544 Outpatients appointments line 01227 868686	MINOR INJURY UNITS Kent and Canterbury Hospital 24 hrs 01227 864244 Estuary View , Whitstable CT5 3SE 8-8 daily 01227 284301

WHAT'S ON AT THE VILLAGE HALL IN MARCH 2021

currently for reference

DAY	TIME	EVENT	CONTACT
MONDAYS	9.30-10.30 7.30 pm	Exercise dance with Maggie & co Canine behaviour and obedience training classes	Chris Paris Brown MBIPBT 01227 365381
TUESDAYS	2nd Tuesday 3.15pm-5.15pm 11 am – 12 noon Ballroom dancing	Messy Church Adults Table Tennis Club	Eileen Brackstone 825390 Gilly Brown Penny 821539
WEDNESDAYS	10-12 2-4 pm (school holidays only) 6.00pm	Social morning for retired villagers Family fun afternoon Line dancing all grades beginners upwards	Due to Covid 19, not meeting at present. Theo Loyla
THURSDAYS			
FRIDAYS	4.00pm – 7 PM	La Dance Academy	Laura 07772173424
SATURDAYS	9.00am TO 3 pm	La Dance Academy	Laura 07772173424
SUNDAYS			

Activities will continue in the hall **when permitted following prescribed Covid 19 rules**. This means numbers in groups are restricted. Please contact your organiser for latest news. No party bookings allowed at current time. Contact Pete Mitchell, 821439

COVID 19 VILLAGE HELP HUB

TO VILLAGERS WHO CONTINUE TO SHIELD OR SELF ISOLATE DUE TO COVID 19

if you live in Monkton and need to shield or self-isolate you can call the number below if you need emergency help with: -prescriptions, shopping, mail posting.

We have local volunteers who are willing to assist you.

Contact Del or Pete on **01843 821439**;

Please only use this number for essential shopping when it cannot be obtained through one of the many home delivery services from local grocery outlets.

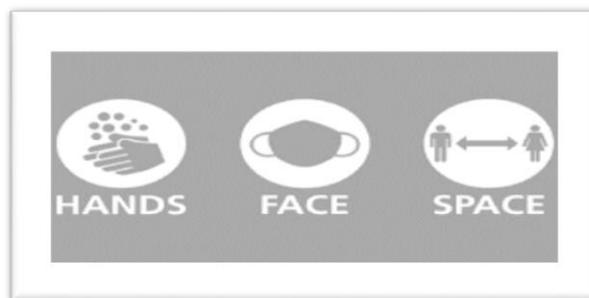
Please ring at convenient hours as this service is not available for late night calls

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERY ONE WHO CONTINUES TO
VOLUNTEER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES**

VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Minster Surgery has played a large part in the Thanet vaccination roll out. By now nearly everyone in the top priority groups should have received at least their first jab. Both Astra Zeneca and Pfizer vaccines were administered from Minster Surgery.

At the time of writing future government plans for the way forward from lockdown had just been announced. Keep track of all this information from the news, or government websites. Local Covid 19 data is available on Thanet District Council's website.



- **WASH HANDS FREQUENTLY FOR 20 SECONDS**
- **WEAR FACE COVERING WHERE REQUIRED**
 - **KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
- **HELP YOURSELF AND OTHERS**

END OF AN ERA - LOSS OF OUR TREASURE STORE NEWSAGENTS -ATTWELLS OF MINSTER

Attwells store has served village residents for 69 years but the loss of owner Clive Attwell earlier last month and the struggle to keep afloat has forced the sad decision to shut. The newsagents closed its doors on Saturday, 13th February.

Clive 's parents took over the newsagents in Minster in 1952 when Clive was eight years old. He carried on the family business when his parents died and worked up until the morning, he was taken into hospital last November. He worked 364 days a year. Karen Brazil has worked alongside Clive after first coming to the shop some 54 years ago, aged six, with her mum Doreen Giles. Colleague Jenny started her job at Attwells as a Saturday girl some 40 years ago.

Karen said she was heartbroken to have to make the announcement of closure but the shop had been struggling for the last five years. Shopping habits changed over the years, and the Covid 19 lockdowns severely affected the business.



The late proprietor of Attwells, Mr. Clive Attwell (centre) with Karen Brazil, right, and Jenny.

Editor's note.

Attwells was always our first place to call for anything in the way of pens, pencils, pocket money toys, gift wraps and bags, indeed anything in the traditional way of sweets and their brilliant selection of greetings cards. If you wanted an obscure publication or magazine it could be ordered for you. The Christmas tables were a magnet for us and handicraft aids such as, glue and glitter, and all kinds of paper could be found. What a huge hole it will leave in village life.

THANET FOOD LINK .. . a thank you from your Monkton collection volunteers, Kay and Harry Horne.

With grateful thanks to the person/s who regularly puts carrier bags of food in our shed for the Thanet Food Link. There are plenty of families locally who are struggling to cope. To help those less fortunate, gifts of food are their lifeline. We deliver your donations to the distribution centre at Strasbourg Street, behind B & Q within a day or so!

Please remember those less fortunate when you are shopping for your own families and buy some extras, thank you!

**THANET FOOD LINK
CONTINUING FOR MARCH PLEASE LEAVE YOUR
GIFTS OF FOOD AT
153A MONKTON STREET
In the shed by the gate.
Thank you**



MONKTON METHODIST CHURCH
**Regretfully due to Covid 19 services cannot be held
during March**

For details on how to contact Rev. Wes Hampton refer to clergy
information page.

Or contact Pete and Del, 821439

DIAMOND WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

A very special greeting from the Queen arrived at the home of Jack and Eileen Knight. It marked the occasion of their 60th wedding anniversary on 11th February. The couple, who were married at St. Nicholas have strong ties with Monkton. Jack was born in our village. After many years of living in St. Nicholas, and supporting Monkton church, the couple recently moved to Broadstairs to be nearer their family members.



Messy Church News March



There are a few special dates in March because of which I'm going to be wearing two heads. (Ron would say nothing new there 😊)

First as Messy Eileen.

We have two Saints days St. David, Patron Saint of Wales on the 1st and

St. Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland on the 17th



What can you find out about these two Saints?

Secondly on the 14th its Mother's Day or Refreshment Sunday.

Refreshment Sunday is so called because during Lent Christians fast or give something up for Lent so I might give up eating cake during Lent then on Refreshment Sunday I'm allowed to have a piece of cake.

It became known as Mothering Sunday years ago; this was to allow people working in service to go and visit their family especially their mother.

During lockdown I've noticed how much people are texting and using emoji's so for Mother's Day as well as making your mum a beautiful card how about making your mum an emoji bookmark 🤔 😊 🍷. We made these in Messy Church some time ago and everybody loved them. Ron is still using his in-recipe books and keeps asking me to make him some new ones. For instructions on how to make visit YouTube just type in 'How to make emoji bookmark'.

My Second head is for our

Eco Group.

In March we have...

World Wildlife day on the 3rd.

Global recycling day on the 18th.

World frog day on the 20th

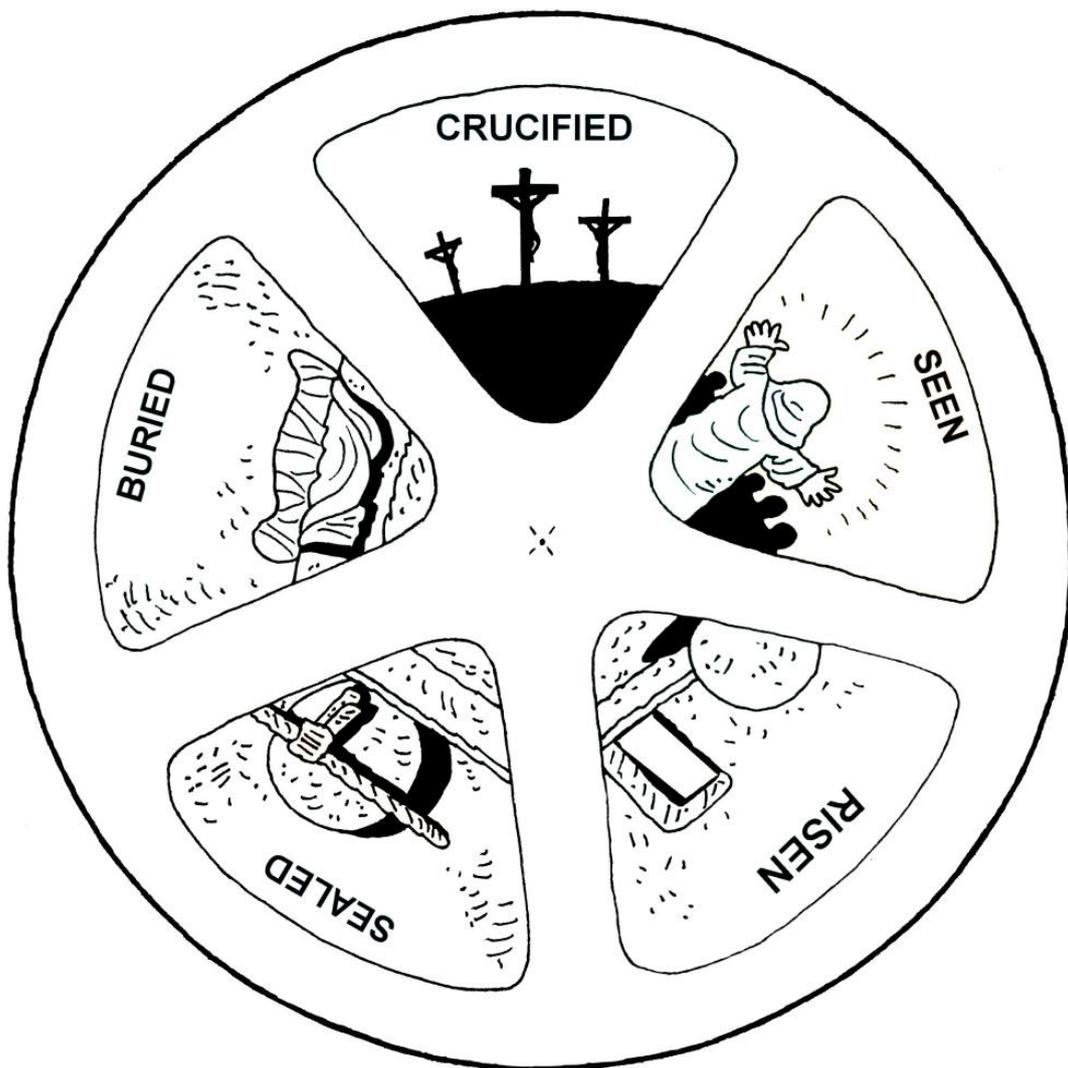
And lastly Spring Begins on the 20th can't wait for that one 😊.

Every day you can do things to help the wildlife around us by feeding the birds, especially in winter and early spring it's important as there's not much natural food for them.

On Global recycling day why not survey how good your home and neighbourhood are at recycling, is there anything you can do to improve things?

World frog day, that made me laugh, I didn't know there was a frog day let alone a world one. However, frogs are ecologically very important creatures for a start if you have them in your garden, they eat slugs and snails very helpful for gardeners. As tadpoles, frogs are great because they feed on algae, which helps to keep water clean. To get frogs in your garden all you need is a small wildlife pond, the birds would love this, as well as lots of other creatures.

Lastly 20th March is the first day of spring so 'Spring Begins' and hopefully along with better weather and wonderful wildflowers and bulbs coming up we will be able to see each other if only back in small groups. 4th April is Easter Sunday we don't really know how we will celebrate Easter this year. On the next page is an Easter story wheel for you to cut out and colour in. Hopefully we will be having on Easter egg hunt at St Mary Magdalen's Easter Sunday we shall have to wait and see.



Take care everybody, stay safe.

God bless.

Messy Eileen. 01843 825390 or eileen.brackstone@googlemail.com



SCOOTING IS GREAT EXERCISE AND FUN, BUT AFTER ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS IN OUR VILLAGES OUR LOCAL PCSO DEBBIE FORSYTH OFFERS THIS GUIDANCE.

e-scooters – know the law

Although e-scooters can be great fun, it's against the law to ride one on a public road, cycle lane or pavement.

What you need to know

e-scooters are classed as Personal Light Electric Vehicles (PLEVs), which means they are treated as motor vehicles and subject to the same legal requirements, such as driving licence, insurance, number plates, lighting, road tax, crash helmets etc. **Without these, e-scooters cannot be used legally on the road.**

The Government is currently trialing the use of approved rental e-scooters as environmentally friendly modes of transport in some specific locations in the UK.

For the rest of the country, under current law, e-scooters can only be used on private land.

Kent Police will take action against anyone who is caught repeatedly using an e-scooter illegally or in a way that causes a nuisance to others. In these circumstances we have the power to seize the e-scooter under Section 59 of the Police Reform Act/165 of the Road Traffic Act – and we'd really prefer not to.

Thank you for cooperating. Please make sure you **only use your e-scooter on private land.**

For more information about powered transporters and the law, visit **www.gov.uk**

AN EXTRA NOTE Kick-scooters should be ridden on the pavement, footpath or segregated cycle lane, and not the main road. As kick-scooters have no mechanical propulsion, they are slower and it would be dangerous to share the space on the road with motorised vehicles. Young people should be made aware of road hazards in the similar way to riding a bike. This type of scooter does not have rights of way on walkways or pavements.

Monkton
Parish Council



PARISH CLERK: Sara Archer, 204 Monkton St, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JN

Tel:01843 821989 E: clerk@monktonparish.co.uk

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on

25th January 2021 at 7:00pm via zoom.

Present **Parish Councillors** Gilly Brown [GB], Davina Ransom [DR], Chris Ransom [CR], Claire Beavis [CB], Steve Bennett [SB]

In Attendance Sara Archer – Clerk, District Cllrs Reece Pugh & Trevor Roper, KCC Cllr Liz Hurst, PCSO Butterworth, Community Warden Karl Aylett plus 5 members of the public.

45/20-21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

District Cllr Hart

46/20-21 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared.

47/20-21 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Members of the public were given the opportunity to raise any concerns/comments that would not be addressed during the main business of the agenda. Concern was raised with regard to the delivery of static caravans to the Foxhunter and the obstruction caused in the road, particularly during school pick up/drop off times. The Clerk would write to the Foxhunter and bring the issue to their attention. **Action SA**

- It was suggested the Neighbourhood Plan was suspended for the time being rather than cancelling it completely. Cllr Brown clarified the issue to be discussed on the Agenda was regarding the donations received to assist with funding the Plan rather than cancelling the Plan altogether. For audit purposes, it would be proper to refund the monies held whilst the Plan is postponed.

Discussion took place regarding the progress of the Plan, and it was recommended that the existing document was adopted by the Parish Council as a point of reference and vision for the future of the Village. A smaller Committee to lead on the project was also suggested and would be taken into consideration.

48/20-21 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Virtual Parish Council meeting held on 30th November 2020 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr C Ransom and Seconded by Cllr D Ransom and duly signed by the Chair.

49/20-21

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is encouraging to see Covid vaccinations are being rolled out via Minster Surgery. On behalf of the entire community thanks were expressed to the staff and volunteers at the surgery for the way they are handling this huge task with such efficiency and kindness towards patients.

Villagers will have been delighted to hear the very good news that the Heyhill Development was dismissed on appeal in December.

It was noted that building has now started on the 20 house development adjacent to Monocstone Mews. The Parish Council is aware of local concerns about on street parking and mud/flooding on the road etc. therefore villagers were asked to help the Parish Council to keep a close eye the situation, so that we can ensure TDC is informed if these terms of development are broken.

Building has also started on a detached house in Millers Lane. As quite a lot of mature scrubland, including some trees, had to be cleared, the site owner wrote to the Parish Council to allay villagers concerns. A planting scheme of over 200 native tree hedging and shrubs has been agreed with KCC's biodiversity officer, and these together with bat and hedgehog boxes will be planted and installed to regain the loss of habitat. All of which is good to hear.

Mention was also made at the last meeting about broadband issues in the village. I am pleased to report James Prince (who lives in Gore St) has put a lot of work over the last couple of months into trying to resolve this problem via BT, and is currently working on two schemes, one covering the Gore Street to Millers Lane area, the other covering the middle section of the village. He has set up a facebook page where people with broadband problems can sign up and receive updates on what is happening. He has also written an article about the schemes in the Monkton Newsletter. This is quite a big endeavour, so huge thanks to James for all his work.

50/20-21

FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments which had been previously circulated as below. **This was proposed by Cllr Bennett and seconded by Cllr Beavis.**

G. Brown - Tree Planting Project	£16.50
Information commissioner's Office - Renewal	£40.00
S. Archer - Clerks Salary & Expenses	
Zurich - Insurance renewal	£656.49
SNS - Office 365	£28.56
SNS - Domain hosting	£78.56

b) The banking reconciliations for November and December were approved.

This was proposed by Cllr C Ransom and seconded by Cllr D Ransom.

c) It was resolved to approve the precept request of £13936 for 2021/22. There would be no increase to households.

This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr C Ransom.

d) It was resolved to approve the budget forecast for 2021/22. It was noted the reduction in fees received from the Football Club due to covid.

This was proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Bennett.

e) The refund of the Neighbourhood Plan donations were considered and all were in agreement to return the monies to the donors as soon as practicable.

This was proposed by Cllr Beavis and seconded by Cllr C Ransom.

It was proposed a separate zoom meeting to discuss the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan was arranged. This would be arranged by the Neighbourhood Plan Committee in due course.

f) It was agreed to renew the insurance for a further year with Zurich Municipal for the sum of £656.49

This was proposed by Cllr D Ransom and seconded by Cllr Bennett.

51/20-21

PLANNING

All applications and decisions available online via the TDC website.

FH/TH/21/0010 - Walters Hall Barn, Monkton Street

Erection of a single storey garage
Application pending, no objections raised

F/TH/20/1333 - 151 Monkton Street, Monkton

Erection of dormer to the front elevation to facilitate loft conversion
Permission Granted

L/TH/20/1687 - 163 Monkton Street, Monkton

Application for Listed Building Consent for the removal of two areas of damaged asbestos from ceiling in cellar
No objections raised

F/TH/20/1669 - Plot 06C, Land West Of, Invicta Way, Monkton

Erection of 2No commercial units and open storage (use class E(g))
No objections raised, suggested tree planting in keeping with the TDC biodiversity plan and climate change.

b) The correspondence received regarding the development at Millers Lane was noted previously by the Chairman in her report. A letter of acknowledgement to the developer would be sent on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action SA

52/20-21

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

a) County Councillor – Cllr Hurst advised that any vulnerable persons are able to access the Kent Together service which is available 24/7 and will assist with any issues being experienced due to covid. The traffic volume remains low at Manston and the service is operating well.

Ramsgate Port and Birchington Village Centre are operating as asymptomatic test centres. Details for appointments can be found on the Gov.UK website. Resident's were encouraged to be tested regularly if they are visiting shops or having to leave the house.

Residents were also encouraged to shop local wherever possible to support local businesses.

b) District Councillor –

Cllr Pugh advised that government guidance has been changed and now permits static caravan owners to remain on site with the site owners consent, due to the pandemic and not have to vacate the site for the 6 week period.

Business support grants are available for small businesses in the area.

No further news regarding the Coles Yard development, awaiting the meeting of the Planning Committee. A written statement can be read to the Committee on behalf of a representative for the Parish Council or a member of the public. Cllr Brown confirmed the Parish Council would submit a written statement as required.

Concern had been raised by a parent of a pupil at Monkton School regarding the inconsiderate parking of cars during collection/drop off times. Cllr Pugh would advise the Joint Transportation Board of the issue and advised anyone who was concerned to contact the Police via 101

TDC are looking to provide emergency funding to Your Leisure £700000 – £1.5million who are struggling due to the virus. A strategy to consider capping this funding was being proposed.

Cllr Roper reported that the TDC budget was balanced, however, some reserves would be used due to a decrease in the income received caused by the pandemic.

The business grants would continue and those previously in receipt of a grant would automatically qualify for a further grant.

The transition of housing stock to East Kent Housing was progressing well.

An increase in flytipping had been seen during the lockdown possibly caused by missed waste collections and the restrictions for visiting waste sites.

Cllr Roper also praised the staff at Minster Surgery for their vaccination programme.

c) Parish Councillor – Nothing to report.

d) PCSO Adrian Butterworth confirmed he had been dealing with breaches of the lockdown regulations in the local area. Hare coursing and lamping remained a problem and should be reported using 999, offenders should not be approached. Cold callers have been reported in the area, residents are advised not to engage with them at all.

e) Community Warden Karl Aylett was introduced and welcomed to the meeting. He advised he would be a more visible presence in the village after lockdown and would attend any future meetings.

53/20-21 RECREATION GROUND

a) Cllr Ransom completed the inspection which was held by the Clerk. The swing seats appeared to be cracked and the wood on the mulitplay was in need of replacement.

b) Cllr Bennett confirmed he had approached the handyman for Minster Parish Council regarding the play area repairs and was awaiting a response. He would continue to chase. **Action SB**

c) Cllr Brown advised an initial exploratory appointment had been made with Playdale on 4th March to consider the options with regard to new equipment. A budget for the project was currently being looked into. Section 106 monies were due to be received which had been awarded due to the new development being built adjacent to Monocstone Mews. Approximately £17,500 was expected from this funding. Cllr Brown explained that match funding grants were usually available, and in this instance, if the Parish Council allocated £7500 of reserves towards the project, potentially a sum of around £50,000 may be available for the project. The monies from the reserves could then be recouped as a one off raise in precept if necessary which would equate to a 2.5p raise to each household per week. In principle, the Parish Councillors agreed with this proposal as it was agreed that the play area is in need of refurbishment. The Clerk would contact TDC in the first instance to request the Section 106 monies.

Action SA

54/20-21 HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Beavis confirmed the electrical wiring at the construction site was exposed and had been reported accordingly.

b) Cllr Beavis advised the road sweeper had been requested to clean the western end of Monkton Street which had been hazardous from fallen leaves and mud. She would continue to chase.**Action CB**

55/20-21 ENVIRONMENTAL

The issue of light pollution caused by Thanet Earth was discussed. It is believed the planning conditions may be being breached and requires further investigation. The necessity to open the blinds to disperse heat was noted, however, the light appears excessive and not the 5% outlined in the planning conditions. A collective approach from all neighbouring Parish Councils was suggested.

Cllr Pugh advised he has raised the issue a number of times with Iain Livingstone, Planning Manager at TDC who has confirmed that Thanet Earth are not in breach of the planning restrictions. He supported a collaborative approach to raise concerns further. The concerns would be considered further. The Clerk would contact the secretary of TAC and TRRG to enquire when the next meetings would be held with a view of including the issue on the agenda for these forums.

Action SA

Cllr Roper advised he would make enquiries with regard to the environmental impact on the wildlife and in particular the birds in the area.

Cllr Ransom advised the public foot path running between The Drove and the railway track was in need of cutting back. The Clerk would contact the landowner, Phillip Smith and request the overgrowth is cut. **Action SA**

56/20-21 COMMUNITY AWARD The introduction of a Community Award was discussed in acknowledgement of residents who have made a difference in the village. Nominations would be made by residents to the Parish Council. The suggestion would be explored further and a scheme introduced in due course. **Action All**

57/20-21 BOOK EXCHANGE The Parish council had been approached regarding a village book exchange. Claire Skinner was thanked for her generous offer to provide wood from Wickes to build a suitable box to contain the books and Ron Brackstone had volunteered to construct it. A request was made to The Village Hall Committee to consider whether the box could be fixed to the wall of the Hall. Cllr D Ransom would co-ordinate the project. **Action DR**

Sincere condolences were expressed to District Cllr Hart following the sad news of his Mother's passing. The meeting was closed by the chairman at 8.25 pm.

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS 29 March, 24 May, 26 July, 27 September, 22 November

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

March 2021

PARISH CLERK – Sara Archer, clerk@monktonparish.co.uk

STAYING SAFE

We hope you are all staying safe and well. Monkton Parish Council are continuing to operate and for the moment are holding meetings online via Zoom. Anyone wishing to attend meetings is very welcome. Details can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk – clerk@monktonparish.co.uk.

The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in January are included in this issue. We hope you will read these, as they will bring you up to date on what is happening.

Covid Vaccinations

Covid Vaccinations are well underway at Minster Surgery, On behalf of the entire community the Parish Council would like to thank the staff and volunteers at the surgery for the way they are handling this huge task with such efficiency and kindness towards patients.

You can also now book your vaccination appointments online or by calling 119 if any of the following apply:

- you are aged 65 or over
- you have previously received a letter saying you are at high risk from coronavirus (clinically extremely vulnerable)
- you are an eligible frontline health worker
- you are an eligible frontline social care worker

Symptom-free Covid Test

Anyone can now get a Symptom-free Covid Test. It is advised that everyone gets tested every 2 weeks, especially if you're leaving the house for a necessary reason, such as going to work or shopping for essentials. Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms. Tests can be booked online, just Google *Symptom-free Covid Test - Kent* and select the top link.

Local Symptom-free Covid Test Sites:

- Terminal Building, Ramsgate Port, Military Road, Ramsgate, CT11 9FT
- The Centre, Birchington, Alpha Road, Birchington CT7 9EG

Recreation Ground

Over the next few months, we will be looking at adding new equipment to the play area in the Recreation Ground. A few Parish Councillors recently attended a meeting at Monkton School to look at their play equipment. Following that meeting we have now arranged to meet with the equipment provider to discuss what options are available for the Recreation Ground.

Book Exchange

A few of the Monkton residents have come up with the idea of having a book exchange in the village. The Village Hall Committee are happy to have a 'library' box fixed to the wall of the Hall, so the project is up and running. A big thank you to Claire Skinner for her generous offer to provide wood from Wickes and to Ron Brackstone who volunteered to construct it. We will keep you updated on the progress.

Community Awards

The Parish Council are looking to introduce an annual Community Award scheme, nominations would be made by residents to the Parish Council. We will keep you updated on this in due course.

Fibre Broadband for Monkton

James Prince has been working hard to get the broadband lines into Monkton upgraded to Fibre. He has been working on two schemes, one covering the Gore Street to Millers Lane area, the other covering the middle section of the village. Progress is being made and he is using Facebook to provide the updates. This is quite a big endeavour, so huge thanks to James for all his work. James has created a Facebook page where further information is available:

Full Fibre Ultrafast Broadband for Monkton Village, Kent Updates are also put in this Newsletter.

Planning Updates

The following is a list showing the status of current applications.

You may be interested to note the application immediately below. This is for **1650** houses on land either side of the Brooksend Hill (Canterbury Road).

This is a huge development and includes a new road scheme the combined effect of which will have a significant impact on the local area as a whole, not just Birchington.

Monkton Parish Council will be sending its comments on the application to TDC. We would also encourage villagers to have a look at the scheme and send your comments too.

OL/TH/20/1755

Outline application for a mixed-use urban extension comprising up to 1650 residential units, residential care home, primary school, land for expansion of medical centre, mixed use centre and associated infrastructure including provision of a new strategic link road

Land North and East of Canterbury Road, Birchington

Erection of a single storey garage - FH/TH/21/0010

Walters Hall Barn Monkton Street Monkton Kent CT12 4JF, Awaiting decision

Erection of 2No commercial units and open storage (use class E(g)) - F/TH/20/1669

Plot 06C Land West Of Invicta Way Monkton Kent, Awaiting decision

Prior notification of proposed change of use from office to 2No. 2 bed dwelling (use class C3) - PN06/TH/21/0015

Units 1 And 2 Hoo Farm 147 Monkton Road RAMSGATE Kent CT12 4JB, Awaiting decision

Change of use of Micro Brewery (Use Class B1,B2 and B8) to Micro Brewery and Drinking Establishment (Use Class B1,B2,B8 and A4) - F/TH/20/0559

Shivering Sand Brewery Limited 91 Maple Leaf Business Park Monkton Kent CT12 5GD, Awaiting decision

Outline application for the erection of 20 houses (two storey) and 20 retirement flats (two storey) with associated parking including access, landscaping, layout and scale together with the change of use of existing storage building to retail following demolition of existing buildings. - OL/TH/20/0335

W S Cole And Son 116 Monkton Street Monkton Ramsgate Kent CT12 4JQ, Awaiting decision

Application for Listed Building Consent for the removal of two areas of damaged asbestos from ceiling in cellar - L/TH/20/1687

163 Monkton Street Monkton Kent CT12 4JC, Grant Permission

Erection of dormer to the front elevation to facilitate loft conversion - F/TH/20/1333

151 Monkton Street Monkton Kent CT12 4JJ, Grant Permission

Details on all planning applications, including planning conditions and recommendations etc can be found on TDC's website using the following link:

www.thanet.gov.uk/info-pages/planning-application-search/

HOW THE PLANNING PROCESS WORKS!

PART 2

How to support or object to planning applications

In last month's Newsletter, we tried to provide a simple explanation of how the planning process works, who is consulted, which bodies can directly influence an application and ultimately, who makes the decisions.

This month, we are looking at how you, as an individual, can object to or support a planning application.

If you are a neighbour to a planning site, you will be notified in writing by TDC about the application. This will include a basic description of what is being proposed, the location, the planning reference number, the Case Officer's name and a date by which comments should be made. Notices are also put up on lampposts etc adjacent to a development site, and include the same information. You can also find out about applications via the TDC website (search for applications in Monkton) or on the Parish Council website.

Who do you write to?

If you wish to comment, you can do so *by email*: planning.services@thanet.gov.uk

...or in writing:

Planning Applications Team

Development Services

TDC

PO Box 9, Cecil Square

Margate CT9 1XZ

..or on line via the TDC website:

www.thanet.gov.uk

In all cases, you will be required to quote the reference number of the application and your name and full postal address. Copies of your correspondence will be made public both on TDC's website and at the Council Offices, although your email address, house name/number and signature will be blocked out.

What sort of things will be considered:

There are many aspects of an application which are taken into consideration. These include:

- the effect of the proposed development on the appearance of the area
- the quality of the design
- significant overbearing impact and loss of outlook
- the economic benefits of the proposal
- highways safety issues
- loss of important trees
- intrusion into the countryside
- significantly increased noise and disturbance

What things will not be considered:

- loss of view
- loss of property value
- breach of covenant
- loss of trade to a competitor
- the level of profit a developer might make
- the personal circumstances of the applicant
- moral objections (e.g. to uses such as betting shops etc)
- ancient rights to light

As can be seen from the above lists, supporting an application can be a lot easier than objecting! This is because many of the grounds on which objections can be made are subjective or are difficult to define – ‘*quality of design*’, ‘*significantly increased noise*’ for example.

Planning applications can – and do - ignite strong feelings! However, unless comments are made on valid planning grounds, they will not be considered. If plans have been submitted that fully comply with planning regulations, then it is almost impossible to object, however much you may dislike the proposal and however much you might think it will affect you. But if you feel you have a case, based on the above list (especially the subjective, difficult to define areas) then go for it, it is definitely worth commenting.

If you are a little unsure on your grounds, there is a lot of information on the internet which will help you. A well researched valid comment will be listened to.

We hope this simple guide will help you make your planning voice heard!

NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**MONDAY MARCH 29TH
7pm**

**This is a on-line meeting via Zoom
Please contact the Clerk for details of how to attend**



MONKTON FACEBOOK PAGE:

For up to date information
check out our Facebook page **Monkton, Kent**

NEW MASS COVID-19 VACCINATION CENTRE FOR THANET

A new vaccination centre is to be created in the old SAGA building at Westwood Cross and is due to open on Monday 1st March.

The leading provider will be Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust supported by, and running alongside existing GP Hubs at Minster Surgery PCN and Margate Surgery. The service will be available to all those aged 65 and over and appointments can be made in the normal way by calling 119.

MINSTER SURGERY PCN COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

This new facility will also benefit GP Practices by freeing up staff and enabling them to concentrate more fully on Primary care for all our patients.

We are very pleased to announce that at the end of February we will have vaccinated 98%-99% of all patients over 80 and over 70 age groups who responded to the invitation, and as a result, vaccinated over 12,000 patients.

We will now be concentrating on those patients between the ages 18-64 who have been identified as being “high risk” and have received an invitation.

TRAFFIC PROBLEMS!

We would like to apologise to all the residents of the villages that have been affected by our vaccination programmes and the resultant traffic congestion that has been caused from time to time. Thankfully now, with the new Vaccination Centre, village life can return to normal!

APPOINTMENTS - OPEN AS USUAL!

We are of course open for business as usual, but if patients request a doctor's appointment, they will receive a telephone triage call first to help the GP to determine the correct need, thus resulting in a safer more personalized approach.

PLEASE DON'T GET COMPLACENT

Even with the success of the vaccine roll out which now gives clear hope for the future, the virus is still virulent and we are still in a National Lockdown, so please exercise caution, ensure you follow the rules and for everyone's safety:

Remember: “wash Hands”- “Cover Face” - “Make Space” and stay safe! And above all ‘PROTECT THE NHS’

*** If you have any of the following symptoms:**

New persistent cough; Loss of taste/smell; High temperature -Call 119 - book a test!

*** If you have symptoms, tested positive or self-isolating, PLEASE DO NOT VISIT THE SURGERY but call 111 if you require further assistance.**

*** Want to check on cases in your area? Download the NHS Covid Ap**

*** Returning from abroad? Visit gov.uk for the latest advice.**

For Covid-19 symptoms or book a test call 119

SURGERY CLOSURES - EASTER HOLIDAY

Please note the surgery will be closed on the following days:

Good Friday 2nd April and Easter Monday 5th April

Should you need to see a Doctor outside normal hours please call the “NHS 111 Servicee” direct by dialing“ 111” where you will receive “non urgent” confidential health advice and information for you and your family.

*** For Urgent/Life Threatening cases, please dial 999 as normal.**

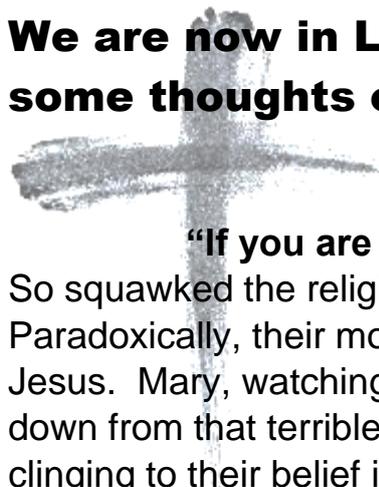
***REPEAT PRESCRIPTION** Please ensure that you have sufficient medication to last you through these difficult times and that all “Repeat Prescription Requests” are submitted to the surgery in good time to allow for the increased demand, both at the surgery and at the various pharmacies, Also, if your “MEDICATION REVIEW” is due during this period please ensure you make an appointment in good time, to avoid further unnecessary delays. Please note: Medication Reviews will be carried out by telephone

Also: prescriptions can only be delivered to those patients who have been identified as “Shielding” If you have any concerns please contact the surgery direct on 821333

PATIENT GROUP MEETING If you have any issues you would like to raise at our next meeting, or require further information on any of the above, then please contact :

Ken Self on 821200 or Jeanne Lawrence on 8210 or email :
kenself@me.com

We are now in Lent! Canon Peter Gausden offers some thoughts on the Cross. *The pastoral letter.*



“If you are the Son of God, come down from the Cross!

So squawked the religious leaders as they mocked the crucified Christ. Paradoxically, their mockery struck a chord in those who were closest to Jesus. Mary, watching her son in his dying agony: if only he could come down from that terrible Cross! Alongside her the remaining disciples, clinging to their belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the promised deliverer, and longing for a miracle – surely, surely Jesus was not going to concede victory to his tormentors? Surely, even at this last moment, the angelic cavalry must come riding in from the heavens, dramatically releasing Jesus and sending the Chief Priests, Pilate & Herod spinning into oblivion!? But no; Jesus suffered, and died.

The picture is the same today and in any age; Christ suffers on the Cross of the World, looking out from our newspapers and screens through the faces of desperate suffering people across the globe, especially in these covid days. Yet we look on with the same old incomprehension, the same old desire for a quick fix! “I don’t want to keep hearing about the Passion and Good Friday,” says a churchgoer, “it’s all so miserable; I like Easter day, I want to be cheered up!” Others take up the cry; “Why does God allow bad things to happen? Why do we have to suffer the corona virus? Why didn’t God prevent that terrible accident/flood?” Why doesn’t he answer my prayers? One way and another, we join with the protesters on the first Good Friday, echoing the same old cry; “Come down from the Cross; do it our way, not yours! My will, not thine be done!” **23**

Like the disillusioned disciples of old, we forsake Jesus and flee the Cross. But Jesus stays there, in agony and alone; for only through death on the Cross could God in Christ bring us to comprehend the ultimate glory of his love; only thus could he show us that nothing we humans can do, however evil, wretched or vile, can destroy the power of his patient, forgiving love. Even though, in our ignorance and blindness, we try and kill God, he will not give us up. His is a love that will not let us go. This was the love which shone out upon the world at the dawning of the first Easter Day; This is the love which lights the path which the risen Lord calls all of us to follow.



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE, MONKTON



We are open for private prayer and worship

– join us online or in church!

Churches open for prayer and reflection

Minster: Sunday 2-4pm; Tuesday & Thursday 10am-12pm

St Nicholas: Sunday, Tuesday 2-4pm & Thursday 10am-12pm

Monkton: Sunday 2-4pm

Church Online

Church online - informal worship on our YouTube Channel (Wantsum Benefice) – *every Sunday*

Daily Newsletter – with reading & reflection and links to other events –
To receive this email: info@wantsumchurches.org

Monday-Friday Morning Prayer 9.00am & Evening Prayer 5.00pm on
Facebook Live

Facebook: St Mary's Church, Minster-in-Thanel or St Nicholas at Wade
Church

www.wantsumchurches.org If you wish to talk to someone, need support or would welcome prayer please contact:

Revd Richard Braddy 01843 821250 info@wantsumchurches.org

Keeping our churches open as lockdown eases

During these weeks of lockdown, St Mary Magdalene will remain open on Sundays between 2.00-4.00pm. You are welcome to come in and find peace and there are resources to help pray too. If coming into church, please wear a face mask and use the hand sanitizer on entry.

Unfortunately, we are still not able to hold services on Sunday mornings at the moment.

The plan will be to have our first service again in church on Easter Day, 4 April at 9.30am.

However, during this time we will continue our online church:

Daily Newsletter with bible reading, reflection, prayer and links to other online events – to receive this email: info@wantsumchurches.org

Online Sunday Service – via our YouTube channel: Wantsum Benefice

Daily Morning and Evening Prayer – Mon- Fri via our Facebook Live.

If during these days of lockdown, you would welcome prayer or like to talk to someone, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Meanwhile during this season of Lent, may we know God's journeying with us as we journey with his Son to the cross.

Richard (01843 821250) info@wantsumchurches.org



NATURE NOTES. with Dr. Clive Nuttman

Plants Have Feelings Too! While more and more plants begin to push through shoots, leaves, buds and even flowers, although we appreciate the lift that the fast-approaching spring gives us, the 'secret life' of plants reveals some surprising comparisons with our own physiology, and even senses. Maybe not such a shock, given that plants have the same basic life processes that animals do, such as circulation, where plants move water and sugars, our circulatory system transports blood and nutrients, and chemical messengers - plants have just 5 hormone-like substances compared to over 200 hormones in humans. Plant 'sight' comes in the form of sensitivity to light; the basic upward growth of all plants is a response to light, while we are all familiar with flowers opening and closing across the day/night cycle – and even 'tracking' the sun throughout the day

Taste in plants might seem unlikely but there are plenty examples of the phenomenon of allelopathy – this is a process whereby certain plants produce chemicals that have a toxic effect which inhibits growth of nearby plants. A bit like a natural ‘weed killer’, common garden plants that release these chemicals include Laurel, Rhododendron and Forsythia; so, beware if you plant anything near these species!

Perhaps the most famous example of a plant reacting to touch is that of the carnivorous Venus Flytrap; fine hairs respond to even slight movement of insects that enter the ‘trap’, which then springs shut. The struggling prey soon dies and is ‘consumed’ by the plant. An everyday example is the fine tendrils that ‘reach out’ from the stems of Pea and Bean plants and latch on to anything that they touch, curling tightly around any object for support.

When being eaten by animals – from caterpillars to elephants – plants can counter further damage by giving off airborne warning chemicals that are perceived – a sense of ‘smell’ - both by neighbouring plants and even parts of the same plant. This can result in the production of poisons in the remaining intact leaves that become distasteful to the consumer – scent communication between and within plants to prevent more harm!

In possibly the most bizarre parallel with our senses, flowers have been suggested to react to airborne sounds. The noise of buzzing insects (and artificially produced sounds of similar wavelength) has been discovered to stimulate flowers to produce sweeter nectar – why? The nectar reward that flowers offer is more likely to encourage further visits and aid successful pollination; the flies and bees are attracted to consume more nectar and the plant successfully reproduces as more visits results in more pollen being brought in.

Hence, the world of plants is not so very different to that of humans (and other animals); plants have equivalent ‘senses’ of touch, taste, smell, sight and sound. It is frequently cited that we share 99% of our DNA with chimps but is less often mentioned that we share some of our DNA with plants, too; so perhaps it’s not that surprising that plants have feelings



too

CRITICAL PLANNING INFORMATION FOR HUGE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT ON THE EDGE OF MONKTON PARISH, AND OUR VILLAGE COUNCIL'S RESPONSE

BIRCHINGTON Parish Council Slams Planning Proposals **Birchington Parish Council has lodged major objections to the planned development of 1,650 new homes on prime agricultural land to the south west of the village.**

At a specially convened virtual parish council meeting the Council voted unanimously to throw out the proposals from Ptarmigan Birchington Ltd and others on the grounds that it does not comply with district planning policies and contains insufficient evidence and detail to provide assurance on key matters including safety, traffic congestion and the environment.

There was a large public attendance and members of the neighbouring Westgate Town Council and Monkton Parish Council were also present. Those non council members in attendance were allowed 3 minutes to speak publicly about the proposals. Several took the opportunity to express deep concerns on behalf of the community, in addition to matters raised by the Council they spoke passionately about anxieties over light pollution, rainwater management and flooding, loss of privacy from overbearing buildings and the lack of employment opportunities created by the development. **No one spoke in favour.**

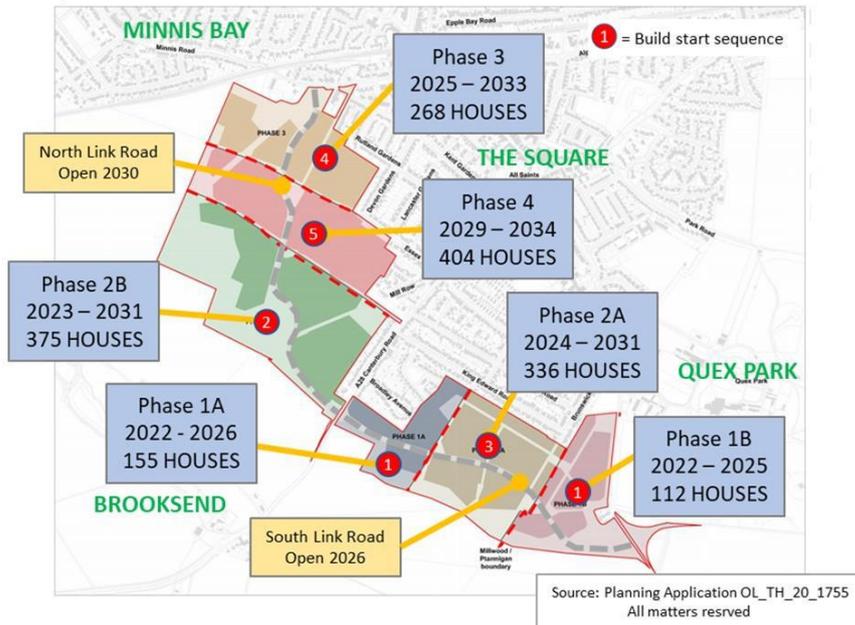
The Council has produced a 26-page response document backed up by analysis and advice from AECOM, a large, multinational, specialist in these matters. A short presentation to the Council drew attention to weakness in the reasoning behind the proposed road junctions, the location of the proposed school, shop and community hub and the routing of the major relief roads. Of particular concern is the absence of any proposals to provide support and investment into the existing Birchington community.

Parish Council Chairman, Neville Hudson said *“These proposals come about as a direct result of the Thanet Local Plan which was adopted by TDC councillors in July 2020. Prior to that date and since then we understand that there have been in depth discussions between TDC, KCC and the developer about these plans but sadly none of them saw fit to involve the parish council. As a result, the proposals are flawed in many ways and totally unacceptable in this form.”*

Fuelling the disquiet is confusion and uncertainty about the proposed 'inner circuit' – a major bypass system intended to relieve road congestion by diverting traffic around a route behind the main settlements in Thanet. The success of developments in Birchington, Westgate and elsewhere is heavily dependent on the circuit being in place before housing but so far KCC and TDC have failed to come up with any funding or a plan of how the road would be built.

Feeling amongst residents in Birchington is that the proposals are so vague and uncertain that if accepted they would enable housebuilders to do pretty much what they wish on the site, within the loose constraints of the permission. They are of the view that every possible step should be taken to ensure that this application is rejected. So far, almost 200 objections have been lodged on the TDC planning

website despite its' reported technical problems and local social media site is rife with criticism of the proposals, the developer, KCC and TDC.
The Birchington Parish Council response to consultation is available in full on the council website: <https://birchington-pc.gov.uk/>.
 Parish SP16 Leaflet



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PLANNING RESPONSE FROM MONKTON PARISH COUNCIL

This is a significant development, with associated road and other infrastructure, which borders Monkton Parish. It will have a significant knock-on effect on our Parish and for this reason we wish to make the following comments:

- There is a general shortage of evidence to justify many of the proposals in this application. There appear to be no data or option appraisals for either the proposed road scheme, the school, the expansion of the medical centre, the retirement home or convenience store.
- The combined impact of this development coupled with the 2000 houses to be developed at Westgate has not been taken into consideration at all in the application, and should be. A total of 3650 new houses will have a major population impact on both villages as well as dramatically increase traffic volumes and parking requirements in the villages.
- **Road Scheme:**
 - a. A major road (the “Inner Circuit”) will split the development, necessitating numerous (possibly dangerous) pedestrian crossings which will inevitably restrict traffic flow.
 - b. This road will also result in a badly located junction close to the one-way Minnis Bay bridge and medical centre, directing significant traffic volume onto an already busy, often congested minor road.
 - c. The proposed signal-controlled junction on the A28 is on a steep hill, prone to adverse weather conditions in winter (snow & ice).
 - d. Cycling and walking routes are poorly routed and are indicated as crossing a major road and junction

- e. The extra traffic generated on the A28 (particularly during the summer holiday season) will make it extremely difficult for the residents of, and those using Seamark Road and Crispe Road to enter onto the A28 at Brooksend, particularly if turning right.
- **School** Locating a primary school close to a major junction raises road safety issues. Air pollution levels will also be high in such an area, raising further questions as to the suitability of the location. There does not appear to be any evidence of consultation with KCC Education Department on this. It would seem more logical to locate the school more centrally on the development in order to encourage walking to the school and easier access from the established area of the village to the north. This would also help to integrate the new development into the existing community..
- **Medical Centre** There appears to be no evidence on whether any consultation has taken place on this, and no detail with regard to the form and extent of expansion and how it is to be funded.
- **Residential Care Home** Whilst welcomed, again, there is no evidence base for this facility, on what basis it will operate, and what, if any, consultation has taken place.
- **Convenience Store and cafe**
 - a. The store is located in close proximity to two existing shops and a café. It would be more logical to locate it on the south-eastern side of the development, so that services/facilities are more evenly distributed and residents would not have to cross a busy road to gain access.
- **Local Plan Discrepancies** The Local Plan allocates 1600 houses for this site whereas the application is for 1650 houses, necessitating either greater density or the acquirement of extra land which is not within the Local Plan. This discrepancy needs to be addressed.
- **Affordable housing** is a key issue in Thanet, identified in the Local Plan. This application offers only vague assurances on affordable housing. In order to ensure that targets are met and adhered to, exact figures need to be given, and firm assurances on delivery of affordable housing provided.
- **Environment & sustainability**
 - a. A poor understanding of this is shown. The site currently supports a diverse range of insects, animals and plant species which is simply not acknowledged. This includes brown hares and various migrating birds.
 - b. It would be preferable to work around and retain existing hedgerows which provide excellent habitat, rather than disturb and replant. Established hedgerows and mature trees sustain far more biodiversity than new planting.
 - c. The concept of open spaces is good, but a management plan is required to ensure the survival and purpose of such spaces.

- **Manston Airport** The future of Manston as an airport is currently undecided. We feel the future of Manston should be determined *before* this and other such applications are decided, and certainly before the irrevocable loss of prime Grade 1 agricultural land for a housing project that arguably is not even substantiated by current Thanet population growth statistics.
- **Integration into the existing community:** The plan seems to focus inwards with little effort to integrate and become part of Birchington as a whole. It is merely an annexe tacked on to the edge of the village. Certainly not part of the community which is its stated aim. This application needs to be a much more open process, with more input from the local area and Birchington PC in particular.

It is appreciated this site has been identified in the Local Plan for the development of 1600 houses. However, this is a greenfield site and as such offers a golden opportunity to incorporate high quality design that meets local housing need in an environmentally sensitive and sustainable way. This application fails to meet these objectives on many levels. For this and the reasons state above, Monkton Parish Council strongly object to this outline application as currently presented.



“when icicles hang by the wall” FOR THE FIRST TIME in some years Monkton saw a good covering of snow last month and there were plenty of icicles. Like all our weather the very cold snap seems a distant memory. For plenty of snow images see Monkton, Kent Facebook

THE KENTISH RECIPE – Easter season Simnel Cake made as a tray bake.

This is a different version of Simnel Cake, which will not take so long to cook. You will need a 33 x 23 cm deep baking tray (13 by 9 ins). The ingredients and instructions are a bit long winded but worth it for the result.

Ingredients For the cake...

- 500 g mixed dried fruit (I buy a pre-mixed pack that contains raisins, sultanas, currants and mixed peel)
- 2 oranges zest and juice
- 225 g butter softened
- 225 g light soft brown sugar
- 4 large eggs (ideally at room temperature)
- 225 g self-raising flour
- 75 g ground almonds (almond flour)
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon mixed spice
- 200 g golden marzipan cut into 1cm cubes (optional)

For the icing...

- 100 g icing sugar (confectioner's sugar)
- 1 orange – just the juice (you won't need it all!)
- 25 g toasted flaked almonds (you can buy them already toasted!)
- 300 g golden marzipan rolled into 20 balls

To make the simnel cake...

1. First, place all the dried fruit in a large bowl and squeeze over the juice of the 2 oranges (make sure you zest the oranges first as zesting a squeezed orange is super hard!). Stir together with your hands to help the dried fruit absorb the orange juice.
2. Next, grease and line a 33 by 23cm (13 by 9ins) cake tin and preheat your oven to 160C / 140C fan / gas mark 3 / 325F.
3. Now beat together the softened butter and light brown sugar.
4. Add the 4 eggs, one at a time, thoroughly mixing in each egg before adding the next.
5. Next, gently fold in the flour, almonds, cinnamon and mixed spice.

6. Then add the dried fruit and any remaining soaking liquid, plus the orange zest.
7. Finally, VERY GENTLY stir in the marzipan cubes, so as not to squish them too much.
8. Tip the cake mixture into your prepared traybake tin and place in the oven for 1 hour, or until the cake is golden brown on top and just starting to come away from the sides. If you poke a skewer into the centre of the cake, it should come away clean – though do be careful, as if you get a bit of marzipan it looks a lot like uncooked cake mixture, when in fact it isn't – so test a few times, just to make sure.
9. When the cake is cooked, use the baking paper to lift the cake out onto a wire rack and allow to cool completely before decorating.

To decorate...Place the icing sugar in a small bowl and add just enough orange juice (from the 3rd orange) to make a thick, but still pourable glacé icing.

1. Drizzle the icing over the cake graffiti style – diagonally one way and then the opposite way. Keep back a little of the icing as you will need it to stick the marzipan balls onto the cake.
2. Next, scatter over the flaked almonds.
3. Roll the remaining marzipan into 20 roughly equal sized balls (tip – weigh them to get the right size – they should weigh roughly 15g (½ oz) each).
4. Heat your grill (broiler) up to its highest temperature, and place the shelf on its highest setting (i.e. as near the heat as possible).
5. Place your marzipan balls on a grill rack and place under the grill for a few seconds, until they go brown. Watch the balls like a hawk as they brown super-fast!
6. Use the remaining icing to stick the marzipan balls to the top of the simnel cake in a grid pattern – 4 by 5 (4 along the shortest side and 5 along the longest section).
7. Finally cut the cake into 20 pieces, ensuring everyone gets a marzipan ball!



ADVERTISING SECTION



All roofing works undertaken

Monkton village based

Re-Roofs - Flat, Tiled or Slate.

Roof Repairs Flat, Tiled or Slate

Repairs and Re-bedding of Hips, Valleys, Ridges and
Verges

Vertical Cladding - Weatherboards, Cedar Shingles and
Kent Peg Tiles

Leadwork & Chimney Repairs/Chimney maintenance

UPVC Fascias, Soffits & Guttering

Felt Support Trays/Felt Repairs

Velux Window Installation & Repairs

Roof space Ventilation and insulation

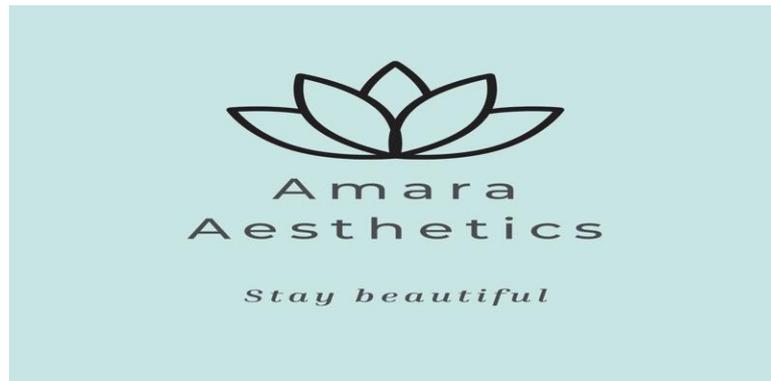
Bird Deterrents - Pigeon/Seagull Netting/Bird Spikes

CONTACT US

PHONE: 01843 838447

www.grasby-roofing.co.uk

Email: info@grasby-roofing.co.uk



A Nurse lead clinic based in Monkton
Specialising in beauty Aesthetics and skin rejuvenation.
I am fully trained and insured for all treatments.

- Botox
- Dermal Fillers (cheeks, Nasolabial folds, marionette lines)
- Lip augmentation
- Chemical Peels
- Mesotherapy
- Dermaplaning
- Skinpen Microneedling
- Profhilo

www.amaraaesthetics.co.uk



07983 244761



ruth@amaraaesthetics.co.uk



The Pierson Cake Company

MONKTON, KENT

Cakes for all occasions

01843 319215

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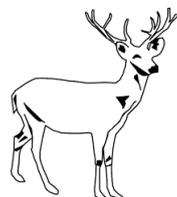
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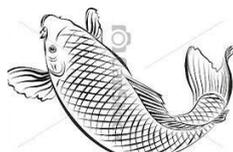
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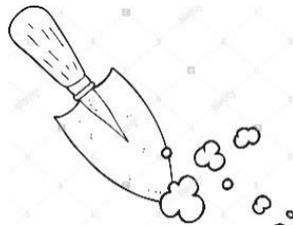
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LATE ADD ON – THE WAY OUT OF LOCKDOWN. We show from government info what can happen in March .

"roadmap" for easing Covid restrictions in England has been announced.

After the first stage in March, further lifting of the rules will happen if certain conditions are met - such as the vaccine rollout going to plan. The aim is for all restrictions to be lifted, which will happen by 21 June at the earliest.

First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is preparing to unveil details of Scotland's path out of lockdown on Tuesday. Northern Ireland and Wales will outline their plans in the coming weeks.

- **Postcode check: Find out the rules where you live**

Stage one is in two parts:

8 March

- All schools and colleges will reopen
- University students can return for practical courses. There will be a review by the end of the Easter holidays for all other students
- Face coverings are recommended in class for secondary school students and also for parents and staff in primary schools
- Wraparound childcare can also return for vulnerable pupils and where it is needed for parents or carers to go to work, support groups or to seek medical care
- Two people from different households can meet outside for recreation, which can include "a coffee on a bench"
- One nominated person can visit care homes, but will need PPE, a lateral flow test and to "keep physical contact to a minimum"
- Weddings attended by up to six people can take place in any circumstances

Lockdown rules for England from 8 March



Stay home - only leave for work, essential shopping, exercise or medical appointments



Exercise allowed outdoors once a day, in your local area. You can exercise with your household, support bubble, or one other person



All schools open, with outdoor after-school sports and activities allowed.



Two people can meet outdoors to socialise eg to sit down for a coffee, drink or picnic



Care home residents are allowed one regular visitor, with whom they can hold hands



No household mixing indoors or outdoors unless in your support or childcare bubble



Non-essential shops, leisure and entertainment venues closed



Pubs and restaurants closed, but takeaway food permitted

Source: GOV.UK

BBC

29 March

- People will be allowed to meet outside, either with one other household or within the "rule of six", including in private gardens
- The stay at home rule will end but people should stay local as much as possible
- Outdoor sport facilities will reopen, including golf courses and tennis and basketball courts
- Formally organised outdoor sports can also restart
- Parents and children groups can return but are capped at 15 and must be outdoors. Indoor groups can take place for vulnerable children and where parents need the groups to go to work