

**Monkton
Parish Council**



PARISH CLERK: Sara Archer, 204 Monkton St, Monkton, Ramsgate, Kent CT12 4JN
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**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
7th November 2024 at 7:00pm in Monkton Village Hall**

Present: Parish Councillors Gilly Brown [GB] – Chair, Davina Ransom [DR], Steve Bennett [SB], Jason Button [JB]

In Attendance: Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, District Cllr Abi Smith, David Mills – Chairman MFC, plus 9 members of the public.

39/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Andy Kershaw (holiday).

40/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No interests declared.

41/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

- A resident advised that the street light at Vicarage Gardens was still requiring repair despite being reported online direct. The Clerk would follow this up. **Action SA**

42/24-25 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 19th September 2024 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Bennett and Seconded by Cllr Ransom and duly signed by the Chair of the meeting.

43/24-25 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Brown advised that the Parish Council had sent a letter of objection to the Planning Inspectorate with reference to the planning appeal for Foxborough Lane, Minster.

The Parish Council have been consulting with village groups and wider community in conjunction with the grant application to upgrade our current CCTV system. This is an expensive project, therefore, external funding streams have to be considered. Thanks were extended to Cllr Crow-Brown for his support with the project, by allocating a grant of £800.

The need for an upgraded system is on back of increased fly tipping in the parish, some vandalism particularly at the Recreation Ground, and other anti-social or illegal activities. Modern CCTV systems have the ability to read number plates and clearer facial recognition which is needed for a CCTV system to be effective.

The aim of the upgrade is to encourage a safer, more protected community and effective deterrent. The Chair reminded residents of the Remembrance Sunday Service, 10th November – 10.15am, after which the Parish Council will be laying a wreath on behalf of the community.

44/24-25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

CS Heating & Plumbing - Boiler Service	£182.50
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Saunderson Security - Gate closing mechanism	£132.00
HMRC - Employee PAYE	
Forvis Mazars - External Audit fee	£252.00
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
NEST - Clerk's pension	
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£18.00
Hugofox- Website hosting fee	£11.99
NEST - Clerk's pension	
AU Roofing - Car park auger hire (posts)	£90.00
Cartridge People - Ink Cartridges	£68.06
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
Commerical Service - Ground maintenance	£1,285.96
Unity Trust - Service Charge	£5.40

Signed..... *Date*.....

Receipts:

TDC - Half Precept & Agency payments £9,657.00

b) The banking reconciliations for September & October were approved.

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

c) The Clerk confirmed that following advice from the Conservation Officer at TDC, she had received a quote of £240 to repair the stocks at the Church. This was discussed and resolved to approve the quote. Robert Jakeman would be instructed to go ahead with the repairs as soon as possible.

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

45/24-25

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

To receive updates for the following:

a) County Councillor – Cllr Crow-Brown noted the submission of the Parish Council's objection to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the significant housing development proposal at Foxborough Lane, Minster.

Cllr Crow-Brown had been interviewed by South Eastern Railway, whom he had commended for the action taken to improve the issues experienced, particularly with the school train to Sandwich.

Investment into the signals and point upgrade had been prioritised.

KCC had funded a minibus for the Monkton Nature Reserve, which was currently experiencing record numbers of visitors.

Chapel House Estate, Minster was praised for its introduction of low lighting and wildlife friendly schemes to improve the habitat.

b) District Councillors –

Cllr Abi Smith advised that Southern Water had launched a Business Innovation Fund, to support local businesses in the area. A motion to require new housing developments to install solar panels, and rain water catchment, had been made to TDC but was not deliberated at the last meeting. A motion had also been made with regard to maintaining the commission of the Surestart Centre.

c) Parish Councillors –

Cllr Ransom had attended the TRRG meeting with Cllr Kershaw which focussed on the Community Resilience Plan. This would be discussed further under item 49.

Thanks were expressed to the Monkton Under Fives Playgroup for cleaning and tidying the bus shelter. It had much improved the appearance of the shelter.

Cllr Ransom had attended a very informative and interesting climate change conference. Cllr Ransom shared her extensive notes from each guest speaker, and outlined how the climate projection fed into the community resilience plan.

d) Kent Police –

PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, no report submitted.

46/24-25

RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREA

a) A written inspection report had been completed by Cllr Bennett with no additional issues to note. The replacement self closing mechanism had been fitted onto the gate, and missing bolts replaced on the spinner.

b) Cllr Bennett advised the weeds on the safety surfacing had been sprayed and removed accordingly, and would be resprayed in due course. The Clerk had contacted Playdale and requested a quote for repair.

The company were reluctant to attend the site to inspect the damage, and were relying on a photographic image in order to provide a quote. The Clerk would continue to liaise with Playdale.

Action SA

c) Volunteers to join a working party to maintain, litter pick and generally keep an eye on the Recreation Ground were welcomed, however, it was disappointing to note that no response had been received from residents. The Football Club offered to assist with the maintenance of the area where possible.

d) David Mills – Chair of the Monkton Football Club, was invited to present the proposal for a new replacement storage container. Both existing cabins would be replaced as they had become unrepairable. Private funding for the project had been secured, and a support from local families to help clear the cabins had been noted.

It was also suggested that the dropped area in the Pavilion building, was converted into a storage and changing area for the Referee. Temporary stud walls could be built to enclose the area.

Finally, it was proposed that the grass section in front of the car park bollards, was removed and replaced with packed road chippings. Spaces would then also be outlined using white painted wooden poles, to encourage parking at an angle and subsequently increasing the number of cars being able to park during match days.

Signed.....

Date.....

All proposals were discussed and agreed in principle subject to formal plans being presented to the Parish Council.

It was noted that littering remained an issue, and it was suggested that signage was placed at various locations within the Recreation Ground to encourage users to place their litter in the bins provided.

e) The Clerk had arranged for a fire safety assessment of the Pavilion which had been circulated to the Parish Council and Football Club accordingly. Both parties would work together to address the suggestions raised in the report.

47/24-25

HIGHWAYS

a) Cllr Kershaw was unable to attend the meeting, however, he had provided an update on the outstanding issues as follows:

- Fresh water leak outside 108 Monkton Street now repaired and road reinstated after sub structure erosion noted due to prolonged leak.
- Potholes on both sides of Willett's Hill have been reported to KCC Highways on the 8th of October by me under ref: 835012. Works completed on 14th October. Noted no prior PC notice of road closure. Noted on social media comment that Minster was aware two weeks ago although checking Minster PC website showed no mention of proposed closure.
- Fly tipping of an armchair on verge opposite Foxhunter Park has been reported to TDC for removal. (now removed).
- The reported issue of double parking in and around 66 Monkton Street and the request to Stagecoach Thanet for input on any route service implications has not been responded to and their central Customer Service team have not been able to supply and information.
- Blocked rainwater drains at the junction of Seamark Close were reported to KCC, but response was in effect to say that only routine clearing would be attended to due to service constraints.
- Change in parking arrangements at Foxhunter Park post change of ownership whereby no large and/or sign written vehicles are allowed to park on site and must park on the highway (consideration given to residents), Noted at weekends five or six vehicles parked close to the entrance which has caused a chicane effect for traffic progress and lines of sight issues from neighbouring properties.

b) Concerns regarding the lack of notice given for road closures were discussed. Cllr Crow-Brown would raise the issue with the Community Engagement Lead on behalf of the Parish Council.

The upcoming speed restriction on A28 between Millers Lane and Orchard Road was noted.

c) The change in parking arrangements at the Foxhunter was discussed. Complaints had been received with regard to the obstruction and visibility issues on Monkton Street. It was suggested this was an issue for the Police, therefore the concerns would be raised with PC Howe.

Cllr Button advised he would approach the new owners of the Caravan Park and raise the concerns direct, and discuss alternative solutions to the issue.

Action JB

48/24-25

PLANNING

a) **OL/TH/20/1755 - Land North And East Of, Canterbury Road, BIRCHINGTON, Kent**

Noted that the Planning Committee at TDC had deferred the application. Particular concern regarding the lack of provision of affordable housing was noted.

F/TH/24/1119 – WS Cole & Son, 116 Monkton Street, Monkton

Cllr Brown outlined the proposal, confirming the variations in conditions for the provision of the archaeological dig, and relocation of reptile species. It was noted that Minster Cemetery had been identified as a suitable location for the reptiles, however, it was suggested the Nature Reserve could be approached in the first instance. Cllr Ransom would contact the Reserve to make enquiries with regard to a potential relocation of the lizards there.

b) **F/TH/24/0271 W S Cole And Son, 116 Monkton Street, Monkton**

Development proposal by Guildcrest Homes – Land South of Monkton St

No further updates.

49/24-25

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Cllr Ransom confirmed it had been suggested that smaller Parishes such as Monkton, Acol, and St Nicholas with Sarre pool resources and collaborate to produce a Plan. A meeting with representatives from each Parish was being arranged to discuss the proposal further.

Action DR

50/24-25

COMMUNITY EVENT 2025

Suggestions for a community event to be held in 2025 were discussed. Ideas included a fete, fireworks evening with BBQ, and music or outdoor film screening. Enquiries would be made with regard to the dates

Signed.....

Date.....

of significant events such as the anniversary of VE and VJ Day, and the availability of companies to provide entertainment. Further details would be reported at the next meeting. **Action SA**

51/24-25

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Proposed dates for meetings 2025: 30th January, 6th March, 1st May, 3rd July, 4th Sept, 6th Nov all to be held in the Village Hall, 7pm.

52/24-25

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public were excluded by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted during this item.
The proposals discussed during this item were considered and agreed as outlined in the supporting paper which was circulated to Councillors for information.
Proposed: Cllr Brown, Seconded: Cllr Ransom

The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 9:00pm.

Signed..... *Date*.....