

**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
11th July 2024 at 7:00pm in Monkton Village Hall**

Present **Parish Councillors** Gilly Brown [GB], Davina Ransom [DR], Andy Kershaw [AK], Steve Bennett [SB]

In Attendance Sara Archer – Clerk, KCC Cllr Derek Crow-Brown, Lisa Hopkins & Leah Cardin – TDC Home Energy Advice Service, plus 14 members of the public.

The Chair opened the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance. The Home Energy Advice Team were invited to present to the meeting about the service they offer to residents. A number of grant funding opportunities are available to eligible households, to improve the energy efficiency of their homes. Further information regarding the funding available, criteria and advice, plus contact details for the Team, can be accessed via the Thanet District Council website.

14/24-25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from KCC Cllr Linda Wright, District Cllr Abi Smith, Cllr Jason Button (Illness), and PC Andy Howe.

15/24-25 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Bennett declared an interest in Item 20/24-25 (a) payment submitted to SNS.

16/24-25 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Support for a group initiative to purchase solar panels, to lower costs, was noted.

17/24-25 PLANNING

a) The development proposal by Guildcrest Homes – Land South of Monkton St, was discussed at length. Richard Moore – Chair of the Resident's Association was introduced and invited to speak. He confirmed that the RA would be objecting to the proposal and outlined the reasons behind this decision. The additional homes would be unsustainable in the Village, with no additional services or infrastructure being introduced. The development was also contrary to the policies of the Local Plan, and is outside of the Village confines.

Highways safety concerns were also raised, and the impact of increased traffic flow through the Village. It was noted, however, that the impact may not be sufficient for KCC to raise an objection.

The lack of pedestrian footpaths in the Village were also noted.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council would not be responding to the questionnaire provided by Guildcrest, as it was weighted in favour of the development. However, they would be submitting a response by email, to register their strong objection to the proposal, and would submit further comments at the planning application stage.

The RA would also be issuing a letter referencing the contravention of planning policy.

It was confirmed that the Parish Council and RA would be working collaboratively regarding this development.

b) F/TH/24/0484 - 32 The Oaks, Monkton, Kent, CT12 5FN

No objections raised.

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

No further progress with the application noted. The developer is in the process of negotiating the appropriate removal of trees, and biodiversity measures. As there no longer appeared to be sufficient objections to the proposal, it was agreed to withdraw the request to have the application called-in.

F/TH/23/1616 Phases 1B And 2D North Of Spitfire Way And East Of, Columbus Avenue

Application withdrawn.

18/24-25 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting held on 9th May 2024 as a true record. These were proposed by Cllr Brown and Seconded by Cllr Kershaw and duly signed by the Chair.

Signed..... Date.....

19/24-25

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Cllr Brown explained that although the Parish Council is not a political body, there has always been a good working relationship with our local MP, and therefore offered her congratulations to Sir Roger Gale who was successfully re-elected to represent the new Herne Bay & Sandwich constituency. Sir Roger is very much against development on agricultural land, so good to know his continued support can be relied upon. The Chair offered her thanks to the Village Hall Committee for organising the D-Day commemorations in the village last month. It is understood that the fish & chip supper and procession to the beacon lighting ceremony was enjoyed by many villagers.

Monkton Open Gardens coincided with the D-Day weekend – however, as always, this was a hugely successful event, raising £2800, with over 300 visitors. Well done to the organisers and many gardeners who worked hard to ensure the terrific success of this event.

Cllr Brown advised that a response had been received from the Conservation Officer at TDC regarding the repairs to the village stocks. It was confirmed that planning consent was not required in this instance and the repairs could be carried out accordingly.

20/24-25

FINANCIAL MATTERS

a) Members resolved to approve the Schedule of Payments below, which had been previously circulated.

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

Kandoo Timber - Car Park bollards	£389.28
SNS - Domain Hosting o/s invoices	£806.65
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
R. Steel - Payment towards training expenses	£18.50
S. Archer - Clerk's salary & expenses	
NEST - Clerk's pension	
ATS Accounting - Admin services	£66.00
Javes Security - Alarm Service	£78.00
Viking - Stationary	£72.43
VHC - Contribution towards D Day Celebrations	£250.00
Hugofox - Website hosting fee	£11.99
Unity Trust - Bank Charges	£18.00

Receipts:

HMRC - Vat Reclaim	£1,391.66
Jackson's Fencing - Refund for materials due to not fulfilling the order	£504.00

b) The banking reconciliations for May & June were approved.

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

21/24-25

INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

To receive updates for the following:

a) County Councillor – Cllr Derek Crow-Brown echoed the congratulations to Sir Roger for being successfully re-elected. He had recently been dealing with highways issues, particularly complaints regarding the incorrect diversion route instructed to resident's for the Tothill Street closure.

Cllr Crow-Brown had attended a presentation by Southern Water and raised the issues of building developers washing concrete and debris into the drainage system.

Cllr Crow-Brown had been interviewed for an article in The Kent Messenger regarding the recent refusal of the planning application at Foxborough Lane, Minster.

KCC Highways were carrying out a pothole blitz through the county with over 4000 repairs being carried out to date.

There was currently a long delay with blue badge applications. Any resident affected were advised to contact Cllr Crow-Brown who would follow-up the issues direct with the applications team.

b) District Councillors – Cllr Abi Smith was unable to attend the meeting, no report.

c) Parish Councillors – Cllr Ransom and Cllr Kershaw attended the TRRG meeting in which the community resilience plan and speedwatch were discussed.

Cllr Brown attended the Thanet Area Committee meeting. The Sealink project was discussed. A link for the revised plans would be posted on the social media pages.

d) Kent Police – PC Andy Howe was unable to attend the meeting, no report.

22/24-25

RECREATION GROUND & PLAY AREA

a) A written inspection report had been completed by Cllr Bennett. It was noted that a small fire had been set on the safety surfacing which required repairing. The Clerk would contact Playdale and make arrangements for a quote for the works and a site visit by the company because the surfacing appeared to be breaking up in places. The grass which was present on the surface of the matting had been sprayed

Signed..... Date.....

with weedkiller and could be safely removed. Cllr Bennett had adjusted the gate which now closed properly.

b) The Clerk advised that Derek Smith had attended and repaired the damaged fencing, including replacing a small section that was unrepairable. The Foxhunter had not been in touch further with regard to dates for a meeting.

23/24-25

HIGHWAYS

- a) Cllr Kershaw confirmed that TDC Enforcement Officers were still pursuing the landowner regarding the fly-tipped asbestos at the western end of Monkton Street. The situation continued to be monitored and it was suggested that a corporate complaint was raised regarding the length of time taken to remove this hazardous waste.
- b) Concerns regarding the parking along The Street opposite 66 Monkton Street had been raised. Cllr Kershaw advised he had contacted Stagecoach to request data of incidences of delays to the service or vehicular damage. A response was awaited.
- A resident volunteered to speak to the neighbouring properties and ask them to ensure their vehicles were parked considerately.
- The Highways Improvement Plan was to be reviewed and parking issues through the village will then be discussed with the Engagement Officer.
- c) Cllr Kershaw reported that the streetlight adjacent to the Sunningdale site would be repaired by KCC in due course, however, a road closure would be necessary to ensure the safety of the maintenance workers. It had been confirmed that the unstable manhole cover opposite the Sunningdale development had not been adopted by Southern Water, who were reluctant to carry out the repairs. KCC were also not taking responsibility for the manhole, and were therefore in discussions with Southern Water to get the cover repaired. The issue was ongoing and would continue to be monitored.

24/24-25

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE PLAN

Cllr Ransom attended a workshop regarding the requirements to adopt a Community Resilience Plan for the village. TRRG were supportive of the development of a community resilience plan, and the potential collaboration of surrounding villages to combine resources was discussed. It was agreed that a list of vulnerable persons would be useful, and a communication network should be established. Cllr Ransom will continue to work on the Plan and provide an update at the next meeting.

25/24-25

DATES OF THE NEXT MEETINGS

Future Parish Council meetings would be held on 5th Sept (Cllr Brown’s apologies noted) and 7th Nov 2024 in the Village Hall, 7pm.

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

Signed..... Date.....