**Monkton Farleigh Parish Council**

**Minutes**

 **Wednesday 9th August 2023**

**7:00 pm at the Village Hall**

1. Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest

Apologies from: Ele Warrington, Joy Spiers, Andrew Tucker and Tom Firbank

Those attending: Brian Marlow (Vice chair) Jane Ghali (Clerk), Pauline Adams and Rachael Macdonald

Also attending – Liz Wats, Laura Wallace (PCSO) and Johnny Kidney

There were no declarations of interest

1. Minutes of Meeting 12th July 2023

Agreed and signed minutes.

1. Matters Arising
* Parish Council Assets - RM reported that the bench on the road out to the A363 was a gift from the WI and therefore the PC are responsible for its maintenance. Rachel Exley has reported the church are responsible for the bench in the churchyard.
* Defibrillator for *Pinckney Green – JG has submitted an ‘expression of interest’ to the Dept of Health and Social Care £1m defibrillator fund on behalf of the PC.*
* *Winter Preparations – AT reported to JG that he has sufficient salt stores.*
1. Report from Johnny Kidney

*Care Consultation*

*People aged 70* and over are invited to join a face to face session this month to help shape how care is provided in the future. Wiltshire Council is keen for people who are not using care services yet, or have very low level needs, to be part of a discussion that will help to determine future policy and how people prefer to access care.

The session will be held on 25 August at Devizes Football and Rugby Club from 10.30am to 4pm. To encourage more people to attend, there will be free transport available from Salisbury, Trowbridge,

Melksham, Warminster, Malmesbury and Chippenham. Refreshments and lunch will also be provided at the event.

People who would like to book a place on the free transport to the event or would want to know

more can email POSTcommissioning@wiltshire.gov.uk

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*Tree warden scheme*

Following a successful bid for almost £300,000 from a Government fund, Wiltshire Council is relaunching the national Tree Warden scheme in the county. The Council, in partnership with Swindon Borough Council, received a £294,800 grant from the Government’s Forestry Commission and DEFRA Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund. The aim of the fund is to provide local authorities with financial support to bring on board the additional professional expertise they need to drive tree planting and woodland creation commitments. The Tree Warden Scheme is a national initiative led by the Tree Council, and Wiltshire Council is

looking to recruit volunteer Tree Wardens in each Wiltshire town and parish area as well as across the Borough of Swindon. Tree Wardens will work with Wiltshire Council Woodland Officers and act

as local tree champions who help plant, promote and protect trees in appropriate locations in their local area.

Projects that Tree Wardens can be involved in could include:

 Arranging local tree planting days

 Watering and caring for local trees

 Working with the local authorities and community groups to plant and care for street trees

 Rejuvenating local woodlands

 Raising funds and finding land for tree planting projects

 Going into local schools to talk about the value of trees

More information about the Wiltshire tree warden scheme can be found at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/trees-and-woodland-in-wiltshire.

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*Staverton road closure*

Wiltshire Council has announced it will resurface the B3105 in Staverton in spring 2024, once Wessex Water’s extensive works in the area are complete.

The Wessex Water works to replace the water main will begin on Wednesday 26 July and are expected to last for around 21 weeks, with a scheduled finish of mid-December. The B3105 (New

Terrace) will be closed to all vehicles for the duration of the works, which will provide a more reliable and improved water source for the local area for many years to come.

Council engineers will be visiting the site during the excavations to assess the road surface and to determine the best way forward for the resurfacing scheme, which will follow in spring 2024.

Wessex Water is only responsible for reinstatement of the carriageway; Wiltshire Council as the Highways Authority is responsible for the resurfacing of the carriageway.

We’re planning resurface the road in spring 2024, and the main reason for this is that following large-scale utilities works such as these, there can be a need for the utilities company to re-dig parts

of the site to fix an issue - and the last thing we want is to resurface the road, only for it to be dug up again soon afterwards.

Another reason that we’re delaying the resurfacing a little is that the winter weather, particularly rain and sub-zero temperatures, can delay and prevent resurfacing works, and so we’d rather wait

until the spring, and hopefully more favourable weather. When we do start the works next year, we’ll do our best to minimise disruption. However, we don’t yet know the length and timing of any road closure, as this will depend on what our engineers discover about the road surface when they examine Wessex Water’s excavations. We apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause people.

To find out more about the current work by Wessex Water, people should go to: [www.wessexwater.co.uk/news/main-event-will-boost-water-supply-near-trowbridge](http://www.wessexwater.co.uk/news/main-event-will-boost-water-supply-near-trowbridge)

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*Air quality action plan consultation*

Wiltshire Council is asking for people’s feedback on its action plan to help ensure the air quality throughout Wiltshire is safe.

A statutory consultation is now underway on the council’s Air Quality Action Plan, which runs for six weeks until 4 September. Through its Business Plan, Wiltshire Council is committed to Wiltshire being a place where everyone takes responsibility for the environment. As well as transport contributing over a third of all carbon emissions in Wiltshire, it also releases harmful gases that affect the quality of the air. Wiltshire Council monitors air quality across the county to assess the levels of harmful gases in the local environment. This monitoring has shown that the air quality in Wiltshire is very good but in a few heavily trafficked areas they have identified levels of nitrogen dioxide that are too high. Nitrogen dioxide is a product of combustion and in Wiltshire’s case the high levels is being caused by emissions from motor vehicles. The biggest contributors are diesel cars and Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been declared around Wiltshire where the nitrogen dioxide levels are excessive. The council is required by law to produce

an action plan detailing the measures that will be used to reduce levels of nitrogen dioxide in these locations.

The council has produced a summary of its Air Quality Action Plan alongside a more detailed plan to help inform people how it plans to ensure the quality of the air the local population breathes is safe.

The plan contains a list of proposed actions and measures that the council will take to improve air quality, more specifically the reduction in levels of nitrogen dioxide in eight areas in the county

where levels have been found to be excessive.

The Air Quality Action Plan is being consulted on at the same time as the draft Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). This provides an important mechanism to help the council

achieve the aims and objectives of the action plan. Feedback is welcomed on all documents and people are encouraged to complete short surveys. A link to all the documents, including the surveys

to complete, can be found online: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/air-quality-wiltshire

The consultations are open to everyone. A hard copy of the draft Air Quality Action Plan is available in the council’s libraries in towns where Air Quality Management Areas are located. These are Marlborough, Bradford on Avon, Calne, Westbury, Devizes and Salisbury.

*Bradford on Avon Rugby Club*

The club have put in a planning application for a large indoor training facility near Hartley Farm Shop.

1. Finances

There is £10,484.95 in the current account. The refund has been received for the goal posts. JG suggested opening a savings account which would give 0.9% interest. It was agreed that this should be done. **Action JG**

1. Housing development query near Restore

JG has requested information about exactly where this land is and to report back at the next meeting. **Action JG**

1. Football goals Broadstones

Nothing to report. **Action AT and JS**

1. Planting a hedge at Farleigh Rise

JK confirmed that Wiltshire Council agreed that we could use the land for hedge planting adjacent to the play area in Farleigh Rise, but that the PC would be responsible for its maintenance going forward. JK also said the MFPC could take over any other responsibility for the playground area at Farleigh Rise, but it was unanimously agreed that Wiltshire Council should continue to look after this area as the PC don’t have the means to maintain this. BM reported that the hedge planting is likely to happen now in the autumn of 2024 as the application deadline for the saplings has now passed.

1. Funding for play area on Farleigh Rise

AT to contact Restore and Bannerdown Benching and JG to look into playground grants. **Action JG and AT**

1. Stiles and access to local footpaths update

Liz Watts was concerned that the footpath off the road leading to the A363 (opposite the WI bench) wasn’t clearly signposted. She had concerns about the removal of the bollards on the A363 where the path came out by dry arch and links back to the footpath into the Avon Wildlife Trusts’ woods further down the A363. It was suggested that she should speak to Ele Warrington about the village path as she has been the contact with the Cotswold Wardens. Liz also to check if the bollards on the A363 are actually on BANES land.

1. Speed Limits Update

Liz Watts continues to campaign for a reduction in cost of the new speed signs, due to the size of the parish. As some speed signs have already been paid for by the PC, Liz feels that the PC shouldn’t have to pay again for the signs to be changed to a new speed. JK suggests that Liz writes to Caroline Thomas the Cabinet Member for Highways. Thanks to LW for her campaigning and the PC continues to support her in this.

1. Notice Boards and phone box

Neil Evans has been delayed in starting this work, but Tom Firbank has reported that the noticeboard has now been put up in Farleigh Wick.

1. Wiltshire Local Transport Plan LTP4

Some councillors confirmed that they have given comments to this plan

1. Work for the Parish Steward

JG reported that after consulting with Andy Cadwallader that weeds will need to be sprayed in order to get the gutters swept by a road sweeper. The job is too large to be done by the Parish Steward. It was agreed that the weeds should be sprayed on the road leading from the end of Broadstones to the A363 and the road up to Farleigh Rise and The Street should be sprayed so a sweeper can clear them of the weeds and soil build up, allowing water to rind more freely into the drains. It was requested that Farleigh Rise and Broadstones weren’t sprayed. Also, any potholes on the lower road to be filled.

1. Parish Matters

PA would like to thanks the Parish Steward for clearing the footpath down to dry arch.

Laura Wallace, the PSCO, said that she was keen to attend as many things as possible in the village and has been to some coffee mornings. It was suggested to contact the school and church too. Some discussions on parking/speeding issues around the school and nursery. LW will continue to monitor.

1. Date of Next Meeting – suggested **new date of Weds 27th September**. JG to check if VH is free. **Action JG**