**Monkton Farleigh Parish Council**

**Minutes**

 **Thursday 21st September 2023**

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

1. **Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest**

Apologies from: Pauline Adams, Rachael Macdonald and Tom Firbank, Laura Wallace (PCSO)

Those attending: Ele Warrington (Chair), Joy Spiers, Andrew Tucker, Brian Marlow and Jane Ghali (Clerk),

Also attending – Zoe Tinkler (Tree Warden for Monkton Farleigh)

There were no declarations of interest

1. **Minutes of Meeting 6th August 2023**

Agreed and signed minutes.

1. **Matters Arising** – no matters arising that aren’t on agenda
2. **Report from Zoe Tinkler**

Zoe is now the Tree Warden for Monkton Farleigh. The Tree Council has partnered with Wiltshire Council to encourage the management of trees and tree planting. There is currently only 14% tree cover in Wiltshire and the aim is 17% (national average). Tree wardens work with the parish, local businesses and land owners.

Zoe would find it useful to have a Parish Map. **Action JG and BM**

Zoe asked about insurance JG to check. **Action JG**

Zoe will also be working on the **hedge planting project at Farleigh Rise**. The PC had asked Wiltshire Council about permission for hedge planting and they have replied with documents to hand over ownership of the play area at Farleigh Rise to the PC rather than it being with Wiltshire Council. EW will email Mike Dawson from Wiltshire Council and ask him and Johnny Kidney to come to the next PC meeting on Wednesday 8th November to discuss. JG to send emails to EW. **Action JG and EW**

1. **Report from Johnny Kidney**

**WILTHSIRE LOCAL PLAN REVIEW CONSULTATION**

As mentioned at previous meetings, consultation on the emerging Local Plan review will shortly be getting under way.

A Local Plan sets out a vision and a framework for the future development of an area, in this case Wiltshire. It is drawn up by a Local Planning Authority in consultation with its community, providing a platform for local people to shape their future surroundings. It is one of the most important documents produced by Wiltshire Council.

The consultation for the Wiltshire Local Plan begins on Wednesday 27 September and runs until 22 November, with in-person and an online event being held across the county to enable people to find out more and have their say.

Wiltshire Council is holding 16 drop-in events at libraries and leisure centres around Wiltshire and a live webinar-style event on Thursday 10 October from 6:30 – 8pm on Microsoft Teams.

The in-person events are informal drop-in sessions where people can meet officers and find out more about the Local Plan and how to respond to the consultation. The online session will feature a presentation, followed by an opportunity to ask questions; people should sign up for the online event beforehand on the council website.

IN PERSON EVENT FOR OUR AREA – Monday 2 October 3pm to 7pm

Bradford on Avon Library, Bridge Street, Bradford on Avon BA15 1BY

You can find more information about the Local Plan and the forthcoming consultation, as well as register for the webinar, here:

[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19-autumn-2023](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/article/8048/Current-consultation-Reg-19-autumn-2023)

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**SPEED LIMIT REVIEW**

Following the previous meeting, I have written to Wiltshire Council’s cabinet member for highways to request that Monkton Farleigh Parish Council not be required to fund those elements of the speed limit changes that we feel to be rectifying errors made in the previous review and signage scheme. I will keep Liz and the PC updated on any outcomes from this.

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**DROP IN EVENT FOR DYSLEXIA AWARENESS WEEK**

People wanting to know more about dyslexia support and advice available can come along to a drop in event at County Hall on 5 October from 11am-6pm.

The event is being held during national Dyslexia Awareness Week, which runs from 2 - 8 October, and aims to raise awareness of dyslexia and challenge common misconceptions.

The event is free to attend and people are welcome to drop in at any time throughout the session.

The event is open to anyone interested in dyslexia and will include workshops for parents/carers and school staff. People are invited to stop by and chat to experts and listen to speakers on a range of topics on dyslexia.

People can use the event to also find out about:

• Wiltshire dyslexia friendly schools

• Support and advice for families and where to go for help

• The work of Wiltshire Specialist Special Educational Needs Service (SSENS)

• Dyslexia books and resources available to borrow

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**COUNCIL FINANCES**

With the recent news regarding Birmingham City Council’s financial problems, and other Councils also facing severe financial challenges, Wiltshire Council has recently published an update on its financial position which indicates that we are in a much stronger position than most and that finances are being prudently managed.

The council has published its first quarter revenue and capital monitoring positions, which informs on its financial forecasts for the year.

At the end of the first quarter there is a small forecast overspend of around £0.3m which equates to less than 0.1% of the budget.

More than £26m of savings were identified to be made during 2023/24 and, at the end of the first quarter, more than £6.2m has already been achieved (around 24%) with a further £15.7m on track to be delivered (around 60%). The council will continue to robustly monitor its finances and focus on the delivery of savings. The council has taken a long-term strategic approach to its budget, which included effectively setting the next three years' budgets in February, and this means it is in a stronger position to respond positively to any unexpected issues.

The council has also provided an update on its monitoring of the capital budget for quarter one of the financial year. Overall, the capital programme for the year stands at approximately £189m. It is likely the budget will change throughout the year as it's common for timeframes on major capital projects to evolve, particularly taking into consideration the scale, logistics and complexity of the work typically involved - made even more so by the unpredictable nature of inflation at this time.

Traditionally, the council's average annual capital spend has been more than £100m per year. So far in 2023/24, more than £26m of the capital budget has been spent. Some of the council's capital projects include:

* Ongoing development of Silverwood School
* Carbon reduction measures at council properties
* Building new council houses
* Drainage improvements
* Major road improvements
* Salisbury and Trowbridge Future High Street projects
* Continued development of new leisure centre in Trowbridge and other leisure projects

The updates were presented at Wiltshire Council's cabinet meeting on 12 September 2023. The full reports can be found at Cabinet agenda.

**EXTRA £10m TO BE SPENT ON ROAD IMPROVEMENTS**

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet has agreed to invest a further £10m over the next two years into maintaining and resurfacing the county's roads.

The £10m of extra funding, which is on top of the £14m the council will spend this financial year on highways maintenance, is being funded through the council's capital funding programme. The additional money will be spent on preventative maintenance and a road resurfacing programme including small, local repairs to the highways; verge repairs on rural roads and materials support to volunteers working on public rights of way. Work on potholes will continue in parallel, with £2m existing funds and the government's recent £3.6m additional grant.

It is intended that the preventative investment will reduce the number of potholes forming on the road network, mitigate the risk of further deterioration; improve road safety across the county for all road users; improve customer satisfaction and reduce the number of highway defect reports to the council, which will save officer time by reducing the number of ad-hoc inspections required and expensive reactive works.

The programme of work will begin with identifying the roads due to be resurfaced and giving area boards the opportunity to comment, before the work programme begins in earnest from April 2024 until the end of 2025.

1. **Planning Application No: PL/2023/06979 Application Type: Full planning permission Proposal: Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling**

**Site Address: 37A, MONKTON FARLEIGH, BRADFORD ON AVON, BA15 2QD**

There were no objections to this planning application.

1. **Application No: PL/2023/06738 Application Type: Full planning permission Proposal: Erection of a detached garage, with home office over.**

**Site Address: Cottles Barn, Farleigh Wick, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2PU**

There were some objections to this planning based on its size and not being in keeping. PC requested that they come speak to the PC at the next meeting or EW and BM will go and do a site visit. If neither option is available the PC will ask Johnny Kidney to ‘call-in’ the planning. JG to email planners. **Action JG**

1. **Finances**

There is £10,251.82 in the current account. Only expense in August was the Clerk’s salary.

1. **Housing development query near Restore**

The Clerk hadn’t received any more information on this from Mr Backhurst, the person who owns the land.

1. **Football goals Broadstones**

Hope to put some scaffolding posts up to act as goal posts. **Action AT**

1. **Funding for play area on Farleigh Rise**

AT to contact Restore and Bannerdown Benching and JG to look into playground grants. EW also spoke to the owner of Blackberries campsite. **Action JG and AT**

1. **Stiles and access to local footpaths update**

Next project on hold by Cotswold Wardens while waiting for the surveys to check any wires. EW to email Sir Charles about possibility of kissing gates where possible to give better access to footpaths around village. This could include access in to the avenue (where the footpath is due to be fenced off). **Action EW**

1. **Speed Limits Update**

See update above form Johnny Kidney. EW has written to Kirsty Rose about 2 cats being killed on the road and encouraging this project to move forward. JG has also contacted Kirsty about the SLOW sign which still hasn’t been painted at the junction on the A363

1. **Notice Boards and phone box**

The new noticeboards have now been put up at Farleigh Wick, outside the school and at Farleigh Rise. The painting of the outside of the phone box has also been completed. Agreed to pay Neil Evans £584 for phone box and £533 for noticeboards.

1. **School funding request for outdoor classroom**

All agreed to give the school some money for the outdoor classroom. Will agree sum as next meeting, when other expenses for this year are clearer.

1. **Work for the Parish Steward**

Leaves, trimming any bushes that obstruct pathways, check if weed killing was done in gutters, so that street cleaner can come. **Action JG**

1. **Parish Matters**
* Zip wire at Farleigh Rise needs tightening. JG to contact Sally Rowe to see who did this last time. **Action JG**
* Ask Laura Wallace to start ticketing cars parked at junction with Broadstones, notices have been issued, but dangerous parking prohibiting view to turn out still continues. **Action JG**
* Joy Spiers tendered her resignation as a Parish Councillor, she was thanked for all of her hard work on the PC.
* Concern was raised by local resident about overgrown hedges at entrance to Broadstones. **Action EW to ask TF to contact**
* Selwood Housing has contacted residents in Farleigh Rise offering alternative accommodation in Trowbridge/Frome.
1. **Date of Next Meeting –** **Weds 8th November 2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall**