**Monkton Farleigh Parish Council**

**Minutes**

 **Wednesday 13th December 2023**

Those attending: Parish Council - Ele Warrington (Chair), Rachael MacDonald, Andrew Tucker, Pauline Adams, Jane Ghali (Clerk) and Tom Firbank. Parishioner – Colin Exley

1. **Apologies** - Zoe Tinkler. There were no Declarations of Interest
2. **Minutes of Meeting 8th November 2023** – agreed and signed
3. **Matters Arising** – most matters arising that are on the agenda. TF reported that he hadn’t found anyone so far who would collecting milk bottle tops for charity, but he would continue looking. **Action TF**
4. **Report from Police Community Support Office (PCSO)** - absent
5. **Report from Zoe Tinkler** – Monkton Farleigh’s Tree Warden - absent
6. **Report from Johnny Kidney** (absent but information emailed for the meeting)

**Christmas 2023 opening times for Wiltshire Council services**

All council services and facilities will be closed on Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January.

**Customer Services/hub buildings:**

All customer service desks and hub buildings will be closed on Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December and Monday 1 January.

Opening times for Wednesday 27 December - Friday 29 December will be 9am to 5pm. Although the main reception desks will be staffed during this period, hub staffing is likely to be limited.

Normal opening hours will resume from Tuesday 2 January.

**Waste collections:**

There will be no household waste or recycling collections on Monday 25 December, Tuesday 26 December, or Monday 1 January, after which normal service will resume. See full details and dates on the council’s household waste and kerbside recycling pages - <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-waste>

<https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/recycling>

Garden waste collections will cease for two weeks over Christmas, with the last collections will take place on Friday 22 December. The service will resume from Tuesday 9 January, where the collection day will be a day later than normal, starting with collections which would normally have taken place on Monday 8 January. For full details and collection dates, see the garden waste collections page - <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/gardenwaste>

People who pay to have their garden waste collected can put out their real Christmas tree alongside their garden waste bin, on their first collection in January.

Residents can check all their waste, recycling, and garden waste collection days on the Waste collection calendar - <https://ilforms.wiltshire.gov.uk/WasteCollectionDays/index>

**Household Recycling Centres:**

Household Recycling Centres (HRC) will operate reduced hours over the Christmas period, from Sunday 24 December, resuming normal opening hours on Tuesday 2 January.

**Leisure centres:**

All council operated leisure centres will be closed Monday 25 December to Tuesday 26 December, plus Monday 1 January. For opening times for each individual leisure centre over the Christmas period, please visit the centre webpage: <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-leisure-and-sport-centres>

Normal opening times will resume from Tuesday 2 January.

**Libraries:**

All libraries, including the mobiles libraries, will be closed Monday 25 December to Tuesday 26 December, and Monday 1 January.

Between 27 December - 30 December they will open as normal, with the exception that libraries that would normally be open in the evening will close at 5pm, or as usual if due to close earlier. Information, including the variations for individual libraries, can be found at <https://apps.wiltshire.gov.uk/librariesinformation>

Normal opening times will resume from Tuesday 2 January.

**Community Orchards funding**

Wiltshire Council has been successful in being awarded £50,000 for community orchards as part of a new Government tree planting initiative, which celebrates this year's Coronation of King Charles III.

The Government's Coronation Living Heritage Fund is a £2.5m pot that supports local tree planting projects across England.

The council has been allocated the maximum amount of money available for community orchards and is looking to allocate these funds to communities to encourage as many community orchards across the county as possible.

The fund will support the purchase of trees, protection measures and establishment costs as well as commemorative signage. Planting will take place in autumn/winter 2024-5, allowing plenty of time to plan the orchard appropriately. Coronation Living Heritage Orchards can be on private or public land as long as there is community involvement. The council aims to use this opportunity to develop green skills including orchard maintenance and traditional wood craft techniques, as well as to encourage orchard celebrations such as wassails and apple pressing days.

Although the council's Coronation Heritage Living Fund application process is under development, it is happy to receive any expressions of interest from local communities interested in community orchards at GAPS@wiltshire.gov.uk.

It was agreed that the information on Community Orchards should be sent to Zoe Tinkler for consideration. **Action JG**

**7. Finances** – JG presented the accounts. There is currently £8,387.78 in the account. Money was put into the budget this year for changes to the road speed signs. These changes have been slower than anticipated and therefore spend has been lower than predicted this year.

**8. Planning Application Ref PL/2023/09698 - 43 Broadstones, Monkton Farleigh, Bradford on Avon, BA15 2QA** Proposal: Construction of new front porch with dormer window over. No objections. Clerk to put response to Wiltshire Council. **Action JG**

**9. New pay scale for Parish Clerk** - There’s a new pay scale for Clerks just announced by NALC (National Association of Local Councils), it was agreed new to pay scale for the Monkton Farleigh Parish Clerk (pay scale SCP 15) from £13.45 per hour to £14.45 per hour. Parish Clerk salary will therefore increase from £233.13 to £250.47 per month. It was agreed to back date this to April 2023 in accordance with the recommendations. Agreed to backdated pay of £138.72.

**10. Parish Councillor vacancy** – there have been no requests for an election for either vacancy, so new councillors can be co-opted onto the Parish Council. The PC are mindful that all areas of the village need to be represented. It was agreed to contact Elliot McBride in Farleigh Rise, who is interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. JG to get information on co-opting new Parish Councillors. **Action JG**

**11. Precept for 2024/25** – another meeting was agreed to be scheduled, for Wednesday 10th January to discuss further. Information and a precept calculator have been emailed. Parish Councillor have been asked to consider precept/budget for the next meeting. **Action: All Parish Councillors**

**12. RoSPA playground report Oct 2023** – agreed to consider next year whether just to use Playdale to inspect the two pieces of play equipment owned by the Parish Council at Farleigh Rise, rather than paying RoSPA to inspect all equipment, some of which is owned by Wiltshire Council. The PC thinks that Broadstones play area is inspected by Idverde. JG to check. **Action JG**

**13**. **Playdale quote for zipwire maintenance –** Agreed last meeting to go ahead with this. **Action JG**

**14**. **Football goals Broadstones** – AT reported that the post should be 12ft x 6ft. AT to progress. **Action AT**

**15**. **Street light timings in Broadstones** – discussion on pros and cons of turning street lights off during the night, agreed that there are different opinions on the matter. Suggest if an individual street light is interfering with a resident’s sleep they could contact Wiltshire Council through the My Wilts app.

**16. Funding for play area on Farleigh Rise** – JG to look for grants, AT to chase Bannerdown Benching and Restore about sponsorship – **Action JG and AT**

**17. Hedge planting/transfer of land ownership update** – unfortunately Mike Dawson wasn’t able to attend this meeting. JG to ask him to next meeting and Councillors asked to prepare questions in advance for him. Need to ask about maintenance and what would happen if the PC couldn’t maintain it. JG to contact Box and Westwood PC to ask about their play areas. **Action JG and all Parish Councillors**

**18. Defibrillator update** – Agreed to still try and get funding for defibrillator at Pinckney Green and check costs of one installed at Farleigh Rise. **Action JG**

**19. Stiles and access to local footpaths update**. RM met with Barry Cox (Cotswold Warden) and Vicky Roscoe (Countryside Access) about access onto the footpath between Church Farm and the Church. Highways are responsible for 1m from the road, so it’s now being dealt with by Highways.

**20.** **Speed Limits Update/Slow sign on A363** – nothing has been heard from Kirsty Rose, PA to chase. **Action PA**

**21. School funding request for outdoor classroom** – it was agreed to donate £500 to the Churchfields outdoor classroom, on the condition that the money was used at the Monkton Farleigh site. JG to contact school to arrange payment. **Action JG**

**22. Work for the Parish Steward** – Steward had attended today, agreed in advance to ask about drains in the street, potholes in Rushmead Lane and bottom lane and leaves around the village. It was thought that although some potholes had been filled, there were still plenty of holes. Blocked drains need to reported through the My Wilts app and JG to check dates of visits in 2024. **Action JG**

**23. Correspondence** - updates on planning applications:

* Application Ref PL/2023/06738. Cottles Barn, Farleigh Wick. Erection of a detached garage, with home office over. Decision: Withdrawn by Applicant
* Application Ref: PL/2023/04121. Address: Paddock House, 8 Farleigh Wick. To install 14 solar PV panels across two different roofs. Decision: withdrawn by applicant.
* Application Ref PL/2023/06979 - 37A, Monkton Farleigh. Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling. Decision: Approve with Conditions.

JG had contacted LCB (Selwood’s contractor) about the rebuilding of the **dry-stone** **wall behind 1 Broadstones**. It’s on the list, Job no: 1022571. JG keep calling until it gets done. **Action JG**

**24. Parish Matters**

* JG was asked to contact Johnny Kidney with a link to the survey that’s been done on a pedestrian bridge in Bradford on Avon. **Action JG**
* JG to put MyWilts app info on website and village MFPC WhatsApp**. Action JG**
* Father Christmas will be coming to the village on Christmas Eve to visit the children. He’ll start at the King’s Arms at 6pm, then go to Farleigh Rise, The Street and Broadstones in that order.
* PA met a visually impaired person walking down The Street who was struggling to walk along the pavement due to parked cars. This is also an issue for people pushing pushchairs. Some discussion followed regarding the width of the road not allowing cars to park on the street without blocking access for emergency vehicles/tractors/oil deliveries/other cars etc. JG to email the PCSO for advice. **Action JG**
* Colin Exley announced that a new Rector has been appointed, Katie Jackson, who is local to the area, will be taking up her post at the end of February.
* Planning permission – there was some discussion about planning and if buildings were erected outside of the agreed planning consent then they should be ‘called in’ by the Parish Council.
* Agreed Andrew Tucker as the Deputy Chair of the Parish Council.

**25. Date of Next Meeting** – Wednesday 10th January 2023.

**Proposed dates for 2024**: All Wednesdays at 7pm in the Village Hall – 10 Jan, 21 Feb, 27 March, 8 May, 19 June, 31 July, 11 Sept, 23 Oct and 4 Dec.

Please note that due to a change in bookings, the VH is now available on Wednesdays throughout the month.