

Minutes of the Monxton Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 8th October 2024, 7.30pm at Thruxton Village Hall

Present: Cllr Mike Cleugh – Chairman
Cllr Hugh Corroon -Vice Chairman
Cllr Rupert Staines
Cllr Camilla Elwell
Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
HCC C Donnelly
TVBC Mrs M Flood
0 Members of the Public

Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Cathy Barbone & TVBC S Hasselman.

1.WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Register of interest forms.

All Councillors present confirmed there were no amendments required to register of interest documents.

3.PUBLIC PARTICIPATION.

There were no members of public present.

7.MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chairman agreed to sign the minutes of the previous meetings of 9th July 2024 as a true record. All agreed.

4.VILLAGE HALL REBUILD UPDATE

Cllr Cleugh confirmed the build is progressing well and summarised the financial position as follows

- Current spend to date - £444,387
- Balance to be paid to Huttons £35,613
- Current estimated shortfall approx. £30K
- CIL grant claimed £345,000 balance zero
- CAF grant claimed £25,000 balance zero
- New grant applications submitted
- SSE – solar equipment £17,345.00 100% funding
- CAF - solar equipment £17,345.00 (50% matched funding)
- REPF – ASHP grant awarded £7824.52 (75%) total £10,432.69
- REPF Kitchen, Tiles, Lighting £17225 (75%) Total £23,000

The headline figure was a shortfall of approx. £30,000.00. A lengthy debate took place about increasing the precept to meet this in both Amport and Monxton. This would be reflected in an increase in council tax to each household in the parishes of approx. £50.00 per household. The precept would be reduced in following years. Cllr Cleugh will discuss this with Amport Parish Council to establish if they will support this.

The Clerk summarised the village hall management finance as below

Village Hall Bank Reconciliation

Held in Barclays account at 7th October

Current account £727.04

Savings account £36.42

All funds have now moved to new Lloyds Account the signatories are Mike Cleugh & Chris Harris as trustees of the Village Hall charity. Once a treasurer is found they will be added to this account.

5.PLANNING.

Applications since previous meeting: -

1. 24/01655/TREEN- tree works, The Willows, High Street- no objections
2. 24/01812/TREEN-tree works-Millcroft, Chalkpit Lane-no objections

Applications to be considered

1. None

Confirmation of outcome from TVBC

1. 23/01104/FULLN- change of use of rear of Black Swan, High Street-withdrawn

6.SUNNYBANK & FOOTPATHS

Cllr Barbone reported as follows

Sunnybank-Nothing to report

- **Footpaths -**
- The lengthsman continues to cut the village green and the last cut is anticipated at the end of Oct as the grass is still growing quite fast.
- The footpaths are due to be cut towards the end of October ready for the winter.
- Hedges around the horse paddocks continue to be an issue until the farmer cuts them People using the footpaths are doing some work with snippers to cut back brambles etc. so the path is at least passable.
- The bank opposite the village hall has been cut back.
- The Parish Council will need to discuss at the next meeting whether the role of lengthsman needs to be advertised for next season The current lengthsman is currently happy to continue.
- The Clerk confirmed she will continue to run the lengthsman cluster via another Parish Council and that provided funding is available Monxton will still receive £1000 funding. Quarterly reports of spending will need to be provided to the cluster lead.

7.TRAFFIC MONITORING

Cllr Elwell produced a report having downloaded the data from the speed awareness camera from 6th June 2024. This indicated there was approximately 40% of traffic exceeding the 30mph limit but only by approximately 4 MPH. There were still occasions of one vehicle exceeding the limit by a very large amount but generally this was happening during the middle of the night. The highest speed recorded was 80MPH.

8 ENVIRONMENT

Cllr Cleugh reported The Pillhill Brook Association has a new website on which updates will be posted.

He said tankers had been seen in the village recently but these have been deployed in response to flooding at Abbots Ann. Concerns regarding groundwater levels which are rapidly rising were noted.

9.FINANCE

To note balance in Lloyds bank as at 30/09/24

Treasurers account £2271.01

Instant online £70893.73

Resolved: that the following payments be approved and transactions authorised

Payments to agree-

Clerks' salary £154.93 per month and HMRC £38.80 payments by SO Sep & Oct

Huttons Village Hall- £36112.12

Payments to be made

Clerks' expenses (July to Oct) £80.63

Clerk final salary £71.53

HMRC £17.88

Additional hours re V Hall treasurer £158.96

Shaun Rushton £157.50

BDO auditor £756.00

H Bourner one.com fees £64.69

Cllr Cleugh proposed a further £10000 of funds belonging to the Parish Council be used for the Village Hall build. This was seconded by Cllr Corroon. All agreed.

Audit Action Plan

The Clerk confirmed, following the internal audit a report she had now set up a dedicated Parish Council website on the Hugo Fox platform.

A dedicated email service had also been set up on the one.com platform and all Councilors were asked to use this for Parish Council business going forward.

A full response from the external auditor had now been received and matters of note were the lack of financial risk assessments, the lack of publication of audit documents, the lack of dedicated email service and the lack of a website where information can be reviewed, all of which have now been rectified but will need to be updated in order that audit are satisfied.

Admin Report

Cllr Cleugh noted the resignation of the Clerk and said that at present a replacement had not been found. He proposed the Parish Council join HALC which was seconded by Cllr Corroon. All agreed. The Clerk will obtain a quote. This will enable to Parish Council to use their recruitment facilities.

In the mean time the current clerk agreed to maintain financial records and make VAT claims after her leaving date up to the end of the financial year or until a new clerk is employed if earlier. She will record hours worked and invoice the Parish Council. She will also help to train a new clerk on the same basis. Cllr Cleugh will deal with any other Parish Council business until this time. She highlighted no meetings in 2025 have yet been organised.

Asset of Community Value Application (Right to Bid)

Cllr Cleugh highlighted the community right to bid documentation regarding the village green which had been circulated to all councillors. He confirmed this was now complete and he proposed this now be submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Corroon, all agreed.

14.BOROUGH & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

HCC Chris Donnelly explained 86% of their funding is spent on children's services and social care which leaves a small amount of funding for everything else. He confirmed discussions are now taking place with several bodies to consider how the situation can be alleviated.

TVBC Councillor Maureen Flood explained that TVBC are hoping to help some residents with a small heating allowance who are just above the limits for pension credits and have lost the allowance from central government. She highlighted a recent scam which had emerged where a text message is sent demanding payments for parking fines. She said neither HCC or TVBC would use this method if a fine was raised.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter from Lloyds bank regarding a reduction in interest rates.

16.Items for next meeting

There were no items noted for the next agenda

17.CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The meeting close at 9pm

18.DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The date and location of the next meeting is to be agreed but will be advertised on the Parish Council website.

