

Bishop Monkton

Annual Parish Meeting

Held Tuesday 7th May 2024 in the Methodist Hall
at 7.00pm.

MINUTES

2024/APM01 To confirm the Chairman for the meeting.

It was agreed that Vice Chairman Cllr Sheila Parsons will chair the Annual Parish Meeting 2024.

2024/APM02 To receive a report from the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council.

The chairman gave a report, copy attached to the minutes for reference.

202/APM03 To receive a report from on behalf of the Bishop Monkton Village Hall Committee.

A report had been submitted by Gerald Shervington who gave his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting. This was read out on his behalf. A copy is attached to the minutes for reference.

It was also noted that the Parish Council are looking at an upgrade on the childrens' play area located at the village hall.

2024/APM04 To receive a report from Martin Minnett on behalf of BMAG.

The development at the crossroads and the static caravan site were both withdrawn. The 23 houses at Church Farm was refused twice in summer 2023 due to impact on infrastructure and the church being in a conservation area. Kebble homes appealed to the Inspector. There are different levels of appeal. Unfortunately the inspector decided this was to be the lowest level, a paper exercise. Closing date was 14th November for comments. Additional comments were submitted after this date due to floods occurring in the village. Sewage plants have to submit reports on the level of sewage bypassing the plants and going into the Ure. The report for 2023 was the worst it had ever been. This has also been noted by the Inspector.

2024/APM05 To receive a report from Kenneth Barker on behalf of Bishop Monkton Flood Wardens and their work in the community.

The beck and flood committee have had a meeting with the EA and another one is scheduled shortly. It was highlighted the consequence on flooding in the village and the effect this has on properties affected by this. It was suggested that a sign be installed to advise drivers not to go through if the floods are above a certain point due to the effect this has on the properties affected. It was noted that there is a website, 'river levels' which gives 15 minute updates on flood risk areas.

2024/AMP06 To receive an update from Sue Edmond on behalf of Bishop Monkton Community First Responders.

Community responder on behalf of YAS. Have to work within their policies and procedures. There can be a time delay depending on where an ambulance is dispatched from. The first responders are not allowed to attend anyone under the age of 8 years nor traumatic events (violence/drugs/drink). The theory is that the first responder is local and can be on the scene more quickly and give immediate assistance. There is a recruitment drive at the moment for anyone wishing to volunteer in this role. There is initial training plus ongoing continuous training and an annual exam re-sit. Commitment is minimum 5 hours per week.

2024/APM07 To receive a report on behalf of the Bishop Monkton History Group.

It is vibrant and thriving. Purpose is to research, safeguard and share the history of the village and surrounding areas. Aim is to do at least 4 talks per year and 2 visits. In the last few years a film has been made about the history of the pubs, jubilee celebrations, a living history of the pandemic, created the history board, and are about to look into the history of education in the village. Bishop Monkton Yesterday is the main way that information is shared on anything the history group researches or receives.

2024/APM08 To receive a report from Colin Philpott on bishop Monkton website.

The current editor of the website is stepping down from the role and taking a well deserved retirement. A few residents have agreed that the website needs to be kept alive and in the same ethos. 95% of the content is non controversial, however it is inevitable that there will be some controversial content. It is felt that it is important to keep it running. It has been decided that 2 things need to change; more contributors of the material and more editorial responsibility rather than been left to one person. Investigations are taking place as to whether there could be access for certain groups to input their own content, ie, sports clubs, village entertainments etc. Investigations are taking place into more people to assist in running the website and a new site completely as the current one is out of date.

2024/APM09 To receive reports from any other groups in the village.

It was reported that the Solar farm application is still live as in it hasn't been agreed yet. Lots of questions have been raised but are not been suitably responded to. The actual site is the size of 100 football pitches. Flooding is a major concern. Security is also a major issue. How is the site going to be maintained. How long is the development going to take. The developer have no experience in this area and have only one other site of this nature which is still in the development stage.

2024/APM010 Public Open Forum.

- A member of the public stated that the parish council meetings have deteriorated in the last year and would say that members should not approve the minutes of the last meeting as they are factually incorrect. This was supported by two other members of the public.
- The building work was noted at the Lamb and Flag and it was requested that all the footpaths and Roads be cleaned. It was reported that this is difficult because of the parked cars. Cllr Parsons requested that residents complained directly to NYC and explained how to use the website.
- The waste bin at end of Ings Lane was mentioned in respect of the emptying. IT was reported that the gentleman who has carried out the task has now retired from this. Comeone has been emptying it but if this has ceased then the parish council will remove it as it is their bin. Cllr Parson to send a message to Bishop Monkton Today asking for a notice to be put out requesting a volunteer to undertake this task. If no one comes forward then the bin will be removed.

The meeting concluded at 20.47pm

PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

The first thing I would like to do is to pay tribute to Tony Garnett who has retired after 8 years service. Tony was an amazing councilor who worked hard to serve the village. His knowledge and expertise will be sadly missed. Thank you Tony.

This of course leaves an opening for a new councilor which we badly need.

I will leave the report on housing and sewage to the Members of BMAG who are here.

The most important thing we have achieved is that we have met with Highways to talk about road safety on Knaresborough Road. They were very concerned. However a lot of the problem is that they just have not got the money. However we discussed rumble strips and VAS signs, They are hopefully going to install the strips and also change the white lines at the crossroads so there is a little more visibility' We can also have VAS signs but we will have to pay for them At least £3,000 each! However our local councillor has offered some financial help with this They are also going to install WARNING PEDESTRIAN signs on Moor road
As you probably know there will be no 20mph anywhere now.

One important thing we have achieved is the replacement handrail on the little bridge. Thank you Gordon and Brian for all your help. The bridge is now safe and we have had many compliments about it

In no particular order, this year we have achieved the following.

We have paid for the repair of the clock on the Mechanics Institute, as it is in its deeds that the Parish Council are responsible for its upkeep

We have helped the History Society fund their proposed site map and are helping them to find the best position for it

We have paid for the clearance of the rubbish from the beck. I would like to give a big thank you to the volunteers who did a great job in clearing it. They have their own committee now

We have compensated David Ralphs for his work in looking after the Memorial in Church

We have donated some money to Helen Bagnall for Hedgehog boxes as part of our diversity policy

We are paying for the defibrillator pads for the station outside the Masons. A big Thank you to Sue Edmond who looks after it.

We have installed a new village sign on Roecliffe Road, and cleaned up the other signs there

And last but not least we put up the Christmas tree and lights and looked after it. Again we must thank Councillor Brown for funding for the lights, I would like to thank him here for all the work he has helped us achieve.

Some matters are ongoing.

Although we have had some paths cleared, we are still not getting any response from the chicken company people. This is one of the things that is hampering the proposed Coronation Walk.

The missing sign from St Johns Road is still missing, but its replacement is in hand

We are still reporting missing lights and potholes, with I am afraid a mixed result

We are trying to communicate better with parishioners, and we have had some positive comments. We are all villagers and all want the best for Bishop Monkton

Parish Open meeting 7th May 2024

Good evening

I'm sorry that I cannot attend this meeting in person to deliver this report.

Overall, the Village Hall and the sports clubs it houses are doing very well; however it was very sad to see BEMEG fold this year. We have seen some fantastic performances over the years, and it is hoped that at some point it reforms.

Similarly, our cricket club is experiencing some difficulties with fielding a full team, the management of the cricket team have approached Harrogate and been able to 'loan' some players to ensure that we can compete this year.

Once the rains stop, we hope that our sporting groups will be enjoying some fantastic playing surfaces this year and our thanks must go to all the unpaid volunteers that take time out of the busy schedules and put the hours in up at the hall, quite simply it would fall apart without these kind people; they really are that important.

And whilst some of our clubs may be full, they will never be 'full' to villagers, so if you fancy trying out bowls, croquet, tennis etc then please get in touch.

The annual Hog Roast will be upon us very shortly and I would like to thank Stancey Coughlan for organising it this year, I'm sure the sun will shine, the hog roast sandwiches hot and tasty and the beer cold!

Moving to finance. Financially; we find ourselves in rude health, we have over £65,000 in the banks and this is after the purchase of a refurbished Ransome triple mower at a cost of £12,000.

I would also like to congratulate Richard Field and his team for running a very professional and up to date web site service and secondly; wish him and Pat a very long retirement. Over the past 20 years Richard and Pat have worked tirelessly to produce a very professional web site, enabling villages to access the most up to date village news, one million, three hundred thousand viewings is testament to how successful the web site has been. They have now decided to retire and move out of the village. The Village Hall management committee would like to thank them both for the huge contribution they have made over these 20 years.

And as last year, I would also like to congratulate Angela Archbold who took it upon herself to create our very own facebook page which now boasts over 700 members and enjoys multiple daily posts.

Finally, in my Chairmans report in January of this year I reported that after 15 years both Lesley will be stepping down in our respective roles, interest has been shown by a villager in the chairman's role, however we do need a person or persons to step forward and cover Lesley's roles of booking clerk and secretary.

The Village Hall is in a good place, and we can rest assured that it is very well positioned to prosper going forward.

Gerald Shervington
Chairman BMVH & QEII Field