# Monkton Combe Parish Council Newsletter

## Annual Report 2024-2025

(This document and a comprehensive range of Monkton Combe Parish Council documents can be found on our website:- monktoncombe-pc.gov.uk)

There were no Parish Council elections this year and Councillors Lyn Alvis, James Bradby, Adelle Brenner, Charlie Carr, Penny Tranter, Mike Wareham, and Des Wighton all continued. Cllr. Des Wighton was elected as Chair, and Cllr. Mike Wareham was elected as Vice Chair at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 14th May 2024. Cllr. Charles Carr resigned as councillor following the meeting on 14th January 2025 having moved away from the Parish.
The vacancy having been duly advertised Mark Womersley was co-opted as Councillor at the meeting on the 11th March 2025.

**Parish Councillors and their individual responsibilities** (to be reviewed and agreed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on 13th May).

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| Lyn Alvis | Neighbourhood Watch, Bath Preservation Trust Representative, B&NES Parishes liaison, Village Bus Service; Village Sweeper Truck |
| James Bradby | Church liaison, Village Signs – footpaths, roads etc., Footpaths and Bridleways Rights of Access and Stiles, and Hedgerows and Verges, Planning |
| Adelle Brenner | Road Safety, Public Seating and benches, and School Liaison |
| Penny Tranter | Footpaths and Bridleways, Rights of Access and Stiles, and Hedgerows and Verges |
| Mark Womersley | Road Safety, Roads and Highways |
| Mike Wareham | Vice Chairman Gullies and Drainage, Bus Shelter, Planning, ALCA Representative |
| Des Wighton - Chairman | Planning Applications, policy and consultation, Parish Plan, Village Hall liaison, Village Hall Car Park and Garden, Village Playground – health safety and maintenance, Village Lock-up, Mill Lane Phone Box |
| Geoff Davis – Clerk | Responsible Financial Officer, Parish Notice Boards and Communication |

**Meetings**
The Parish Council met on 6 occasions during the period 2024-2025 which were 6 meetings of the Full Council. The meeting on the 14th May 2024 was the Annual Parish Council Meeting. All meetings were held in the Village Hall, fully open to the public to attend.
The Annual Parish Meeting or Meeting of Electors took place on 16th April 2024 in the Village Hall.
Councillors also attended occasional other meetings with other Parish Councils and B&NES at joint forums and with related organisations such as The Bath Preservation Trust.

**Planning**
During the year we have considered a number of different planning applications for works in or near the Parish. We only comment on purely 'Planning' grounds, using Local and National planning policies for guidance which still support the purposes of Green Belts and AONBs. Comments have usually been agreed via e-mail, with as much consultation with residents as possible.
Of particular note is the development of four dwellings in the Mount Pleasant Quarry. The Parish Council has received a payment in respect of the Community Infrastructure Levy on the development, and expects to receive two further such payments. This is detailed in the Finance section below.

**Village Cleaning**
The Parish Council has employed Elise Rowley as the new Village Sweeper to keep our public footpaths maintained and the village clean and clear of litter. She is performing an excellent service to the Parish and we are very pleased with her diligent and hard work, and a huge vote of thanks is extended to her.

**Footpaths and Open Spaces Maintenance**
The Parish Council employs Jeff Avis Garden Services to keep the village car park area, Miss Davies's Garden, and the playground mown and maintained. Again this is essential work and makes a very noticeable difference to the village and this fine job throughout the Parish also deserves a huge vote of thanks.
The council has also worked with B&NES Council, Landowners, and Cotswold Volunteer Wardens to resolve problems, maintain and improve footpaths and open spaces.

**Highways Maintenance**

**Tucking Mill Toads (TMT) - Tucking Mill Lane –** It is understood that this took place again this year, and we await feedback from the group about the success this year. It was rather better protected this year as a result of the closure of Tucking Mill lane consequent on the issues arising from the A36 road closure.

**A36 Road Closure and impacts on Tucking Mill Lane –** A scheme of closure of Tucking Mill lane for everyone other than residents, as was implemented on the lanes through Freshford by Wiltshire County Council, was NOT implemented by National Highways or B&NES Highways. In consequence there was chaos, with much anti-social behaviour exhibited, some towards residents. Following relentless pressure from the Parish Council and Ward Cllr. Fiona Gourley some temporary closures were implemented, but not until there had been numerous accidents and incidents resulting in damage to the road. Now the A36 has re-opened (if only partially) some repairs have been carried out to Tucking Mill Lane, but which results in fewer passing places. A number of proposed repairs and changes are being considered going forward, including the possibility of designating the road as just a 'Byway unsuitable for Motor Vehicles' in the hope that this would remove it as a route on Satnav. Such a change does require full consultation process.

**Brassknocker Hill Speed Limits and Weight Restrictions –** Cllr. Charles Carr was leading on this matter and was recording accidents and incidents. A resident of Brassknocker Hill may take this up now Charles Carr has left the Council. The issue is currently clouded by the A36 partial closure.

**Shaft Road - Tarmac drive extension protruding into road** – The design for the revised access has been approved by B&NES Highways, but as yet not implemented.

**Parish Works – Repairs and Improvements**

**Website and IT Upgrades –** The Parish Council now has an official government domain name:- monktoncombe-pc.gov.uk, and the Clerk and Councillors have changed their e-mail addresses accordingly, e.g. the Clerk email address is now clerk@monktoncombe-pc.gov.uk .

The Clerk has also updated the ancient laptop computer with a modern Windows 11 laptop, and files are now held on a 'Cloud' system for secure shared access.

**Parish Council Noticeboard – A36 Petrol station –** This noticeboard has now been removed permanently.

**Village Hall and Village Car Park** – Charging point installation – Nothing further has been heard from the supplier, who we believe was waiting for a quotation from Western Power Distribution for the laying of a supply. It seems likely that the project is unaffordable and all interest lost by the Supplier.

We obtained quotes for re-surfacing the Car Park, however none were affordable.

**Village Playpark** – Other than the Playground Inspection by RoSPA Inspectors and some minor cleaning works, there were no works to the playpark.

**Miss Davis Garden** – Only the usual general maintenance by Jeff Avis this year.

**Lockup Repairs and Maintenance** – We received a Notification of an Application to Amend the Designation Listing, from Historic England, to one of a Listed Building from Ancient Monument. Nothing further has been heard since an Invitation to Comment on the Application

**Parish Council Finances**

The Parish Council has received £6,171 in respect of Community Infrastructure Levy for the Mount Pleasant Quarry development, and further receipts of £4,702 (October 2025) and £4,521 (April 2026) are expected totalling £15,394. The Parish Council resolved to exclude these receipts from the normal accounts and budget, and to hold these funds as a ring-fenced reserve for the exclusive use of Community Infrastructure projects for the betterment of the Parish.

Consequently Parish Council Reserves at the end of 2024-25 have increased significantly from the previous year and now stand at a total of £35,058.70. Of this are the ring-fenced reserves for Miss Davis Garden of £12,332.45 and £6,171.40 of CIL leaving a 'Free Reserve of £16,554.85.

The precept has been set at £13,661. This is an increase of £768 on the 2024/25 Precept, however as the Tax Base (the average number of Households in the Parish) has risen from 179.55(2024/25) to 190.24(2025/26), the Household Contribution remains unchanged at £71.81. This effectively carries forward a budget of £1,500 for Parish and other works, and leaves the CIL funds ring-fenced for specific Community projects.

Full details of all the Councils Finances can be found on the website at https://monktoncombe-pc.gov.uk/core-business/finance/ where the Audit is currently in progress.

**B&NES Ward Councillor support** - Finally, we thank Fiona Gourley and Matt McCabe, our Ward Councillors for their ongoing help and support throughout the year. Fiona Gourley has worked particularly hard on the issues surrounding the A36 closure.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held in the VILLAGE HALL at 7:30 pm on Monday 28th April.**

The Parish Council is required to hold such a meeting, in person and in public between 1st March and 1st June each year.



**Des Wighton. Chairman, Monkton Combe Parish Council.**