

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th April 2013 at 7.30pm
in the Village Hall

Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs J Frost; Vice Chairman Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs J Scoggins; Cllr R Woolley; Cllr Mrs R Tarr; Cllr Mrs P Riley; County Cllr Simon Spencer
Parish Clerk Mrs A Wales; 4 residents

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Dist.Cllr David Frederickson
2	MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING: The Minutes of the Meeting of 2nd April 2012 were approved.
3	ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013 The Parish Council Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2013 were approved.
4	CHAIRMAN'S REPORT The Chairman welcomed the residents to the meeting. She invited them to make comments or ask questions whenever they wished during her report.
4.1	<i>War Memorial:</i> The war memorial has been professionally cleaned by Mr Mark Eaton, stonemason. The Chairman remarked that Mr Eaton had done an excellent job and the war memorial looks much improved. It may need re-doing in years to come as there is an ongoing problem of the trees above and it may require engraving at some point in the future.
4.2	<i>Bus shelter paving slabs:</i> The uneven and hazardous paving slabs in the bus shelter have now been replaced by Quality Landscapes of Winster. Mr Naylor thanked the Council for attending to this matter.
4.3	<i>Village toilets:</i> The village toilets remain closed during winter months despite attempts from the Parish Council to keep them open all year round. It was acknowledged that this is unsatisfactory to residents and visitors alike. County Cllr Simon Spencer stated that cuts to public services have had to be made due to the 14% funding cuts DCC has received from the government. He stated that some parishes have taken on the running costs of their public toilets and DDDC will be open to any proposal by other parishes to keep theirs open. However, it is unfeasible that Monyash Parish Council could take on any running costs given the amount of annual precept received.
4.4	<i>Jubilee Party on the Village Green:</i> The Chairman remarked that this celebration was a huge success and a most enjoyable occasion. She thanked Mrs Andrea Palfreyman who was the main organiser. There are some monies left from the Jubilee fund which could be utilised within the village.
4.5	<i>School Playing Field:</i> The largest expenditure this financial year has been on the school playing field. The wall surrounding the field along the bungalow side has now been rebuilt and Lafarge Aggregates have funded local contractor Edward Mellor to complete the remaining three walls, which is currently in progress. Local farmers Bernard Woolley and Bernard Frost have donated stone for this project. The Chairman expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the Council for their generosity. The drains under the surface of the field are very old, have sunken and broke resulting in the field becoming very waterlogged and in much need of drainage. Cllr Mrs Scoggins recently applied for an Aggregates Levy grant to fund drainage work which has successfully been awarded by Derbyshire Environmental Trust. Quotes are currently being sought by contractors to complete the work The Clerk has received correspondence that the Council has also received a conditional offer from the Big Lottery Fund following a recent Awards for All application, for the fencing work required around the school field. Local contractor Mr Jonty Hutchinson is to complete this work, start date to be arranged when the grant is awarded.

4.6	<p><i>Horse Lane/Chapel Street junction:</i> During last year's Annual Parish Meeting road safety concerns were brought to the attention of the Council with regard to this area. A local resident stated that due to the volume of traffic grass verges were being eroded due to traffic mounting them and the white lines and road markings have worn and it is unclear to motorists where road boundaries are. The Council did report this matter to the Highways department at DCC. The white lines were re-painted but kerbing would not be installed where there has previously not been any in situ.</p>
5	<p>SCHOOL COMMUNITY GOVERNOR'S REPORT Resident Mr Chris Woodhouse read the following report from Mrs Beryl Gummow, School Governor.</p> <p>The past year at school has gone very quickly. Another group of Year 6 children has moved on to Secondary education at Lady Manners School, and new children have joined us to start their Primary education.</p> <p>The Headteacher, Oliver Wright, is fully recovered from his cycle accident, and is working hard with all school staff to improve the school's facilities, inside and out. The Infant classroom has been improved further, a library area established upstairs with enthusiastic Y6 children in charge, and the Lower Junior classroom has been partly refurbished with new desks with their own storage – the modern version of the inkwell desks familiar to many of us older citizens. This has freed up space in the rest of the classroom to give a much brighter area. Outside, the long-awaited canopy is in place and in frequent use by the Early Years children for outdoor learning even when the weather is poor. The playground has been resurfaced, existing fencing repaired and a new fence and gate in place to separate the school's front entrance from the playground. New equipment has been installed, including some seating, a netball / basketball post and a small climbing wall – all very exciting for the children and extending their playtime and sports activities.</p> <p>An extended period of staff sickness has meant that the Lower Juniors have been taught by supply staff for several weeks. Oliver has decided to teach this class himself for the next few weeks, and is thoroughly enjoying the extra time in the classroom. He was appointed to a part-time post, so we are particularly appreciative of his move to full-time to take on the teaching.</p> <p>In spite of the coverage last week of the urgent need for additional primary school places in large urban areas, rolls in rural nurseries and primary schools in the county are falling. Funding is largely based on pupil numbers so the school's budget is down relative to previous years. There have also been changes in the way some elements of funding are devolved to the Local Authority and then to schools. All of this means that the Governing Body cannot set a positive budget for the next three years with the current staff. Oliver, together with the Governing Body, and with consultation from the Local Authority's HR and education advisory staff, has undertaken a review of staffing and has proposed a revised school staff structure. Instead of the existing three classes, the current two Junior classes will be combined from September. The Infant class will remain as now. This arrangement will give much more flexibility to teaching, and will allow children to be taught much more readily according to their ability, rather than their age. Oliver, the Governing Body and the advisers are very enthusiastic and excited about the new structure, and open meetings with parents have been held to present the plans.</p> <p>The downside to the new arrangement is that there will be a staff redundancy, and we are currently going through the redundancy procedure, with the full support of the Local Authority.</p> <p>Ofsted held a school inspection recently, and, while identifying important areas for improvement, also recognised that much progress had been made since the last inspection, and that the 'capacity to improve' – the ability and will to make even more</p>

	<p>progress with what the school offers to children – was well recognised. Once again, the Ofsted inspector saw that our children were happy and secure, and that their behaviour was excellent – something that is remarked on frequently when the children are on activities and outings outside school also.</p> <p>These activities are many and varied. One of the more unusual ones this year came as a result of a letter written to the Duchess of Devonshire by one of the Y6 children. The Duchess responded by inviting the Y6 children to visit her at Chatsworth House, where they were her personal guests. Some children sang at Sheffield Arena as part of ‘Young Voices’, a choir of 5000, with an audience of 8000. All thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Children have also taken part in Harvest and Christmas celebrations, produced beautiful well dressings and most recently held an inaugural and extremely well-attended Farmers’ Market in school – the Ofsted inspector was in school on the day and was very impressed! Many extra activities are funded by our PTFA, who help raise money through a variety of events during the year. A very big thank you to the PTFA for their wonderful support for the school.</p> <p>We know that the planned changes over the next year will be challenging, but we are confident that our school is set for continued improvement as we work to provide all our children with a really good start to their education.</p> <p>The Chairman expressed her sincere gratitude to Mrs Gummow for this report and to Mr Woodhouse for presenting it to the meeting.</p>
<p>6 6.1</p>	<p>PUBLIC QUESTIONS</p> <p>The issue of road safety in the village was raised especially at the crossroads by the school. County Cllr Simon Spencer stated action that can be taken by DCC to satisfy what people want to see is limited. PDNPA regulations is concerned with the appearance of roads and is against proliferation of signage. In any case, road alteration and signage are ineffective unless police enforce.</p> <p>Rumble strips and speed humps are noisy and with expenditure cuts at 14% the history of the village would be considered in making a decision on providing road alterations and in fact there is no history on record of any serious incident in the village.</p> <p>Cllr Spencer stated one of the most effective ways of slowing traffic down is parked cars.</p> <p>Further debate ensued with regard to scheme which have been implemented in other areas including yellow zig-zag lines and traffic enforcement officers yet to implement these a Transport Officer’s recommendation is required which given Monyash’s history is unlikely.</p> <p>6.2 The issue of the guttering and drains in the village being cleaned was raised. The Chairman advised to report this matter to the Highways Department at DCC.</p>
	<p>The Chairman thanked everyone for attending. The Parish Meeting closed at 9.05 pm and was followed by the monthly meeting of the Council.</p>