

## MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Merton Parish Council was held in the Clinton Hall on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at 7.45pm following the AGM.

Apologies were received from Councillor Nancekivell and PCSO Sandra Brown.

Present were Councillors Horner (chair), Down, Collins, Malcolm, Papworth, Brown and Scantlebury, the clerk Mrs Wendy Askew and 8 parishioners.

Councillor Horner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. Minutes of the last meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 were signed as a true record, proposed by Councillor Scantlebury, seconded by Councillor Papworth and agreed by all.

2. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda;

a). Jubilee Seat update; still waiting for the granite slab. Councillor Papworth will contact Mr Gist to get it delivered. Lord Clinton has given the date of 14<sup>th</sup> June for the presentation. The clerk was asked to reply to Lord Clinton and hope the seat will be finished by then. The clerk will contact the school to see if anyone would like to be involved. It was suggested 10am in the morning with tea and biscuits provided.

3. Public speaking time; Louise Rollason from the Malt Scoop spoke on her concerns for the new development in the field behind the Malt Scoop. She was concerned about the noise and dust whilst building works are in progress which may affect her extractor fans and cause upheaval in her pub and restaurant. She was also concerned about the number of houses and the fact they would overlook her beer garden and be detrimental to her business. She was also concerned about having houses on the opposite side to the school. She suggested building houses on the opposite side of the road opposite the Malt Scoop. Councillor Horner said the plans are still in the proposal stage and hadn't yet been submitted to TDC planning department. He said the development plan was for the next 20 years, planning in the village had been classed as sterile and hadn't moved on so it was important that plans were made for some development in the future. Councillor Collins spoke on the sterile development around other villages but that Merton had a lot of infrastructure, such as the school, pub, post office, garage and a good bus service. Ms Rollason was concerned about social housing causing problems if the houses couldn't be sold. Councillor Horner said a maximum of 30% could be social housing. It was stated that historically developers would pay money into the community for example to school, play equipment or some other community amenity under section 106. It was thought the Parish Council could put forward a strong case for no affordable rental housing in this development. Once the plans have been submitted to TDC the parish councillors and parishioners have 21 days to give their feedback. It is thought a public meeting will be held with the architects and the Parish Council. A query was raised if there would be any single storey properties for older people. It is not thought there will be any in this development but it might be considered in the next development. Broadband was also mentioned. It was suggested everyone using broadband should sign up to connecting Devon & Cornwall for faster broadband. It was decided the clerk should contact BT to find out the total number of lines connected to the Beaford exchange.

Councillor Nancekivell joined the meeting at 8.15pm.

4. District Councillor Collins spoke. He has been re-elected as leader of TDC. He stated that the Brunswick Wharf project is going ahead. He spoke of the new forms available to report dog fouling anonymously. A supply will be obtained for the village.

Councillor Collins also said how he is happy to meet with anyone to explain the planning system. He said he is able to “call in” any planning application that doesn’t meet criteria, which may need more investigating so a planning application doesn’t automatically get approval or rejection from the planning department.

5. It was reported that the North Devon and Torridge local plan is coming back for consultation. This will be when the Parish Council can make any minor amendments. It was suggested business units would be welcomed in the parish so this could be added to the local plan.

The parishioners left the meeting at this stage.

6. Grass cutting in the village. It was reported that the DCC budget for grass cutting has been reduced. Verges may only be cut 3 times a year. The Councillors were concerned about the entrance to Clinton Gardens being very overgrown and is causing a safety issue for vehicles coming onto the main road. The clerk was asked to contact the DCC to see when they will cut the verges. It was decided to have a map of the village for the next meeting to identify the verges and then decide how to proceed. The verge alongside Coldstream Gardens should be the DC Housings’ responsibility.

7. Tarka Trail; Councillor Horner feels the Parish Council should push forward for the village to be connected to the Tarka Trail. Councillor Papworth will get maps for the next meeting so that Councillors can track a path through from the village to join up with the Tarka Trail.

8. Parking permits for residents in the square are now due. The clerk will send out reminders.

9. Correspondence;

a) Leader project, an email had been received about this and there will be meetings for Councillors to attend to discuss projects for the Leader project funds.

b) The Town and Parish fund (TAP) is available again. It was decided maybe to approach the neighbouring to see what their plans are and join up to share the funds.

c) Grants – Churchyard Fund. It was decided the churchyard fund committee should automatically receive funding every year, this year it will be £300 and this could rise with inflation in future years.

Clinton Hall – it was decided to grant the Clinton Hall £350 towards the Merton Monthly and upkeep of the toilet.

Merton football club asked for a grant towards another strong wooden seat. It was decided to see how much they will need after the amount is received from the Merton Moncks fund. This will be put on the agenda for a future meeting.

10) The clerk was asked to clarify with the Community Council whether the Parish Council should pay the insurance for the Clinton Hall as the Parish Councillors are Trustees of the hall or whether it is the Hall committees' responsibility.

11. Cheques were signed for Insurance, Clinton Hall grant, Clerks expenses for the year, Churchyard grant, internal audit, stationary, hire of hall for last year.

11. Items for the agenda for the next meeting to include Tarka Trail, grass cutting and Remembrance for WW1.

The next meeting will be Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 8pm subject to nothing urgent arriving to the council, in which case a special meeting will be called.

There being no further business to discuss everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 9.15pm.