

## **MERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting was held in the Clinton Hall on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.30pm.

Apologies were received from Councillors Collins and Malcolm.

Present were Councillors Horner (chair), Papworth, Down, Brown, Scantlebury and Nancekivell, the clerk Mrs Wendy Askew and 1 parishioner.

Councillor Horner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

44. Minutes of the planning meeting held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Brown and Seconded by Councillor Papworth and agreed by all.

45. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. There was one amendment to be made where Mr Tony Hunt asked for a comment he made at the previous meeting but not included in the minutes to be included. "Tony Hunt said Adrian Pitts said he wasn't personally in favour of the development". This will be added to the end of the minutes. Proposed by Councillor Brown seconded by Councillor Nancekivell and agreed by all.

46. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. Offensive remarks made at the meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. Councillor Scantlebury asked for it to be discussed as he hadn't attended that meeting. After some in depth discussion it was decided to draw a line under this matter but in future any complaints must be investigated further with more specific details before an apology is issued.

47. Public Speaking; Councillor Horner invited the parishioner to speak.

Mrs Shirley Pyro reported that she had had plants stolen from her hanging baskets and planters. When she left a note asking for them to be returned a "ransom note was left demanding £10 for their return". This matter had not been reported to the police. Councillor Down also reported a theft of a small tree but this had been resolved and the culprits had reimbursed him. It was suggested putting this item in the Merton Monthly reporting the thefts.

48. District Councillor speaking. There was none as District Councillor Collins was not present.

49. Broadband – a letter had been received from Geoffrey Cox which he had received from DCC stating that Merton is included in the rollout and parts of the Parish will receive superfast broadband as part of the first stage Connecting Devon and Somerset rollout. It is anticipated that the work required to build this will begin early next year. This item will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for further updates.

50. Planning application 33 houses development update. Councillor Horner has spoken to the architect and it awaiting a reply. It appears that comments from SW Water should not stop the planning application going ahead. There is no further update on the planning departments' decision. Councillor Horner understands that the planning authority have agreed that if the

development goes ahead approximately £17000 may be awarded to the play equipment in the village to repair and enhance the existing equipment rather than put new on the site of the new development.

The removal of the internal wall at the Malt Scoop was refused.

51. TAP Fund. An email has been received from Petrockstowe Parish Council concerning the TAP fund. Originally it was thought maybe the two parish councils could join together to purchase tables or chairs for the respective halls. However the Clinton hall committee have stated that they do not need any new tables or chairs at this time. It was proposed by Councillor Scantlebury seconded by Councillor Nancekivell and agreed by all to ask Petrockstowe Parish Council if Merton could have their amount to put in the play equipment fund which would benefit children attending the Clinton School.

52. Tarka Trail no further news on this item, it will be put on the agenda for the next meeting when it is hoped a decision will be made as to whether to continue to pursue the link with the Tarka Trail.

53. Unadopted road linking Grange Lane to Clarks Lane. Councillor Scantlebury stated that even if it hasn't been dedicated with no signs stating private land, it is the law that if used for over 20 years then it is deemed to be dedicated.

Councillor Scantlebury proposed that further advice should be sought this was seconded by Councillor Brown. This resulted in 3 votes for 1 against and 2 abstentions. The clerk was asked to write to the CCD and the Devon Rights of way.

54. 1 cheque was signed for Mr Steve Jennings for work carried out in the parish.

55. Items for the next meeting; Tarka Trail, Tap Fund and precept.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.45pm