

## **MERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting was held in the Clinton Hall on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 7.30pm.

Apologies were received from Councillors Papworth and Brown.

Present were Councillors Horner (chair), Collins, Down, Scantlebury, Malcolm and Nancekivell and the clerk Mrs Wendy Askew.

Councillor Horner welcomed everyone to the meeting. He also gave a short resume on how he would like the council meetings to be conducted. This would entail always speaking through the chair, allowing everyone to have a fair share of speaking time and not to speak over others.

56. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014 were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Nancekivell, seconded by Councillor Down and agreed by 4 councillors.

57. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda. It was decided to inform the lady who had some plants stolen from her planters of the new police website which allows residents to report stolen items and get a log number.

58. Public Speaking; There was no one present to speak

59. District Councillor Speaking; Councillor Collins spoke on the planning workshop which had taken place the previous Friday for clerks. (Unfortunately although the clerk had booked to attend due to illness she had been unable to attend.) The planning department have an 8 week target for smaller planning applications and due to this time scale and for better efficiency they are phasing out the paper plans which are sent to Parish Councils. This will come into operation on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015. At the workshop it was suggested Parish Councils obtain a projector and screen and a laptop so that all planning applications can be viewed at the Parish Council meeting. The Clinton Hall have a screen and projector so it will mean securing the use of a laptop for Council use. TDC will make it easier for Parish Councils to reply on planning applications by signing onto the TDC portal. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

The clerk suggested setting up a new e mail address to keep Parish Council business separate from any personal mail.

60. Planning update of development behind the Malt Scoop. Councillor Horner said that CDE have paid SWW to do a viability evaluation and developers will have to pay for the upgrade. Planning might be granted subject to conditions. CDE are in discussion with TDC over the viability of the project and the amount of affordable housing.

Planning application at Rosehill was approved by councillors outside of the normal meeting.

61. TAP Fund this can be sorted once we have a reply from Petrockstowe Parish Council. TDC will hold the money until it is needed for the play equipment. The clerk is to e mail TDC to have written confirmation of funds already held.

It was agreed to e mail re not being able to support the new hospice project.

62. Tarka Trail; Councillor Horner will speak to CDE to see if this is at all viable.

63. Rights of Way; A letter was sent to CCD and Rights of Way at DCC concerning the roadway across a field from Grange Lane to Clarks Lane. Replies from both departments indicate that this does not constitute a public right of way. An application would need to be made through the Rights of Way Dept before anything further could be considered.

Councillor Collins suggested that the Parish Council should check all footpaths and rights of way in the village to include Back Lane, Rosehill and Bounsells Lane. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Councillor Down reported that the path on from Back Lane to the back of the houses in Clinton Gardens is blocked by cars. It was agreed to write to CDE to tell them of this.

64. The new “Openness in Councils” was discussed. The Code of Conduct was agreed earlier in the year. It was agreed that councillors should declare any interest in items on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting. Members of the public can record or video any meeting unless it is a closed meeting i.e. part 2. The chair has the right to stop any recording or videoing.

65. Precept. The precept was discussed and 2 propositions were put forward. 1. Councillor Collins proposed increasing it to £4750 this was seconded by Councillor Horner. 2. Councillor Nancekivell proposed to keep the precept the same as last year this was seconded by Councillor Scantlebury. A vote for the 1<sup>st</sup> proposition resulted in 3-3, with the chair having the deciding vote the proposition was carried in favour of increasing to £4750.

It was decided to ask the parishioners to come up with a project to spend some of the money in the deposit account. To put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

66. It was suggested paying off the remainder of the Defibrillator costs which is £1200. This was proposed by Councillor Malcom, seconded by Councillor Scantlebury and all in favour.

However it was suggested that some fundraising might also be useful for this.

It was suggested that the defibrillator could be demonstrated at an event in the village when more people could see it. It was suggested that maybe the Vintage Rally might be an ideal event for this. The clerk could also arrange another training evening as soon as some names are put forward for this.

67. The councillors thanked Cedric and Wendy Askew for sourcing and planting up the two tyre flower beds at the top of the village.

68. The clerk asked about a valuation for the village square as it has never been valued since buying for a £1. She will contact the District Valuer, Jamie Hollis – Monitoring officer at TDC to do this.

69. The clerk stated that she had received a phone call from Jane Atkins at 8 Meadow Vale concerning the hedge behind her property on the football field. Councillor Horner and Councillor Nancekivell will look at the problem.

Councillor Horner will also get some advice about the tree in the square.

70. Items for the next meeting to include the capital project which will need to be discussed and a letter could be drafted to put into the MM for the February edition. Paperless planning applications – purchase of a laptop. Update of development behind Malt Scoop. Footpath review with map.

71. The next meeting date will be Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.55pm