

## **MERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting was held in the Clinton Hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015 at 7.30pm.

Apologies were received from Councillor Down

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

Councillor Horner welcomed everyone to the meeting.

72. The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Scantlebury and agreed by all councillors present.

73. Matters arising from the minutes not on the agenda.

a) TAP fund awaiting confirmation from Petrockstowe Parish Council that Merton can have their allowance as well for the Play Equipment. The clerk will then get written confirmation from TDC this amount and the previous amount is still being held for this purpose.

b) Update on the planning application for the 33 property development. Councillor Collins reported that the developer/CDE will be expected to have some affordable housing in this development. It has been agreed to go to the District Valuer to give a value of the site and then negotiate with the developers on how much affordable housing there will be.

c) The hedge behind the Meadow Vale bungalows adjacent to the football field needs cutting back. Councillor Horner agreed to do some of this with Mr Trevor Higton. Councillor Nancekivell has also agreed to liaise with them to complete the hedge trimming.

74. Public Speaking Time; There was no one present to speak

75. District Councillor Speaking time; Councillor Collins spoke about Petrockstowe Parish Council proposing putting in a Community Asset request for Petrockstowe Station to restore the area. He stated that there are grants available for such projects.

He also spoke of the proposed cost cutting by DCC which may result in less grass cutting in the area and maybe only cutting areas where visibility is vital.

76. Tarka Trail; A letter has been received from CDE stating that they will not allow the Tarka Trail to be accessed from Merton. This will not now be pursued further.

77. Rights of Way; The Councillors studied maps of the footpaths and rights of way in the parish. It was decided to write to CDE in the first instance to ask for further footpaths to be made public rights of way and seek their advice and approval of any others they suggest. It was decided to ask if footpath 18 could be joined up to footpath 12 via Bounsells Lane, footpath from Back Lane could be extended to take it through to the back of the Clinton Gardens houses along the track to Limers Lane and the roadway from Grange Lane to Clarks Lane could be made a public footpath. A letter will be drafted and sent after approval from the councillors to CDE asking for their ideas and suggestions as they have done in East

Devon. This was proposed by Councillor Collins seconded by Councillor Malcolm and agreed by all. Councillor Collins will get confirmation that the footpath by Elm Cottage is a public footpath as not marked on the map.

78. Valuation of the Square. Councillor Horner contacted Stags to get a valuation of the village square which was estimated at £15,000. It was agreed to notify the insurance company and the auditors when the next audit is done of this.

79. Capital Project; Councillor Collins started the discussion suggesting that some of the capital should be used to re-cobble areas of the square by the wall on the right hand side and by the church wall. Councillor Horner has spoken to the conservation officer who suggested Devon Buildings might be able to help with names of companies that do this sort of work. This suggestion was discussed and has been discussed before. It was however decided to get definite quotes for this work with a set budget and do as much as possible for that amount. Quotes will be obtained as soon as possible.

Councillor Papworth suggested investing in grass cutting equipment for use in the village if DCC decide not to cut the areas. This was dismissed as it would be more cost effective to employ someone with their own equipment to do the work. It was agreed to get a map of the grass areas in the village and identify the areas which will need attention. An amount of money will need to be set aside to do this work.

Play Equipment was mentioned as a possible project but it was decided not to pursue this further as hopefully the committee will be able to obtain some grant funding and may then ask the Parish Council for a grant at a later date which Councillor Collins hoped would be viewed favourably if this request was made.

Councillor Collins did discuss investing money in the churchyard fund instead of giving a grant but this will need much more in depth consideration.

80. Correspondence: A letter was received from the PCSO stating the crime results for 31/08/2014 to 02/01/2015. During this period 1 crime had been reported of theft. There were 7 calls where logs had been generated, 1 call reporting a tractor leaving mud on the road, 2 calls reporting suspicious incidents, 2 calls reporting concern for welfare, 2 calls reporting road traffic collisions. How to contact the police; If you have a crime to report of a non-urgent nature contact using the non-emergency number 101 service or e mail [101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk](mailto:101@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk). If there is need for immediate emergency assistance contact 999. If you have any other enquiries you could contact the police online, contact forms can be found in their contact section. Your local PCSO is Sandra Brown.

81. Ryalls Corner was discussed as it appears some more vehicles have gone over the hedge recently. It was suggested the chevron signs could be bigger.

82. Councillor Papworth reported that Petrockstowe had asked if links could be put from our website to theirs. This was agreed.

83. The next meeting date will be Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.40pm