

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General meeting of Merton Parish Council was held in the Clinton Hall on Monday 18th May at 8pm

Apologies were received from District Councillor Richard Wiseman and PCSO Sandra Brown

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

Councillor Horner opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the meeting, the first one since the elections with newly elected Councillor Laughton joining the Parish Council.

Councillor Horner has met with Mr Ron Down since he was not re-elected.

1. The minutes were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. Proposed by Councillor Collins, seconded by Councillor Papworth and all agreed.

2. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

3. Chairman's report;

Councillor Horner stated that during the year we have seen the application submitted by Clinton Devon Estates for 33 houses behind the Malt Scoop. This is stage one of the development plan. My understanding is that this is near approval and is just waiting for legal matters between DCC and the developers to be finalised.

Unfortunately the TDC regional 20 year development plan has still not been approved by government. It will be well into the time frame of the plan before this signed off!

We have pushed forward our wishes to have Merton connected to superfast broadband enlisting the help of Geoffrey Cox MP.

We have successfully sought and received TAP fund money.

The defibrillator has been received and partially paid for. It has been fixed to the Post Office wall by kind permission of Mrs Tracey Laughton.

We have streamlined the way we handle planning applications from Torrridge for comment. We have formed a subcommittee of the chair and vice chair who will decide if a meeting of the full council is needed once comments have been received from councillors.

The Merton website is now fully active and maintained with updated information thanks to Councillor Papworth.

Special thanks should be given to the clerk for all her work and help throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Cedric and Wendy, Mike and Mary Madders for looking after the flower beds around the village.

I would also like to thank the Clinton Hall Committee for running and maintaining our wonderful village hall, which continues to be a great asset to the village.

4. Financial Report and adoption of accounts;

The clerk presented the accounts to councillors. Explanations were given for items listed. The balance in the current account at 31st March 2015 was £1216.88 and the balance in the deposit account was £16390.26 giving a total of £17607.14

Councillor Horner proposed the accounts be adopted and Councillor Papworth seconded it and all agreed. The accounts were signed by Councillor Horner. The audit forms were completed and signed.

5. Election of Officers;

Chair; Councillor Collins proposed Councillor Horner as chair this was seconded by Councillor Brown all agreed.

Councillor Scantlebury proposed Councillor Nancekivell as chair but he declined to accept the proposition.

Vice chair; Councillor Horner proposed Councillor Papworth as vice chair this was seconded by Councillor Malcolm all agreed.

Clinton Hall representative Councillor Collins agreed to continue.

Church Yard Fund Committee; Councillors Collins, Laughton and Papworth were elected to represent the Parish Council on this committee.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Councillor Collins for Councillor Horner for his work as chair during the last year. This was agreed by all.

The Councillors signed their declarations of acceptance and interests forms. New bank alterations were also signed.

There was no further business to discuss the AGM closed at 8.15pm.