

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Merton Parish Council was held in the Clinton Hall on Monday 18th May 2015 following the AGM.

Apologies were received from PCSO Sandra Brown

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

1. The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th March 2015 were approved having been previously circulated. This was proposed by Councillor Scantlebury, seconded by councillor Papworth and agreed by all councillors present at that meeting.
2. The clerk listed the cheques signed outside of the last meeting but approved by the councillors. They were Play Equipment TAP funding, Laptop + equipment, Website hosting, DALC subscriptions, TDC payroll costs.
3. Newly elected District Councillor Wiseman was then invited to speak. He congratulated all the Parish Councillors elected after the recent elections. He gave a brief report of his first meeting at TDC which had been held earlier prior to Merton Parish Council meeting. The majority of the Council are Conservatives, the leader and deputy leader are both Conservative Councillors. The final committee members have yet to be finalised. District Councillor Wiseman spoke of the vote of thanks which had been proposed by the new Leader of TDC Jane Whittaker to Philip Collins for his work over the past years.
4. There were no members of the public to speak in this slot.
5. Parking permits for the square. It was agreed to keep the charge at £1 per vehicle per year.
6. Correspondence;
 - a) A letter has been received from the Churchyard Fund committee asking for a grant for the upkeep of the churchyard. It included accounts and expenses for the past year. It was proposed by Councillor Scantlebury that £500 should be given, a further proposal was made by Councillor Brown of £400, and a further proposal made by Councillor Horner of £350 was seconded by Councillor Nancekivell. However it was decided to compromise by accepting the proposal for £400 and this was agreed by all except Councillor Collins who abstained.

The Councillors then decided to award the grant to the Clinton Hall for the upkeep of the toilet and running of the Merton Monthly. Councillor Horner proposed £400 this was seconded by Councillor Papworth and all agreed.

A letter had been received from Graham Rooke of the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. Introducing himself as the local Risk Manager for the parish. He would like to come along and talk to the residents of the parish. It was suggested asking him to the Annual Parish meeting. This was agreed by all. The clerk will contact him.

A report had been received from Sandra Brown the PCSO stating that Merton had been crime free to date and there had been 2 logged calls in that time.

An email received from Jane Eades had not been discussed due to receiving too late to put on the agenda but would be sent around to the councillors for their comments and discussed fully at the next meeting.

6. It was agreed to write to the Highways Dept. re traffic calming and ask if a speeding survey could be carried out again.

7. There had been a complaint about the drains at the top of Bounsells lane which is being dealt with.

8. Councillors Collins wished give a vote of thanks to Wendy and Cedric Askew for doing the planters at the top of the village.

9. Councillor Collins reported that he had charged up the walkie talkies and they were in the hall office.

10. As Mr and Mrs Madders have now left the parish it was decided to put an article in the Merton monthly asking if anyone would like to look after the flower bed at the top of the square.

11. Cheques were signed for TDC returning payment wrongly credited to PC account, Community First insurance, W Askew annual expenses, Mrs J Letheren Internal audit, Churchyard Fund and Clinton Hall.

12. It was suggested having the newly acquired map of the local footpaths in the parish displayed at the Annual Parish meeting. It was also suggested putting an article in the MM asking for information on any footpaths not now used or open to the public.

13. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 29th June 2015 at 8.00pm

14. The Annual Parish meeting will be held in the Clinton hall on Monday 1st June at 7.30pm

Organisations will be invited to come along to report on their years events.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 9.05pm