

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Apologies were received from Councillor Scantlebury and District Councillor Wiseman.

Present were Councillor Horner (chair) Councillors Papworth, Collins, Laughton, Brown, Malcolm, and Nancekivell, the clerk Mrs Wendy Askew, Mr Trevor Higton and Mr Graham Rooke (Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue

Councillor Horner welcomed everyone to the meeting. He read his chairman's report.

The minutes of the last Annual Parish meeting was approved and signed as a true record.

Mr Trevor Higton then gave a report of the Merton & Huish wildlife Group, A report was read for the Friends of All Saints Church by Mrs Askew, Councillor Malcolm gave a report of the Playground Committee, Mrs Askew read a report for the Merton Moncks, Councillor Collins gave a report for the Churchyard Fund Committee, the Clinton Hall and the History Group. It was decided to put all these reports in the next Merton Monthly.

Councillor Horner then introduced Mr Graham Rooke from the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue. He spoke of his 18 years in the fire brigade in local areas. He is now responsible for Appledore, Torrington and Bideford. His main role is educating and promoting fire safety. He is responsible for visiting schools and homes. He is responsible for reducing risk and would welcome the chance to speak with groups and schools in the area. He is also able to visit elderly and at risk people in the area to fit smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. He stated that the fire stations locally are manned by retained firefighters who have 5 minutes to get to the station. As we live further away from the fire stations we are more at risk as it could take up to 20 minutes to get here. It is therefore important that we call 999 immediately a fire or accident occurs. He also suggested we all have an escape plan in mind should a fire occur.

Torrington receive about 350 shouts per year. He then did a question and answer session with those present.

Councillor Horner thanked him for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm.

All reports will be included in the minute's book.