

## **MERTON PARISH COUNCIL**

A meeting of Merton Parish Council was held in the Clinton Hall on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at 8p.m.

Apologies were received from Councillor Nancekivell, District Councillor Wiseman and PCSO Sandra Brown.

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

41. The minutes were signed as a true record having been previously circulated. This was proposed by Councillor Papworth, seconded by Councillor Collins and agreed by all.

42. Matters arising not on the agenda.

a) Broadband- It was stated that Connecting Devon and Somerset will be coming soon but has discontinued its contract with BT which is now up for tender again.

b) Speed Limits It was suggested asking Devon Highways if there is any chance of getting flashing speed lights which show the speed you are doing as you approach them. The clerk was asked to contact Devon Highways and also enquire the price of these speed lights.

c) The clerk had made contact with the Public Rights of Way Dept. and has an enquiry no. 15827895

d) Grass cutting- a map of the areas to be cut in the parish has been supplied by the DCC. It was discussed in great detail and decided to encourage residents to keep areas around their properties cut. The cutting of other areas will be monitored and if they are not cut regularly for safety reasons then the Parish Council will instruct Mr S Jennings to cut these areas.

Councillor Horner had been in contact with Paul Hipkin the gardener at the Clinton Devon Estates for advice and he has volunteered to help sow some meadow grass in certain areas. This will be put on the agenda for further discussion.

e) Jubilee Copse – It was decided that the problem with dogs seems to have been resolved.

f) Meal and Market – Still awaiting copy of accounts etc. before considering a grant.

It was agreed by all councillors that when an organisation requests a grant from the Parish Council a copy of the accounts and constitution should be supplied with the request. This will be the normal format in future.

There was no public speaking time or District Council speaking time as only the councillors and the clerk were in attendance.

43. Beech trees – Councillor Collins spoke of the concerns of the beech trees on the play equipment site and of one on the school grounds and one at the church yard. He asked if the Parish Council would be willing to pay towards the cost of £200 + VAT to contact a tree expert to check these trees for safety purposes. . There will be some reimbursement from the other parties involved. This was proposed by Councillor Horner, seconded by Councillor Scantlebury and agreed by all.

44. Welcome Pack – Councillor Malcolm has this in hand.

45. Clerk vacancy – It was reported there had been two applications for the job. Sue Squire and Sarah Bonner. Interviews will take place next week. It was decided the sub –committee would be able to appoint the new clerk with the chairs’ agreement.

46. Red Telephone Box in the square. This telephone can be adopted but after careful discussion it was decided against the Parish Council adopting it. This was proposed by Councillor Horner, seconded by Councillor Brown and agreed by all. It was pointed out that the telephone box is listed and therefore even though not regularly used should not be taken away. It was requested that BT notify the Parish Council if the status of the box changes.

47. The financial statement has been approved and returned by the auditors. There was nothing to be amended.

48. A copy of the Clinton Hall accounts was given to the Parish Council for their records.

49. It was decided that all cheques signed must be minuted with the name and amount to be paid. A copy of the accounts to date was given to each councillor.

50. An up to date crime report was received from the PCSO Sandra Brown for the period 03/7/15 – 01/09/15. There had been 2 crimes. 1 of criminal damage to property under the value of £5000 and 1 of driving a motor vehicle when alcohol above the limit.

During the same period they received 3 calls where logs have been generated the breakdown as follows;

1 call reporting drink driver. 1 call reporting traffic collision. 1 call reporting a sus incident.

51. Items for the agenda for the next meeting;

Bus timetable, Play Equipment update, Youth club, Owl box at Jubilee Copse, e mail address, sowing meadow grass. It was decided that reminders must be sent to all councillors of the forth coming meeting and ask for items for the agenda a month before the meeting.

52. Next meeting date Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

