

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Merton Parish Council meeting held in the Clinton Hall on Tuesday 3rd November 2015 7.30pm

Present:

Councillor Horner (Chair), Councillors Papworth, Collins, Laughton, Nancekivell, Scantlebury.
DC Richard Wiseman, PCSO Sandra Brown, Sarah Bonner (clerk)

53. Apologies: Councillors Brown, Malcolm and CC Andy Boyd

54. Minutes of last meeting 7.9.15.

The above minutes were agreed and signed as a true record by the Chair. Cllr Papworth made slight adjustment of Hipkiss to Hipkin. Hard copy of minutes to be filed in Minute folder.

PCSO Sandra Brown reported that there had been no crime reports or calls. Report attached. Period 3.10.15 -3.11.15
She highlighted the concerns of the phasing out of PCSOs in the community over the next two years after which rural policing will be minimal and all subject to change. There may be offices, either as a shared space or an office with computer / phone placed in strategic places which police will use as a base when in that area.
Cllr Collins queried how antisocial behaviour issues would be dealt with - PCSO Brown replied they would be assessed and dealt with accordingly but unlikely to have a personal visit if minor.

- a) Cllr Collins asked about speeding equipment. It was concluded that PCSO Brown * would forward details of criteria to Clerk for the use of equipment by voluntary community. (next agenda) **Action PCSO Brown**
- b) PCSO Brown** to be placed near top on next agenda. **Action Clerk**

PCSO Brown left the meeting.

55. Matter arising from items not on agenda

- a) Speed limits: information had been received from Highways regarding costs and criteria for new VASs. Generally felt that speeding through the village was an issue.
To replace 2 current ones would be approx. £7000 so cost of repair to be established. **Action Clerk**.
It was concluded to leave the current ones until needing repair again then report to Highways.
Cllr Scantlebury agreed to research possibility of hiring VAs to establish benefits and report back. (next agenda)
Action Cllr Scantlebury
- b) Public rights of way Enq no: 15827895: The Chair reported he had met with footpath warden. Established that Cllr Scantlebury has relevant pack – to be discussed at next meeting.(next agenda)
- c) Meal and Market: Request had been made for funding previously. PC requested sight of M & M accounts- not submitted. No further action / item closed.
- d) Beech Trees: Cllr Collins updated the Councillors that the work to improve the issues of the beech trees is estimated to cost £385 + VAT (£77).
It was proposed the Parish council pay for the work.* **Action Cllr Collins**
Prop: Cllr Scantlebury. Sec: Cllr Nancekivell. All in favour.
Cllr Collins declared an interest as Chair of the Clinton Hall Management Committee.

56. Public Speaking time – N/A. no public present

57. District councillor speaking time: Cllr Wiseman had intended to inform PC about policing changes but that was covered by PCSO Brown. Thereon he informed them of:

- a. Further delay on Local Plan as Strategic plan upheld again at Bristol.
- b. Strategic Torridge plan is being carried out to establish priorities.
- c. Local MP is organising a petition against potholes. Find relevant email.* **Action Clerk**
- d. Deep Moor Recycling has plans for an incinerator as its reaching capacity. It would aim for it to generate electricity through solar panels.
- e. The Chair informed councillors that TDC had been contacted regarding the need to extend the area covered of green bin collection to include the village edges such as Clarks Lane and Beaford Road.
- f. The Chair thanked Cllr Wiseman for coming.

58. Planning: ref: 1/1099/2015/FUL Twit Twoo, New Road, Merton

Alternative design with swimming pool. Various concerns over bulk and height of building, Agreed to request comparison of original plans to proposed plans. To circulate response to PC for further thoughts. Close date 20.11.15. **Action Clerk**

59. Finance:

a) Cheques signed, to be sent by Clerk. **Action Clerk:**

Ch: 255 Steve Jennings £74.85

Ch: 256 All Saints Church £380.75

Ch 257: All Saints church £89.06

Ch 258: Barometer World £200.00. Given to Cllr Collins

Ch 259: Torrington Framing £39.51

Ch 260: W Askew Expenses £62.60

b) Precept Plan: Precept for 15/16 is £4750 raised from £4682 in 2014/15. It will be due to be submitted by 31st Jan, Councillors decided to leave it till next meeting.

60. a) **Clerk email address:** concern over length of email address. Mixed views.

Concluded to create a forwarding address to enable clerk@mertondevon.com to co-exist with clerk@mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com. * **Action Cllr Papworth**

Prop: Cllr Scantlebury. Sec: Cllr Nancekivell

b) **Clerk hours & pay rates:** Part 2. Clerk left the room, returned for item 10.

61. Salt Supplies next Winter: Agreed to ask the salt warden Cllr Brown to form a working party to disperse existing salt in store to relevant places. **Action Cllr Brown**

62. Grass Cutting: Cllr Papworth reported DCC willing to give £400 to parish to maintain own verges and they would only cut areas with poor visibility. Planting wild flower meadow, discussed and dismissed. Other options were to buy mower £400 and ask Steve Jennings or volunteers to cut or put to tender.

Proposal to accept the money from DCC. Prop: Cllr Papworth, Sec: Cllr Horner. All in favour. **Action Cllr Papworth**

Proposal to buy lawnmower Prop: Cllr Papworth, Sec: Cllr Horner but subject to:

Agreed to contact Steve Jennings to see if he has relevant equipment himself, or needed it provided and if prepared to do the work.

Report next meeting. **Action Cllr Horner**

63. Old documents: Placed in Merton Hall loft for storage. Cllr Malcolm and Cllr Collins to sort & catalogue as appropriate
Action Cllr Malcolm and Cllr Collins.

64. Bus timetable: Cllr Papworth confirmed he will remove bus changes from website, possibly inserting additional tab specifically. Cllr Laughton reported there was an additional bus for students to get to Okehampton College.

65. Play Equipment: Cllr Horner and Collins reported this was in 'impasse', awaiting discussion at next meeting of Hall committee and Play equipment committee. Cllr Horner confirmed Parish Council previously bought play equipment and it was on long lease to TDC 25/30 yrs - tbc.*

66. Youth Club: Cllr Brown absent –deferred to next meeting.

67. Owl boxes: Accounts from Merton & Huish Wildlife Group circulated in room. Letter had been received and circulated on email. Attached.

Proposed to agree to funding of £200 but to stipulate it is to support Slaughterhouse Wood and Jubilee Copse and to continue their activities.

Prop: Cllr Horner, Sec: Cllr Scantlebury. All in favour. MHWG to be notified –**Action Cllr Papworth**

68. Correspondence:

CAB fund request – dismissed.

Holsworthy Tap fund request – dismissed. Reply required.

Confirm current Merton CP tap fund status –next meeting

Highways re: banners: retain for reference.

Tesco bags: n/a

Devon minerals: agreed no representations to be made

Cllr Horner confirmed the fridges had been removed from Clarks Lane

69. Matters for discussion for next meeting:

Youth Club, Speed sign & community speed check equipment, Grass cutting, Footpath pack, Salt, Parish Precept.

70. Date of next meeting: Tues 19th January 2016 7.30pm. **Please note this has changed to Monday 18th January 2016 7.30pm.**

Meeting closed 9.10pm