

# MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Merton Parish Council was held on:

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall

Present: Cllr Papworth (Acting Chair), Cllr Collins, Cllr Malcolm, Cllr Laughton, Cllr Brown, CC Andy Boyd, Fiona Lowe (Clerk)

88. **Apologies:** Cllr Scantelbury, Cllr Nancekivell, Cllr Horner, PCSO Sandra Brown.
89. **Public speaking time:** No public present.
90. **Local Police Report:** No report available.
91. **Minutes from the last meeting** held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2016.  
The above minutes were agreed and signed as a true record. Hard copy filed in Minutes folder.
92. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
- a) Speed sign and community speed check equipment update –Cllr Scantelbury not present. Deferred to next meeting.
  - b) Footpath Pack – Deferred to next meeting. (Cllr Scantelbury)
  - c) Queen’s 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Beacon (21<sup>st</sup> April): Cllr Brown reported that the owners of field that we hope to use is aware of the intentions. There is an alternative available if required. Some concerns regarding footpath condition but to be reviewed nearer the time.
  - d) Patrons lunch (12<sup>th</sup> June): Cllr Malcolm to put a “tear off strip” in next Merton Monthly and gauge response. The intention is to hold a bring and share lunch in The Square, with the Village Hall providing a bar.
  - e) Grass cutting – Cllr Papworth reported Steve Jennings has a mower at Beaford but no transport. The church mower is quite old and it was suggested that the Church and PC could jointly buy a new mower. The Chapter 8 training is in hand and work will start in April. It was noted that dog fouling occurs on the verges so proper safety equipment should be used. **Action Cllr Papworth**
  - f) Old documents - Cllr Malcolm reported this was in hand.
  - g) Precept – Cllr Papworth will check that form was submitted in January.
93. **District Councillor Speaking time:** CC Boyd confirmed that salt is available through NHO (Neighbourhood Highways Officer). **Action Cllr Brown**
- He reminded the Cllrs that he has to maintain the Cllrs budget and has money available for parish projects. The Council Tax will rise by 3.99%. 2% to cover adult social care and 1.99% is the standard increase. He reported that significant budget cuts to the District Council continue but services are being maintained successfully.
- Devolution is currently being discussed at the District Council.
- Cllr Collins asked Cllr Boyd to report back as to when the A386 road – Higher Lodge to entrance of Huish will be resurfaced as it is in very bad repair. **Action CC Boyd**
- CC Boyd replied that there is no funding available but A and B roads should get priority. Devon CC is negotiating with Somerset and Plymouth councils to try and reduce costs.
- CC Boyd stated that potholes reported will be attended to within 28 days and that there is a consultation regarding funding for converting the A361 to dual carriageway.
94. **Play Equipment.** Cllr Malcolm reported that the Merton Play Equipment committee has received quotes and now has a preferred supplier, and subject to the RoSPA inspection of the proposed site, will be applying for funding shortly.

95. **Planning** – Application 1/0178/2016/FUL. Cllr Laughton declared an interest and after answering questions left the room. It was agreed by all Cllrs to advise planning that there are no objections in principle but there is some concern about the height of the proposed building, that the windows could overlook neighbours and of the proposed materials to be used in the elevation facing the road. **Action Cllr Papworth**
96. **Village Survey.** Cllr Horner was unavailable. Deferred to next meeting.
97. **Square Parking.** Annual review of the permits issued is due. Cost to remain as £1 per year. **Action Cllr Papworth**
98. **Sign Cleaning.** These are done voluntarily and the older signs are too deteriorated to clean. The finger boards, especially Beaford one, are very bad. Cllrs to compile list of signs that need replacing and investigate replacement with the Highways Agency. **Action all Cllrs**
99. **Finance**
- a) Cheque No. 264 for website for £50 has been signed and issued as agreed in e-mail discussion since the last meeting. The meeting ratified that decision, proposed by Cllr Collins, and seconded by Cllr Malcolm.
- b) Cheque No. 258 has been lost and needs to be cancelled at bank and re-issued. All agreed. **Action Cllr Papworth**
100. **Correspondence:**
- a) Update on Electoral Review of Devon. Seen by Cllrs.
- b) Barnstaple Town Council advised that a Planning and Environment School will be taking place in March. No interest.
- c) Junk Mail publication has been received regarding recycling issues. Seen by Cllrs.
- d) Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Medals. No interest.
101. **Items for next agenda:** Salt for roads, Speed sign and community speed check equip, Footpath pack, Queen's Birthday Beacon, Patrons Lunch, Grass Cutting, Village survey, Square Parking, Sign cleaning, Defibrillator.
102. **Next meeting date:** Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm
103. **Defibrillator.** Cllr Papworth commented upon the successful use of the village defibrillator and a discussion was held regarding observations/comments made regarding the illumination of the box and servicing procedure after use.

With no more business, the meeting was declared closed at 8.35pm

Chairman .....

Date .....