

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Merton Parish Council was held on:

Monday 11th April 2016 at 7:30pm in the Clinton Hall

Present: Cllr Papworth (Acting Chair), Cllr Horner, Cllr Collins, Cllr Malcolm, Cllr Laughton, Cllr Brown, Cllr Nancekivell, Zena Tett (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** CC Andy Boyd, PCSO Sandra Brown
Absent: Cllr Scantelbury
2. **Public speaking time:** No public present.
3. **Local Police Report:** During the period 06/03/16 to 06/04/16, Merton and Huish have been crime free. During the same period, 2 calls were received where logs were generated – both calls reported ASB behaviour.
4. **Minutes from the last meeting:** held on Monday 29th February 2016 – the minutes were agreed and signed as a true record (hard copy filed in Minutes folder).
5. **Matters arising from the minutes:**
 - a) Salt for roads: Cllr Brown to arrange and notify Councillors once obtained – Clerk to place on Agenda in the Autumn.
 - b) Speed sign and community speed check equipment update: Cllr Scantelbury not present – deferred to next meeting.
 - c) Footpath Pack: Cllr Scantelbury not present – deferred to next meeting.
 - d) Queen's Birthday Beacon (21st April): A site has been identified near Newberry by Cllrs Brown and Nancekivell. Cllr Brown to publicise locally, Clerk to notify Insurance Company to confirm cover.
 - e) Patrons Lunch (12th June): Cllr Malcolm concerned about attendance – deferred to next meeting.
 - f) Old documents: Cllrs Malcolm and Collins to sort through then report back. Cllr Brown is looking after the old scanner.
 - g) Defibrillator Lighting: Cllr Laughton to investigate options, meanwhile Cllr Horner to provide a temporary form of lighting – if this works, new lighting to be purchased.
6. **District Councillor Speaking Time:**

Cllr Brown has been contacted by Cllr Wiseman regarding two items which he reported.

 - a) Ward boundaries are being re-drawn based on population.
 - b) There is money available from the District Council.
 - c) The topic of green bin collection for the properties off the Beaford Road was raised – Cllr Brown to speak to Cllr Wiseman.
7. **Annual Parish and Annual General Meetings:** Parish Meeting 25th April 7pm, AGM 23rd May 7:30pm, to be followed by a Parish Council meeting.
8. **Play Equipment:** Cllr Malcolm reported that the Play Equipment Committee are applying for/investigating grants. Cllr Brown asked about the provision of new goal posts for the playing field due to concerns raised about the inefficiency of the current equipment and the dangers of the ball rolling into the road – Cllr Brown to investigate prices after asking the Hall's permission to place new equipment on the land. Vote at next meeting. **Action Cllrs Malcolm and Brown**
9. **TTVS Membership:** Cllr Horner proposed to join, seconded by Cllr Malcolm (both Cllrs declared an interest), all in favour. **Action Clerk to join if less than £30**

10. **Audit:** Cllr Collins proposed “opt in”, after a show of hands, all in favour. It was also noted Jill Letheren no longer wishes to Audit the Parish accounts. There are a couple of possible candidates who need to be approached. **Action Cllr Papworth and Clerk to source new Auditor**
11. **Planning:** There were no planning applications.
12. **Wind Turbine Consultation:** Cllr Papworth notified the meeting that a parishioner had sent an e-mail to Cllr Horner asking the Council to comment on TDC’s proposal. All the information had been circulated to the Cllrs and there was no clear mandate to send a comment to TDC – Cllr Horner replied to the parishioner. It was said that if there is feeling on issues amongst the parishioners that they attend the meeting when the item is on the Agenda in order to let Cllrs know their feelings. The Council will review any future applications in the Parish on their merits.
13. **Village Survey:** The last survey took place in 2008, Cllr Collins thought it was a useful tool and it was suggested the results were brought to the Parish Meeting with a view to asking parishioners if they’d like us to conduct another survey. **Action Cllr Horner**
10. **Square Parking:** It was decided to rationalise this system and ask parishioners to renew their annual fee at the beginning of each financial year starting with April 2017. Proposed by Cllr Papworth, all agreed. **Action Clerk**
11. **Sign Cleaning:** Deferred by Cllr Collins.
12. **Finance:**
 - a) Cheque No. 265 : Payee Fiona Lowe for Clerks expenses £28.81
 - b) Cheque No. 266 : Payee Torridge District Council for Payroll Set up £78.00
 - c) Cheque No. 267 : Payee Cllr Papworth for Clerks expenses £7.86
 - d) Cheque No. 268 : Payee Clinton Hall for room hire £52.80
 - e) Cheque No. 269 : DALC Membership £67.23
 - f) Cheque No. 270 : Barometer World £200.00 to replace previous cheque No. 258
13. **Correspondence:**
 - a) E-mail from CSC Roads: Reference ENQ16871905. **Action Clerk**
 - b) E-mail notification of Road Closure by South West Water: Work Ref LM501NC5809534 : on the road from Pear Tree Cottage to Mowhay, Merton from 04/07/16 to 08/07/16. **No Action**
 - c) E-mail from CPRE Devon Secretary regarding Devon Best Kept Village. **No Action**
14. **Items for next agenda:**
 - a) Dogs on leads, Broadband – Cllr Horner to obtain more information.
15. **Next meeting date:** Monday 25th April 7:00pm

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

Chairman

Date