

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Annual General Meeting of Merton Parish Council was held on

Monday 23rd May 2016 at 7:30pm in the Clinton Hall

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

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Nancekivell, DC Richard Wiseman, CC Andy Boyd, PCSO Sandra Brown
2. **Minutes from the last meeting:** held on Monday 18th May 2015 – the minutes were agreed and signed as a true record (hard copy filed in Minutes folder).

3. **Chairman's Report:**

During the past year our Parish Clerk retired after 45 years in the position. We thank Wendy for her many years of service, and wish her well for the future.

Replacing Wendy turned out to be difficult, and the first Clerk we appointed retired shortly after taking up the position. We have since appointed a new Clerk, and we hope she will remain with us for some time.

The defibrillator that was installed last year was used in anger this year, and we are incredibly thankful that Keith Wharton seems to have made a full recovery. A further training session on the use of the defibrillator and in administering CPR has been organised for May 17th in The Clinton Hall, and we hope that many people will attend.

We have continued to push forward our wishes to have Merton connected to superfast broad band. The Beaford exchange has been upgraded to fibre, but at present, there seems little chance of further high speed connections being brought into Merton. We will continue to work with our MP Geoffrey Cox to see if this situation can be resolved.

Over the winter, we have negotiated with Devon County Council to take over the cutting of grass on the verges in the village, with them giving us the money that they would have spent with their contractors. DCC were supposed to cut 4 times a year, but in recent years have failed to meet this obligation. By undertaking the work ourselves, we can ensure that the cutting is performed on a regular basis, which will keep the village looking smart.

The Merton website continues to be updated on a regular basis, and all parishioners with Internet access are encouraged to visit the site regularly for all the latest news.

I would like to thank Cedric and Wendy Askew for looking after the flower beds at the village entrance.

Finally, I would like to thank the Clinton Hall committee for running and maintaining our wonderful village hall, which continues to be well used, and is a great asset to the village.

4. **Financial Statement for the year ending 31st March 2016 and adoption of accounts:**

The clerk presented the accounts to the councillors giving explanations for items listed. The balance in the current account at 31st March 2016 was £1,757.95 and the balance in the deposit account was £18,160.81.

Councillor Collins proposed the accounts be adopted and Councillor Papworth seconded it and all agreed. The accounts were signed by Councillor Papworth. The audit forms were completed and signed.

5. **Election of Officers:**

Chair: Cllr Papworth proposed Cllr Horner as chair, this was seconded by Cllr Collins all agreed.

Vice Chair: Cllr Horner proposed Cllr Papworth as vice chair, this was seconded by Cllr Brown all agreed.

Clinton Hall representative: Cllr Malcolm proposed Cllr Collins, this was seconded by Cllr Papworth all agreed.

Church Yard Fund Committee: Cllrs Laughton, Papworth and Collins were elected to represent the Parish Council on this committee, proposed by Cllr Horner and seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all agreed.

Declaration of Acceptance and Interest forms to be signed. **Action Clerk to locate forms**

A vote of thanks was proposed by Cllr Collins for both Cllr Horner and Cllr Papworth this was seconded by Cllr Brown.

With no further business, the AGM was declared closed at 7:45pm

Chairman

Date