

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 8th January 2018 in the Clinton Hall

Councillors Present: Steve Papworth (Chair), Tim Horner (Vice Chair), Jill Malcolm, Philip Collins, Chris Laughton, Robert Nancekivell and County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 0 members of the public were present

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

54. **Welcome:** Cllr Papworth welcomed everyone to the meeting.
55. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Bill Brown and Paul Scantlebury and District Councillor Richard Wiseman
56. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 6th November 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour.
57. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Horner and Malcolm reference Play Equipment
58. **Public Speaking Time**
- 58.1 Police Report: During the period 7th December 2017 to 7th January 2018 Merton and Huish have been crime free. During the same period 3 calls were received where a log was generated:
- Call reporting cows in the road
 - Domestic report
 - Police generated resource
59. **District and County Councillor Reports**
- 59.1 County Councillor Andrew Saywell
- C.Cllr Andrew Saywell urged everyone to contact him if they were aware of any issues with potholes. Cllr Collins mentioned the gulleys in Limers Lane and Cllr Horner mentioned the road just above Merton Mill on the Beaford Road, the temporary tarmac is now sloping away and almost impossible to pass.
 - The cash machine in Torrington has now been installed and being used – thanks to Mr Duffy for providing this asset to the rural community.
 - C.Cllr Saywell attended the annual conference of the Local Enterprise Partnership. At this meeting he managed to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive and District County Officer. He hopes to raise the profile of this particular area and the issues we face in Torrington.
 - Finally, it was confirmed that the Fire station in Torrington is not closing.

- 59.2 District Councillor Richard Wiseman
In the absence of District Councillor Richard Wiseman this item was deferred.

60. Matters Arising

60.1 Playground Lease

The Clerk has instructed Bazeley Solicitors to act on behalf of the Parish Council in order to bring the Lease to a swift conclusion. Once a date has been agreed with Torridge District Council the Clerk will write to inform the Playground Committee. Cllr Horner to confirm the amount to the Clerk.
Action Cllr Horner and Clerk

60.2 Playground

Signage for no-smoking to be placed in the playground by the Committee. Cllr Horner suggested some monies from termination of the lease should go to the clearance of the site, i.e. the removal of the play equipment and soft surfacing, re-seed and removal of kerbs. This would cost around £500. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Nancekivell, all in favour. **Action Cllr Horner.** Cllr Collins reported that the Village Hall Committee would like to see the fence removed, however, Cllr Malcolm advised this would cost more. Cllr Collins to get a quote. **Action Cllr Collins**

60.3 Highways

60.3.1 ENQ17964694 overgrown hedge: item closed

60.3.2 W171054776 bend sign: Highways will affix an offset pole

60.3.3 W171054777 blocked culvert on east side of A386, north of junction with Bounsells lane: has been inspected and considered not a danger, Cllr Papworth has spoken with Highways – open

60.3.4 W171064137 bend sign knocked down at the north of the village: open – has been re-examined and will be dealt with

60.3.5 W171061639 speed sign: completed – item closed

60.3.6 W171061643 speed sign: completed – item closed

60.4 Speed-Watch Group and Speed Indicating Devices

Cllr Papworth has spoken with Simon Philips of Highways. He was urging caution on SIDs and if we go ahead a Speed-Watch Group would need to be formed. Cllr Papworth to put an article in Merton Monthly to see if there is any interest in the community to form a Group. **Action Cllr Papworth**

60.5 TAP Fund

Deferred to the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

60.6 Southern Entrance Gates

In view of the costs involved in this project it was decided to close this item.

60.7 Snow Warden & Winter Service

Salt has been ordered and will be delivered shortly. Cllr Brown to confirm delivery status. **Action Cllr Brown**

61. New Items

61.1 Urban Grass Cutting

The Clerk has received a new contract from Devon County Council for the grass cutting. Merton has been awarded £370 for the 2018/19 season. The authority's policy is to only maintain visibility areas which must be maintained

as a minimum within this allocation. The visibility area to be cut in Merton is 892sq.m x 4 cuts which totals an area of 3568 sq.m. Cllr Papworth proposed the parish continues with the new contract, this was seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

61.2 Community Governance Review

Torrige District Council is starting the first round of consultation for a Community Governance Review of the Town and Parish Councils in the area. The review gives local people the opportunity to have their views heard about whether current parish arrangements should be changed. This could include the creation or abolition of parishes and parish councils, or changes to parish boundaries. This period of consultation will remain open until 23rd February 2018 when the Council will use the submissions to produce draft proposals in the spring which will be subject to a second public consultation. Cllr Collins proposed Merton contacts Petrockstowe and joins their Parish, no Councillors present wished to second this proposal.

61.3 Defibrillator

The lease for the defibrillator is due to expire in March. The company who owns the equipment have agreed to loan the Defibrillator to the Parish at no further on-going cost. However, the Parish would be responsible for replacing the pads and ensuring the battery is renewed. Cllr Horner proposed that we accept this offer and continue to use the unit until we think it is time to replace it. Cllr Collins suggested an amendment to the effect that we review the continued use of the unit at the first Council meeting each year. **Action Clerk**

62. Planning

62.1 1/1008/2017/LBC and 1/1007/2017/FUL

Shepherds Court, Merton for proposed rear extension – to note the decision made by Torrige District Council to grant permission for this application.

62.2 1/0905/2017/FUL

Clinton Village Hall, Merton for installation of landing lights to provide emergency lighting for the Devon Air Ambulance – to note the decision made by Torrige District Council to grant permission for this application.

62.3 1/1241/2017/FUL

3 The Square, Merton for refurbishment of storage room to convert ground floor to ancillary accommodation.

Cllr Collins proposed that this item be moved to PART 2, seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour.

Decision: It was agreed to comment on the application raising the concerns of the Parish Council about creation of a new entrance onto the Square which is owned by The Parish Council on behalf of the Parish and to which there is no legal right to form a new access. **Action Clerk**

Cllr Collins proposed the normal meeting is resumed, this was seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour.

62.4 1/1068/2017/FUL

Building at Speccott Barton Farm, Merton for change of use to convert an existing agricultural building into a three bedroom dwelling, including a studio facility – to note the decision made by Torrige District Council to grant permission for this application.

- 62.5 1/0411/2017
Eastbeare Farmhouse for proposed extension and alterations to farmhouse
Comments: No objection
Decision: No objection
Proposed by Cllr Papworth, seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

63. Clerks Report

- 63.1 Correspondence
The correspondence below was reviewed/noted:
63.1.1 TTVS: suicide intervention bitesize briefing
63.1.2 DCC: Parish and Town Council Conference presentations
63.1.3 TDC: Waste & Recycling new Schemes Roadshows
63.1.4 DCC: Devon Countryside Access Forum
63.1.5 TDC: Communities Conference Invitation
- 63.2 Register of Interests
In the absence of Cllrs Brown and Scantlebury, this item was deferred until the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

64. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 64.1 Cllr Malcolm
Someone needs to remove the trampoline from the Triangle. Cllr Horner will speak to the owner.
- 64.2 Cllr Horner
The bench to the entrance to Meadow Vale, has been knocked off its base by a car. Cllr Horner will make this safe and remove the plaque which will be forwarded to a surviving member of the family.
DAAT has now signed off the Air Ambulance night landing light and is live on their website. They will let us know when they do a practice landing and will notify us when they use it.
- 64.3 Cllr Laughton
There is a Recovery lorry parked in the Square and a horsebox/cattle trailer left unattended quite often. A letter should be written to remind them that parking is not permitted. Cllr Laughton to obtain details from the commercial vehicle. **Action Cllr Laughton**

65. Finance

- 65.1 Payments
The following payments were agreed, proposed by Cllr Malcolm, seconded by Cllr Nancekivell, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
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| 65.1.1 | Clerks: Expenses | £27.25 |
| 65.1.2 | Steve Jennings: Maintenance | £144.27 |
| 65.1.3 | Clerks Expenses Nov/Dec | £20.00 |
| 65.1.4 | Clinton Hall – donation as per minute ref 47.5 | £500.00 |
| 65.1.5 | MAT Electrics – DAAT Lighting | £6,520.94 |
| 65.1.6 | Tim Horner – Winkleigh Timber grey granite sets | £7.20 |

65.2 Review of the Bank Balance

The balance as of 29th November 2017 was £24,187.81. After deducting the above payments, the balance will be £16,968.15.

65.3 Bank Accounts

The Clerk confirmed that one of the accounts had been closed and all monies transferred to the Current Account.

65.4 Budget Sign Off

Councillors reviewed the Budget and agreed to sign off with the proposed amendments. Clerk to distribute once amended. Proposed by Cllr Papworth, seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

66. Date of Next Meeting – the date of the next meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place on Monday 12th March 2018 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Merton.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:00pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: (Chair)

NAME: **DATE:**