

# MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017 in The Clinton Hall

**Councillors Present:** Steve Papworth (Chair), Tim Horner (Vice Chair), Jill Malcolm, Philip Collins, Chris Laughton and Bill Brown

**Parish Clerk:** Zena Tett

**Also in attendance:** No members of the public were present

## BUSINESS TRANSACTED

8. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2017 were amended with the words “to be” removed from the title “Business to be Transacted”. They were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Malcolm and all in favour.
9. **Matters Arising**
  - 9.1 Play Equipment  
Have received grants from both the Lottery and Coastal Recycling and will be transferring the difference of costs will be transferred from the Play Equipment fund to ensure enough monies to pay for the equipment. Clerk to apply to reclaim the VAT. **Action Clerk**
  - 9.2 Highway Matters – ENQ 17964694  
Highways reported that the occupier of the property in question had been notified about the overgrown vegetation after an inspection had been carried out. Clerk to notify Councillors of the property in question. **Action Clerk**
  - 9.3 Churchyard Mower  
Expecting delivery soon and will be stored in a secure location. Cllr Collins confirmed the mower would be maintained by Mr Jennings.
  - 9.4 Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site  
All Councillors agreed Planning permission should be applied for immediately with the fee being paid by the Parish Council and Cllr Horner suggested we should look at reducing the costs of the project by finding our own sources for some of the works. Cllr Brown was concerned that it should be made clear that if we reduce the costs of the installation then we don't lose any of the grant. **Action Cllr Brown.** Cllr Collins proposed the Parish Council applied for monies from County Councillor Andy Saywell. **Action Clerk**
  - 9.5 River Mere Water Quality  
Cllr Collins is still concerned with the declining numbers of fish and proposed he write to the river authority. **Action Cllr Collins**

## 10. New Items

### 10.1 Planters & Hanging Baskets

After much discussion Cllr Papworth suggested putting an article in the Merton Monthly to see if any parishioners would be willing to adopt a planter.

**Action Cllr Papworth**

## 11. Clerks Report

### 11.1 Correspondence

The correspondence below was discussed/noted:

- i. Email from Andrew Waite TDC – Merton Village Hall Play Area Lease – Cllr Collins proposed the Parish Council accepts the £3,500 offered by TDC but delay the contract until the new equipment is installed, this was seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- ii. Email DCC – Updated measures to protect poultry against Avian Flu
- iii. Documentation from Grant Thornton – External Audit
- iv. Email from Andrew Budd GrantScape Services Ltd – thanking the PC for the contributing cheque of £2,010
- v. Email from Highways – road closure

### 11.2 Annual Governance Statement 2017/17

The Annual Governance Statement was acknowledged, completed and signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

### 11.3 Accounting Statements 2016/17

The Accounting Statement was signed as a true record by the Chairman and the Clerk.

## 12. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

### 12.1 Cllr Brown

Concerned about the ruts in the A386, he has registered them with Highways. Cllr Papworth asked the Clerk to make sure County Councillor Andy Saywell is invited to the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

### 12.2 Cllr Horner

Fence opposite Malt Scoop is in disrepair. The Estate has been approached and they explained it is part of the share farm deal, they'll look into getting it repaired. It was agreed that Cllr Horner would remain the contact point for CDE and he will contact Adrian Pitt regarding any issues with the Share Farm Deal.

### 12.3 Cllr Malcolm

There is a fence down just below Grange Lane where the Egg Notice is. Cllr Horner to report to the Estate. **Action Cllr Horner**

### 12.4 Cllr Horner

Cllr Horner suggested grass cutting be put on the next Agenda. **Action Clerk**

## 13. Finance

13.1 To consider the following payments:

i.	Clerks Expenses	£20.55
ii.	The Clinton Hall – room hire	£64.00
iii.	Torrige District Council – payroll services	£36.00
iv.	Kompan Ltd	£43,780.40

Clerk to HOLD until funds available

The above payments were proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour.

13.2 Bank Balance

The closing balance of both accounts as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 was £29,054.78.

14. **Date of Next Meeting** – the date of the next meeting of the Council was agreed as 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Merton.

**There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.17pm**

**SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD: ..... (Chair)**

**NAME: .....DATE: .....**