

## MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

An ordinary meeting followed the AGM and was held in the Clinton Hall on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2009 at 7.30pm

Apologies: Councillors Down and Scantlebury

Present; Councillor Horner (chair), Councillors Laughton, Nancekivell, Sharpe, Phillips, Collins and Mrs Wendy Askew (clerk).

Minutes: The minutes were signed as a true record having been previously circulated.

1. Matters Arising: There were no matters arising not on the agenda.

2. Public Speaking Time: There were no members of the public present.

3. Village Square: Councillor Phillips gave an update on the quote for the repairs to the square. The recent quote is for £48000 to replace the footpath and entrance to the square with cobble sets, re-surface the main body of the square and cobble area between the church path and the wall and also at the bottom of the square. It was agreed to seek funding for this project and Councillor Phillips will approach various bodies that may be able to help, the clerk was asked to send a copy of the plans with a letter to Lesley Smith of the CCD to ask for help in getting funding. The parking charges for the square were again discussed and this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting. The Land Registry of the square is ongoing.

4. Village entrances: Councillors Collins and Nancekivell declared a prejudicial interest on this item. The Monck committee have designed a sign for the entrances to include mention of General Monck's birthplace. The committee have spoken to the Devon Highways and it was decided to approach the Parish Council for permission to erect new signs to include the connection to General Monck. Two signs would be purchased at a cost of £200 each which will be paid for by the Monck Committee. It was proposed by Councillor Laughton seconded by Councillor Sharpe and all agreed to write to the Devon Highways and ask for these signs to be erected. It was suggested the village entrances need to be more prominent and ideas were discussed. It was agreed a working party of Councillors Nancekivell, Phillips and Collins would meet with someone from the Devon Highways to discuss possible ideas. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting for a progress report.

5. General Monck: The monument planned for General Monck will be made of granite. A site has not yet been decided and this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

6. Bus Stop: The Parish Council received a petition from members of the parish concerning the bus stop. A discussion followed.

7. Website: As Councillor Scantlebury was not present there was no update on the Website.

8. Parish Plan Review: Affordable Housing – A letter and plans had been received from Clinton Devon Estates asking for support for six affordable houses in the village as well as three open market sites. The sites for the affordable houses would be given by the Clinton Devon Estates if the planning was approved by Torridge District

Council for three open market sites. This was a positive sign and the Councillors whole heartedly approved of the project. It was proposed by Councillor Horner, seconded by Councillor Nancekivell and all agreed that a letter of support be sent to the Clinton Devon Estates.. Councillors Sharpe and Phillips left the room during this discussion after declaring their prejudicial interest.

9. Street Lighting: Councillor Collins proposed the Parish Council review the possibility of reducing the use of street lights in the village. Petrockstowe have replaced the bulbs with low energy bulbs. The clerk was asked to contact the clerk of Petrockstowe Parish Council for more information on this before the next meeting.

10. Planning Application: A planning application was approved outside of the meeting. It was to replace a window and open up a blocked doorway at Bramble Bounsell. This was agreed by six councillors with one councillor on leave and one councillor abstained due to a prejudicial interest. It was agreed that any planning applications received when a meeting is not due will need to be considered by the chairman and if needed discussed at a specially convened meeting so that all councillors will have the opportunity to consider the plans in the short time available before replying to Torridge District Council.

Any Other Business:

11. Councillor Nancekivell reported on the temporary bollards that were at the top of the village by the entrance to the garage. It was reported that these were there when road works were being carried out. It was suggested something similar could be used to stop vehicles stopping right on this dangerous corner. The Devon Highways will be consulted on suggestions when they next visit the village.

12. A letter had been received from Devon County Council stating when the date for the next Parish Lengthman visit will be. The councillors suggested the path from Kingsford down to the corner could be cleared and a letter will be sent asking for this.

13. The fouling of footpaths by horses was discussed and advice will be sought.

14. A letter was received from a young parishioner requesting funds for the TFG group which is a Youth Group for the Clinton Ward for 11 – 18 years old. Currently members are from Little Torrington, Merton and Petrockstowe. This will be discussed when the grants are allotted.

14. There were three cheques signed for Hire of the Hall for the year, Insurance premium and clerks' expenses for the year.

The next meeting date will be Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> June at 8pm PLEASE NOTE NEW TIME for summer meetings.

Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 9.55pm