

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting was held in the Clinton Hall on Thursday 18th June 2009 at 8pm.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mark Phillips.

Present were Councillor Horner (chair) Councillors Laughton, Collins, Sharpe, Down, Scantlebury and Nancekivell.

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

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

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

18. Square; Funding was being sought through various sources. This will be discussed further at the next meeting. It was reported that Devon Highways had parked in the square when they repaired the road to Tythecombe Lake. It was noted that they had left some mess behind. This was the second time this has happened. The Councillors requested that a letter should be sent to the Devon Highways enquiring into the policy for parking equipment on privately owned land.

It was reported that the square had been weed killed but the debris now needed strimming off. The clerk would get some one to do this.

19. Parking Charges: It was agreed that charging for parking overnight would still be in force and the clerk was asked to request payment from residents.

20. Village Entrances: Each end of the village had been looked at and it was decided that the top end had sufficient room to erect a bigger village sign but the bottom end needed to be re-sited. It was suggested that the sign could be sited further down the road past Richmond House, where the field gates are, making the approach to the village more visible. This would mean cutting into the hedge. Councillor Collins would approach the Clinton Devon Estate seeking permission to make adjustments. He would then contact the Devon Highways for advice on siting the sign.

21. General Monck monument; The site suggested for the monument was the area beside the entrance to the Clinton Hall on the left hand side of the approach road. This will be discussed with Devon Highways.

22. Freedom Coldstream Guards: Councillor Collins will contact the Coldstream Guards to seek advice on what would be expected if they were given the Freedom of the village. It was also suggested the clerk seek advice from Lesley Smith of the CCD.

23. Bus Stop; A letter was received from Mr Robin Julian P.P.C. UKIP concerning the proposed new bus stop. It was decided to write in reply explaining that the only reason the Parish Council got involved in the first place was because a parishioner had made a formal complaint to the Council due to the siting of the stop by Tanglewood. The Parish Councillors feel there are adequate bus stops in the village and now consider the matter closed.

24. Website; Councillor Scantlebury reported on the new website, www.mertondevon.com. It is up and running and already has many interesting pieces of information. Businesses are beginning to advertise. Councillors Collins, Sharpe and Laughton declared their prejudicial interest and left the room. It was decided that there will be a charge of £10 per year for businesses to cover costs. The first charge of £5 will be required from the 1st September for

six months and charges will then apply annually. Any business wishing to advertise should log on for details. All cheques should be made payable to the Parish Council and passed to the clerk. The cost of setting up for the first year as agreed will be £350 and this will be reviewed when this time is up.

25. Street Lighting: A reply had been received from Mr Shane Bayley of DCC concerning cutting the street lighting in the village. It would appear that the main lights are 70w lamps and would not be able to be reduced as it is an A road. However there would be an option to use lower wattage in the side roads. It was decided to invite Mr Bayley to the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the options. It is hoped members of the public would attend to put their views.

26. A reply was received from the highways department re pavement fouling. It was agreed to hope there would be no further incidents. It was noted that horses should not be allowed on pavements.

27. Emergency Plan: The clerk had received some names for the Emergency Plan. A draft will be compiled before the next meeting.

28. Play Area: The lease for the play area has been received from Torridge District Council. The Clinton Hall will provide confirmation on this piece of land before the Councillors sign the agreement.

Any Other Business:

29. Land Registry: Philip Bailey has offered to complete the necessary paperwork for the Land Registry for the Square. A cheque will be raised to cover the Land Registry fee.

30. Traffic through the village: Councillor Collins has obtained through the freedom of information the results of traffic passing through the village. It appears there is an average of 2246 vehicles per day, with over 40% travelling at over 41 MPH. There was one recorded travelling at between 61-66 during the time checked from 9th April 2009 to 16th April 2009. Other stats are available.

31. Councillor Down again reported the curb stone along the main road which needs to be raised to stop water flooding the properties. The clerk will contact The Highways Dept. again.

32. A complaint has been received concerning the overgrowth along the pavement from the village to the Kingsford. The clerk will ask the Highways to clear this. The hedge is not yet due for cutting but the growth at the pavement level needs more management.

33. A complaint has been received concerning the parking of vehicles at Back Lane. The Clinton Devon Estate will be informed.

34. Councillor Nancekivell reported a complaint of water pouring off the fields at Tythecombe Lake and going across the road and eroding the hedge on the other side. Devon Highways will be asked to investigate. The Highways will be asked to arrange a site meeting for all the issues raised at this meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday 3rd September at 7.30pm. Everyone was thanked for attending and the meeting closed at 9.35pm.