

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 6th November 2017 in the Clinton Hall

Councillors Present: Steve Papworth (Chair), Tim Horner (Vice Chair), Jill Malcolm, Philip Collins, District Councillor Richard Wiseman and County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Absent: Cllrs Brown and Scantlebury

Minutes taken by: Cllr Malcolm

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 0 members of the public were present

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

41. **Welcome:** Cllr Papworth welcomed everyone to the meeting.
42. **Apologies for Absence:** Clerk and Cllrs Laughton and Nancekevill
43. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 11th September 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Horner, seconded by Cllr Collins, all in favour.
44. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Horner and Malcolm declared an interest in Play Equipment.
45. **Public Speaking Time:** None present
46. **District and County Councillor Reports**
 - 46.1 County Councillor Andrew Saywell
 - A bid has been placed by the Council to upgrade the North Devon link toad, to be done in stages, starting on the Bideford to South Molton stretch.
 - The Chamber of Trade has met with the Torrington Regeneration group. Following the loss of Lloyds ATM, Duffys (hardware shop) should have a 24hour ATM in use in the near future.
 - C.Cllr Saywell will attend the Annual Conference of Local Enterprise Partnership and attempt to raise the profile of Torrington.
 - He has visited the offices of Children's social services to gain knowledge of the system.
 - The Town and Parish Conference will be held in the Clinton Hall on 7th November, C.Cllr Saywell will be attending, Cllr Papworth reported that he will also be attending.
 - C.Cllr Saywell will also be attending a meeting of the broadband task group and will report back.

Due to prior commitments C.Cllr Saywell left the meeting.

46.2 District Councillor Richard Wiseman

- There will be a by-election in Torrington for the District Council.
- *Boundaries Commission: Merton will be in Mid-Devon.*
- In future the Council will be following the Surfers against Sewage concept for plastic. As a start they will ban all drinks bottles on Council premises.
- The proposed traveller's site, at present, is adjacent to Riverbank House, an alternative site has been brought to the Council's notice.

47. Matters Arising

47.1 Play Equipment VAT

Deferred in the absence of the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

47.2 Playground

Deferred as there were insufficient Councillors to be quorate due to Cllrs Horner and Malcolm being unable to vote. **Action Clerk**

47.3 Highways

- ENQ17964694 overgrown hedge: some work has been carried out on the hedge. Cllr Papworth has spoken to Steve Jennings about addressing the bottom of the hedge.
- ENQ16952161 faulty 30mph sign: email received with update on flashing sign which is permanently on.

47.4 Devon Air Ambulance Landing Site

The light is now finished. Clerk to request the money from Merton Moncks as an invoice will be received soon. **Action Clerk**

47.5 Clinton Hall

Cllr Collins has applied for a grant from TDC for £3,250 and asked for £500 from the Parish Council. Clerk to send an email to Judi at the Hall to be passed onto TDC in support. Cllr Horner proposed the Parish Council donates £500.00 to the Village Hall, seconded by Cllr Papworth, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

47.6 Speedwatch Group and Speed Indicating Devices

Deferred, awaiting further information. **Action Clerk**

47.7 TAP Fund

Cllr Collins is looking into a Youth Project. Cllr Horner proposed that the TAP fund be given to the Clinton Hall for the benefit of young people in Merton, Huish and Petrockstowe this was seconded by Cllr Papworth, all in favour. Clerk to contact the Parishes of Huish and Petrockstowe to determine whether they would be in favour of this project. **Action Clerk**

47.8 Maintenance

Cllr Horner reported that the top and bottom gates to Rob Nancekivell's field, adjacent to Hatches, have been replaced. He asked that photos be taken of any more problems with gates and footpaths and passed onto him.

48. New Items

- 48.1 Southern Entrance Gates
Deferred until next meeting when more Councillors will be present. **Action Clerk**
- 48.2 Bank Accounts
Cllr Papworth is in the process of combining the bank accounts and will report back when he has more information.
- 48.3 Snow Warden & Winter Service
Cllr Brown has ordered more grit, however, this item will be discussed in more detail at the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

49. Planning

- 49.1 1/1007/2017/FUL
Shepherds Court, Merton for proposed rear extension
Comments: The Parish Council has concerns about the extension as they believe it is not in keeping with the existing listed building.
- 49.2 1/1008/2017/LBC
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- 49.3 1/0989/2017/AGBM
Kimberlee Barn, Speccott Farm, Merton for prior notification for the change of use of agricultural building to one dwelling under Class Q – to note the decision made by the Parish Council to not object.
- 49.4 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 the Parish Council to support this application

50. Clerks Report

- 50.1 Correspondence
The correspondence below was reviewed/noted:
- 50.1.1 Highways: Parish & Town Council Conferences 2017 – Cllr Papworth will be attending
- 50.1.2 TDC: Rough Sleeper Estimate – there are no known rough sleepers in Merton
- 50.1.3 TDC: Community Governance Reviews – TDC has a duty to review boundaries
- 50.2 Register of Interests
In the absence of Cllrs Brown and Scantlebury this item was deferred until the next meeting. **Action Clerk**

51. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

51.1 Cllr Papworth

Information about Neighbourhood Watch has been put on the website and Cllr Papworth will send it to the next Merton Monthly publication.

The defibrillator training had five attendees and the battery in the defibrillator has been replaced.

51.2 Cllr Horner

- Mark Stevens has been asked to see to the trees overgrowing the footpath next door to Mowhay garden.
- Cllr Horner has had a meeting with Andrew (a tree surgeon) from 3, The Square, concerning the trees around the Hall. He will get back to Cllr Horner with a price to lift canopies and tidy up.
- Phone Box. The door has been replaced and handset repaired. BT will paint when 'needed'.
- Bus shelter. The concrete at the front has eroded and needs repairing. Cllr Horner has spoken to Colin Newell and it can be repaired using a row of granite sets set in new concrete across the front, set at an angle so that there is a slope not a step. Estimated cost £70. Cllr Papworth used his authority to give this the go ahead, all agreed.

52. Finance

52.1 Payments

The following payments were deferred in the absence of the Clerk. **Action Clerk**

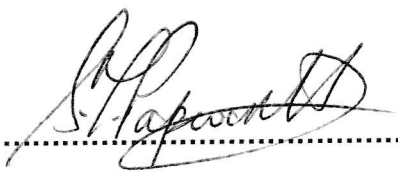
52.1.1	Clerks: Expenses	£27.25
52.1.2	Steve Jennings: Maintenance	£TBC

52.2 Review of the Bank Balance

Deferred in the absence of the Clerk.

53. **Date of Next Meeting** – the date of the next meeting of the Council is scheduled to take place on Monday 8th January 2018 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall, Merton.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  (Chair)

NAME: S.T. PAPWORTH DATE: 08-JAN-2018