

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Held on Monday 12th March 2018 in the Clinton Hall

Councillors Present: Steve Papworth (Chair), Tim Horner (Vice Chair), Jill Malcolm, Philip Collins, Bill Brown, Robert Nancekivell, Paul Scantlebury and District Councillor Richard Wiseman

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 0 members of the public were present

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

67. **Welcome:** Cllr Papworth welcomed everyone to the meeting.
68. **Apologies for Absence:** County Councillor Andrew Saywell and Cllr Chris Laughton
69. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 8th January 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour.
70. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllrs Horner and Malcolm reference Playground Committee
71. **Public Speaking Time**
- 71.1 Police Report: During the period 8th January 2018 to 7th March 2018 Merton and Huish have had 4 crimes, details as follows:
- Send letter/communication/article conveying a threatening message
 - Assault a person thereby occasioning them actual bodily harm
 - Dogs not under proper control – complaint only
 - Use threatening/abusing/insulting words/behaviour to cause harassment/alarm
- During the same period 6 calls were logged as follows:
- 2 calls reporting road traffic collisions
 - 2 calls reporting domestics
 - 1 call reporting a concern for welfare
 - 1 call reporting suspicious circumstances
- The 2 domestic and suspicious circumstances are all linked.
72. **District and County Councillor Reports**
- 72.1 County Councillor Andrew Saywell
Winter Weather
C.Cllr Saywell expressed this thanks to DCC Highways and volunteers and wardens who helped clear the snow following Storm Emma. Torrington rural did not appear to be too badly affected compared to some of the other areas in the County. He is aware there was an issue in Merton with the salt not

being delivered and he has asked Lucy Barrow at DCC Highways to investigate.

DCC Budget

The County Council agreed its budget in February and the DCC share of the Council Tax precept is due to rise by 4.99% with 2% specifically allocated to Adult Social Care. An additional £6.5m has been allocated to this years' Highways Budget which will be used specifically to fund improvements to drainage, patching and potholes. Finally, C.Cllr Saywell mentioned having a £10,000 Locality Budget Grant in addition to a further £10,000 to spend on Capital Projects within his Division. He has asked the Parish Council to keep him informed of any projects they may have in mind.

A386

Work is finally due to commence on resurfacing the A386 between Lower Lodge to Broadmead on 19th March with an anticipated finish on 23rd March, the road will be closed with traffic diverted via the A3124.

Pothole Action Fund

C.Cllr Saywell put forward the Merton to Beaford Road, particularly the area around Merton Mill, as a Pothole Action Fund site for repair.

72.2 District Councillor Richard Wiseman

District Council Tax will go up by £5 for an average D band house. TDC in a very good financial position.

Local plan is going back to consultation on 2 minor points. 1. To provide more evidence for a particular policy. 2. Small group of 5 dwellings at Appledore.

Devolution plan is being reinvigorated and Somerset is taking the lead this time. The heart of the South West.

Non single use plastic council – no single use plastics – that's the way forward.

What are y our intentions for the old play park? There are parts of it that district takes responsibility for. Tim said its all leased by District Council. Lease is being rescinded and we're taking the lease back. All play equipment was leased

73. Matters Arising

73.1 Playground Lease

The Parish Council is still awaiting a date from Torridge District Council for the cancellation of the lease. Cllr Horner to investigate. **Action Cllr Horner**

73.2 Playground

Cllr Horner has been in contact with Torridge District Council and they have been considering removing both the fence and the remaining play equipment and reinstating the area back to grass.

73.3 Highways

73.3.2 W171054776 bend sign: closed

73.3.3 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

73.3.4 W171064137 bend sign: closed

73.4 Speed-Watch Group

Having followed up on speedwatch rules, Cllr Papworth confirmed the Parish Council would not be allowed to use a speed indicating device if there is a speed activating sign within so many yards and as there is already a sign at either end of the village, a speedwatch group cannot be formed.

73.5 TAP Fund

Councillors confirmed the Clerk should move forward with the youth project and apply with Huish. **Action Clerk**

73.6 Snow Warden & Winter Service

Despite numerous requests to the Council there was a delay in receiving the salt delivery for the village, there appeared to have been a failure with the website. Several bags will be distributed where they'll be needed most in future.

73.7 Parking on the Square

A commercial vehicle has been parked on The Square for some time – Cllr Horner proposed the Chairman speak with the individual. **Action Cllr Papworth**

74. **New Items**

74.1 Hall Entrance Tarmac Repair

There is an area of ground to the entrance of the Village Hall which is shared with the School that needs resurfacing. There is a document dated 20th August 1988 between Merton Parish Council and the Trustees of the Clinton Hall Management Committee and Devon County Council showing a joint liability, however, Councillors felt the works needed to be carried out fairly quickly without waiting for DCC.

Cllr Collins has received a quote for filling potholes and digging out round the edges and making good tarmac areas. £2,450 plus VAT. The Clinton Estate will fund £1,450 of it and Cllr Collins suggested the Parish Council accept an invoice from the Village Hall Committee for £1,000 plus VAT to cover the remainder of the costs. Cllr Horner proposed we take on the invoice and ask the Village Hall Committee to contribute £500, Cllr Scantlebury seconded, all in favour. **Action Cllr Collins**

74.2 No 3 The Square – Water Problem

Councillors asked the Clerk to document that the Parish Council had written to Torridge District Council stating that they own the land wall to wall and there is no existing access from that property.

74.3 No 3 The Square – Planning Application

Leigh Winsbury has spoken to them about their planning application and their intention to put a doorway onto the square is way down the list of works to do. Cllr Horner suggested the Parish Council seeks legal advice to protect the parish Councils rights to the square, seconded by Cllr Collins, all in favour. **Action Cllr Horner**

74.4 Maintenance of Air Ambulance Landing Site

The Chairman used his prerogative to sign an agreement prior to this meeting in order to maintain the air ambulance light. All in favour.

74.5 Domain Name Renewal

MertonDevon.com domain name has to be renewed every 10 years. Cllr Papworth proposed this is renewed, seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour.
Action Cllr Papworth

74.6 Dog Fouling

A number of complaints have been received from residents to members of the Council about dog fouling. The Chairman has written a piece that went in the recent edition of the Merton Monthly, hopefully residents will now know who to contact to report these incidents.

74.7 Meeting Attendance

The Chairman's expectation is that all councillors should attempt to attend all meetings unless unforeseen sudden circumstances should arise. He would like to see much better attendance in future and encourages everyone to make every effort to attend.

75. Planning

75.1 1/1242/2017/LBC & 1/1242/2017/FUL

3 The Square, Merton for refurbishment of storage room to convert ground floor ancillary accommodation – to record the decision made by Torridge District Council to grant permission for this application.

76. Clerks Report

76.1 Correspondence

The correspondence below was reviewed/noted:

76.1.1 TDC: Consultation on North Devon and Torridge Local Plan

76.1.2 TDC: Parish Council Planning Information Sharing Session

76.1.3 Highways: Traffic Sensitive Street Review

76.1.4 Highways: Traffic Notice 5th – 8th March

76.1.5 TDC: Standards Committee & Code of Conduct – meetings are conducted in a professional way – don't have any issues with any of the standards.

76.1.6 Highways: Traffic Notice 12th March to 13th March

76.1.8 Highways: Traffic Notice 19th March to 23rd March

76.1.9 Winkleigh PC: NP Planning Course – date TBC

76.1.10 Multi Academy Trust – To record that the Parish Council hadn't been notified. Cllr Papworth wrote to the Chair of Governors, who in turn apologised and a meeting has been arranged for this Thursday at 4pm. Cllrs Collins and Horner offered to attend.

76.2 TTVS Renewal

Cllr Malcolm, proposed we renew the TTVS subscription, this was seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

76.3 Register of Interests

Clerk to resend the form to Cllrs Brown and Scantlebury. **Action Clerk**

76.4 General Data Protection Regulations

The Clerk will attend a course to learn more about the new regulations. Proposed by Cllr Papworth, seconded by Cllr Malcolm all in favour. **Action Clerk**

77. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 77.1 Cllr Nancekivell
Airband may be putting up a pole at Newbury to improve broadband further out in the village.
- 77.2 Cllr Collins
The Village Hall are celebrating a 20 year anniversary and are looking for a representative from the Parish Council. Cllr Horner will attend.
- 77.3 Cllr Horner
Cllr Horner would like to be allowed to bring up any item for discussion even if it doesn't appear on the Agenda. Cllr Papworth to investigate whether he can use his Chairman's prerogative to allow discussion of various items. **Action Cllr Papworth**
- 77.4 Cllr Papworth
Dog Walking Path, Clerk to put on the next Agenda for discussion. **Action Clerk**

78. Finance

- 78.1 Payments
The following payments were agreed, proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Scantlebury, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- | | | |
|--------|---|---------|
| 78.1.1 | MAT Electrics – maintenance contract PAID | £107.94 |
| 78.1.2 | Clerks: Expenses | £92.99 |
| 78.1.2 | Colin Jones Design – domain hosting | £50.00 |
| 78.1.3 | Zurich Insurance – landing light | £19.33 |
- 78.2 Review of the Bank Balance
The balance as of 1st February 2018 was £16,860.21. There are outstanding transactions to the value of £162.32 and once these payments have cleared, the balance will be £16,697.89

- 79. Date of Next Meeting** – the next meeting of the Council will be preceded by both the Annual Parish Meeting and the AGM and will take place on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7:00pm in the Village Hall, Merton.

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

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  (Chair)

NAME: S.T. PAPERWORTH DATE: 9-JUL-2018