

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting
held on Monday 9th July 2018 in The Clinton Hall

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

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Absent: Councillor Nancekivell

Also in attendance: 0 members of the public were present

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

14. **Welcome:** Councillor Steve Papworth, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

15. **Apologies for Absence:** Councillors Laughton and Scantlebury

16. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 14th May 2018 were agreed and signed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour.

17. **Declarations of Interest:** Cllr Papworth item 21.2

18. **Public Speaking Time**

18.1 PCSO Sandra Brown was unable to attend however she reported Merton Huish crime report between 5th June and 6th July 2018 was crime free and only one log was generated which was a call reporting a concern for welfare.

19. **District and County Councillor Reports**

19.1 District Councillor Wiseman

C.Cllr Wiseman informed the meeting that Torridge District Council had recently held their AGM.

The local plan has gone back for, hopefully, the last consultation.

The whole process of finding a site for travellers and gypsies has started again due to the original site being thrown out.

Some small businesses may be receiving a rate relief assessment.

Blow Karting has been approved at Westward Ho at the far end of the beach.

The new waste and recycling scheme has had some teething issues but hopefully now all is on track. Cllr Papworth mentioned 3 properties at Eastbeare who are still having problems getting the green bin emptied

Finally, Cllr Wiseman mentioned the Torrington Area Advisory meeting which takes place on 17th July 2018.

- 19.2 County Councillor Andrew Saywell
C.Cllr Andrew Saywell was not present.

20. **Matters Arising**

- 20.1 Highways
C.Cllr Saywell confirmed to the Clerk, via email, Merton Mill has been allocated for repairs using the Pothole Action Fund. 26 sites had been put forward for consideration for PAF repairs and currently Merton Mill is number 2 on the list. He is still awaiting final confirmation of the PAF budget for this year but as it is likely to be in excess of £200,000 he believes it is safe to assume Merton Mill will almost certainly get done in this current financial year.
- 20.2 Communities Together Fund
The Clerk confirmed she had now received the application form for the new Communities Together Fund, formerly TAP Fund, and she will be submitting the paperwork shortly. **Action Clerk**
- 20.3 Footpath
Cllr Horner confirmed the quote came in at £3,082.00 including VAT. The contractor has given no start date as yet.
- 20.4 New Agreement : School and Parish Council
Cllr Collins advised the meeting this item is still pending.
- 20.5 No3 The Square Access
Cllr Horner spoke with Andrew Charles of Bazeleys Solicitors. He says the ownership of the new access on to the parking area is not in issue. Nor is the fact that there is no right of way for any pedestrian egress from adjoining properties. There was no access previously and therefore no implied rights. Nor is there any question of acquiring rights by the user. He cannot see how a right of a pedestrian nature could arise without one of these or some prescriptive rights.
The council moved to write to the owners notifying them about the response from the Solicitor. Cllr Horner suggested we offer to meet with the owner if he wishes to discuss this matter further. Clerk to circulate letter before sending. **Action Clerk**

21. **New Items**

- 21.1 New Footpaths and Bridleways
Cllr Collins suggested Bounsells Lane and Back Lane should be made into a public footpath. Parish Councillors felt it was their duty to investigate all possibilities of public rights of way. Cllr Collins proposed the Clerk contacts the Public Rights of Way Officer to investigate whether these two lanes can be officially recognised as footpaths. This motion was seconded by Cllr Horner, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- 21.2 Grass Cutting of Verges
Cllr Collins suggested the area of land on the right hand side of Clinton Gardens should remain an area for wildflowers, having seen some particularly pleasant display in the spring. Cllr Papworth declared an interest as the owner of a neighbouring property. Cllr Horner proposed the area be managed by mowing around the wildflowers next year until the wildflowers having finished seeding, this was seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour.

21.3 Clarkes Lane Street Name Plate

The Royal Mail notified Torridge District Council of the incorrect spelling of Clarkes Lane name plate, this name plate will be changed. Cllr Papworth also noted Back Lane, Leading to Coldstream Gardens, Clinton Gardens and Trefusis Terrace was also incorrectly named and TDC have confirmed this change will also be made.

22. Planning

- 22.1 1/1177/2017/FUL: Old Sawmills Site, New Road, Merton. To minute the decision made by TDC to grant permission for this application.
- 22.2 1/0366/2018/FUH Little Potheridge Cottage, Merton. To minute the decision made by TDC to grant permission for this application.
- 22.3 1/0541/2018/REMM: Land Adjacent to Malt Scoop, Merton. Application for reserved matters pursuant to permission 1/0728/2018/OUT. To minute the decision made by the Parish Council to support this application.
- 22.4 Gambling Act Consultation – no comment.
- 22.5 To discuss any planning items which may have arisen since the date of the Agenda. There were none.

23. Clerks Report

23.1 Correspondence

To note the items listed below which have been circulated or will be available for inspection at the meeting

- 23.1.1 DCC: Crowdfund Devon Launch
- 23.1.2 TDC: Refuse Collection Dates
- 23.1.3 Recycling Collection
- 23.1.4 TDC: Area Advisory Group Meeting Dates
- 23.1.5 School Organisation: Primary Schools Consultation
- 23.1.6 Police: Devon & Cornwall Police Scheme
- 23.1.7 TDC: Sam Robinson RIP Civic Memorial Service

23.2 GDPR

Councillors agreed the new Policy Statements. Cllr Papworth to ensure the statement is placed on the Parish Council website. **Action Cllr Papworth**

24 Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 24.1 Cllr Brown stated that parking outside Clinton Terrace was an accident waiting to happen. The Clerk was asked to invite Highways to the next meeting to discuss. **Action Clerk**
- 24.2 Cllr Papworth was concerned about the condition of the last property of Clinton Terrace. Cllr Horner will contact CDE.

25 Finance

25.1 Payments

To consider the following payments:

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| 25.1.1 | Clinton Hall donation | £187.50 |
| 25.1.2 | Clerks Expenses | £65.75 |
| 25.1.3 | Steve Jennings – maintenance | £167.68 |
| 25.1.4 | Granary Ford Management Limited | £1,200.00 |

Proposed by Cllr Malcolm seconded by Cllr Brown, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

24.2 Bank Balance

The balance as of 5th June 2018 was £17,200.12. There are payments which total £1,620.93 and once these transactions have gone through the balance in the account will be £15,579.19.

- 26 **Date of Next Meeting:** the date of the next meeting was agreed as 10th September 2018.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:20pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  (Chair)

NAME: S.T. PAPWORTH DATE: 12/11/18