

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting
held on Monday 12th November 2018 in The Clinton Hall

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

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Absent: Councillors Laughton and Nancekivell

Also in attendance: 0 members of the public were present

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

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

41. **Apologies for Absence:** Councillor Horner and County Councillor Saywell

42. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 10th September 2018 were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Scantlebury, all in favour. The minutes agreed at the last meeting of the Parish Council were signed.

43. **Declarations of Interest:** None

44. **Public Speaking Time:** None

45. **District and County Councillor Reports**

45.1 District Councillor Wiseman

District Councillor Wiseman reported the Local Plan has been adopted. TDC are on the look-out for new Gypsy and Traveller sites.

TDC are beginning developing a play strategy for children's play parks. Cllr Collins mentioned the Parish Council has been trying to detach themselves from TDC input from the old Merton play equipment. Cllr Papworth said Cllr Horner had managed to get the Parish Council Solicitor to agree to complete the termination of the lease.

D.Cllr Wiseman also reported that some works are going on in the offices of Riverbank House and demolition of the old cattle market in Bideford is underway.

Cllr Papworth said there are always lots of complaints about dog fouling and he recently observed the dog waste bin in Petrockstowe Station has not been emptied.

45.2 County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Cllr Saywell sent his apologies as he was unable to attend and forwarded the following report:

A3124 reopening

I am pleased to report the A3124 will be reopening ahead of schedule this coming Friday, 16th November. I realise the closure will have resulted in heavier traffic flows through Merton and would like to thank residents for their patience and forbearance during this closure.

Clinton Terrace Parking

I attended a site meeting with Cllrs Papworth, Horner and Collins with the Neighbourhood Highways Officer, Darryl Jagger, to look at putting Double Yellow Lines down on the A386 opposite Clinton Terrace. While it should be possible to put the lines down, it will unfortunately take some time as we have missed the allocation for this financial year. It will though be put on the 'list' for the next financial year and I will keep the Parish Council updated as to when it is taken to DCC's Torridge 'Highways and Traffic Orders' Committee.

North Devon Link Road

A planning application has now been submitted to the County Council to upgrade the North Devon Link Road between Barnstaple and South Molton. A decision is expected in February with work commencing (assuming planning permission is granted!) in 2020.

I hope this update is useful and, as ever, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to contact me.

46. Matters Arising

46.1 Communities Together Fund

The Clerk was pleased to announce the Parish Council had been awarded the sum of £636.00 towards the Youth Project.

46.2 Footpath Adjacent to A386

Cllr Horner was absent so this item was deferred until the next meeting.

46.3 No3 The Square Access

A letter has been forwarded to the owner and the Parish Council has not received a reply to date.

46.4 New Footpaths & Bridleways

Cllr Collins is in possession of the forms that need to be completed by the Parish Council if the Council wish to apply for a new footpath to be created. Cllr Collins agreed to write a notice to be put in the Merton Monthly so that an open meeting may be held to determine what parishioners would like to do. **Action Cllr Collins**

46.5 Highways: Clinton Terrace Parking

This item was discussed under 45.2

46.6 Village Benches

Cllr Malcolm confirmed work is in progress and a proposal will come to the next meeting. **Action Cllr Malcolm**

47. New Items

47.1 Soldier Silhouette

There was unanimous support for the Soldier Silhouette to be erected in the Village. A public thank you will be published in the Merton Monthly. **Action Cllr Papworth**

47.2 Flower Bed on The Square

The bed is becoming unkempt and Cllr Papworth suggested it needs to be re-planted. He discussed various options with Councillors and suggested that the Parish Council spends up to £2,000. Cllr Collins proposed the site is prepared now ready for planting in the Spring. Cllr Papworth will write a notice for the Merton Monthly asking for ideas and volunteers to help with the project. First working party to be at 10:00am on 12th January 2019. **Action Cllr Papworth**

47.3 Meeting Attendance

Cllr Papworth announced his disappointment of Councillors attendance at meetings. There is a legal requirement for Councillors to attend meetings and all absences must be approved and include a reason for the non-attendance.

47.4 Highspeed Broadband Failure

Cllr Papworth has drafted a letter to BT, copying Geoffrey Cox MP, about several failures to broadband in Merton recently. All Parish Councillors agreed the letter should be sent to Openreach as well. **Action Clerk**

47.5 Clerks Resignation

The Clerk has tendered her resignation. An advert has been prepared which will be placed on notice boards around the village and on the Devon Association for Local Councils website.

48. **Planning**

- 48.1 1/0940/2018/FUL Great Potheridge Farm, Merton for erection of agricultural building to cover open silage clamp and extension to existing buildings to cover cattle feed yards.

Comments: The Parish Council wish to point out the historic nature of the site and maybe TDC should consider an archaeological watching brief.

Decision: No objection

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

- 48.2 1/0541/2018/REMM Land Adjacent to Malt Scoop, Merton for application for reserved matters.

Comments: The Parish Council makes no change to their earlier submission of supporting this application

Decision: Support

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

- 48.3 To discuss any planning items which may have arisen since the date of the Agenda. There were none.

49. **Clerks Report**

49.1 Correspondence

To note the items listed below which have been circulated or were available for inspection at the meeting and there were no issues.

49.1.1 TDC: Recycle Devon Awards

49.1.2 TDC: Dolton & Clinton Primary Schools – Tarka Federation

- 49.1.3 NHS: Defibrillator – NHS officially written to the Parish Council confirming they have gifted the Defibrillator to the village
- 49.1.4 TDC: Torrington Area Advisory Group meeting cancellation
- 49.1.5 NDC: Bideford Northam and Rural Parishes Area Advisory Group meeting
- 49.1.6 DCC: Publication of Inspectors Report on North Devon and Torridge Local Plan
- 49.1.7 DCC: Notification of adoption of North Devon and Torridge Local Plan

50. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

- 50.1 Cllr Collins proposed that this Parish Council joins with Petrockstowe and buys a wreath annually from the British Legion to lay on Remembrance Day. This was seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour. Cllr Collins to investigate dates of deaths of our war heroes for a roll of honour.
- 50.2 Cllr Brown suggested putting a notice in the Merton Monthly about Western Power replacing the poles in the village in January/February.
- 50.3 Cllr Collins suggested a wayleave on the telecommunications pole that has been put up on The Square.

51 Finance

51.1 Payments

The following payments were proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Scantlebury, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

51.1.1	Torridge District Council – Clerks salary	£732.42
51.1.2	Clerks Expenses	£39.54

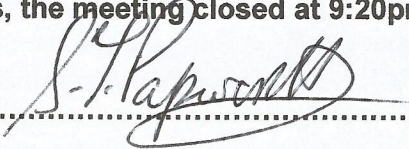
51.2 Bank Balance

The balance as of 17th October 2018 was £19,535.77. There are payments which total £771.96 and once these transactions have gone through the balance in the account will be £18,763.81.

- 52 **Date of Next Meeting:** the date of the next meeting was agreed as 14th January 2019.

Paul Scantlebury gave his apologies for the next meeting as he will be on holiday.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:20pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  (Chair)

NAME: S. T. PAPWORTH DATE: 14-1-19