

MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Meeting
held on Monday 14th January 2019 in The Clinton Hall

Councillors Present: Steve Papworth (Chair), Jill Malcolm, Philip Collins, Bill Brown, Robert Nancekivell and County Councillor Andrew Saywell

Parish Clerk: Zena Tett

Also in attendance: 2 members of the public were present

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

53. **Welcome:** Councillor Steve Papworth, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Parish Councillors to Alice Turner the new Parish Clerk. Resignation has also been received from Councillor Chris Laughton and he wished to pay tribute to his time and work on the Council.
54. **Apologies for Absence:** District Councillor Richard Wiseman, Councillors Horner and Scantlebury
55. **Minutes of the Last Meeting:** held on Monday 12th November 2018 were agreed. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Nancekivell, all in favour.
56. **Councillor Co-Option:** Cllr Papworth proposed we co-opt Nigel Lang onto the Parish Council, seconded by Cllr Brown, all in favour.
57. **Declarations of Interest:** None
58. **Public Speaking Time:** A member of public mentioned the village notice board and the lack of projects being carried out in the village. He also offered some large stones for landscape purposes if it is decided to make a rockery in the flower bed on The Square. He also offered to refurbish the Parish Council notice board nearest to the public house. There have been previous discussions about putting a notice board in The Square but nothing came of this. County Councillor Andrew Saywell mentioned monies available in his budget and if Parish Councillors decide to go ahead with this project then they should contact him.
59. **District and County Councillor Reports**
 - 59.1 District Councillor Wiseman
District Councillor Wiseman sent his apologies.
 - 59.2 County Councillor Andrew Saywell
C.Cllr Saywell reported ongoing road closures on the Beaford to Merton road. The Clinton Terrace double yellow line proposals, the Council is bringing forward the waiting time restriction. He also reported it is budget setting time for the County Council. There is an issue with children's services with a large over spend of £8-10million. Highways has received an

additional £18.5m of capital funding which can be used for resurfacing and patch work. Some of the funding will go towards work on bridges, the A road network and some for the minor road network.

60. Matters Arising

- 60.1 Footpath Adjacent to A386
The work has now been completed, item now closed.
- 60.2 No3 The Square Access
A letter had been forwarded to the owner of the premises, this item is now closed.
- 60.3 New Footpaths & Bridleways
Cllr Collins reported a public meeting will be held next Thursday at 7pm and he suggested a laptop be used to project the maps onto a screen for easier viewing.
- 60.4 Village Benches
Cllr Malcolm had nothing to report, deferred to the next meeting.
- 60.5 Flowerbed on The Square
Cllr Papworth reported three volunteers from the Parish Council managed to clear the area, however, the roots need clearing. A mini digger may be required. Cllr Collins proposed we approach a contractor to carry out the work, this was seconded by Cllr Nancekivell. **Action Cllr Papworth**
Cllr Lang suggested contacting RHS Rosemoor to see if they wished to develop the site as advertising. **Action Cllr Lang**
- 60.6 Highspeed Broadband Failure
Cllr Papworth reported that several letters had been sent by both the Parish Council and MP Geoffrey Cox. As a result, we are awaiting a response from CDS. C.Cllr Saywell will look into this further.

61. New Items

- 61.1 Planning Notices
Cllr Papworth suggested that planning notices that are not relevant to the parish may still be forwarded via email.
- 61.2 Domain Name Renewal
Mertondevon.com is up for renewal at a cost of £159.50 for 10 years. Cllr Papworth reported 500 hits per day and proposed that we renew the domain name. This was seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour. **Action Clerk**
- 61.3 Clinton Hall Property Valuation
Cllr Collins reported that the insurance renewal is due for the Village Hall and it has come to light that no formal valuation has been carried out on the Village Hall. Cllr Collins advised the NFU would cover half the cost of the valuation and asked for the Parish Council to donate the remaining cost NFU would pay 50% of £350 plus VAT (£420) provided the hall insure at the valuation figure. Cllr Nancekivell proposed, seconded by Cllr Brown, all in favour.

61.4 Village Notice Board

Cllr Papworth said a parishioner has suggested the Parish Council provides a new notice board placed on The Square. Cllr Papworth to investigate. Cllr Collins proposed we look into the notice board, Cllr Lang seconded, all in favour. **Action Cllr Papworth**

61.5 Grass Cutting Contract

The Council will provide £381 for the 2019/20 grass cutting contract. Cllr Malcolm proposed we go ahead with the new contract, Cllr Brown, seconded, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

61.6 Budget Review

The budget for 2019/20 was approved. Proposed by Cllr Collins, seconded by Cllr Malcolm, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

61.7 Defibrillator

Cllr Papworth reported the defibrillator is still in good working order and still in the manufacturer's warranty. The set of pads in the machine expire in May and the reserves expire in August. Cllr Collins proposed we put a figure in the reserves of the budget of £250 per year. This was seconded by Cllr Papworth, all in favour. **Action Clerk**

62. Planning

62.1 1/0541/2018/REMM Land Adjacent to Malt Scoop, Merton for application for reserved matters. To minute the decision made by Torridge District Council to grant permission for this application.

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

63. Clerks Report

63.1 Correspondence

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

63.1.1 Highways: road closure from Pear Tree Cottage to Mowhay

63.1.2 Highways: road closure at Mill Road, Beaford

64. Councillors' Reports and Items for Future Agenda

64.1 Cllr Nancekivell mentioned a damaged sign opposite the road to Towell Farm and C.Cllr Saywell confirmed that County Council will remove it at some future date.

64.2 Cllr Malcolm asked the Clerk to notify Parish Councillors when play equipment inspection will take place. **Action Clerk**

64.3 Cllr Collins asked for Churchyard Committee to be put on the next Agenda. **Action Clerk**

64.4 Cllr Papworth mentioned Cllr Horner said he would be stepping down in May and suggested writing a piece in the Merton Monthly to see if anyone would like to join.

65 Finance

65.1 Payments

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

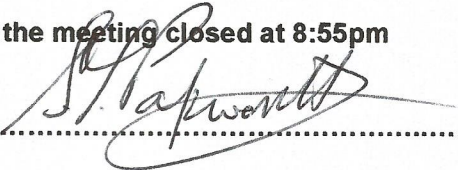
65.1.1	Steve Jennings Grass Cutting	£119.11
65.1.2	WCM Plant Hire	£3,082.80
65.1.3	Clerks Expenses	£50.23

65.2 Bank Balance

The balance as of 18th December 2018 was £15,561.90. There are payments which total £50.23 and once these transactions have gone through the balance in the account will be £15,511.67.

66 Date of Next Meeting: the date of the next meeting was agreed as 11th March 2019.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:55pm

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD:  (Chair)

NAME: S.T. PAPWORTH DATE: 11-MAR-2019