

Merton Parish Council

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Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 13th February 2023 at 7:30pm at the Clinton Hall.

Cllrs Present: Steve Papworth (Chair), Laura Twomey (Vice-Chair), Brian Stacey, Nigel Lang & Rob Nancekivell.

Also in attendance: Alice Turner (Clerk), 5 members of the public attended.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

1.2.23 Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that the meeting was being recorded by the Clerk to assist in the preparation of the minutes. The recording will be deleted once the minutes are drafted.

2.2.23 Apologies for absence:

Resolution to approve apologies (with reasons) made to the Clerk prior to the meeting. The Clerk reported that she had received apologies from Cllr Brown (Prior Commitment). [Cllr Twomey proposed that apologies for absence from Cllr Brown \(prior commitment\) be approved, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried \(RR2022/051\)](#)

3.2.23 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Twomey declared a personal interest in 5.2.23 b) & c) – neighbouring property.

4.2.23 Public Speaking Time: all comments were in relation to 5.2.23 b) & c).

In relation to 5.2.23 a): A member of the public raised concerns over the size and scale of the proposed building. Concerns regarding the provision of adequate water run off storage. Concerns of impact on neighbouring properties.

In relation to 5.2.23 b) & c): A member of the public stated that they agreed in principle with the application, but they have concerns regarding access on the lane. Other concerns raised as summarised as follows:

- Increased heavy traffic during the construction period, on a narrow lane, part of which is private.
- There has been damage to property and drainage previously and concerns over additional damage.
- Concerns over existing condition and maintenance of the lane and that should be made good after works.
- Concerns over refuse and recycling collection provision.

A member of the public reiterated the comments made by Stephens Scown in their letter of objection on behalf of the Trustees of the Joan Elliott Trust.

A letter was received from a member of the public and read by Cllr Twomey, it raised concerns in the following areas relating to the application:

- Pressures on existing Access and refuse collection provisions.
- Water supply – mains water pressure.
- Electricity supply
- Phone & internet connections
- Parking – concerns that there will not be enough available.
- Occupancy – should not for Air B&B or holiday lets.

5.2.23 Planning:

Documents can be viewed at: www.torridge.gov.uk/planningonline and entering the application number.

~Minutes of the Extra-ordinary meeting held 13-02-2023 ~

Initialled as a correct record: S.P.

- a) **1/1175/2022/FUL: Creation of access and erection of general purpose fodder and machinery store at Land At Grid Reference 251480 113247, Merton - Deadline 17th February.**

Cllrs had a robust discussion on the application raising a range of concerns. Cllr Lang proposed that the Council object to application 1/1175/2022/FUL due to the inappropriate position and size, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried (RR2022/052)

- b) **1/1212/2022/FUL: Conversion of barns to 2no. dwellings at Barns at Eastbeare Farm, Merton - Deadline 23rd February**

- c) **1/1213/2022/LBC: Conversion of barns to 2no. dwellings at Barns at Eastbeare Farm, Merton - Deadline 23rd February**

Cllr Twomey declared a personal interest in applications 1/1212/2022/FUL and 1/1213/2022/LBC.

Cllrs discussed the 2 applications together as they were for the same location.

Cllrs had a discussion reviewing several points which were raised during the public speaking time, following the discussion Cllr Papworth proposed that the Council support the conversion of the barns but would note that certain infrastructure elements such as the water supply (SWW) and condition of the road need to be addressed, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried (RR2022/053)

6.2.23 Reports and Items for future agendas:

Cllrs are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

- a) **Update on relocation of Post Box in the Square (Chair)**

The Chair reported that Royal Mail would prefer a location that was not on privately owned property and as such have submitted a location at the corner of Grange lane for the council to consider. As Cllrs did not raise any objections to the new location the Clerk agreed to approve the request under delegated authority.

- b) **Notification of Road Closure “Limers Lane” in connection with the new housing development. The closure will be from Monday 17th – Friday 28th April 2023. (Clerk)**

7.2.23 Confirmation of next meeting date:

- **The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 6th March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall.**
 - **The next meeting will be on Monday 13th March 2023 at 7.30pm in the Clinton Hall.**
- Please note that any changes to the meeting date or venue will be updated on the Website.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8pm.

Signed: Steve Papworth Date: 30th March 2023