

Merton Parish Council

www.mertondevon.com /01837 83484 / clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com

Notice is hereby given that a Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7:30pm at the Clinton Hall.

All Councillors are hereby summoned to attend for the purpose of considering and resolving upon the business to be transacted as set out hereunder.

All members of the public are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

Audio recording maybe in progress from 1.11.23 to assist with taking the Minutes.

1.11.23 Welcome:

Chair to open meeting and inform the meeting if a recording is being taken to assist in the preparation of the minutes, the recording will be deleted once the Minutes are drafted.

2.11.23 Apologies for absence:

Resolution to approve apologies (with reasons) made to the Clerk prior to the meeting.

3.11.23 Co-option Vacancies (Clerk)

Cllrs to consider candidates who have completed the required [Co-option form](#) and have been confirmed as eligible to stand prior the Meeting.

4.11.23 Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs to declare any interests they may have in items on this agenda, including the nature of the interest. Cllrs are reminded of their responsibility to keep their Register of Interests updated.

5.11.23 Public Speaking Time:

Members of the public are invited to speak on issues on this Agenda, or on other matters which the council has some control over. Members of the public may not speak during other items. Any items raised will not be discussed at this meeting but may be added to the next Agenda.

6.11.23 District / County Councillors Reports.

- a) County Cllr Andrew Saywell.
- b) District Cllrs: Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin & Cllr Chris Wheatley

7.11.23 New Planning Application for consideration (Chair)

Enter the planning application number at <https://publicaccess.torridge.gov.uk/online-applications/> to view the documents.

- a) 1/1016/2023/FUL Increase in height to chimney at Cherry Cottage, Merton – Consultation deadline 1st December 2023.
- b) 1/1017/2023/LBC Increase in height to chimney at Cherry Cottage, Merton – Consultation deadline 17th November 2023.

8.11.23 Current & New Business:

a) Torridge Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2028 Consultation (Chair)

“Torridge District Council (TDC) are seeking views on the councils proposed new Strategic Plan 2023-2028. The Strategic Plan sets out the vision and ambitions of the Council and what it hopes to achieve over the next five years through to 2028. It will shape future business plans and determine priorities for spending and funding allocations. TDC are really keen to hear from as many of our residents, businesses, and partner organisations as possible. Please review the draft plan here [TDC Draft Strategic Plan 2023-2028](#) and let us know if you think we have missed anything or if you think we have got it right. Email your views to: consultation@torridge.gov.uk The consultation closes on **14 November 2023**. All feedback will be reviewed and discussed at Full Council in December.”

b) Fire service consultation (Chair)

“Every year we ask our communities and businesses about the level of precept (council tax contribution) for the fire and rescue service. This consultation is open now until **midday on 30 November**. We would like to hear from as many people as possible across Devon and Somerset to better understand our residents’ views. Please can you complete the [online survey](#) and share this with your networks. Should you or anyone else be unable to complete this online please call 01392 872354 and leave a message with your name and number. Please see the attached [poster](#). Whilst we are aware of the pressures many of us are facing now and in the coming months, your feedback will help to make more informed decisions for the next financial year.”

c) Consideration of [letter received from Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Cox KC](#) – Member of Parliament for Torridge and West Devon. (Chair/Clerk)

Including consideration on [Levelling up Partnership priorities](#) and [petition for additional funding from central government towards the maintenance of the road network](#).

d) Additional Play Space at Clinton School – Request for feedback from TDC (Chair)

e) Cllrs to Consider formation of H.R. Committee, including membership and associated Terms of Reference ([MPC 023 H.R. Committee – Terms of Reference](#)) (Chair/Clerk)

9.11.23 Finance: Clerk to present documents for this item at the Meeting.

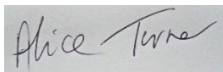
- a) To approve financial schedule as presented by the Clerk.
- b) Banking Checks for period 10-07-2023 to 13-11-2023.
- c) To receive and discuss the 1st Draft 2024-2025 Budget.

10.11.23 Clerks/Cllr reports and Items for future agendas:

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

11.11.23 Confirmation of next meeting: Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm.

Please note that any changes to the meeting date will be updated on the [Website](#).



Alice Turner – Proper Officer

Date: 8th November 2023.