

Merton Parish Council

www.mertondevon.com /07749 029928 / clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 11th March 2024 at 7:30pm at the Clinton Hall.

Cllrs Present: Steve Papworth (Chair), Giles Kops, Gordon McLaughlan & Rob Nancekivell.

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

BUSINESS TRANSACTED

1.3.24 Welcome: Chair to open meeting and inform the meeting if a recording is being taken to assist in the preparation of the minutes.

The Chair opened the meeting and informed the meeting that a recording was being taken to assist in the preparation of the minutes, the recording will be deleted once the Minutes are drafted.

2.3.24 Apologies for absence:

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

Apologies from Cllr Lang (personal reason) were received. [Cllr McLaughlan proposed that Apologies from Cllr Lang \(personal reason\) be approved, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried. RESOLVED.](#)

3.3.24 Co-option Vacancies (Clerk)

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

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the notice was still up.

4.3.24 Minutes of Previous Meetings (as available) (Chair)

Cllrs to consider the approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th of June 2023, 10th of July 2023, 13th November 2023 and 8th January 2024.

Deferred. Cllrs raised concerns about the amount of time that had elapsed. The clerk agreed to get the minutes out as soon as possible.

5.3.24 Declarations of Interest: No interests were declared at this time.

6.3.24 Public Speaking Time:

A member of the public gave a definition of the legal position of the Clinton Hall Charity and the ownership of the Hall Land, they stated that the PC had no legal right to discuss the surrender of the lease as listed on the agenda. Cllr Papworth asked regarding the ownership of the current Play Area.

7.3.24 Police/District / County Councillors Reports.

a) To receive Police report.

No report received.

b) County Cllr Andrew Saywell.

No report received.

c) District Cllrs: Cllr Cheryl Cottle-Hunkin & Cllr Chris Wheatley

No report received.

8.3.24 Current & New Business:

a) To consider retrospective approval of Grass cutting contract for the 24-25 year (Clerk)

[Cllr Lang proposed that the Council approve the retrospective approval of Grass cutting contract for the 2024-2025 year, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried. RESOLVED.](#)

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- b) To consider approval and appointment of Mrs Clapham as Internal Auditor for the financial year end 31st March 2024. (Chair/Clerk)**
Cllr Papworth proposed that the Council approve the appointment of Mrs Clapham as Internal Auditor for the financial year end 31st March 2024, seconded Cllr Lang. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*
- c) To Consider dates and speaker for Annual Parish Meeting 2024 (Chair/Clerk)**
Cllr Lang proposed that the Council hold the Annual Parish meeting on 8th April subject to confirmation of venue with no guest speaker, seconded Cllr Papworth. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*
- d) To consider approval of Kompan contract for quarterly Play equipment inspections (Chair/Clerk)**
Cllr Kops proposed that the Council approve the Kompan contract for quarterly Play equipment inspections, seconded Cllr Papworth. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*
- e) Call for sites: EV Charging at Parish and Community Car Parks in Devon (Chair/Clerk)**
No interest from the Parish Council.
- f) To consider representatives on the Churchyard committee (Chair)**
Cllr Papworth gave an overview and asked for an additional representative. Following discussion Cllr Papworth proposed that Cllr McLaughlan be appointed as the second representative on the Churchyard Committee, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*

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

- a) To approve financial schedule as presented by the Clerk.**
The Clerk presented PM24/034 Clinton Hall £14.40 January Hall Hire (Power LGA 972 S.111 Budget: Admin/Hall Hire) for payment.
The clerk also informed the Council that that Grass Cutting grant for 2023-24 of £429 has been received.
Cllr Papworth proposed that the Council approve payment of PM24/034 £14.40 to the Clinton Hall for the January Hall Hire, seconded Cllr Lang. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*
- b) Report on Banking Checks for period 10-07-2023 to 08-01-2024 (Cllrs Kops & Lang)**
Sent to Cllrs.
- c) Banking Checks for period 08-01-2024 to 10-03-2024.**
Cllrs Nancekivell and Papworth agreed to do these.

10.3.24 Reports and future agenda items (not for debate/decision making):

- a) Clerk: Notification of Annual Leave 06/05/2024-12/05/2024 inclusive.**
- b) Clerk: Notification of new contact number 07749 029928.**

Cllr Kops: VAS on next Agenda.

Cllr Lang: To discuss running costs – future Agenda.

11.3.24 Confirmation of next meeting: Monday 13th May 2024 at 7.30pm.

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

12.3.24: Confidential item (Part II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1(2).

- a) Resolution required to move the Council into Part II.**
Cllr Papworth proposed that the Council move to Part II due to the confidential nature of the items under discussion, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*
- b) To discuss request for Merton Play Area Lease Termination from TDC (Clerk)**
Commercially sensitive information.

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- c) **Drainage in the Square – to discuss work and Quotes (Cllr Nancekivell/Chair)**
Commercially sensitive information.
- d) **Cllrs to discuss the Clerks return to work. (Chair)**
Confidential Employment Matter.
- e) **The Chair returned the meeting to public session to hear resolutions.**

Item b)

Cllr Kops proposed that the Council authorise the Clerk to contact the Councils Solicitors relating to the Ownership of the Land at the Clinton Hall, where the Current play area is located and whether the Council have a legal right to discuss on the lease on the old play area with TDC, the Council authorize expenditure of up to £500 plus VAT, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried. *RESOLVED.*

Item c) No resolutions.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 9pm

Signed: Neil Littleales Date: 10th June 2024

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