

# ***Merton Parish Council***

[www.mertondevon.com](http://www.mertondevon.com) / [clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.mertonparishcouncildevon@gmail.com)

## **Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024 at 7:30pm at the Clinton Hall.**

**Cllrs Present:** Neil Littleales (Chair), Gordon McLaughlan (Vice-Chair), Steve Papworth, Nigel Lang, Rob Nancekivell & Giles Kops.

**Also in attendance:** Alice Turner (Clerk) and, 4 members of the public.

### **BUSINESS TRANSACTED**

#### **E1.9.24 Welcome:**

The Chair opened 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.

#### **E2.9.24 Apologies for absence: No apologies as all Cllrs present.**

#### **E3.9.24 Declarations of Interest:**

No interests were declared at this time.

#### **E4.9.24 Public Speaking Time:**

No members of the public raised anything at this time.

#### **E5.9.24 Current & New Business**

- a) **New Planning Application: 1/0691/2024/FUL Erection of storage building and workshop at Taw and Torridge Coaches Grange Lane Merton EX20 3ED – Consultation deadline 09/09/24. (Chair)**

Enter the application number at <https://publicaccess.torridge.gov.uk/onlineapplications/> to view the documents.

Cllrs discussed the application in detail including queries regarding typography, necessity of the height of the roof and pitch. The Chair then invited the applicant to address the Council. The applicant informed the Council of the following points:

- The storage is for classic and historic vehicles.
- The width of the building is necessary to allow for this storage area as well as 2 MOT testing bays for the existing fleet.
- The pitch is determined by building regulations and is influenced by the required width of the building.

Cllrs asked the applicant questions including if new employees would be taken on as a result of this application, the applicant confirmed that this was the intention.

The applicant confirmed that the MOT bays are intended for the business fleet not for general public/other business use. The MOTs have to be on a drive in drive out basis so the yard would operate a one way system to facilitate this.

Cllrs felt that it would have been beneficial to have a 3D rendering of the proposed building on site as it would be seen from the Churchyard as well as the entrances to the Village, so that impact could be better assessed.

Following additional discussion **Cllr Littleales proposed that the Council submit a neutral position for application 1/0691/2024/FUL with the following comments submitted for the attention of the planning officer:** 1) Concerns regarding the height of the building especially in relation to its proximity to the Church and its position within the Conservation area in Merton. 2) Cllrs felt that a 3D rendering of the proposed building on site as it would be seen from the Church and the entrances to the Village would have been extremely beneficial in considering this application. The Council would like to request that the Planning office request this from the Applicant and make it publicly available. 3) The Parish Council noted that the Applicant is a major employer in the Parish and has no issues with them growing the business as long as any negative visual impact from the proposed

*Minutes of meeting held 02-09-2024 ~ Initialled as a correct record: N.L*

building relating to the Church and conservation area can be mitigated, seconded Cllr Kops. All in Favour – Motion Carried. RR2024/031)

- b) To discuss attendance of any Cllrs at the DALC AGM and Conference on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 8.30am to 4pm at Exeter Racecourse (£50 +VAT per person) (Chair)  
No Cllrs expressed an interest in attending this event.
- c) Consideration of weed maintenance and tiding of Play Area (Chair) – Deferred to next meeting.

**E6.9.24 Reports and future agenda items (not an opportunity for debate/decision making):**

- a) Advance Notice of ROAD CLOSURE: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October between 09:30 and 15:30 - ROAD FROM PEAR TREE COTTAGE TO MOWHAY, MERTON, CARRIAGEWAY, VERGE, O/S CONKERS OFF BOUNSELLS LANE.

**E7.9.24 Confirmation of next meeting date: Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 7.30pm. - Any change will be on the [Website](#).**

**E8.9.24 Confidential matters (PART II) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 s1 (2)**

- a) Resolution required to move the Council into Part II.  
Cllr Littleales proposed that the Council move to Part II due to the confidential nature of the items to be discussed, seconded Cllr Nancekivell. All in Favour – Motion Carried. RR2024/032)  
The Clerk confirmed that the audio recording had been stopped. Cllr Littleales thanked the public for attending.
- b) To discuss arrangements for recruiting a replacement Clerk and other association matters – (*Confidential employment matters*).
- c) To report on pre-planning meeting with TDC and any advice received relating to Drainage matters in the (*Legally sensitive information*).
- d) The Chair to return the meeting to public session to hear resolutions.  
No resolutions made.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm.

Signed: Cllr N. Littleales Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Minutes of meeting held 02-09-2024 ~ Initialled as a correct record: N.L