

# Merriott Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019 At 7pm, Merriott Village Hall

### Present:

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)  
Cllr Jim Shorting (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Steve Ashton  
Cllr Michael Burnham  
Cllr Dave Aslett (part of meeting)  
Cllr C Paine  
Cllr G Wright

### In attendance

Julie Chant (Clerk), Cllr Paul Maxwell (SSDC), Cllr Adam Dance (SCC) and four members of the public

### 18/164 Public Open Session

Cllr Hall welcomed everyone present to the meeting. Those present to speak about items other than those on the agenda were invited to address the Council.

Mr Lyndon Brett wished to give Councillors a short presentation of proposed development at Tail Mill. He distributed outline plans and there was a brief discussion. Councillors thanked Mr Brett for attending, but declined to make any official comments.

### 18/165 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies.

### 18/166 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

Cllr I Hall declared a prejudicial interest in **18/173 a)** invoices for payment as one of the invoices was from a family member. Cllr J Shorting declared an interest in Planning **18/171/c)** neighbouring property.

### 18/167 Minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

**Proposed Cllr Shorting Seconded Cllr Burnham All approved**

### 18/168 Matters Arising from Minutes

18/153: The Clerk confirmed that a letter requesting a meeting with The Leader of the Council at SSDC had been sent and a meeting had taken place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019. The Chair reported that the meeting had been cordial, but the Parish Council's concerns at the decision of the Regulation Committee with regard to the development of 50 houses off Church Street had not been fully answered. Councillors agreed that a letter should be sent to the Legal Officer at South Somerset District Council expressing their concerns about the standards of the Regulation Committee. A letter to CPRE about the same development was ready to send.

#### Action: Clerk to write to parties as instructed

18/158e); The Clerk had written to Active Learn with regard to taking part in a Playday at the Recreation Ground and a provisional date of Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019 was suggested.

**Action: Recreation Ground working party to discuss the hosting of a Playday and liaise with Active Learn.**

### 18/169 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance reported that the recent spell of bad weather had caused problems on roads across the area, due to the lack of gritting by SCC, and that the road to the Hospital at South Petherton had not been gritted. Local Councillors from different Political parties had released press statements and

# Merriott Parish Council

spoken to local news channels. It is understood that the decision to reduce the gritting will be reviewed in May. He also confirmed he had not received any update on the SIS funding for Merriott.

## 18/170 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Paul Maxwell informed the Councillors that an amended plan from Stonewater for the land at Shiremoor Hill was now available online, but the alterations were minor and there did not appear to be any change to the access. He confirmed that the land ownership was still being discussed and a report was now available from the Rights of Way officer. The District Council Budget meeting will be held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

With regard to Planning applications, he intends to meet again with Cllr Val Keitch, re Church Street Development. A planning application within the village has been asked to be withdrawn, and another will go to Area West for decision. The SCC Highways report on Eggwood was being looked at with regard to the amount of splay required for visibility entering onto the main road.

He confirmed he had again spoken to the local news channel about the lack of winter gritting

## 18/171 Planning including applications currently in circulation

a) **18/03965/HOU** Mr A Osborne, Holwell House, Shiremoor Hill, Merriott TA165PH – alteration for conversion of Listed Barn from store/garage to an annexe – **The Council has no objection**

b) **19/00177/TPO** Mr B Lockett, 49 Hitchen, Merriott, TA165QZ – tree works to One Willow tree (TPO)

c) **19/00228/TPO** Mr S Thompson, Milton Cottage, 20 Higher Street, Merriott TA165PJ- to carry out tree work to One tree (TPO)

d) **19/00175/TCA** Mr. P Williamson, 19 Lower Street, Merriott – tree works in conservation area

## Planning determinations

a) **18/03452/HOU** Mr. & Mrs. Hamlin 72 Lower Street Merriott – demolition of existing rear single storey extension an erection of new two storey and single storey rear extension – **Permitted with conditions**

b) **18/03651/FUL** Paul Godfrey, Niddons Farm, Eggwood Hill, Merriott – erection of agricultural building with hard surfaced apron. **Permitted with conditions**

c) **18/03910/TPO** Stewart Thompson, Milton Cottage, 20 Higher Street, Merriott – tree works- **Withdrawn**

## 18/172 Update from Gigaclear on Super fast Broadband works

Richard Olive and Jodie Walker gave the Councillors an update on the works installing the high-speed broadband network.

It was confirmed that one contractor had been replaced as the reinstatement work had not been to the required standard. This work was now being re done, as the work has to be up to SCC standard and guaranteed for 2 years, but this has involved additional road closures. They now have one contractor doing the remedial work and one doing the new work. Once their work is complete, which will hopefully be at the end of April, the project will be handed over to Gigaclear, who will start installing the fibre optic with a view to completing by the end of the summer. There was further discussion about the installation and cost to householders and the Councillors thanked them for coming to the meeting.

## 18/173; Finance and Procedure

- a. To agree invoices for payment

# Merriott Parish Council

<u>Voucher</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total Payment incl VAT</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
358	Cllr Jim Shorting	Outside hose connection	£ 0.90	£ 5.41	Rec Maintenance
359	T Wallis	Part payment - recreation ground work	£ 600.00	£ 3,600.00	Rec Upgrade
360	Pipecraft Bennett	work re watermains at Pavilion	£ 616.00	£ 3,696.00	Pavilion
361	Wainwright	Concrete	£ 239.04	£ 1,434.24	Car Park
362	Wainwright	Concrete	£ 238.32	£ 1,429.92	Car Park
363	Wainwright	Day work for two days	£ 110.50	£ 663.00	Car Park
364	Wainwright	concrete	£ 233.04	£ 1,398.24	Car park
365	Wainwright	Day work	£ 35.00	£ 210.00	car park
366	Wainwright	Concrete	£ 239.28	£ 1,435.68	car park
367	Wainwright	Day work	£ 28.00	£ 168.00	car park
368	Cllr I Hall	Fuel, paint, tea pots	£ 9.28	£ 55.68	Maintenance
369	Sam Hall	work to slabs in car park	£	£ 259.00	car park
370	Yarcombe Timber	Timber	£ 8.76	£ 52.58	car park
371	Jess Searle	Cleaning	£	£ 63.19	pavilion
372	Merriott messenger	Publicity	£	£ 105.00	Publicity
373	Richard Keylock	Accountancy	£ 4.80	£ 28.80	Account/Audit
374	Village Hall	Room Hire	£	£ 12.00	Room Hire
375	J Chant	Clerks salary & expenses	£ 1.92	£ 32.19	expenses
			£	£ 280.20	Salary
376	D W Hyett	Labour and materials	£ -	£ 2,250.00	Car park
377	LMS Highways	Line marking	£ 90.00	£ 540.00	Car Park
378	Wainwrights	Pver and roller hire	£ 279.00	£ 1,674.00	Car park
379	Wainwrights	4 loads Asphalt	£ 1,205.03	£ 7,230.17	Car park
			£ 3,938.87		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£26,623.30</b>	<b>less £ 663.00</b>

Councillors noted

**£ 25960.30**

- i) voucher number: 363 was awaiting a credit note, so payment would be delayed until this had been agreed.
- ii) voucher 377 was a proforma invoice, but the work was scheduled for Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

**Proposed Cllr G Wright      Seconded Cllr J Shorting      All approved.**

## b) To note payments received

### Internal Transfer for approval

From Nat West      to Barclays Bank      £ 10,000.00      Cheque

Receipts from 1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019

Receipt no; 199	dated 10.01.19	Merriott Youth football	£ 120.00	Pitch and pavilion
Receipt no; 200	dated 08.01.19	Merriott Rovers football	£ 80.43	Pitch and pavilion
		<b>Total</b>	<b>£ 200.43</b>	

**Noted and transfer approved. All agreed**

# Merriott Parish Council

**c. To note any updates to the Risk Register (standing item)**

The Internal auditor had suggested some updating, which will be discussed by the Finance working group.

**d. To note Bank reconciliation and Cllr J Shorting completed the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter checks re balances; Noted.**

**18/174 Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

- a. **To receive the December report**  
Cllr Aslett had the completed form and no concerns were raised.
- b. **To received updates on:**
  - i) **Extend pavilion veranda to ramp as per less able report recommendation:**  
It was noted that some of the handrails required work, but this could be incorporated into the work to extend the veranda. A quote had been received some time ago, so it was agreed to send a copy to the Vice Chairman who would obtain an up to date quote.  
**Action: Clerk to send copy of quote to Cllr J Shorting**
  - ii) **Refurbish shelter:**  
The Chair was still making enquiries at SSDC with regard to S106 money for this project.
  - iii) **Water main:**  
Cllr Shorting confirmed that the work to the water mains was now complete and the pressure at the Pavilion was good. The water supply to the Bowls Club had been turned off due the discovery of a leak, but they were due to meet to discuss their connection to a water main.
  - iv) **Actions re ROSPA Report:**  
Cllr Hall confirmed that he would chase suppliers to get the necessary repairs done.
  - iv) **Cricket Signs;**  
Cllr Hall agreed to look into the need for signs and confirmed that the sign for the outdoor gym equipment had been ordered.
- c. **to receive update on the car park refurbishment.**  
The main area of car park was almost complete, the line marking was due to done very soon. The overspill carpark needs to be worked on, but this will be a hard gravel finish, not tarmac
- d. **to determine proposal to purchase practice nets for cricket clubs.**  
A quote received last year had been found and Cllr Hall agreed to contact Merriott Cricket Club for more advice and up to date pricing.  
**Action: Cllr Hall to obtain update on specification and price.**
- e. **To discuss Pavilion User Hire Agreement terms.**  
Councillors discussed the concerns raised about users not leaving the pavilion clean and it was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the cleaner and send Cllr Shorting a copy of the current agreement and discuss alterations to the wording.  
**Action: Clerk to send copy of agreement to Cllr Shorting**
- f. **To discuss the new electricity contract for the Pavilion**  
Cllr Shorting had obtained several quotes for 3-year contracts and calculated the projected expense using the usage figures for the year. It was acknowledged that the price rise would be significant and Cllr Shorting agreed to look at a One-year contract and report back at the March meeting.  
**Action: Quotations to be discussed at March meeting**
- g. **To review and confirm MPC future recreation field projects as previously considered**

# Merriott Parish Council

Councillors discussed the progress made with the recreation ground upgrade and noted that the cycle pump trail had been deferred and the youth shelter for the grassed area by the car park had not gone ahead. The recent ROSPA report had confirmed the SSDC annual report in finding that the old timber play /exercise equipment was reaching the end of its life and the vertical climbing net had already been removed due to timber failure.

The proposed floodlighting of the tennis courts had not been done, but this would enable the Youth Football teams to have winter training.

**Councillors confirmed their support for the proposed plans.**

## 18/175: Highways and Footpaths.

### a. To receive update on heritage road signs refurbishment.

Cllr Wright has asked Cllr Burnham to revisit the fingerposts and take more detailed photographs as some have modern additions and they are not all the same size. Once the more accurate information has been gathered new quotes can be obtained.

**Action: Cllr Burnham to take more detailed photographs of fingerposts for refurbishment and item to be included on March Agenda**

### b. To receive SIS update

Cllr A Dance had already confirmed there was no update.

**Action: Clerk to write to Keri Jones at SCC to update her on the Parish Councils intended input and to request an update.**

### c. To consider purchase of SID:

Councillors had reviewed the figures from the Lopen SID for two weeks in January, and felt it would be useful to have figures for two weeks when the device was first installed, to see if there had been a reduction in the number of vehicles speeding in the village. Cllr Wright had sent details of purchase costs and requirements to Councillors, but he raised concerns about the siting of the device and the costs. He was due to attend the AGM of Speedwatch and agreed to report back to Council in April.

**Clerk to add SID to April Agenda.**

## 18/176: Amenities:

### a) To discuss the replacement notice board

Cllr Shorting had found a double size covered notice board which could be locked on one side only as requested. The price for wood framed and recycled plastic frame was the same. Councillors felt the recycled option would be better.

**Clerk to confirm the budget and item to be on March Agenda**

### b) To consider accessibility compliant website.

Cllr Ashton and the Clerk had met to discuss the option of a stand-alone Parish Council website which would be based on a simple template and the Clerk could add the items which needed to be made available to the public. It was agreed that updating the existing website would be time consuming and not cost effective. Cllr Ashton was happy to proceed at a minimal cost and register a new domain name and start on the initial design.

**Councillors approved.**

### c) To approve amendment to the burial regulations.

Cllr Wright had suggested altering the wording to:

“no burial of cremated remains shall be permitted except in the grave of a relative, or by approval of full Parish Council”

**All approved.**

**Action: Clerk to make the approved amendment**

## Merriott Parish Council

**d) To discuss moles and tree works for the burial ground.**

The Clerk had written to the previous pest controller, but he has since left the area. It was noted that there was also some mole activity at the recreation ground. Councillors also discussed the overhanging holly trees, which required work.

**Action: Clerk to seek another pest controller for both burial ground and recreation ground.**

**Action: Clerk to contact local contractor re holly trees.**

**18/177 Clapperhay Community Land.**

**a) To receive update on completion of the land registration.**

Cllr Hall had spoken to the Solicitors again to confirm the new plans were acceptable and things were now progressing. There was discussion about the fencing and hedge trimming and allowing grazing on the land. An agreement will need to be drawn up at a later date.

**18/178 Correspondence received.**

**SSDC Local Councillor promotion.**

The Clerk has displayed the posters as requested.

**“Respect the lead” initiative**

Councillors acknowledged the need for dog owners to be responsible, especially walking dogs off lead around the village, but felt they could add little to the campaign.

**18/163: The next meeting will take place on**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00p.m in the Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall, Merriott.

**The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.**