

Merriott Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 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

In attendance

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

18/149 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.

Members of the public had attended as they had planning applications listed on the Agenda, and had no other items they wished to discuss.

18/150 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Caro Paine (holiday) and Cllr Grant Wright (illness)

18/151 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

Cllrs declared an interest in the precept, but were permitted to discuss this in order to conduct their business. Cllr Shorting declared an interest in minute 18/156 f) (neighbouring property).

18/152 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2018

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

Proposed Cllr Shorting Seconded Cllr Burnham All approved

18/153 Matters Arising from Minutes

Cllr Jim Shorting noted that the action to write to the Leader of SSDC regarding 50 houses off Church Street had not been completed. Cllr Paul Maxwell confirmed he has raised the matter with The Leader and she was happy to meet with Councillors. After further discussion it was proposed that a letter be sent to The Leader and the Legal Officer at South Somerset District Council, requesting a meeting, and to Campaign for Rural England, for their advice.

Action: Clerk to write to parties as instructed

18/154 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance reported that Somerset County Council needs to make further cuts this year and predicted cuts of £ 15 million next year. It is expected that there will be job losses and that the County Council will reduce services further, only providing the ones which have a legal obligation to fulfil.

The Small Improvement Scheme budget will be cut by a half for 2019 -20. He discussed the problems around the budget cuts and suggested that Parish Councils will have to pick up services which will no longer be provided by County Council.

18/155 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Paul Maxwell confirmed that local Parish Councils were considering increasing their precepts. He noted 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.

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He expressed his concerns about the cuts to winter gritting given the forecast for colder weather and confirmed he would continue to raise the issue.

18/156 Planning including applications currently in circulation

- a) **18/03718/S73A** Louise Pearce, Sandyhole, The Former Sunday School, Bull Bridge Lane, Merriott – to vary condition 3 (opening hours) and remove condition 7 (obscure glazing on windows on eastern elevation)- | **Councillors felt that the opening hours should remain the same, and that obscure glazing on windows should remain, although it may be acceptable to apply to the lower half of the windows.**
- b) **18/03480/FUL** Paul Hulbert, Oak Lea Farm, Lower Severalls Farm Road, Crewkerne – continued used of land as residential mobile home for worker at Oak Lea Farm Livery. - **Councillors had no objection**
- c) **18/03910/TPO** Stewart Thompson, Milton Cottage, 20 Higher Street, Merriott – tree works
- d) **18/03651/FUL** Paul Godfrey, Niddons Farm, Eggwood Hill, Merriott – erection of agricultural building with hard surfaced apron. - **Councillors had no objections, but felt that the location of the property was so close to Lopen that Lopen Parish Council should comment**
- e) **18/03719/FUL** Mr and Mrs M Passey, land north of 23 and 25 Orchard Drive, Merriott- erection of new dwelling and garage. - **Councillors understood that the land in question was retained for a Doctors surgery/pharmacy and if this use had not been lifted the planning application must be refused.**
- f) **18/03376/HOU** George Walker, Court Mill, Lower Street, Merriott - erection of an observatory- **Councillors had no objection**

Planning determinations

- a) **18/03485/HOU** Mr & Mrs Vose 32 Church Street, Merriott, TA16 5PS-The erection of a single storey front extension to dwelling house to form dining room – **permitted with conditions**
- b) **18/03768/TCA** Ben Lockett 3 Tail Mill Lane, Merriott – tree works – **permitted**
- c) **18/03955/TCA** Mrs Pattermore The Firs, 3 Moorlands Road, Merriott – tree works – **permitted**
- d) **18/02796/OUT** Maria Payne, Boundary House, Beadon Lane, Merriott – demolition of existing buildings and erection of a dwelling – **permitted with conditions**
- e) **18/02797/S73A** Maria Payne, Boundary House, Beadon Lane, Merriott – application to remove condition 7 (agricultural occupancy) of planning approval 96/01450/OUT - **permitted**
- f) **18/02883/HOU** Mr C Weeks 59, Lower Street, Merriott – erection of garage and covered space (revised application 17/04788/FUL) – **permitted with conditions**

All agreed.

18/157; Finance and Procedure

- a. To agree invoices for payment

<u>Voucher</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Details</u>	<u>VAT</u>		<u>Total Payment incl VAT</u>	<u>Budget Line</u>
350	PWLB	Pavilion Loan	£	-	£ 4,524.76	Pavilion Loan
351	Jaycee Plumber	Boiler repairs	£	53.60	£ 321.60	Pavilion
352	Village Hall	Room Hire			£ 12.00	Room Hire
353	EON	Electricity	£	7.21	£ 148.43	Pavilion
354	Julie Chant	Clerks Salary			£ 280.20	Salary
			£	-	£ 37.35	Clerk exps

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355	Jess Searle	Pavilion cleaning	£	-	£	45.00	Pavilion
356	S Shearing- error	Merriott Messenger - refund	£	-	£	105.00	messenger
357	M Stenner	Pavilion Doors			£	200.00	Pavilion
		Total VAT to reclaim	£			60.81	
TOTAL						£ 5,674.34	

Proposed Cllr J Shorting seconded Cllr D Aslett All agreed - approved

b) To note payments received

				<u>INTERNAL TRANSFERS for approval</u>		
From	To			Amount		
Nat West	Barclays	Car Park refurbishment		£	20,000.00	Cheque
				<u>RECEIPTS 1st to 31st December 2018</u>		
Receipt no	Date	Name	Payment for	Amount	Budget line	
194	29.11.18	Active learn	Pavilion	£ 30.00	Pavilion Hire	
195	03.12.18	Preston Dancers	Pavilion	£ 20.00	Pavilion Hire	
196	10.12.18	Preston Dancers	Pavilion	£10.00	Pavilion Hire	
197	10.12.18	Allotment rent	Allotment	£ 600.00	Allotment	
198	05.12.18	S Shearing - error	Merriott messenger	£ 105.00	Merriott Messenger	
TOTAL				£	765.00	

Noted

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

None

d. To consider December (3rd quarter) Report and note Bank reconciliation:

Councillors discussed the figures for both expenditure and income. There were no areas of concern
Noted.

e. To consider and approve the 2019/20 budget and precept.

Councillors discussed the anticipated expenditure and income for 2019-20 and noted that some new headings had been added to give clarity to areas of expenditure. The Clerk informed Councillors that the Council Tax reduction previously received from SSDC was no longer available, so the annual income of £ 300.00 from SSDC would cease. The internal audit was discussed and Councillors agreed to keep the same person for this.

It was proposed that the budget figure was approved and will be reviewed after the end of year accounts are available.

Proposed: Cllr M Burnham Seconded Cllr D Aslett All agreed Budget for 2019-20 approved

The Councillors discussed the precept figure and expressed a wish to keep the precept the same as 2018-19 at £ 44,000.00. The Clerk explained that a change to the Tax band Relief for the village would mean there was a slight increase in Council Tax for households in the village for 2019-20. It was proposed that the precept request be for £ 44,000.00

Proposed Cllr J Shorting Seconded Cllr D Aslett All agreed Precept for 2019-20 approved

18/158 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a. To receive the December report

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Cllr Aslett gave the Clerk the completed form and it was noted that there was a broken plank on the bridge over the culvert.

b. To received updates on:

i) Extend pavilion veranda to ramp as per less able report recommendation:

As other projects are ongoing there is no progress to report

ii) Refurbish shelter:

The Chair has been trying to confirm when the funds will be available.

iii) Water main:

Cllr Shorting has been working with the contractor who started work on 2nd January 2019 as agreed. The pipework was now installed with the stop cock and the Wessex water inspector passed the work on 9th January 2019. Wessex water will now be able to connect the supply and the contractor will return to finish his work.

iv) Actions re ROSPA Report:

Work was progressing, a metalworker is required to make a handrail for the slide and the manufacturers accept they will carry out work to the rope bridge. Smaller items are still being done.

c) to discuss Solar panels on the Pavilion;

Cllr Ashton presented Councillors with a report and estimate for a 4.4kWp solar PV system to be mounted on the roof of the pavilion. Councillors discussed the likely costs, the possible feed tariff, the usage at the Pavilion and the issue of replacing broken solar panels if they were damaged following sports activity on the recreation field. It was agreed that at this time the project would not be viable, but Cllr Ashton suggested that solar panels may reduce in cost in the future at which time Councillors could review the proposal.

d) to discuss NPCC fixtures for summer 2019.

The Clerk confirmed that North Perrott Cricket Club had booked a series of fixture dates for summer 2019.

e) to discuss hosting a Play day in the summer.

Councillors agreed in principal to arranging a Play Day on a Saturday in the summer. The Clerk will write to Active Learn to see if they wish to join in with the event.

Action: Clerk to contact Active Learn.

f) to receive update on car park refurbishment

The car park is moving ahead and to keep disruption to a minimum the contractors will endeavour to lay the top coat on a Friday as this is the quietest day for the village hall.

18/159: Highways and Footpaths.

a. To receive update on heritage road signs refurbishment.

As Cllr Wright was unwell this item was deferred to February meeting

b. To agree Parish Paths Consultation.

With the kind assistance of the Parish Path Liaison a few alterations to the survey were suggested. Councillors agreed to the changes and approved of the Clerk completing the survey.

Clerk to complete and return the survey

c. To receive SIS update

Cllr Wright was not present, so this was deferred to February meeting

d. To consider purchase of SID:

Cllr Wright had sent details of purchase costs and requirements to Councillors ahead of the meeting, but as he was unwell it was deferred to February meeting.

Clerk to add items a), c) and d) to February Agenda

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18/160: Amenities:

a) To discuss the replacement notice board

Cllr Shorting had gathered prices for different size and material notice boards, and Councillors discussed their preferred construction and the possibility of having both sides covered, but only one side locked. Cllr Shorting agreed to look the matter again and report back in February meeting.

Clerk to add to February Agenda

b) To consider accessibility compliant website.

Cllr Shorting and the Clerk had read the guidance and the Clerk had met with one website designer, who had sent details of costings ahead of the meeting. Cllr Ashton felt the suggested changes needed more discussion and it was agreed he and the Clerk would look more closely at the existing website.

Clerk and Cllr Ashton to met to review the current website.

c) To consider hosting a health check session in the pavilion

Following a brief discussion Councillors agreed with the Chair's suggestion that the Village Hall would be a more appropriate venue and that the organisers should contact the Village Hall Committee.

18/161 Clapperhay Community Land.

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

Cllr Hall had spoken to the Solicitors involved but progress was slow.

b) To receive an update on community land planting, access improvements etc.

Councillors discussed their plans for the land, but accepted that the optimal time for planting had passed for this year.

18/162 Correspondence received.

a) Cracks in wall at 73 – 77 Lower Street

The Clerk had received correspondence from a concerned resident, and had passed the details to SSDC and Cllr Maxwell. SSDC had confirmed that some remedial work had now been carried out by the owners.

b) Road closure

A notice confirming the closure of Lopen Road at the junction to Hinton St George had been posted on the notice board and on social media

c) The Clerk had received notification of Election process training at SSDC offices and confirmed she had booked a place for 27th February 2019.

18/163: The next meeting will take place on

Monday 11th February 2019 at 7.00p.m in the Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall, Merriott.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.