

Merriott Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th April 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
Cllr G Wright

In attendance

Julie Chant (Clerk), Cllr Paul Maxwell (SSDC), Cllr Mark Keating (SCC) and two members of the public

18/196 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.

The two residents present wished to discuss the speed at which traffic drove around the village, in particular Lower Street and Church Street. They felt vehicle numbers and speed had increased. Cllr Wright informed them that Speed watch had monitored the traffic in Lower Street, but had not found many vehicles travelling at speed. There were discussions around the traffic at the school, and the parking outside of the school. Councillors explained that evidence would need to be gathered before any changes to speed restrictions were agreed by Highways, and there was some concern that speed monitoring devices do not work well at reducing speed.

It was agreed that a discussion around speed awareness and what steps could be considered would be on the Agenda for May meeting.

Action: Clerk to add to May Agenda as agreed

18/197 Apologies for absence

Cllr Adam Dance gave apologies in advance of the meeting

18/198 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

18/199 Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2019

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

Proposed Cllr Shorting Seconded Cllr Aslett All approved

18/200 Matters Arising from Minutes:

There were no matters arising which would not be covered within the Agenda

18/201 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance was unable to attend the meeting

18/202 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Paul Maxwell updated Councillors on the refusal at the Area West Committee meeting in March of planning application 18/01917/FUL for 39 dwellings on land at Shiremoor. He understood that the 106 commitment was being look at following an objection from the Education Authority and the application would come back to Area West Committee at a later date. It would eventually have to be considered by the Regulation Committee due to the size of the development.

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18/203 Planning including applications currently in circulation

19/00762/TCA Mr. M Lee Merriottsford Farm, Merriott Road, Merriott – application to carry out tree work in conservation area

18/03445/FUL Mr. M Cable - The Kings Head Hotel, Church Street, Merriott – the erection of a timber building on a platform with floodlighting – part retrospective

The Planning working party had visited the site and noted that most of the work had already been completed. The timber building was close to neighbouring boundary, but had no visual impact from the road. It was felt the building had been well constructed and the overall look was pleasing. After some discussion around any possible noise for neighbours etc, it was agreed that the Kings Head was a valuable asset to the village and the building was both useful and functionable. The working party recommended that no objections be raised.

All agreed. It was approved that the Parish Council had no objection to the application.

Action: Clerk to inform SSDC of the decision.

Planning determinations

18/00751/OUT Mr P Venn - Popular motors, Broadway Merriott outline application for the demolition of existing workshops, erection of 4 no. dwellings and associated garaging and erection of a workshop. – permitted with conditions

18/01352/OUT Mr D Foot - Land to the North of Moorlands Farm Merriott, to erect two dwellings and vehicular access to, appeal against planning refusal – appeal dismissed 20th March 2019

To consider outcome of planning applications: 18/00688/OUT (Church St. 50 dwellings)

18/01917/FUL (Shiremoor 39 dwellings)

18/00751/OUT (Broadway 4 dwellings)

and to determine Merriott Parish Council action regarding the above.

Councillors discussed the three applications, and expressed concerns that their comments and recommendations appear to have no effect on the outcome of planning applications, as other committees approve schemes which the Parish Council recommend for refusal.

Members of the Planning Working Group expressed a wish to pay for some legal advice or planning training as they would like to be better informed about the whole process. They also felt the Parish Council needed a greater understanding of how to stand up to these committees.

There was discussion around the policies in place for planning decisions and how some people choose to interrupt these policies.

With regard to the Regulation Committee decision on Church Street, it was suggested that the Clerk contact other Parish Councils who have been over ruled and consider if a joint action might be possible.

Action: Clerk to write to other Parishes for their views.

There was discussion around the possibility of taking legal advice, and the expense and consequences of considering judicial action;

Councillors agreed not to proceed with any judicial review.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write again to Legal services at SDDC with regard to the Regulation Committee, but it was understood that some members of that committee would not be standing for re-election.

Action: Clerk to write to Angela Watson re stating the Parish Councils concerns.

There was further discussion about the other applications which had been approved and the total numbers of new dwellings approved for the village. There was also concern that the Regulation Committee is now looking at smaller developments as the definition of strategic has been lowered.

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It was agreed that further consideration should be given to seeking legal advice and this should appear on the May Agenda.

Action; Clerk to add legal action/advice concerning planning to May Agenda

18/204; 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>
386	Merriott Messenger	Election leaflets		£ 45.00	Publicity
387	Jessica Searle	Cleaning pavilion		£ 15.00	Pavilion maintenance
388	All Saints PCC	Grant for grass cuts		£ 2,730.00	S137 Grant
389	Merriott Village Hall	Room Hire		£ 12.00	Room Hire
390	Richard Keylock	Accounts	£ 2.40	£ 14.40	Accounts
391	Julie Chant - salary etc	Clerks salary & expenses		£ 388.89	Clerks Salary etc
392	Pipecraft Bennett	Bowls Club water mains	£ 190.00	£ 1,140.00	Pav/rec reserve
393	Pipecraft Bennett	Bowls Club water mains	£ 90.00	£ 540.00	Pav/rec reserve
394	I Hall - expenses	Leaflets and mower repair		£ 59.98	rec & publicity
395	N Witcombe	Allotment rental		£ 600.00	Allotment
396	Tom Wallis	Rec upgrade work	£ 627.00	£ 3,762.00	Rec Upgrade
397	Greenbarnes Ltd	Notice Board	£ 206.93	£ 1,241.59	Amenity reserve
398	Eon Energy	Pavilion	£ 8.33	£ 140.85	Pavilion Utility
399	AMS Cleaning	Pavilion		£ 66.99	Pavilion Cleaning
		Total VAT to reclaim	£ 1,124.66		
		TOTAL		£ 10,756.70	

Payments were noted and agreed. All approved

Internal transfer

from Nat West to Barclays £ 10,000.00

Noted and agreed: All approved

b) To note payments received

<u>Receipt no</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Payment for</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Budget line</u>
206	05.03.19	Preston Dancers	Rent	£ 30.00	Pavilion
207	05.03.19	Wainwright	Refund	£ 30.00	Misc
208	19.03.19	Stones - re Hill	Headstone	£ 20.00	Burial fees
209	25.03.19	C Hamlin - childcare	Pavilion	£ 30.00	Pavilion
210	27.03.19	Merriott Youth FC	Pavilion/pitch	£ 370.00	Pavilion/pitch
211	28.03.19	Merriott Rovers FC	Pavilion/pitch	£ 50.00	Pavilion/Pitch

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29.03.19

Active learn

Pavilion

£ 30.00

Pavilion

TOTAL

£ 560.00

Payments noted and agreed. All Approved

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

The Finance working party was updating the Risk Register for approval at May meeting

d. To note Bank reconciliation and end of Year balance.

Noted and agreed.

e. to note resignation of Cllr C Paine.

Councillors expressed their regret that Cllr Paine had stood down from the Parish Council and requested that the Clerk write to thank her for her work in the community.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Paine.

18/205 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a. To receive the March report

Cllr Aslett had completed the form and mentioned that one screw was loose on the side of the slide, otherwise no concerns were raised.

b. To received updates on:

i) **Response from supplier re slide and rope bridge.** The Clerk had written to the supplier and Cllr Hall had spoken with him on the phone and was scheduled to meet him at the Recreation Ground on Thursday 11th April 2019.

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

Cllr Hall had received a quote for the new timber, but a delivery date was not yet known. Cllr Shorting will contact the carpenter once the delivery date for the timber has been confirmed.

iii) **Refurbish shelter:**

The Chair was still making enquiries at SSDC with regard to S106 money for this project.

iv) **Water main:**

Cllr Shorting confirmed that the work to the water mains, including the Bowling Club supply was now complete. He requested that the Clerk contact Wessex Water to make the necessary arrangements to re assign the meter.

Action: Clerk to write to Wessex water as instructed

v) **Improvements to showers**

Cllr Shorting has the updated quote. There was a discussion around the proposed tap and disconnect the tank. Cllr Shorting will visit the pavilion and re assess the requirements.

vi) **Cricket Signs;**

Cllr Hall said other signage also needed to be considered.

c. **to receive update on the car park refurbishment.**

The main area of car park was complete. Cllr Hall confirmed that the overspill carpark will be a hard gravel finish, and some work has started.

d. **to determine proposal to purchase practice nets for cricket clubs.**

Cllr Hall confirmed he had spoken to the Cricket Clubs and Councillors discussed the quote for the proposed practice netting which would need to be moved out of season. It was proposed that an order for the netting be placed as discussed.

All agreed Approved.

Councillors also discussed the need for netting against the ditch, and agreed to pay for the net posts, if the cricket clubs provide the nets. Cllr Aslett suggested posts which could be driven into the ground and would not hinder mowing the area.

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All agreed. Approved.

Action: Order for practice netting to be placed

Action: Net posts to be purchased as agreed.

e. **Update on new electricity contract for the pavilion**

The change to EDF had been delayed slightly, but was now going ahead as planned.

18/206: Highways and Footpaths.

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

Cllr Wright had received two quotes for the finger posts and discussed the options and details of the proposed refurbishment. He confirmed that some posts would need to be replaced completely.

Cllr Wright agreed to forward copies of the quotes to both the Clerk and The Heritage Trust and ask Mr Hobbs if he knew any more detail about the fingerpost by the Bowling Club hedge.

Action: Cllr Wright to contact both the Clerk and The Heritage Trust with details of the quotes.

b. **To receive SIS update**

The Clerk had written to Steven Lawrence at SCC again and he had confirmed that he would contact the Clerk once the budget for SIS was known.

c. **Consider purchase of SID.**

Cllr Wright voiced his concerns about the siting of any speed indicators and it was agreed to discuss again at the May meeting, when speed issues would be on the Agenda.

d. **To receive update on complaints.**

Cllr Burnham reported that he had spoken to one property owner in Shyners Terrace, and that issue was now resolved.

The other issue was partially resolved, but the concerns over parking remained. Councillors discussed options and agreed that the Clerk should write to Highways for their assistance.

Cllr Wright will forward photographs of the parking issue to the Clerk

Action: Clerk to write to Highways with regard to parking on verges etc.

18/207: Amenities:

a) **To discuss the replacement notice board**

Cllr Shorting confirmed that the notice board had been ordered and had been delivered to the Chair, who was going to arrange the installation. The Co-operative store had been informed that a replacement board was going to be erected.

b) **to consider accessibility compliant website.**

Cllr Ashton confirmed that he would proceed with the website after the local election.

c) **To discuss maintenance at the burial ground.**

Cllr Shorting and the Clerk had agreed the risk assessments for the burial ground and the Clerk reported that the first grass cut had been done. The mole activity appeared to have stopped, so the pest controller had not been called, and a quote for trimming the holly trees had been requested.

18/208 Clapperhay Community Land.

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To resolve response to Western Power re: Wayleave

Cllr Hall had spoken to Stonewater about the planned work and some of the changes discussed were not reflected in Western Powers plans. Cllr Hall has agreed to meet the developer's contractor and Western Power on the site after Easter.

18/209 Correspondence received.

Shareholders briefing from Gigaclear- Councillors had seen the information
Complaints re: dogs on the recreation ground – The Clerk had written a short item for the Merriott Messenger, raising the issue of dogs on the recreation ground and dog fouling on pavements and footpaths.

18/210; The next meeting will take place on Monday 13th May 2019 in the Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall, Merriott, after the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting. Meetings will start at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.20p.m.