

# Merriott Parish Council

**Minutes of the June meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
At 7pm in The Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall.**

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)  
Cllr Jim Shorting (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Steve Ashton  
Cllr Michael Burnham  
Cllr Dave Aslett  
Cllr J. Graham  
Cllr N Rochford

## **In attendance**

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

## **19/036 Public Open Session**

Cllr Hall welcomed everyone present to the meeting.

## **19/037 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Grant Wright (family emergency)

## **19/038 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests**

There were no declarations of interest

## **19/039 Minutes of the last meeting:**

The minutes of the Parish Meeting, the Annual Parish Council Meeting and the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

The minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2019 were accepted as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

## **19/040 Matters arising from minutes:**

Cllr Ashton wished to discuss the road sign to Hinton St George amenities which had been incorrectly placed in a gateway and subsequently taken down. The Clerk confirmed she had written to Hinton St George Parish Council explaining Councillors desire to de clutter Merriott and remove unnecessary road signs where possible. There was further discussion around the Council's decision and the involvement of the Highways Agency.

The Clerk apologised that the letter to Rights of Way concerning temporary closure of footpaths across the Community Land had not been sent, but confirmed it would be dealt with over the next week.

## **19/041 Co-option of New Councillor.**

Councillors had received an application from Nicola Rochford and confirmed they wished to approve her co option to Merriott Parish Council. Proposed Cllr M Burnham seconded Cllr D Aslett unanimously agreed.

**Cllr N Rochford was co-opted and signed the acceptance of office as Councillor on Merriott Parish Council.**

## **19/042 Report from County Councillor:**

Councillor Adam Dance confirmed he had received an update on the SIS and resources for tranche 2 were being explored at SCC and a plan would be developed over the next month. He also confirmed that the Scheme was now closed to new applications.

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## 19/043 Report from District Councillor.

Cllr Paul Maxwell informed everyone that the first meeting of SSDC had been held on the 21<sup>st</sup> May and new appointments had been made for the various responsibilities and committees. He had been elected Chairman of South Somerset District Council for 2019-20 and Cllr Val Keitch had been re-elected Leader of SSDC. He updated Councillors on the various planning applications in Merriott which were still to be decided, including two at Tail Mill, the Shiremoor development, Eggwood and two which involved variation to 106 agreements.

He also confirmed that Councillors due to sit on Regulation Committees were undergoing additional training.

He gave the Clerk full written details of the new post holders at SSDC.

## 19/044 Planning including applications currently in circulation

None at time of Agenda

### Planning determinations

a) 19/00915/TCA Mr. George Walker Court Mill Lower Street, Merriott- leylandiis works in conservation area - approved

b) 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- permitted with conditions

c) 19/01017/TCA Mr. M Pritchard, Tail Mill Lane, Merriott – works to 2 trees in conservation area – approved

Councillors noted determinations

## 19/045: Highways and Footpaths

### a) To receive update on heritage road sign refurbishment

Deferred to next meeting

### b) To discuss traffic calming measures and street scene.

Councillors and members of the public discussed traffic calming measures, and whether certain areas within the village needed to be targeted, or if it would be more appropriate to have one speed limit for the whole village. There was concern that the flashing lights outside the primary school in Church Street did not have an advisory speed limit, so they simply alerted drivers that they were approaching a school.

There was discussion around the process involved in applying for a limit outside a school and the issues around having a speed limit or a speed zone.

Cllr Dance spoke about the possibility of having SCC conduct speed checks around the village, as a 20-mph zone could only be installed if the average recorded speed of traffic was less than 24 m.p.h., he explained that numerous surveys would need to be done to add weight to any argument put forward for traffic calming.

It was suggested the Clerk write to the Clerk at South Petherton and Lopen to see if their SID were helping to reduce speeding vehicles.

### Action: Clerk to write to South Petherton and Lopen Parish Councils.

Councillors discussed the issue of too many signs in a conservation area and the noise and inconvenience of speed humps, suggesting that perhaps speed platforms would be a better option. It was noted that parts of Church Street did not have a pavement. Councillors also expressed their frustration at the traffic calming measures in Broadway, which they considered had not been well thought out, and encourage drivers to speed up so they did not have to wait for oncoming traffic.

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The SIS scheme was discussed and the provision of free school transport as pedestrian routes to Crewkerne were not considered safe by SCC.

**Action: clerk to write to Louisa Brown at SSDC Planning regarding the SIS and the school transport provision as part of a response to a recent planning application.**

Councillors agreed to give the issues raised more consideration and discuss again at the July meeting. The Chair suggested Councillors considered whether they wanted one speed for the whole village, or targeted streets and suggested the Highways Working Party look into the possibility of conducting some community speed watch checks.

**Action the Clerk to write to SCC regarding speed checks for the village.**

**Action: Traffic calming to be added to July Agenda**

## c) Footpaths Guide

The Clerk had registered the Parish Council with Ordnance Survey Maps online and Cllr J Graham agreed to look at the site and ways of downloading the map of footpaths for the Parish

## d) Update on damaged bridge on footpath and Parish Path Liaison Officer Vacancy.

The wooden bridge on the footpath had been repaired and the footpath was now open again. The vacancy for the Parish Path Liaison officer has not been filled, despite adverts in the Merriott messenger and on social media

## 19/046 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>	<u>Cheque Number</u>
414	Martin Paull	mowing			£ 100.00	burial ground	BACS
415	Sedgemoor Fire	Safety Inspection	£	35.93	£ 215.58	Pavilion	BACS
416	SES Security	CCTV maintenance	£	18.00	£ 108.00		BACS
417	J Chant	Salary and exp	£	-	£ 392.20	salary & mileage	BACS
			£	5.38	£ 44.33		BACS
418	AMS Home	Cleaning pavilion	£	-	£ 60.00	Pavilion	BACS
419	Yarcombe Timber	Rail and timber	£	35.52	£ 213.12	Car Park refurb	BACS
420	EON	Final bill	£	2.03	£ 42.65	Pavilion	Cheque3516
421	PWLB	loan repayment	£	-	£ 4,524.76	Pavilion Loan	D/D Nat west
422	Cllr I Hall	Pavilion and car park	£	-	£ 58.74	Pavilion/car park	BACS
423	Jaycee Plumbing	Pavilion Showers	£	198.00	£ 1,188.00	Pav/rec project	BACS
	swaffields	tractor fuel			£ 31.72	rec	BACS
	Tom Wallis		£	-			BACS
		Total VAT to reclaim	£	294.86			
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>£ 6,979.10</b>		

Councillors noted that the final payment due to EON had been discussed with the new supplier, as there was a discrepancy with the readings. Based on the suppliers response they agreed the invoice be paid.

Proposed: Cllr J Shorting seconded Cllr D Aslett. All agreed, payments 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>	<u>Paying in ref</u>
218	01.05.19	Mr P Fisk	Pavilion Hire	£ 30.00	Pavilion Hire	1216784
219	03.05.19	Active learn	Pavilion Hire	£ 30.00	pavilion hire	BACS
220	08.05.19	G Preston	Pavilion Hire	£ 20.00	pavilion hire	BACS
221	10.05.19	R Green (Hooper)	Headstone	£ 105.00	Burial Ground	1220495

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222	10.05.19	Merriott Rovers	Pitch& Pavilion	£	200.00	Pitch/pavil	BACS
223	10.05.19	Coins from Electric meter	Pavilion Hire	£	36.00	pavilion hire	100045
224	13.05.19	Astra Rendell	Pavilion Hire	£	15.00	pavilion hire	BACS
<b>TOTAL</b>				£	<b>436.00</b>		

Payments were noted.

**c) To note Bank reconciliation**

The reconciliation to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019 was noted.

**d) To note any updates to Risk Register and inspection reports.**

There was nothing new to note and Cllr J Shorting agreed to meet with the Clerk during June to undertake the quarterly inspection of headstones at the Civil Burial Ground.

**e) To adopt complaints policy/procedure**

The new Policy had been forwarded to all Councillors and it was agreed to adopt the Policy. The Chairman and the Clerk signed the Policy.

## 19/047 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

**a) To receive the May inspection report.**

Cllr Aslett had done the inspection and had nothing of note to report. Cllr Shorting informed the Council that several tiles on the pavilion roof were broken and some of the roofing felt was damaged. He also noted that during recent heavy rain the guttering over the veranda was overflowing. It was agreed to purchase some replace tiles and contact a local tradesman to fix the various issues.

**Action: Clerk to contact supplier to purchase tiles.**

Cllr Hall confirmed that the replacement fixings for the slide had arrived

**b) To receive update on cricket signs**

Cllr Hall had not been able to order these, but would look into purchasing them

**c) To receive update on car park refurbishment.**

The overflow car park was almost finished, the hard gravel driveways were down and the grass parking areas had been reseeded. In order to give the grass an opportunity to grow the overflow car park was still fenced off. The situation would be monitored over the next month or so.

**d) To receive update on inclusive roundabout surface.**

The wetpour surface had been ordered and the supplier had hoped to lay the surface this week, but the forecast for heavy rain made this very unlikely.

## 19/048 Amenities

**a) Update on accessibility compliant website.**

Cllr Ashton was confident that within the next few weeks he could set up the template and meet with the Clerk to start loading information onto the new website.

**b) To consider defibrillator for Lower Street**

Cllr Aslett had looked into the possibility of a defibrillator being installed outside the Squash Club in Lower Street, but the cost would be high as it would need to be in an outside box. He had also spoken to someone about CPR training for people in the village and was keen for this to go ahead. Councillors agreed it would be a good idea, but hoped that more people would attend this time. He also suggested ordering CPR masks to be given to local businesses in the village.

**Action: Clerk to look into costs of CPR masks and ask businesses if they would be happy to receive a kit free of charge.**

## 19/049 Clapperhay Community Land

**a) To approve the purchase of trees for the community land**

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Cllr Aston had been looking at suitable trees for the Heritage Orchard and the suggested spacing for the trees. Cllr Hall agreed to give him approximate width and length of the land to enable him to plan the planting. Councillors discussed the variety of fruit trees they would like to see planted and felt it would be good for local children to be able to identify the various trees once they were planted.

## 19/050 Correspondence received

The Clerk had received a message from Merriott Majorettes regarding erecting a marquee on the recreation ground for their presentation ceremony. Councillors had no objection to this and ask the Clerk to find out more detail.

**19/051 Items for next meeting** Traffic calming and Finger post refurbishment

**19/052 Next meeting:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2019, 7.00p.m, Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.38 p.m.