

Merriott Parish Council

**Minutes of the November Meeting of the Parish Council
held on Monday 11th November 2019 at 7pm in The Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall.**

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)
Cllr Jim Shorting
Cllr Steve Ashton
Cllr Grant Wright
Cllr Dave Aslett
Cllr C Paine
Cllr N Rochford
Cllr J Graham

In attendance

Cllr Adam Dance, Cllr Paul Maxwell, Julie Chant (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

19/134 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.

A member of the public spoke about the Local Wildlife Site on the community land and discussed the various different species of invertebrates he had recorded at the site. There was a discussion around the site and how best to protect the area from the proposed development at Shiremoor.

A member of the public wanted to discuss the possibility of tree planting, or wild flower planting around the village, and the adoption of the telephone kiosk in Lower Street. Councillors confirmed that they intended to adopt the kiosk from BT.

19/135 Apologies for absence

Cllr Mick Burnham was unwell

19/136 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest

19/137 Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2019 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

19/138 Matters arising from the minutes;

The Chair wished to thank the Clerk for the work done with regard to the release of viability reports on a recent planning application. He felt some of the issues raised in regard to the reports should be discussed with SSDC.

19/139 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Adam Dance expressed his disappointment that the bid for a SIS for Merriott had not been successful, but he was optimistic SCC would review the situation and suggest a partial improvement for pedestrian safety in the Broadway to Pye Corner area. There was a discussion around the A356, drains and the poor state of pavements around the village. Cllr Dance suggested that copies of correspondence on these issues be forwarded to him. He also informed Councillors that SCC was not holding any full Council meetings until January due to the General Election.

19/140 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Paul Maxwell confirmed that the application 18/01917/FUL for Shiremoor had been refused, and he was unsure of the time scale for any possible appeal or resubmission. He confirmed that SSDC

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had adopted their Environment Strategy. He also spoke about the upcoming Area West Committee meeting which he understood may include applications from Boozer Pit and the Feed Station.

As the Lead of Highways and Footpaths hoped to leave the meeting early Councillors agreed to move Highways up the Agenda, ahead of planning.

19/141: Highways and Footpaths;

a) To note winter gritting arrangements and consider a snow warden

Councillors noted the arrangements, but decided not to appoint a snow warden

b) To discuss letter re: Moorlands Road

Cllr G Wright confirmed he would take another look at the area and write to request SCC clear the drains. Cllr Adam Dance suggested the Clerk forward a copy of any correspondence to him.

Action: Clerk to send Cllr Adam Dance correspondence on Moorlands Road

c) To discuss pavements around the village.

Cllr Wright had sent a report on the state of pavements in the village to SCC previously, and suggested he take another look and send an updated report.

Councillors also discussed the state of some of the drains around the village. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Highways informing them of the atrocious state of the pavements and drains, with a copy to Cllr Adam Dance.

Action: Letter to be sent to SCC Highways and Councillor Dance.

Councillors also discussed the options of joining the Parish Ranger scheme or paying to have the drains cleared. It was suggested that Parish Ranger Scheme be added to the Agenda for the next meeting.

Action: Parish Ranger Scheme to be added to December Agenda.

d) To note road closures

Noted

e) To determine response to Hinton St George signpost.

Councillors discussed the sign which had been removed as it had been incorrectly positioned. The initial response from Merriott Parish Council had been to oppose the sign being re-erected within the Parish, as Councillors wish to “declutter” the village, with regard to signs. Councillors agreed that outdated signage should be removed, but felt the sign to Hinton St George should be reconsidered.

Councillor S Ashton proposed the Council give consent for the sign to be erected, seconded by Cllr C Paine, approved 5 in favour, 2 against.

Action: Clerk to contact Hinton St George to inform them of the decision to approve the erection of the sign

f) to consider response to Highways letter re: A356

Councillors expressed their disappointment at Highways reply to their request to re-examine the A356, as they consider the situation has worsened over the last few years. There was a discussion about the speed of traffic on the bends and the mounds of earth and rubble on the side of the road. Cllr Dance suggested that the Clerk copy him into Merriott Parish Councils reply to Highways.

Action: Clerk to write again to Highways and copy in Cllr A Dance.

Cllr G Wright left the meeting (8.40 p.m.)

19/142 Planning including applications currently in circulation:

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19/00925/FUL – Mr J Stokes- Springfield House and Hamstones, Church Street, Merriott- proposed alterations to access, remodelling of existing dwellings Hamstones, and erection of two private dwellings with garages and domestic curtilage – Cllr D Aslett confirmed that the Planning Working Party had no objections to the amended plans, but did express concerns that the drain in Church Street, which currently overflows, will take additional run off from the wider drive and additional properties. He suggested the Clerk raise the issue with SSDC so the planners were aware of the damaged drain, and remedial works could be undertaken to ensure the issue is dealt with. A discussion on the general state of drains in the village followed.

All approved.

Action: Clerk to write to SSDC Planning Officer raising Councillors concerns about the drain outside of the property

b) Planning determinations:

19/02229/LBC -69B Lower Street Merriott – the repainting of 2 windows and 1 door on rear elevation - **approved**

19/01666/FUL - Mr. and Mrs. A Manley, 1 & 3 Tail Mill Lane, Merriott- Alterations and sub division of one dwelling into two, erection of single storey extension and new pitched roof on existing two storey rear projection to No 3, and internal alterations to No 1a – **approved with conditions**

19/01546/LBC Dr M Smith, 16 Higher Street, Merriott TA16 5PJ- the carrying out of internal alterations at first floor and the installation of Velux roof light to rear elevation - **withdrawn**

19/02712/HOU – Mr G Adams- Old Vicarage, Church Street, Merriott, - The erection of a single storey extension, internal alterations to provide a new ensuite bathroom/dressing room and the forming of four new light wells to the basement and new window on first floor south elevation - **withdrawn**

19/02380/TCA – 15 Lower Street, Merriott – intention to carry out tree surgery works to No.1 tree within conservation area – **approved.**

Determinations were noted.

c) Update on Shiremoor application 18/01917/FUL.

Following the refusal at Regulation Committee the Clerk had written to SSDC to raise concerns that policy SS2 had not been quoted with regard to lack of one-bedroom dwellings and asking for clarification around 106 agreements and land charges. As the response to 106 agreement had been vague, the Clerk suggested that Councillors would need to consider the possibility of taking legal advice on the matter.

Action: Clerk to add discussion on legal costs and advice to next Agenda.

The Chair mentioned that members of the Planning Working Party wished to meet with the Leader of SDDC Council and the Ward Member to discuss viability reports in more detail.

19/143 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/BACS</u>
482	Aitkens	Pitchline	£	71.50	£ 429.00	pitch exp	BACS
483	Martin Paull	mowing			£ 100.00	Burial ground	BACS
484	J Chant	Salary and exps	£	3.67	£ 442.24	Salary & stationary	BACS
485	AMS Services	Cleaning	£	-	£ 60.00	Pavilion	BACS
486	EDF	Electricity			£ 90.25	Pavilion	BACS

Signeddate.....

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487	Aitkens	Pitchline	£	6.60	£	39.60	pitch exp	BACS	
488	Merriott Village Hall	room hire			£	12.00	room hire	BACS	
489	Mr P Armstrong	Gardening			£	14.00	rec maintenance	BACS	
490	Cllr I Hall	Councillors exps	£	11.90	£	86.34		BACS	
Total VAT to reclaim			£	93.67					
TOTAL						£ 1,273.43			

The Finance Working Party suggested that the Clerk receive an annual payment of £ 24.00 to cover phone expenses. **Councillors agreed**

The payments list was discussed and Cllr D Aslett proposed approval, seconded Cllr J Shorting
All agreed – payments list approved.

b) To note amendment to October payment list.

The Clerk added the transfer of £ 10,000 to Barclays Bank to the list and removed one invoice which had been reduced and included in the November payment list.

Councillors noted the amendments and Cllrs D Aslett and I Hall signed the amended list.

c) To note payments received:

RECEIPTS 1st to 23rd October 2019

Receipt no	Date	Name	Payment for	Amount	Budget line	Ref
252	03.10.19	Merriott Rovers	Pitch&Pavilion	£ 135.00	Pitch and Pavilion	BACS
253	03.10.19	Bowls Club	Rent	£ 132.50	Bowls Club Rent	Cheque
TOTAL					£ 267.50	

Receipts were noted.

d) To note bank reconciliation 2nd Quarter report and 2nd quarter checks completion.

The bank reconciliation was noted, and Councillors discussed the 2nd quarter report. Cllr J Shorting confirmed he had completed the 2nd quarter checks and signed the bank statements.

e) To consider draft 2020/21 budget

Councillors discussed the budget and noted the proposed reduction in spending for 20/21. The Chair explained that the car park refurbishment was complete, as was the work to the veranda. As no 106 payments were due the expenditure on new play equipment would be less in 20/21

Action: Approval of draft budget and precept for 2020/21 to be on December Agenda

f) To note any updates to the risk register (standing item) and inspection reports.

Nothing to note

g) To determine delegating any waiver of current fees on the Recreation Ground/Pavilion for Charity Events to the Clerk.

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The Clerk had been approached by Merriott Youth Football to hold a charity match to raise funds for Mind Somerset. Councillors agreed to delegate the waiving of fees for charity events to the Clerk.

Action: Clerk to amended the Financial Regulations for approval by Councillors.

Cllr I Hall mentioned that the Royal British Legion had not received their donation for a wreath and requested this be added to the December Agenda

Action: Donation to Royal British Legion on December Agenda

19/144 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a) To receive the October inspection report.

Cllr D Aslett will bring the report to the December meeting.

b) To consider Christmas Tree Recycling at Rec.

Councillors agreed to take part in SSDC Christmas tree recycling scheme again.

c) To determine work to trees

Councillors held a brief discussion on the trees at the boundary of the recreation ground. Cllr J Shorting offered to send members of the Open Spaces working party a copy of the tree report which had been done a few years ago.

A decision on work to trees was deferred to the December meeting

Action: Clerk to add tree works to December Agenda

d) To consider registering pavilion under the Place of Safety Scheme.

Councillors discussed the scheme and felt that the pavilion could be used as an overflow for the village hall, rather than a stand-alone place of safety. Cllr S Ashton also reported that he had registered as an Emergency Contact on behalf of the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to contact the co Ordinator of the scheme and Merriott Village Hall to inform them of the decision.

e) To discuss recycling provision at the Recreation Ground

This was deferred to the December meeting to allow time to gather information and prices.

Action: recycling for the Recreation Ground to be added to December Agenda

Cllr C Paine left the meeting

19/145 Amenities:

a) To receive Burial Ground quarterly report.

Cllr J Shorting informed Councillors that due to the weather and time restraint the inspection report would be given in December.

Action: Burial ground inspection report to be added to December Agenda

b) Update on CPR training and future First Aid training.

Cllr S Ashton had attended the CPR training and felt it had been very useful. There was a discussion around the possibility of buying additional defibrillators for the village and the item was deferred to the next meeting

Action: Clerk to add defibrillators and first aid training to December Agenda

19/146 Clapperhay Community Land.

To consider fencing and planting.

Cllr I Hall and members of the Open Spaces Working Party had visited the site several times with a view to marking the areas to be fenced. The cost and positioning of fencing was discussed, along with the need to protect the wildlife site. Cllr Hall suggested the

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fencing be started as soon as possible. **Proposed Cllr D Aslett, seconded Cllr J Shorting – all approved.**

Cllr N Rochford left the meeting

19/147 Correspondence received:

Councillors had been given correspondence relating to:
St Margaret's Hospice
Tree overhanging in Hitchen
Merriott Culvert Scheme
Somerset Wildlife Trust
NHS Foundation Trust update

19/148 Items for next meeting: none

19/149 Next meeting: Monday 9th December 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Blake Room Merriott Village Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.55p.m.