

Merriott Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th January 2018 At 7pm, Tithe Barn, Merriott

Present:

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)
Cllr Caro Paine
Cllr Jim Shorting

Cllr Grant Wright
Cllr Stephen Ashton

In attendance

Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk), Cllr A Dance (SCC)
No members of the public

18/001. Public Open Session

No issues raised.

18/002. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Aslett and also Cllr Maxwell (SSDC).

18/003. Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

None.

18/004. Minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2017

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

18/005. Matters Arising from Minutes

The following items were discussed as Matters Arising:

- The Clerk reported that she had spoken to Crewkerne Town Council's Deputy Clerk about possibly meeting up to discuss traffic suggestions and the Deputy Clerk had agreed to approach the Highways Committee at their next meeting about a suitable opportunity to do so.

18/006. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance reported that:

- Confirmation from the two landowners involved in the SIS scheme that they support the scheme had been forward to Highways and the next stage of the applications would take place shortly

18/007. Report from District Councillor

In the absence of Cllr Maxwell, Cllr Dance reported that transformation at the District Council was ongoing, and that Angela Watson had been appointed as interim Monitoring Officer.

18/008. Planning

a. 17/04596-600/FUL – Marks Barn Farm

No objections.

b. 17/04788/FUL – 59 Lower Street

No objections.

c. To receive an update on the Shiremoor development

Merriott Parish Council

Cllr Hall reported that contracts are now being looked at in details and progress was being made. The Clerk reported that after seeking quotations from local solicitors, the Finance Working Party had agreed to instruct Broomhead & Saul to act for the Parish Council in the transfer.

d. To consider MPC response to Local Plan issues and options consultation

Members discussed the Parish Council's response to the Local Plan consultation following a walk around the village to assess potential development sites organised by Cllr Hall. Cllr Hall raised concerns that under the proposed new criteria, Merriott could potentially be targeted for development as a larger village, although it was not listed by name in the document.

Action: Cllr Hall to prepare brief holding statement for Clerk to submit by 11th January which will include the Parish Council's need to assess the results from the Housing Needs Survey before submitting MPC's formal response.

18/009. 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>
231	J Searle	Pavilion Cleaning	£	-	£ 45.00	Pavilion contract	BACS
232	EON	Pavilion electricity	£	-	£ 76.98	Pavilion utilities	BACS
233	SSDC	Playground inspection fee	£	15.70	£ 94.20	Rec maintenance	BACS
234	SSDC	Verti draining football pitch	£	32.70	£ 196.20	Rec maintenance	BACS
235	PWLB	Pavilion loan	£	-	£ 4,524.76	PWLB	DD
236	Staff	Staffing	£	-	£ 376.92	Staff salaries	BACS
		Mileage	£	-	£ 2.70	Mileage3	BACS
		Office costs	£	-	£ 10.30	Office costs	BACS
		Total VAT to reclaim	£	48.40			
		TOTAL			£ 5,327.06		

RESOLVED for payment*

*Members noted that the HAGS SMP payments from November & December remained outstanding although the balance of the order was expected imminently – these payments remained delegated to the Clerk and Chair when the balance of the order was received.

Action: Cllr Shorting to taker meter reading between 10th and 15th January as requested by supplier. Clerk to chase Rovers for payments for this season.

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>Ref</u>
134	05/12/2017	G Preston	Pavilion hire	£ 30.00	Pavilion hire	BACS
135	19/12/2017	S Freemantle	Pavilion hire	£ 70.00	Pavilion hire	100016
		TOTAL		£ 100.00		

Noted.

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

None.

Cllr Dance left the meeting.

d. To received the Q3 financial report (circulated)

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A draft precept and budget for the next financial year was discussed. Members were reminded that the Council Tax Base was now confirmed at a very slight increase on the current year, and that a small grant of £310 was expected from the District Council. Some discussions took place around the need for SALC membership at approximately £500 and it was agreed not to renew membership for one year, to be reviewed regularly. A proposal to leave the precept unchanged at £44,000 was received from Cllr Wright.

Proposed: Cllr Wright

Seconded: Cllr Paine

RESOLVED

Action: Clerk to raised the precept at £44,000 and write article for Merriott Messenger's March edition. Clerk to contact SALC about non-renewal for 18-19.

e. To consider membership of SALC in 2018-19

See above item.

18/010. Highways

a. To receive an update on the Small Improvements Scheme bid

Discussed under County Council report.

Cllr Wright agreed to follow up technical questions with Lopen PC about the join SID proposal.

18/011. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a. To receive the December inspection report

The December inspection report was no available due to the absence of Cllr Aslett. Cllr Shorting agreed to undertake the next set of inspections. The Clerk reported that the District Council were hoping to be able to offer Gym equipment inspections in their annual service. Cllr Shorting reported that the Pavilion clock had again been returned to the manufacturer after stopping yet again.

Action: Clerk to chase Sam Ricketts for meter upgrade at the pavilion.

b. To receive an update regarding the water supply at the Pavilion/Bowling Club

The Clerk reported that no response had been received to the latest MPC letter to the Bowls Club. Cllr Shorting reported that he had met a local pipe specialist to arrange a quote for the works and the Clerk agreed to chase this up. Paperwork had been received from Wessex Water regarding the new connection, which the Clerk signed ready to send off, subject to obtaining an up to date plan.

Action: Clerk to chase pipework quotes and send plans to Cllr Shorting to check.

c. To receive an update on play projects

Members noted that the installation of the Early Years play project had been delayed until March as the supplier had not been able to provide the balance of the equipment order and now the ground was too wet. Part of the balance had now been received, with the remainder due within the week. Large play equipment for Older Years phase had been ordered and payment was likely to be required in April. No questions were raised.

18/012. Amenities

a. To consider membership of the Village Agent scheme

After a brief discussion, members agreed that the considerable financial implications of joining this scheme would mean a considerable rise to the precept and consequently it was agreed that the Parish Council would not be able to fund this.

b. To consider a way forward with the Churchyard headstone restoration project

Merriott Parish Council

CLlr Hall provided some background information for newer members, stating that some headstones had been repaired previously but many larger and older ones still required work. Members agreed it would be good to move forward and the Clerk was asked to contact Merriott Heritage Trust to seek confirmation of their involvement.

Action: Clerk to contact Merriott Heritage Trust regarding the headstone restoration project.

18/013. Items for the next meeting

To be advised to the Clerk in advance of agenda publication.

18/014. Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 12th February 2018, 7pm, Tithe Barn.

The meeting finished at 8.45pm.