

# Merriott Parish Council

## Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017 At 7pm, Tithe Barn, Merriott

### Present:

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)  
Cllr Jim Shorting  
Cllr Grant Wright

Cllr David Aslett  
Cllr Caro Paine  
Cllr David Collins

### In attendance

Mrs K Sheehan (Clerk), Cllr A Dance (SCC), Cllr P Maxwell (SSDC), Cllr R Pallister (SSDC) and 4 members of the public.

### 17/087. Public Open Session

No comments were made.

### 17/088. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Natalie Stahl.

### 17/089. Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

Cllrs Collins and Hall both declared a prejudicial interest in the planning application for the cottage at the rear of the Swan Inn, Lower Street by virtue of the proximity of both their properties to the site in question. Both clarified that they would leave the room during the debate and decision making on this matter.

### 17/090. Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2017

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting subject to the amendment of the typographical error at the word 'platforms' in the Highways Report.

**Proposed: Cllr J Shorting**

**Seconded: Cllr I Hall**

**RESOLVED**

### 17/091. Matters Arising from Minutes

It was noted that:

- The cutting back of the trees at the play area had been requested urgently but had not yet happened.
- A formal response from Merriott Preschool to the consultation on the proposed childcare facility at the Pavilion had been received, which outlined a number of objections to the proposal, mostly relating to the low projected numbers of local children over the next few years. Cllr Hall observed that this would create pressure for the existing preschool and that the proposal might be better revisited in future years.
- Merriott Cricket Club had been approached about nets but had not responded.
- Cllr Collins agreed to look for the original correspondence relating to dog waste bins and suggested areas for improvements.

### 17/092. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance reported that he was scheduled to meet with the Small Improvements Scheme Officer later in the week so would be taking the report prepared by Cllr Wright and seeking to secure a visit from the officer to the village to discuss further. In response to a question from Cllr Aslett on how South Petherton District Council chose their defibrillators, Cllr Dance outlined the benefits attached to the SWAT package.

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## **17/093. Report from District Councillor**

Cllr Maxwell reported that:

- He is always happy to assist residents with planning applications and processes
- The District Council's Transformation project is ongoing
- SSDC is risk assessing all its buildings in the wake of the Grenfell Tower tragedy
- Budgets remain under pressure
- Yeovil Crematorium refurbishment will be phased in such a way as to permit it to continue operating

With the agreement of all Councillors, the planning item was moved ahead of finance to accommodate those members of the public present.

## **17/094. Planning – applications in circulation and determinations**

### **a. To receive an update on Housing Needs Survey**

The Clerk reported that the draft Housing Needs Survey had been submitted to SSDC. Some discussion took place with Cllr Pallister regarding possible funding available for the Survey and he agreed to liaise with the officers in question to clarify costs outlined to MPC. Some discussion took place regarding housing stock and the roles of Community Land Trusts.

**Action: Clerk to invite Zoe Harris/Leisa Kelly to attend August meeting of MPC**

### **b. 17/02272/s73a – Mr and Mrs Wallis, Lynash Nurseries – application to remove agricultural occupancy tie**

No objection to this application. Mr Wallis asked that the Parish Council includes the reasons for its decision when contacting the District Council with their response.

### **c. 17/02155/LBC – Mrs & Mrs White, 16 Higher Street – Internal and external alterations**

No real objections but the Working Party noted the variation between styles of windows – the new ones not being consistent with the existing ones.

### **d. 17/02607/DPO – Mr & Mrs Twose, Cottage to the rear of the Swan Inn, Lower Street – application to discharge a s52 agreement**

Cllrs Hall and Collins left the room.

Cllr Shorting in the Chair for this item only.

Cllr Paine reported that there was a lack of detail accompanying this application, to the point that it was very difficult to make any recommendation at all.

It was agreed that the Clerk should report these observations to the District Council and ask for greater detail.

### **e. 17/02688/FUL – CE & BD Bailey, Land at Bow Barn Farm – Erection of an agricultural building to use as a cattle pen**

Cllr Paine stated that after careful consideration by the Planning Working Party, no real objections were raised. Cllr Hall invited Mr Ashton of Bow Mill to speak. Mr Ashton stated that as a near neighbour he objected on grounds of increased noise, smell, scale and orientation. He also noted that while the application states the building would not be visible from the nearby footpath, it actually would be. Mr Bailey, also in attendance, highlighted the importance of the building to supporting his business, needing to increase herd sizes to remain financially secure. Some discussion about the building's location took place and Mr Bailey stated that District Council planning officers were visiting the site during the week. Cllr Paine asked that a short extension be requested in order that the decision be

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delegated with the PWP to advise Clerk of their recommendation following a site visit in order that arrangements for delegated earlier decision to be advised to District Council.

**Action: Clerk to advise above decisions to District Council.**

### 17/095. 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>
172	Staff salary	Clerks salary		£314.01	Clerks Salary	3490
		Mileage		£7.98	Mileage	3490
		Office costs -ink etc	£5.64	£45.20	Office costs	3490
173	Sedgemoor Fire	Fire extinguisher service	£7.76	£46.58	Pavilion maintenance	3491
174	M Paull	Churchyard grass		£720.00	Churchyard/BG	3492
175	SES	New alarm system	£490.20	£2,941.20	Rec security	3493
176	EON Crewkerne	Pavilion electricity		£59.65	Pavilion utilities	3494
177	Horticultural	Mower parts	£15.25	£91.50	Plant repairs	3495
		Total VAT to reclaim	£518.85			
<b>TOTAL</b>				£4,226.12		

A query over the frequency of churchyard grasscutting was raised. Cllr Hall agreed to advise the clerk on how often it should be cut until end of growing season.

**Proposed: Cllr J Shorting**

**Seconded: Cllr D Aslett**

**RESOLVED for payment**

#### b. To note payments received

##### RECEIPTS 6th to 30th June 2017

<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>
99	12.06.17	North Perrott CC	Pitch/Pavilion hire	£50.00	Pavilion/Pitch	bacs
100	19.06.17	M Stenner	?	£19.00	Poss MM?	bacs
101	26.06.17	Stoodley & Son	Burial fees	£175.00	Burial Ground	100844
102	26.06.17	S Bracher	Pavilion Hire	£20.00	Pavilion hire	100845
<b>TOTAL</b>				£264.00		

Noted.

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

The following changes were noted for the Risk Register:

- CCTV now installed
- Extinguisher servicing complete for 2017-18

#### d. To consider grant requests from:

- **M Ricketts – Outposts expedition to South Africa**

The Clerk advised that as the Council has no powers under s137 to make grants to individuals, it would regrettably be unable to support this request.

- **All Saints Church – donation towards roof repairs**

The Clerk was asked to seek clarification over the legal power to make this donation.

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- **Merriott Messenger – financial reserves request**

Due to restrictions in legislation preventing s137 grants being made for non-specific purposes, this request was regrettably declined. The Clerk was asked to contact the Messenger team to say that grants cannot be made towards theoretical situations.

**Action: Clerk to respond to all grant requests as above.**

Members noted that due to the late arrival of the bank statements, the end of Q1 financial reports would come to the August meeting of Council.

### **17/096. Highways**

**a. To receive an update from the Highways working party**

Cllr Wright reported that he had sent information to the SIS officer ahead of the scheduled meeting with Cllr Dance and was hoping to secure a site visit soon. Cllr Wright agreed to publish his recent report in Messenger, Clerk to do the same with the Facebook page.

### **17/097. Recreation Ground/Pavilion**

**a. To receive the June inspection report**

The May inspection report was received. No major issues noted. Cllr Shorting agreed to undertake the July inspection. Significant water usage was noted in the last quarter.

**Action: Clerk to forward inspection report to ARB. ONGOING: Cllr Hall to look at base of monkey bars.**

**b. To receive an update on CCTV provision at the Rec and Pavilion**

Cllr Shorting reported that the new CCTV was installed and operational. The Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk had been taught how to use it and download footage for the police.

**Action: Clerk to request additional signage for entrance to the Rec and a one-sheet 'how to' guide for operating**

**c. To consider a proposal to purchase litter picking tongs**

Cllr Hall reported that some of the original tongs had been recovered so this was no longer necessary.

**d. Rec Projects 2017 – updates for information only**

Cllr Hall had circulated a document with the latest breakdown of the project into phases and proposed funding applications prior to the meeting. No questions were asked.

### **17/098. Amenities**

**a. To receive an update on the proposed new burial ground**

Cllr Shorting reported that he had revisited the rates of uptake in both the burial ground and churchyard and had calculated that due to reduced usage in previous years, potentially 8-12 years usage remained in the current burial ground, which was more than originally anticipated.

**Action: Clerk to put burial ground provision as an item for review in 5 years on Risk Register**

**b. To receive an update on churchyard tree maintenance**

Cllr Shorting stated that he had been trying to contact ARB for an update on when the tree works could be scheduled.

**c. To consider a proposal to purchase a defibrillator**

Members considered a proposal to purchase a defibrillator from the Amenities WP. Two types of defibrillator had been assessed. The Amenities WP recommended the Heartsine

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package at a cost of £2395+VAT. Some discussion took place about the other option available but after a vote it was agreed to purchase the Heartsine option.

**Proposal to purchase Heartsine defibrillator:**

**Proposed: Cllr J Shorting      Seconded: Cllr D Aslett**

**Three votes were recorded FOR the proposal and three votes AGAINST the proposal. On the Chairman's casting vote, the proposal was duly RESOLVED.**

**Action: Clerk to organise and write to MYFC to accept their kind offer of funding towards the defibrillator and also apply to Rotary for their 50% funding offer.**

**17/099.            Items for the next meeting**

Zoe Harris – Housing Needs survey.

**17/100.            Date and location of next meeting**

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 7pm, Tithe Barn.

**The meeting finished at 9.25pm.**