

Merriott Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th December 2017 At 7pm, Tithe Barn, Merriott

Present:

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)
Cllr Stephen Ashton

Cllr David Aslett
Cllr Jim Shorting

In attendance

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

17/161. Public Open Session

Mr R Clemas of Hinton St George stated that he was looking at possibly developing a plot of land he owned in Boozer Pit. Cllr Hall stated that the Parish Council was not able to give pre-application planning advice, which should be sought from the Planning Authority, SSDC. Mr Clemas clarified that this would be a self-build project and that he was registered on the District Council's self-builders register. The Clerk clarified that she had received outline drawing and documents relating to the proposed build but at the request of the Chair had not circulated to Members at this early stage. Cllr Hall concluded by stating that the Parish Council was waiting on the results of an upcoming Housing Needs Survey in the village to fully inform the Parish Council's position on the village requirements.

17/162. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paine and Wright.

17/163. Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

Cllr Hall declared a personal interest in the application relating to Land east of Allenscroft due to a family friendship with the applicants.

17/164. Minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2017

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

17/165. Matters Arising from Minutes

The following items were discussed as Matters Arising:

- Members discussed the response received from Crewkerne Town Council regarding the MPC letter about traffic congestion. Members felt that there was further scope for discussion on the matter, including a few possible solutions. Cllr Maxwell agreed to take up the PC's concerns with Crewkerne area District Councillors and suggested contacting the TC to ask to attend a meeting to discuss.
- Cllr Hall stated that for additional clarification in the minutes, the Clerk had been awarded a payrise in November for her recent qualification, quality of work and also because she had secured in excess of £45k worth of grant funding for the Parish.

Action: Clerk to write again to the Town Council to express interest in attending a meeting to discuss ideas and options. Cllr Maxwell to discuss with District colleagues. Clerk to write an article for front page of Messenger re Housing Needs Survey, all members to check and comment.

17/166. Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance reported that:

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- There would be no news on the SIS application until February's meeting of MPC
- Further cuts would take place including the closure of the Taunton park and ride service on Saturdays, SID service to villages, and a further review of the library service from January

Discussion on Highways item was moved forward as Cllr Dance needed to leave. Cllr Hall reported that the two landowners involved in the proposed SIS scheme were thought to be supportive. Cllr Dance welcomed this and asked if Cllr Wright would be able to obtain formal written confirmation that they would be prepared to donate the land in question.

Action: Cllr Wright to approach landowner(s) re formal written support and forward to Cllr Dance for next round.

17/167. Report from District Councillor

Cllr Maxwell reported that:

- Transformation at the District Council continued
- Commercial buildings had been purchased in Yeovil as part of a new investment strategy
- He felt that the DC would be doing business quite differently in the future

Cllr Dance left the meeting.

17/168. Planning

a. 17/03983/FUL – Former Sunday School, Sandy Hole

No further additions to the Parish Council's previous comments on this application.

b. 17/04240/FUL – Moorlands Farm

No further objections; the Parish Council supports the change of use.

c. 17/04351/REM – Land east of Allenscroft

Some discussion took place between Councillors, applicant and neighbours who had attended to object. These discussions focussed on the potential for the property to overlook nearby houses. Some consideration was given to the position of the building within the plot. The applicant confirmed that the ground level was being reduced by 1m. The Parish Council resolved to write to the DC to request a condition the dry stonewall that currently exists is rebuilt further back in the plot with a native species hedge planted on top to mitigate the visual impact from the neighbouring properties.

d. & e. To receive an update on the Shiremoor development and consider instructing a solicitor to act on the land transfer

Cllr Hall confirmed that the sale was due to be completed very shortly and members briefly discussed potential solicitors who could be asked to act for the PC in this matter. The decision was delegated to the FWP and the Clerk was asked to advise the Osborne family of the solicitor when confirmed.

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

Members reported they had attended a meeting about the Local Plan proposals which had posed as many questions as it had answered. Of particular concern was the proposed new classifications of settlements which could potentially affect Merriott. Cllr Aslett outlined some questions he would like to pursue and further discussion ensued. Mr Clemas commented that proposed amendments to policy SS2 categorising any village with fewer than two services as 'unsustainable' would naturally push development away from hamlets towards larger villages.

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Action: Clerk to schedule for January meeting of Council for preparation of a formal contribution to the consultation, which might still depend on the results of the Housing Needs Survey which would not be available until the spring.

17/169. 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>
222	K Sheehan	Laptop	£	70.00	£ 419.98	Office
223	Jaycee Plumbing	Works to pump	£	25.60	£ 151.20	Pavilion maintenance
224	EON	Pavilion electricity	£	-	£ 72.95	Pavilion utilities
225	Allen Computer Services	LiveDrive set up	£	6.00	£ 36.00	Office
226	ARB	Groundsman Contract	£	-	£ 185.00	Rec Contract
227	Staff	Clerk Salary	£	-	£ 376.92	Staff
		Mileage	£	-	£ 15.75	Mileage
		Office costs	£	1.24	£ 30.28	Office
228	Ricketts Electrical	Defib installation & Pavilion lighting	£	66.89	£ 401.33	Pavilion maintenance/Rec
229	Jess Searle	Pavilion cleaning	£	-	£ 68.75	Pavilion contract
230	HAGS SMP	Bonnie Boat & Lillie Swing	£	1,494.36	£ 7,471.80	Rec upgrade
		Total VAT to reclaim	£	1,664.09		
TOTAL					£ 9,229.96	

Proposed: Cllr J Shorting Seconded: Cllr D Aslett RESOLVED for payment*

*With the exception of the HAGS SMP payment which was delegated to the Clerk and Chair for payment when the balance of the order was received. The previous month's payment to HAGS was also on hold due to incomplete order. HAGS had been notified of this. In response to a query from Cllr Aslett regarding VAT, the Clerk clarified that the next reclaim would be submitted after the large play orders were invoiced and paid.

b. To note payments received

<u>RECEIPTS 1st to 30th November 2017</u>						
<u>Receipt no</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Payment for</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Budget line</u>	<u>Ref</u>
127	01/11/2017	Stoodleys	Burial fees (Mitchell)	£ 125.00	Burial Ground	100011
128	01/11/2017	Merriott Cricket Club	Pitch and Pavilion 2017	£ 300.00	Pitch/Pavilion	100010
129	07/11/2017	G Preston	Pavilion hire	£ 30.00	Pavilion hire	BACS
130	14/11/2017	N Stone	Pavilion hire	£ 20.00	Pavilion hire	100013
131	14/11/2017	MYFC	Replacement keys	£ 25.63	Pavilion	100014
132	17/11/2017	SSDC	S106 funds	£ 27,674.00	Rec upgrade	BACS
133	27/11/2017	R Green	Headstone (Charles)	£ 105.00	Burial Ground	BACS
TOTAL				£ 28,279.63		

Noted.

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

None.

d. To consider the 2018-19 Budget & Precept

A draft precept and budget for the next financial year was circulated and noted for discussion at the January meeting. Members noted 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.

Action: Clerk to agenda for decision in January with all members present.

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e. To consider membership of SALC in 2018-19

The Clerk reported that she had requested information on services provided by SALC, but that this had not been received in time for the meeting. The final decision would form part of the Budget decision in January.

f. To appoint an internal auditor for 2017-18 financial year

Mrs M Harding, who has acted as the PC's internal auditor was duly appointed as the auditor for the current financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Ashton

Seconded: Cllr Aslett

RESOLVED

17/170. Highways

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

Discussed under County Council report.

b. To consider a proposal from Lopen PC to jointly own and operate a SID

Members discussed this proposal in the light of a recent email from SCC indicating the cessation of the County SID scheme at the end of the year. It was agreed to contact Lopen PC to say that Merriott would provisionally be interested in this suggestion, subject to clarification on a number of points.

Action: Clerk to contact Lopen PC with provisional interest. Cllr Wright to work out what aspects of the proposal require clarification.

17/171. Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a. To receive the November inspection report

The November inspection report was received. No major issues noted. Cllr Aslett agreed to undertake the December inspection.

b. To discuss a way forward 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.

Action: Cllr Shorting to obtain quotes for the pipework and Clerk and Cllr Shorting to contact water supplier re connection and pressure.

c. To receive an update on play projects

Members noted that the installation of the Early Years play project had been delayed until spring as the supplier had not been able to provide the balance of the equipment order and now the ground was too wet. No questions were raised.

17/172. Amenities

a. To consider membership of the Village Agent scheme

After a brief discussion, members agreed to make a final decision at the January meeting when all members would hopefully be present. It was noted that the scheme would have implications for the budget and precept.

b. To consider churchyard tree maintenance quotes

Members discussed the quotes provided by ARB for the tree works proposed at the churchyard. It was agreed that ARB should be asked to proceed with the work, ensuring that the first lot of works should be completed in the current financial year, the second lot in the next financial year and invoiced accordingly.

Proposed: Cllr Aslett

Seconded: Cllr Shorting

RESOLVED

Action: Clerk to contact ARB and PCC to schedule works.

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17/173. Items for the next meeting

- Budget
- Village Agents

17/174. Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 8th January 2018, 7pm, Tithe Barn.

The meeting finished at 9.30pm.