

Merriott Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th October 2018 At 7pm, Merriott Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)
Cllr Caro Paine
Cllr Steve Ashton
Cllr Dave Aslett

Cllr Grant Wright
Cllr Jim Shorting (Vice Chair)

In attendance

Julie Chant (Clerk), Cllr A Dance (SCC) Paul Maxwell (SSDC) and one member of the public

18/106 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 had attended as he was interested in joining the Parish Council

18/107 Apologies for absence

No one was absent.

18/108 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

None.

18/109 Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2018.

A note for Appendix B was added to the minutes and a typing error was corrected.

Cllr Ashton expressed concern that the minutes did not clearly reflect that the Council had strongly recommended the planning application: 18/01778/FUL for an observatory at Court Mill, Merriott.

There was discussion around the need to have sound planning reasons to recommend or refuse approval and Councillors felt the minute had reflected their support for the application.

Cllr Ashton expressed his regret that the application had been refused.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

18/110 Matters Arising from Minutes

Cllr Wright (HWP – lead) reported on:

SID; the last installation had not recorded any data, and there was still no update on when they would next be in the village.

Finger Post refurbishment: Nick Allen, the Co Ordinator for the Parish Ranger Scheme, had e mailed information on the hourly costs and the types of work undertaken and confirmed that the finger post refurbishment could be undertaken by the Ranger.

Cllr Dance informed members that the Rangers could also undertake various tasks with regard to blocked drains and general maintenance, although there would be an additional charge of £ 12.00 each to clear gullies.

Action: Cllr Wright agreed to speak to Nick Allen in more depth and gather new quotes for the finger post refurbishment and report back to Council at a later date.

18/111 Report from County Councillor

Cllr Dance confirmed to the Council that he had attended the Cabinet meeting at SCC with regard to the proposed cuts. It had been a very tumultuous meeting but they had been successful in pressing for a Full Council Meeting, with a named vote, for the final decisions to be made. This meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th October, and Cllr Dance expects that the cuts to the budget will be approved.

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A Councillor asked how the County Council had run out of money part way through the Year when the budget had been set in April.

Cllr Dance had been informed that increased demand on Adult Social Services had placed additional strain on the budget.

Councillors were very concerned that the lack of road gritting during the winter would cause accidents on local roads, especially at Merriottsford and Eggwood as these areas had experienced problems in previous winters.

Action:Cllr Wright agreed to make a report of the Councillors concerns and e mail this to the Clerk to be forwarded to David Fothergill at SCC.

18/112 Report from District Councillor

Cllr Paul Maxwell clarified the ownership of Court Mill Lane, which is a private road owned by the residents of Court Mill Lane. Court Mill itself has its own private drive and garden. There is no right of way.

With regard to the planning application for 50 houses on Church Street, he confirmed he had objected to the proposed development, but it will be heard by Area West planning on Wednesday in the Guildhall at Chard. Andrew Gunn's report does list grounds for objection, but he has recommended approval. The Councillors discussed their concerns about increasing demands on a Primary school which was at full capacity having to take additional children and the issue of housing in the village not selling.

The development at Shiremoor Hill has been delayed as there are Land Registry issues. Merriott Heritage Trust has discovered that there were 3 separate parcels of land and there is some confusion over the ownership of a gap in the middle.

The Council confirmed that it objects to the development as it stands.

18/113.Planning

- 18/02293/TCA** - Tree work at Chapel House, Lower Street, Merriott - permitted
- 18/01320/FUL** -4 Townsend Orchard, Merriott – permitted with conditions
- 18/03022/TCA** – 13 Higher Street, Merriott – Tree work in conservation area
- 18/03083/TCA** – Flaxlands, Boozer Pit, Merriott – Tree work in conservation area
- 18/02627/LBC** – 69a Lower Street, Merriott – repaint windows and door green and install security light.

Cllr Paine reported that the back of the property was more modern than the front and most of the proposed works were at the rear. The Conservation Officers agreed with the proposals.

The Council had no objections and recommended approval.

Proposed Cllr C Paine, **seconded** Cllr S Aslett. **All agreed. Approved**

18/114. 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> 100006
318	CPRE	One-year membership		£36.00	memberships	
319	AED Locator	Monitoring Service		£58.80		BACS
320	Jess Searle Merriott Village	Pavilion Contract		£60.00	Pavilion Contract	BACS
321	Hall	August Hire		£12.00	Room Hire	BACS
322	Martin Paull	Grass cut		£ 80.00	Burial Ground	BACS

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323	J H Swaffield Merriott	Mower Fuel Payment made to MPC	£ 27.22	Rec	BACS
324	Messenger	in error	£ 230.00		BACS
325	PKF Littlejohn	External Audit	£ 360.00		BACS
326	British Legion	Poppy Appeal	£ 50.00		100007
TOTAL			£ 914.02		

Cllrs agreed payments

To note payments received

RECEIPTS to 24 th September 2018						
Receipt no	Date	Name	Payment for	Amount	Budget line	Paying in ref
	20.09.18	Merriott Open Group		£10.00		
	24.09.18	Merriott Bowling Club		£ 132.50		
	24.09.18	Merriott Youth Football		£ 890.00		
	24.09.18	Kings Head	In error, to go to Merriott Messenger	£ 230.00		
	19.09.18	SSDC	S106	£ 15,000.00		
TOTAL				£ 16262.00		

Noted.

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

No changes were made but Cllr Shorting requested that the Clerk contact the Insurance Company to inform them of the community land at Clapperhay and explore what cover is required and the cost.

d. Update on Accounts was heard as Confidential matter at the end of the meeting

Action: Clerk to contact Zurich Insurance

18/115 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

a. To receive the September report

Cllrs confirmed that they had carried out their inspections, but could not find the correct report forms. They were aware of the issue with the tower walkway and the slide, and were taking further advice on this. Cllr Aslett also confirmed that the defibrillator was checked fortnightly.

Action: Clerk to find inspection report forms

b. To determine contractor for play post inspection.

Cllr Hall confirmed he had received quotes from companies able to carry out the inspection and would like to proceed with the company recommended by SSDC. Once the inspection had been done any work would need to be signed off, but the Council would not charge for this.

All Agreed. Approved

Action: Clerk to place order for inspection

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c. To discuss playground report from Rob Parr.

Cllr Shorting noted that the report mentioned the need for signage on vertical net and buddy swing, which the Council will need to consider. Other minor matters had been raised, including damage to the bottom of the wooden posts from the strimmer, which could cause problems with rotting.

Action: Clerk to contact the contractor and get advice about protecting the wooden posts.

Cllr Aslett added that the Defibrillator training had been very useful and both the Children's nurseries in the village had staff attending. There did not appear to be anyone from the Sports Clubs at the training. He offered to distribute signs with the postcode of the site of the defibrillator around the village and explore the costing of a small piece of equipment suitable for mouth to mouth resuscitation.

18/116: Highways and Footpaths.

a. To receive update on heritage road signs refurbishment.

This had been discussed earlier in the meeting and Cllr Wright intends to gather more up to date quotes and explore further the possibility of the Parish Ranger undertaking the works if the Council join the scheme

The next item was a Confidential minute

Items for the next meeting

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

18/117: Date and location of next meeting

The next meeting was confirmed for Monday 12th November, 7pm, Blake Room, Merriott Village Hall.

The meeting finished at 8.45 p.m.