

**MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL meeting held**  
**MAY 19<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**Meeting commenced at 19.00hrs.**

**NOMINATION FOR AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

**2014/107** Chairman A Wallis asked if there were any nominations for the Chairmanship. The Clerk responded that Cllr I Noble had indicated an interest. Cllr Noble confirmed this and added that although he travels a lot with his work and will probably have to miss some meetings he is committed to the task. Cllr Merrick proposed that Cllr Nobel is elected. Unanimously **RESOLVED**.

**SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY CHAIRMAN**

**2014/108** The Clerk provided the declaration which was duly signed by Cllr Noble.

**Cllr Noble took the Chair.**

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT**

**2014/109** Cllr Noble invited retiring Chairman Cllr Wallis for 2013/14 report.

This year has been a tough one although we have achieved quite a lot.

We have been short of Members in the Parish Council, and I am not helping this by standing down. I find it very worrying that we are not getting people to come and join us and help drive the village future forward.

**The Recreation Ground.** This is the biggest asset and area of responsibility we have as it is fully in the public's eye. The groundsman has kept it looking tidy, but there is always more which could be done. The hiring agreement for the pitches and pavilion have been updated and have now gone out to all the clubs. There will be plenty of work to sort out the Recreation ground after the Pavilion build. Members need to channel their efforts to keep and improve the standard.

**Pavilion Project.** This has been the most important project for the Parish Council and investment by the village. It has definitely taken up most of my time! I have to say that the appointment of the architect to help us through the build process, as none of us are builders and the builder who was recommended by him has totally let us down. All I can say is thank goodness the project is now on track to finish in the next couple of months and the building is starting to look good. I hope the residents of Merriott will make good use of it.

**Planning.** In the year the Parish Council have had some very important applications to look at. I am still worried about how the planning process is handled at Area West as there have been a few plans passed by delegation to the Chair of Area West that the Parish Council have studied and with good reason refused. This implies we have not had the support of our ward member, nor is the process democratic.

With the achievement of an **updated Village Plan** this year, which has been widely circulated it is hoped that its contents will give guidance for the future development of the village so that it will be in the places and contain the needs to maintain the appearance of the village.

**Highways and Footpaths.** With the major financial cut backs by the County Council these two areas appear largely forgotten, however there is progress with the application for additional dropped curbs in the village. The odd pot hole has been dealt with and the drains cleared occasionally, yet improvement with regular maintenance is required.

**The Lengthsman Scheme** has had the funding withdrawn by both District and County Council due their cut backs. Luckily, there is funding for the coming year due to reserves in the pot. The general maintenance work around the village will be greatly missed so there must be some way of keeping this going, a challenge for the Parish Council this coming year.

**Church yard.** The Parish Council make payment to a contractor to keep the grass cut and the civil burial ground looking tidy and work with the PCC to improve the look of the village church yard. The headstones and new path still need attention and are not to be forgotten. The repair to the Lych gate has started following fund raising and the promised grant from the Parish Council.

**Allotments.** This goes from strength to strength being run by its own committee. Input from the Parish Council is now minimal. It is good to see them expanding the area, proving how popular it is to grow your own!

**The Clerk.** What does one say! I could not have done the job as chairman without her keeping us on the straight and narrow, her hard work, flexibility and constant support of me and the village of Merriott. Thank you.

Sadly, I am stepping down from the Parish Council but I hope with a new Chair the Parish Council will have a fresh look which will attract new members!! Good luck to you all.

**2014/110** Cllr Noble thanked Cllr Wallis for the report and the time and effort he has given in support of the Village.

Members of the Parish Council had made a collection. Cllr Norton on their behalf presented Mr Wallis with an engraved tankard in recognition of the 14 years and a bouquet of flowers for his wife.

**NOMINATION FOR AND ELECTION of Vice Chairman.**

**2014/111** The Chairman asked members if there were any nominations for Vice Chairman. The Clerk commented that this role would be advantageous to provide continuity and communication knowing that Cllr Noble will be away at times. There was none.

The Clerk informed members that if a meeting is arranged and Cllr Noble is not attending the first business of that meeting will be to elect a Chairperson.

Meeting concluded at 19.15hrs and was followed by the Parish Council monthly meeting.