

MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of monthly PARISH COUNCIL meeting held September 7th 2015

OPEN SESSION: There were four residents present and Mr John Lancaster from Mongoose energy.

- The footpath beyond Scott's Nursery's is overflowing with sewage from the ditch running alongside. Request Wessex water is contacted.
- The Parrot trail has a contract for hedge cutting twice a year, this has not been done. Requested contact John Goldie.

The chairman invited Mr Lancaster to speak.

The site at Lower Severalls farm has just begun its first phase of development, which is half of the overall project. OPDE are the managers of the project. The original planning consent classified it as full commercial use, however, due to changes in the feed in tariff (FIT) rate changing the project has amended to 50% commercial and 50% community owned. The profits from the community share will go into a community fund. The developers are looking for members to join the cooperative. A CBS (Community Benefit Scheme) is established by an act of parliament where profits are used to benefit the community; for example local businesses could be able to make applications for grants. A share offer will be available in the next few months and the public will be invited to buy shares. The scheme will offer one member one vote, shares can range from £500-£100,000. Phase one will be complete by the end of November. The CBS will commence after the completion of phase one.

Questions from Cllr Maxwell:

Does this affect the permission you were originally granted?

It does not affect the planning as it is an ownership issue rather than physical planning.

Why have the financial/ownership changes been made?

Changes in regulations to the FIT rate were made earlier in the year. The CBS scheme is more financially viable.

MEETING OPENED: 19:20hrs.

PRESENT: Mrs K Burdis, Mr M Down, Mr D Collins, Mr I Hall, Mr I Kendall, Mrs Y Kendall, Mr G Merrick, Ms C Paine, Mr J Shorting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: None

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Maxwell (District Councillor), Mr C Le Hardy (County Councillor)

CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

The chairman asked individual members for declarations- there were none.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING:

2015/246 The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd of August were reviewed, the only amendment noted was Cllr G Merrick was on holiday and not present at the meeting. Apart from this they are a correct record and it unanimously resolved that they are a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES: None.

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REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR:

2015/247 Mr Le Hardy reported on two items,

- Health & wellbeing fund available, £5000 for each area and could be used to set up a loneliness support group, for example.
- Tuberculosis is a concern within the UK- vaccination is to be encouraged and promoted.
- Small improvement scheme is open and available
- Devolution-The initial bid for devolution fund has been made and sent to London.
- Andrew Jones has confirmed the A303 improvements. Highways England will send proposals for updates on the A303.
- Primary schools-The majority of parent/carers are getting their first choice of school.
- Somerset choices-A directory of adult social services has been created and is available.

REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

2015/248 Mr Maxwell informed council of:

- No meetings were held in August at District level.
- Health & wellbeing budget- District have grants available, application forms can be downloaded from the District website. Mr Maxwell is happy to offer guidance on applications.
- Refugee crisis- SSDC are ready, willing and able to play its part in supporting the crisis.
- Dates to note- 16th September Area west meeting & 17th September Council meeting

PLANNING APPLICATIONS & PLANNING MATTERS:

- (1) APPLICATION 15/03193/ADP/FUL-Merriott Village Hall-Replacement wall sign and replacement of post sign.**

No comments to make, planning already granted.

- (2) APPLICATION 15/03202/FUL- 3 GLEBELANDS- retrospective application for erection of a fence.**

Proposal from Cllr I Kendall- Comment to planners, reduce the height of the fence to be in keeping with the local area. Unanimously agreed.

- (3) APPLICATION 15/03099/FUL-Zephyrine Cottage & Lumbards- garden building, amended plans/additional information re detail design changes.**

Amendment to plans, consent granted, no objections.

- (4) APPLICATION 15/03633/FUL-1 Tail Mill Lane- alterations & conversion of garage to living accommodation.**

No objections- unanimously agreed.

DETERMINATIONS

- (1) Boundary House, Beadon Lane- Application withdrawn**

- (2) Zephyrine Cottage & Lumbards- GRANTED**

INVOICES RECEIVED:

Invoice received	Amount	Action
Sedgemoor Fire alarm Services	£44.34	Approved for payment
SSDC Parish ranger	£459.00	Approved for payment
Wessex Water	£12.97	Approved for payment
EDF	£458.81 (Jan-Aug)	Approved for payment
Allglass	£91.20	Approved for payment

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SSDC-Playground report	£57.60	Approved for payment
Allan computing	£84.00	Approved for payment
Parish Mag printing	£299.00	Approved for payment
M.Down-Churchyard mowing	£480.00	Approved for payment
I.Hall- Expenses	£100.94	Approved for payment
M.Andrews – Clerk wage	£295.80	Approved for payment
M.Rowswell-Groundsman	£288.00	Approved for payment
Tithe Barn Hire	£16.00	Approved for payment

2015/249 It was unanimously agreed to pay all above invoices. ACTION CHAIRMAN to make payments.

2015/250 Proposal: Appointment of internal auditor.

The finance working party will look into this and will present their recommendation at the next parish council meeting.

2015/251 Draft letter to P.Cox

Has yet to be completed. ACTION FWP and Cllr I Kendall will meet to draft a letter for council's approval. Cllr Hall will write a letter to solicitor advising that MPC will not be pursuing P.Cox to recover costs.

AMENITIES

2015/252 Receive working party report-Circulated amongst Cllr's.

2015/253 Proposal from Cllr Shorting to renew contract for CCTV (Village Hall) servicing and intruder alarm on Pavilion. Unanimously agreed. Please see minute **2015/265**

2015/254 Consider memorial bench for Bob Norton. ACTION- REC working party to identify site and propose next month.

VILLAGE HALL REQUEST

Proposal- to request land transfer. Proposed by Cllr Shorting & seconded by Cllr C Paine not to transfer land to the Village Hall.

HIGHWAYS

2015/254 To receive working party report-Circulated amongst PC. The sign for a late night chemist had been erected in error.

2015/255 Cllr Paine has contact highways regarding a tree pushing out from the Merriottsford Bridge parapet.

2015/256 The working party will survey drainage and report back to council next month

2015/257 Proposed by Cllr Ricketts & seconded by Cllr Y Kendall to not install a pavement on Church Street due to cost.

2015/258 Proposed by Cllr Paine & seconded by Cllr Burdis to write to highways and ward member to take forward short pavement improvement.

2015/259 Shiremoor Hill Pavement. Write to Highways to advice of dangerous slabs. ACTION Cllr Paine to write letter

RECREATION GROUND

2015/260 Proposal- To consider erection of recreation field sign in front of village hall. The working party will propose signage next month.

2015/261- Proposal- To consider cleaner for Pavilion. Working party to draw up a proposal for a paid cleaner position to include hourly rate and frequency.

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2015/262- To consider SSDC play area report. All in good order, a few minor repairs needed. Working party to investigate.

2015/263- Proposal from resident-To renovate the youth shelter. Council need to apply a base coat before art work can be added. ACTION: Cllr Hall & Cllr Shorting to complete.

215/264-Proposal- To clear the groundsman shed. ACTION Cllr Merrick & Cllr Shorting will arrange this with Martin Rowsell.

215/265-Proposal- To review access arrangements and security for Rec & Pavilion. Cross ref with minute **2015/253**. Working party will review padlocks and keys to reduce the amount required to access the buildings. ACTION Cllr Hall & Cllr Shorting. The CCTV requires a replacement hard drive, cost £60. The intruder alarm warranty on the Pavilion has expired. Cllr Shorting proposed & Cllr Paine seconded that we take up a maintenance contract of £172.50 to include the cost of a new hard drive. Unanimously AGREED. ACTION Cllr Hall to produce work order.

EMERGENCY PLAN

215/266 Proposal- To consider a review and appoint members. No members came forward. ACTION to remove emergency plan from agenda. Unanimously AGREED. Discussed salt distribution for the winter months. ACTION Highways working party to investigate.

CLERK POSITION

215/267 PROPOSAL-To organise an interview panel to discuss employment of clerk. Council agreed that Cllr's Shorting, Burdis, I.Kendall & Hall would sit on the panel. The panel will devise a job description, advertise the role, and check good practice guidance with SALC. MPC will follow correct protocol. Unanimously AGREED.

215/268 Proposal- Consider temporary clerical and financial support. Council agreed that Cllr Paine will draw up and distribute agendas, Cllr Ricketts will record minutes and distribute. Jess Searle, has volunteered her services to letters to support Cllr Hall. Council AGREED with proposals unanimously

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

215/269 Proposal- To agree future parish council meetings. Council AGREED that future meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, commencing from 9th November. Proposed by Cllr Collins & seconded by Cllr Shorting.

215/270 Proposal-To consider MPC communication via email. Members are happy to receive communication via email and would prefer to have all information sent as a package with the agenda. AGREED

APPENDIX 4- Received from Cllr Hall to discuss proposals

215/271- Propose that MPC step away for the allotment group as they are self-sufficient. Unanimously AGREED

215/272- Propose Speed watch have full ownership of their group, as they are self-sufficient and running smoothly. Unanimously AGREED

215/272- Propose Merriott Parish Council hand over financial responsibility to Merriott Messenger, as they are established and self-sufficient. Unanimously AGREED.

215/273- Propose footpath group is continued to be supported by MPC. AGREED.

215/274- Propose ranger service (at a cost of £22.50 per hour +VAT) not be renewed and MPC seek local resident casual employment. Unanimously AGREED

ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Defibrillator Grant

Village plan- Possible review to reflect changes in planning (SS2)

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MEETING CLOSED AT 10:25