

# Merriott Parish Council

## Minutes of the August Meeting of the Parish Council

held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7pm in The Community Pavilion, Merriott Recreation Ground

Cllr Iain Hall (Chair)  
Cllr Jim Shorting (Vice Chair)  
Cllr Steve Ashton  
Cllr Michael Burnham  
Cllr Dave Aslett  
Cllr C Paine  
Cllr N Rochford  
Cllr G Wright  
Cllr J Graham

### In attendance

Julie Chant (Clerk), Ben Stevens (Gigaclear), Cllr Adam Dance and 7 members of the public

### 19/081 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.

One resident requested that the "No dogs allowed" sign for the Recreation Ground be replaced with a larger sign as the current one was too small. She also mentioned that several families with young children enjoyed using the playground because it was a dog free zone. The Chair thanked her for her comments and confirmed a new larger sign would be erected.

A resident expressed concerns that a wall and large gate in Lower Street, which ran along the pavement was in a state of disrepair and appeared to be very dangerous. **The Clerk agreed to write to SSDC to bring the wall to their attention.**

### 19/082 Presentation from Gigaclear

Ben Stevens, the Community Engagement Officer, gave those present an update on the current works and the issues which had caused some of the delays to the timetable. A combination of reinstatement work and problems with connecting via Roundham has impacted on the progress made. The Gigaclear connections will only apply to Church Street Higher Street and Boozer Pit areas, the rest of village will be served by BT Openreach, who have subsidised work for those areas.

### 19/083 Apologies for absence

Cllr Paul Maxwell (holiday)

### 19/084 Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interests

Cllr M Burnham declared interest in planning application 19/01347/FUL as a neighbour and Cllr N Rochford declared prejudicial interest in planning application 19/01347/FUL.

### 19/085 Minutes of the last meeting:

The minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> July and the EGM held on 22<sup>nd</sup> July were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

### 19/086 Matters arising for the minutes;

There were no matters which were not on the Agenda

### 19/087 Report from County Councillor

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Cllr Adam Dance reported that he was in discussion with Lopen Parish Council and Highways in an attempt to lower the speed limit on the road from Lopen into Merriott down to 50 mph from the current 60mph. He wished to know if Merriott Parish Council would be supportive of this move. He also reported that there was no update on the SIS, but suggested the Clerk write to Cabinet Member for Highways at SCC requesting more information on the budget and timescales.

**Action: Reduction of speed limit on road from Lopen to Merriott to be on September Agenda**

**Action: Clerk to write to J Woodman at SCC for an update on SIS**

## **19/088 Report from District Councillor**

Cllr Paul Maxwell was not present, but Cllr Adam Dance offered to answer any questions regarding district council. A resident discussed problems with ongoing planning consents for a listed building and enquired if a Conservation Planning Officer had been appointed. Cllr Dance confirmed that SSDC planning department did now have a Conservation Officer.

## **19/089 Planning including applications currently in circulation:**

- a) **19/01347/FUL** Mrs. T Collin, Land adj Boundary House, Beadon Lane, Merriott - change of use of land to equestrian, demolition of existing buildings and erection of a stable block and access track. – The Planning working group felt that the proposed stables were of similar size to the polytunnel which was to be demolished, and the finish of the stables was attractive. They expressed some concern that the number of stables might suggest a business venture, but were reassured the stabling and ménage were for personal use. There was a discussion around the parking and if the area would be lit, but given the use was non-commercial, they recommended there was no objection to the application.

**All agreed, no objection to the application**

**19/01546/LBC** Dr M Smith, 16 Higher Street, Merriott TA16 5PJ- the carrying out of internal alterations at first floor and the installation of Velux roof light to rear elevation. – The Planning working group felt the quality of the drawings were poor, and the plans only specified the area of the Velux window, not the style. The group considered that a Conservation grade Velux should be stipulated as this would not stand out from the building as much as a standard Velux. They recommended no objection to the application, but a suggestion that Conservation Grade Velux should be used. **All Agreed, no objection to the application.**

## **Planning determinations:**

- b) **19/00564/DPO** application to vary Section 106 Agreement dated 27<sup>th</sup> March 2013 between SSDC and Clipper Development Partners LLP in relation to removing provision for GP surgery and pharmacy – Location Moorlands farm, Broadway, Merriott - refused

Councillors noted the determination and held a brief discussion about the need to investigate the possibility of establishing a medical centre on the land.

- c) **To determine submission to SSDC re 106 requirements for Church Street development.**  
This had been discussed at the EGM and Councillors were reminded of the matters raised for consideration. It was agreed that the Clerk would compile the list for circulation to Councillors prior to sending to SSDC.

**Action: Clerk to list the stated requirements for Church Street and circulate to all Councillors.**

- d) **Update on application 18/01917/FUL land off Shiremoor Hill.**

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The Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to the Chief Executive of SSDC but that the viability reports has still not been made available. A local resident had contacted the Arborist at SSDC for advice about the trees which were missing on the amended plan. After a site visit it was confirmed that the trees were Ash and that they needed to be felled due to die back disease. The same resident expressed concern at the surface water proposals and the possible risk of flooding. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to BoonBrown and request that they speak directly with the homeowner.

**Action: Clerk to write to Boon brown requesting they contact local resident.**

- e) **To approve response to Education Authority Strategic Review for Crewkerne and Ilminster.**  
Councillors had been sent a draft reply and agreed that this be sent as their official response to the proposals. A small article had also been sent to the Merriott Messenger for publication in the next edition.

**Action: Clerk to submit the Parish Council's response.**

- f) **To receive report from the Planning working party and determine response to South Somerset Local Plan Review 2016 – 36.**

Members of the Planning working group had attended the local exhibition of the local plan and the Chair had attended a presentation at Chard. Councillors had taken the opportunity to share their concerns with the Planning Officers present and felt that at this time they had no further comment to make.

- g) **To determine MPC aims for future development**  
given the time, it was agreed to defer this to the September meeting.

## 19/090 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>
438	Mark One fitness	Fun Day instruction		£ 50.00	Recreation ground
439	PKF Littlejohn	Audit	£ 60.00	£ 360.00	Audit fees
440	EDF	Pavilion Electricity		£ 113.03	Pav Utilities
441	Martin Paull	mowing		£ 100.00	burial ground
442	Heartsafe AED locator	monitor service	£ 5.60	£ 33.60	amenities
443	Rob Wilkins	grazon pro spray		£ 186.20	pitch maint
444	Cllr I Hall	fun day ice-creams		£ 60.96	Recreation ground
445	J Chant	salary & expenses	£ 4.16	£ 409.96	Salary & office cost
446	AMS home service	cleaning	-	£ 82.50	pavilion
447	Patrick Armstrong	gardening		£ 36.00	Recreation ground
448	Merriott Village Hall	room hire		£ 12.00	room hire
Total VAT to reclaim			69.76		
			<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 1,444.25</b>	

Payments were noted and approved

**Proposed by Cllr J. Shorting seconded by Cllr D. Aslett – all agreed payments approved.**

- b) **To note payments received.**

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## RECEIPTS 1st to 31st July 2019

Receipt no	Date	Name	Payment for	Amount	Budget line
232	25.06.19	Merriott Messenger	Pavilion	£ 20.00	Pavilion hire
233	27.06.19	Merriott Bowls Club	Bowls rent	£ 132.50	Bowls Club rent
234	28.06.19	North Perrott Cricket	Pitch fees	£ 150.00	pitch/pavilion
235	03.07.19	Preston Dancers	Pavilion	£ 20.00	pavilion hire
236	16.07.19	Stones (Davies)	Burial fees	£ 105.00	burial fees
237	19.07.19	Merriott Youth Football	Pitch fees	£ 190.00	pitch/pavilion
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£ 617.50</b>	

### Receipts were noted.

#### c) To note bank reconciliation and revised budget.

The bank reconciliation was noted and the revised budget was deferred to the September meeting.

#### d) To note any updates to the risk register and inspection reports

Cllr J Shorting and the Clerk had completed the headstone inspection at the Civil Burial ground for the 1st quarter.

#### e) To note completion of Audit.

The External Auditor has completed the audit and the notice has been posted on website and notice board.

### 19/091 Recreation Ground/Pavilion

#### a) To receive the July inspection report.

Cllr D Aslett had completed the inspection and noted that the timber play equipment needed attention as did the rope seat. Cllr Aslett and the Cllr Hall will review and add to the ongoing list of repairs following the ROSPA report.

#### b) To discuss clearance of the of the areas to the side and rear of the pavilion.

Deferred to next meeting

#### c) To approve vertidrain and maintenance for the pitch

Cllrs agreed to have vertidrain work twice this season. Other maintenance will be considered at a later meeting.

**Action: Clerk to confirm order for vertidrain works**

### 19/092: Highways and Footpaths;

#### a) To receive update on heritage road signs refurbishment

Cllr G Wright confirmed that finger post number 6 on the photographs had already been refurbished, and the post by the Bowling Club only needed single sided lettering.

**Action: Clerk to complete the grant application based on the current estimate less the two alterations discussed.**

#### b) Update on SIS-

discussed earlier in meeting

#### c) SCC Route 60+

A letter from SCC regarding a free safety presentation for drivers over 60 had been circulated to Councillors. All agreed to take SCC up on the offer of a presentation.

**Action: Clerk to confirm a booking with SCC Route 60+**

#### d) To determine position on SID

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Cllr G Wright had discussed this at length at previous meetings but felt there were issues around the siting of the device and the effectiveness in terms of reducing speed. Councillors discussed the issue and voted unanimously to abandon the scheme at the moment. **Proposed Cllr G Wright, Seconded Cllr D Aslett. – All agreed.**

## **19/093 Amenities:**

### **a) To decide CPR Training session and CPR kits for the village.**

The Clerk had spoken to Hamdon First Aid who were happy to give a short training session to around 20 people, and had advised against a CPR kit, but suggested a kit which had CPR mask and blood loss packing.

Councillors agreed to the training and costing the proposed kits.

**Action; Clerk to contact Hamdon First Aid Training and set a date for training session.**

### **b) To discuss community litter pick.**

Cllr I Hall had been in discussion with a small group of people who wished to organise a community litter picking group. Cllr M Burnham read out a message from one of the organisers and handed the Clerk a donation towards to the cost of the litter picker sticks and refuse bags. Councillors were in favour of supporting the scheme.

**Action: Clerk to purchase 10 Litter Picker sticks and biodegradable refuse bags.**

### **c) To discuss planting trees around the village**

Deferred to later meeting

## **19/094 Clapperhay Community Land.**

Cllr S Ashton informed Councillors of the list of trees which had been reserved and Councillors discussed the time line and the need to find a contractor to plant the trees swiftly once they are delivered. It is anticipated the trees will be delivered in 2 months, so Councillors need to mark out the ground prior to the delivery date.

## **19/095 VE Celebrations**

Due to time constraint Councillors did not discuss ideas, but agreed to drive this forward and engage with other organisations in the village.

## **19/096 Correspondence received:**

Road Closure Notices

Wessex Resolution Home Loans

Councillors noted the correspondence and details had been uploaded to the website and social media.

## **19/097 Items for next meeting:**

Items which had been deferred were to go on September Agenda

**19/098 Next meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Blake Room Merriott Village Hall.