

# **MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL**

**DRAFT Minutes of monthly PARISH COUNCIL meeting held MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.**

**OPEN SESSION:** 2 members of the public present.

Mr M Cable

- provided Council members with information in support of his desire to build a single dwelling with outbuildings on land he has owned for ten years in Boozer Pit. *ACTION: Cllr Bending to review – item for next agenda.*

Mr I Hall

- expressed concern that nothing has happened to the broken and unsightly headstones in the Churchyard even though the Parish Council gave a generous grant towards improvement. *Chairman commented that it has been extremely difficult to engage with the PCC on this matter.*
- Asked if there has been any consensus on grading and extending the pathway in the churchyard to the civil burial ground to improve access? *The Chairman responded that this is a matter for the PCC who are aware of the views of the Parish Council.*
- Asked if there is any movement on the dropped kerbs? *The County Councillor responded saying that approval has been given by County Highways and it is part of the improvement plan for this year.*
- Would members please explain at the Annual meeting the justification for the increase in the Precept again this year. Could Ward members also report on their achievements for Merriott over the last year.
- It was agreed that the houses at Peace (Hitchin) should be retained as Social Housing yet it has come to light that they are being given the right to buy. *ACTION: Cllr Bending to contact Yarlington for comment.*
- Asked if there is any news on the Surgery for Merriott which was pivotal to the agreement for the development of Moorlands? *The Chairman replied saying that the Access has been agreed and that the site for the Surgery is now being reviewed. The Clerk commented that Crewkerne Health Centre have said that they still wish to see this happen however there has been no contact from the Developer for several months. Due to the expense involved they are waiting for a concrete proposal before contacting NHS England regarding the financing of this project. Mr Hall reminded members that Highways still need to agree the preferred raised platform in Broadway as traffic calming will be required.*

**Meeting opened at 7.20hrs**

**PRESENT:** Mr A Wallis ( Chairman) Mr S Bending, Mr G Merrick, Mr I Noble, Mr B Norton, Mr J Shorting, Mr M Steer

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mrs S Sumpter, Mr N Sumpter, Mr P Maxwell.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Marion Andrews (Clerk). Mr C Le Hardy (County Councillor)

## **CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

The Chairman asked members for declarations of interest.

**All members declared an interest in the Pavilion Project, Budget and Precept and have signed a Dispensation Form to cover Discussion on Financial issues. In addition;**

**2014/059** Cllr Wallis declared a personal interest in agenda item 13 being a relative of a contractor.

**2014/060** Cllr Steer declared a personal interest in agenda item 7a being a club member, 8(1) being an allotment holder, item 13 being known to the contractors.

**2014/061** Cllr Merrick declared a personal interest in agenda item 7a being a club member and 8(1) being an allotment holder.

**2014/062** Cllr Bending declared a personal interest in agenda item 8(1) being an allotment holder.

**2014/063** Cllr Shorting declared a personal interest in agenda item 8 (1) being an allotment holder.

## **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

**2014/058** The minutes of the monthly meeting held on February 3<sup>rd</sup> were reviewed. *Minute 050 change £500 to- up to £600.* Proposed by Cllr Merrick they are signed as a correct record. Unanimously RESOLVED.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **There were no immediate matters arising.**

**2014/ 059** The following ACTION points from previous meetings were reviewed.

2009/314 point 10 Lowering of kerbs a Manor Drive, Bakehouse Corner, Townsend Corner, Sherlands corner. ACTION: Now submitted by CC as small highways improvement scheme 2014/15.

2011/173, 2011/283 Cllr Maxwell to pursue the conservation of the bollards at Evergreen path. The Clerk awaits a copy of a form from Cllr Maxwell (re English Heritage). ACTION: Cllr Maxwell meeting English Heritage August 2013. Ongoing.

2013/432 Zip Wire running board inspection and repair options. Clerk to action – Ongoing.

2013/473 Allotment report Action Clerk

2013/501 Letter to holders of road salt. Action- Clerk.

2014/044 Send adopted User Agreement to MYFC - Action Clerk – Sent via e mail

2014/045 Book Annual Playground inspection by SSDC – Action Clerk – Form completed and sent.

2014/047 Inform Dog Warden of areas for inspection –Action Clerk- Dog Warden increasing visits, resigned areas and piece written for Messenger.

2014/048 Report building waste dumped in field in Walditch Lane. Action Clerk- SSDC not responsible as on private land.

2014/051 Confirm mowing contractor for 2014/15. Action Clerk - Completed.

2014/056 Termination of contract letter to Mr Cox. Action Clerk- Completed.

## **REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Unable to attend meeting as double booked. Comments

- that SSDC have agreed NOT to increase their element of the Council tax.
- That the Local Plan will be debated and hopefully adopted at next full council meeting.
- No news on Evergreen path Bollard.

## **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

**2014/060** Cllr Le Hardy reported

- County Council have approved the budget for next year and the Council Tax element is frozen.
- Somerset profile has increased with numerous Ministerial visits to the area. It is hoped that this will bring forward fairer funding for Somerset. There has been an about turn and dredging on the Levels will take place.
- Newsletter to follow.

Questions / Comments invited;

- Much of the flooding in and around the village could have been avoided with an improved maintenance programme for clearing the drains, gullies and culverts. It is good to see that the reporting of potholes is seeing them repaired quickly.
- Flood mitigation – the area at the bottom of the school ground /evergreen path has a culvert that is completely blocked which has caused raised water level, going through a garage and onto the road. ACTION: Cllr Bending to meet with Mr Le Hardy to walk the area.
- The footpath warden commented that many of the finger signs only last up to 5 years because of the quality of timber yet Mole Valley timber post have a 15 year span. Please can you inform the County Council of this potential saving.
- Can you please give Council a view on how your chosen priorities for funding etc are arrived at? Does this mean that the approved work this year will automatically see the next in line at the top of the list? *The list is held by the Clerk. It will be updated and can be shared information. Yes, an explanation will be forth coming.*
- Is there any update on Libraries and Recycling centres? *Libraries are working towards a self service approach for the lending and return of books.*

## **PLANNING AND PLANNING MATTER**

**2014/061** The following item was reviewed.

APPLICATION 14/00665/FUL. APPLICANT: Mr B Jacobs. PROPOSAL: The provision of disabled access and emergency egress routes to Merriott Social Club, the erection of an extension for the provision of improved toilet facilities and the associated change of use of the land from agricultural use to sui generis (social club) Revised application. LOCATION: 71, Lower Street, Merriott. *The*

only revision is the identified boundary. Information has since been received to say the application has been refused.

**DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS**

(b) Berrow Development – Land Boozer Pit – Refused

© 2 storey extension -1 Pye Corner – Granted

(d) Part demolition of redundant farm buildings – Moorlands Farm- Application withdrawn

(e) Vary conditions to change parking – Broadway Farm – Granted

**2014/062** The Clerk tabled a letter from Crewkerne Town Council Clerk which had been circulated by e mail regarding the Goldwell Farm Development Application asking whether Merriott Parish Council would be in agreement to an amicable boundary review to move the whole of this area into the Crewkerne Town to reflect its identity change. Cllr Bending recommended REFUSAL of this arrangement. The building application has been refused. ACTION: Clerk to respond to Crewkerne Town Council.

**FINANCE**

The Clerk presented the following Invoices for payment

PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT	BUDGET LINE	FOR PAYMENT	CHQ NO.
M Andrews	47.00@11.296 Travel <a href="#">20@52.7</a> Telephone Office Allowance Expenditure	£530.91less PAYE £106.20=£424.71 10.54 3.00 20.00 20.75 Total: £479.00	Clerk	YES	3045
Tithe Barn	February x 2	£32.00	Hall Rental	YES	3046
M Rowswell	February Winter Hours 25 @ £6.50	£162.50 less PAYE £34.40 Total: £130.10 Total: £130.10	Groundsman	YES	3047
J Jackson	Merriott Messenger March edit	£104.00	Messenger	YES	3048
Parish Magazine Printing	March Edition	£195.00	Messenger	YES	3049
Gordon Mitchell	Hydraulics & repairs to tractor	£20.00	Repairs	YES	3050
SALC	Cllr Course fee	£25.00	Cllr EXPENSES	YES	3051
P Cox	Invoice 1118D + 8% interest	£2,500 + £649.28 Total: £3149.28	Pavilion	NO	-
J Wratten	As2786 Aug As2807Sept As 2836 Oct	532.75+vat 106.55= £639.30 441.50+vat 88.30 = £529.80	Pavilion	WITH HELD	

		264.95+vat52.99 = £317.94 Total: £1487.04			
K Self	Intruder Alarm	Invoice 0115 £1097.80 part payment £500 Outstanding £597.80	Pavilion	WITH HELD Present next month for payment.	

**2014/063** Payment of Invoices as indicated above was proposed Cllr Merrick and unanimously RESOLVED. ACTION: Clerk to make payments.

**2014/064 Deposits in February:** T Miles –MM -£100, MYFC – pitch fees - £70, Community Pavilion – VAT return - £2,683.00.

Due to the number of declarations of interest it was AGREED that a quorum of members was in attendance which allowed consideration of the following grant request.

**2014/065** Allotment Association request for grant support as prize for best kept allotment. £40.00 RESOLVED

**2014/066** Village Plan Printing Cost: Up to £600. RESOLVED

**2014/067** Church Lych Gate refurbishment: Agreed in principle the sum of £395. If VAT not refunded £800.

**2014/068** The Clerk reported that a date for the Internal Audit has been made. Mr Lovegrove is retiring after this year. He is introducing Darkin Miller Chartered Accountants this year should Council agree. ACTION: Information next month.

### RECREATION GROUND

**2014/069** A quote from Westend Tree Services for a repeat tree survey using the 2008 version as base to provide a summary analysis of the work and trees, a prioritised action plan schedule and more detailed tree location plan. £180 (no VAT). This risk assessment is required for Insurance purposes. Cllr Bending Proposed to Accept this quote. RESOLVED unanimously. ACTION: Clerk to make a reply and arrangements.

**2014/070** Cllr Bending reported that he had undertake a regular inspection throughout the month. The play equipment is no worse. The goal mouths are in a poor condition and are being cordoned off when not in use.

**2014/071** Cllr Steer is liaison for March. Work to include temporary goal to be installed at top of the ground. The bowling club hedge needs to have another cut to level the top. Inspection forms provided.

### HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

**2014/072** The Community Speed Watch report from Mr Wright co-ordinator is in the March Messenger for information.

### EGWOOD

**2014/073** Response as requested last month. Nothing further to date.

### LENGTHSMAN

**2014/074** The Church notice board has been refurbished as requested at a cost of £13.60. Cllr Bending proposed payment. Unanimously RESOLVED. ACTION: Clerk to arrange payment.

**2014/075** Cllr Bending reported attendance at the consortia meeting. A review of the finances held by South Petherton Council for this scheme shows that there are sufficient accrued funds for 2014/15 without the annual payment from the Parishes.

**2014/076** The present Lengthsman is retiring next year. This will be an opportune time to review whether Merriott wishes to continue with this arrangement or make other arrangements.

Work for March – Clearing footpath from Merriott to Crewkerne, trim back hedge on old post office footpath, trim privet hedge up from Gospel Hall and remove weeds in the road at Townsend Corner.

**DUE TO THE PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR DISCUSSION THE NEXT ITEM WILL BE CLOSED TO THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

## **COMMUNITY PAVILION**

The working party meeting report was circulated with the agenda.

**2014/077** The response from SALC / NALC had been considered. Cllr Wallis proposed that completion of the Pavilion is a priority and contractors are sought to do this. The final building cost differential must be attempted to be reclaimed from Mr Cox. Unanimously RESOLVED.

### **2014/078 Contractor Quotes**

**Flooring:** Safety vinyl Flooring throughout with carpet and doormat to hall area. Two quotes received. A further quote from Wall to Wall was requested. ACTION: Clerk to arrange.

**Electrics:** Cllr Shorting explained the need for adequate ventilation and air exchange. He has met, discussed and redesigned the requirement with the contractor Mr Ricketts. A revised cost for this element of the quote has been given but needs to be confirmed. Tubular heaters are acceptable. Sockets NOT to be metered initially. Cllr Wallis proposed the detailed Spec for Economy 7 and coin operated system is accepted. Unanimously RESOLVED. ACTION : Clerk to inform Mr Ricketts.

**Plumbing:** Cllr Shorting confirmed the need for replacement and completion of plumbing requirements to comply with regulations. The quote from Jaycee covers all requirements. Cllr Wallis proposed this quote is accepted. Unanimously RESOLVED. ACTION: Clerk to inform contractor.

**Carpentry:** The completion of doors, ironmongery, cladding. Cllr Wallis proposed acceptance of quote from Minster. Unanimously RESOLVED. ACTION: Clerk to inform contractor.

**Ramp and Re instatement of pathway:** Clerk has contacted 3 contractors and is waiting for return calls.

**Ironmongery:** A detailed specification has been supplied by Spillers. Key suiteing is included. Signage is included. Cllr Wallis proposed this quote is accepted. Unanimously RESOLVED. ACTION: Clerk to confirm order.

**Electrical Box:** It was confirmed that adequate roofing is required to secure it. ACTION: Cost to be obtained.

The Clerk reported receiving the £1,000 grant from Yeovil Wellbeing.

Cllr Wallis agreed to contact Mr M Rowswell to inform him of the chosen contractors so they can be contacted with a view to commencement.

Cllr J Shorting agreed to be client liaison.

## **PITCH FEES**

**2014/079** It was unanimously RESOLVED that current pitch fees are maintained for 2014/15. £30 for Cricket Pitch, £30 for Large Pitch, £10 per game for Youth. £10 per training session.

## **PAVILION HIRE FEE**

**2014/080** It was AGREED that for this year pitch and pavilion hire fees will be charged separately in order to gauge requirement. This will be reviewed next year with a view to an inclusive price. Cllr Noble was given some figures to work with on the Revenue Plan. ACTION: Cllr Noble to update revenue plan.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Members are e mailed with information throughout the month.

## **ITEMS OF NOTE - None**

## **ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING – None**

**Meeting Closed 22.15hrs.**

**NEXT MEETING: Monday APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. 19.00hrs. Merriott Tithe Barn.**

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MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL – MINUTES MONTHLY MEETING – MARCH 2014

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT CLERK: [Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Merriott-clerk@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel:01935863420