

MERRIOTT PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL meeting held
MAY 13th 2013

Meeting commenced at 19.00hrs.

NOMINATION FOR AND ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

2013/113 Cllr G Merrick proposed Cllr A Wallis continue for another a year. Cllr S Bending seconded and there was a unanimous agreement. Cllr A Wallis is willing to accept the position of Chairman for the coming year however he does have a business to run which has to be is primary concern. He will give as much time as possible. **RESOLVED.**

SIGNING OF DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE BY CHAIRMAN

2013/114 The Clerk provided the declaration which was duly signed by Cllr A Wallis.

MEMBERS TO WORKING PARTIES

2013/115 The Chairman expressed the need for members to continue as follows

Finance: Cllr A Wallis, Cllr S Sumpter, Responsible Financial Officer.

Planning: Cllr S Bending, Cllr G Merrick,

Highways & Footpaths:

Lengthsman: Cllr A Wallis

Recreation Ground: It was proposed that each councillor take a two month slot to be responsible for the general inspection and liaison on recreation ground issues. **AGREED.** **ACTION** Clerk to provide a table of months.

Churchyard: Cllr A Wallis, Cllr B Norton, Cllr G Merrick

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

2013/116 Cllr Wallis as retiring Chairman for 2012/13 reported

I don't know where another year has gone! It has been a busy one and the Parish Council has achieved quite a lot.

We have been short of the 12 registered members for most of the year, and I have not known us to be low on Parish Council members for so long. I find this very worrying that we are not attracting people to help drive the village future forward. I would like to thank all the Parish Council members for their input and time over this last year.

The Recreation Ground is the biggest area of responsibility we have, with maintenance and development being a priority in order to keep it to a standard that is enjoyed by the residents. We are on track with the new community pavilion; the plans are done and planning permission granted, the contractor quotes are now in and opened. The application for borrowing has been submitted and we await the go ahead from Government so that the Council can take out the loan to cover building costs. Grant applications towards the pavilion cost are being made, my thanks to Cllr Noble & Cllr Sumpter for all the form filling. It is still hoped that building will start in June or thereabouts.

Cllr Noble & Cllr Bending have implemented the CCTV security for the Recreation Ground which is now installed. It will be interesting to see what it picks up!

Following a request a basket ball hoop has been installed which is already proving very popular.

I would like to recommend that the Recreation Ground working party is reinstated so that the next year will see further improvement as well as maintenance.

Planning applications continue throughout the year. I have to say I am worried about how the comments and issues raised on planning by the parish council are handle at Area West. Objections to planning have been passed following delegation to the Chair of Area West even when there has been support of our ward member. I do not think this is democratic. Thanks to Cllr Bending and Cllr Merrick for the work they do prior to meetings so that detail and local issues are related.

In the last few weeks I have been looking at the South Somerset District Council Local Plan which we all should be concerned about as it is the future.

Highways and Footpaths. Broadway gardens have had a make - over and is now starting to show some colour, thanks to a donation and the drive of the gardening club.

As usual pot holes and white lining are unresolved issues . More dropped curbs around the village have been requested.

Much of the footpath maintenance has been undertaken by the Lengthsman and issues reported to the County Council.

The Lengthsman Scheme is under threat because of withdrawal of funding from both District and County Councils due their financial cut backs. What short sightedness on their behalf. Luckily there is funding for the coming year 13/14. It may be necessary this year to make plans for the future as this work around the village would be greatly missed.

The Parish Council continues to contract out the Church yard and Civil Burial ground mowing to improve the look of the village church yard and has given a grant to repair some of the head stones.

The Allotments are fully occupied, supervised and managed effectively by the Allotment Association.

Lastly the Clerks, what does one say, they have kept us on the straight and narrow, through their hard work and attention to detail I have forgotten when we have asked them to amend the minutes due to a mistake. Thank you Marion and Jessica for all your hard work for year! Sadly, Jessica past away suddenly in March and my thoughts go out to her family.

Meeting concluded at 19.15hrs and was followed by the monthly parish council meeting