



MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: M Parker

Clerk/RFO: R Martin



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 4TH APRIL 2017 IN ST PETER'S CHURCH

Present: Cllrs Parker (Chairman), Dunn, Riley, Macro, Rosemary Martin (Clerk), 7 parishioners and Carole Haggett, Warden St Peter's Church, in attendance

DRAFT

711. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr de Grey.

712. To receive declarations of interest

Interest declared by Martin Bailey, parishioner, in respect of item 721.

713. To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11th January 2017

Proposed by Cllr Riley and seconded by Cllr Macro, that the minutes were a true record. All agreed and the Chairman signed the minutes.

714. Matters arising from the previous minutes (for information only)

None.

715. To adjourn the meeting for Parishioners' Questions

Meeting adjourned.

Meeting reconvened.

716. Finance

a) routine finance

The bank account balances are:

Community Account £1791.82

Business Saver Account £1674.86.

b) Clerk's Expenses (tba)

c) Opening of new bank account

A new account has been opened, with the same mandate as previously. The account number is 03142361. It has a zero balance. It will be used for Village Hall transactions.

d) New on-line access to pay bills

Barclays has given both the Clerk and Cllr Riley the ability to pay bills on-line, which will not provide the required controls. Clerk to try and get this changed.

e) Draft Accounts for 2016/2017

The Clerk tabled a draft version of the 2016/2017 accounts – cash books and bank reconciliation. There were no questions. This will be used as the basis for the Annual Return, to be approved in the May meeting. This year for the first time parish councils will be expected to depreciate assets.

717. To consider repairs to be made to the Village Sign

Since the previous meeting, the Village sign was damaged in a recent storm. Pete Myhill made emergency repairs and has now made a final repair. The Chairman had authorised spend of up to £60.00 on this work. Proposed by Cllr Riley and seconded by Cllr Macro, that this should be paid. All agreed

718. To receive report from the Village Hall Working Party

The working party met three times since the last parish council meeting, and put forward proposals for some funding initiatives which could start immediately with the parish council's agreement. The leaders of these initiatives spoke about the proposals viz.:

- Pledge a Plank (leader Dawn Beaney)
- Affiliate Scheme (leader Jayne Wesley Smith)



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- Save your 1p & 2p pieces (leader Heather Goodwin)
- Arrange date for Rev Debbage concert (leader Heather Goodwin)
- Fishing competition (leader Tony Quadling)
- Cricket matches (Leader Mikey Goodwin)

All schemes will need to demonstrate that they have a very clear audit trail, and are acceptable to the Charity Commission. Proposed by Cllr Macro, and seconded by Cllr Riley, that these could go ahead. All agreed.

(Copy of report can be found on the Village website under the Village Hall tab.)

719. To agree any actions for the first Village Event in 2017

- Date to be changed to 11th June
- All those with interest in/association with Merton to be invited
- Might charge a small amount to attend
- Should aim to sell tickets to have some idea of catering requirements
- start with hot dogs (and veggie option) and finish with tea
- notice in May and June Waylander

DRAFT

720. To receive update on Village Hall Refurbishment Project

Outstanding actions

All cards not yet returned. The Chairman asked for these to be forthcoming in the next few days.

Grant Applications

Search for builder on-going

Having taken advice from the Wayland Partnership, will defer grant application till the summer to make sure information is complete.

721. To consider actions regarding the proposed closure of the footpath/maintained unsurfaced road leading from Sparrow Hill to Pockthorpe Lane

After discussion it was resolved that the Clerk should write to Highways supporting the retention of the route as a footpath and bridleway.

722. To consider parishioners' requests to start parish council meetings later than 6:00 pm

Parishioners to establish how many people would actually be inconvenienced by this (next agenda).

723. To receive correspondence

Ray Barnard complained about the damage being done to the Village Green, and how that is affecting his grass maintenance programme. Others had made general complaints about the damage being done to surrounding roads and verges by heavy lorries. Cllr Parker to organise the placement of a boulder or similar to protect the water hydrant which has again been damaged.

724. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting will take place at 6:00 pm in St Peter's Church on 23rd May 2017, following the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

Meeting closed at 7:05pm