



MERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: M Parker

Clerk/RFO: V Turner



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 10TH SEPTEMBER 2019 IN ST PETER'S CHURCH, MERTON AT 6.30 PM

Present: Cllrs Martin Parker (Chairman), Louise Hyde and Jayne Wesley-Smith, Vicky Turner (Clerk) and four Members of the Public

865. To receive apologies for absence

Apologies received and accepted from Cllr De Grey and Cllr Macro.

866. To receive declarations of interest

None declared.

867. To agree and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23/05/19

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2019 were unanimously **AGREED** as a true record of events with the removal of the typo "Annual" from the title. The Chairman signed the Minutes subject to this amendment

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

There were no matters arising.

869. Public Session

The Chairman made a vote of thanks to Mr Peter Rout for his work in strimming the perimeter of the village green. All **AGREED**.

870. Routine Finance

(a) Invoices (paid since last meeting)

Anglian Water	Cheque No 100240	£64.42
Grass Cutting	Cheque No 100239	£120.00
Thank you to the Clerk – Leaving Gift	Cheque No 100235	£100.00
NALC Subscription	Cheque No 100238	£83.97
Insurance	Cheque No 100237	£218.40

(b) Receipts

Defibrillator donations since last meeting are £85, with a running total of £272.16. Interest applied to Savers Account, £0.84 gross.

(c) Bank Account Balances

Community Account	£3,003.69
Business Saver Account	£1,681.03
Village Hall Refurbishment Project	£3,183.19

The Chairman explained that the account outstanding with Anglian Water for supply of the Village Hall was under dispute and he had negotiated a reduced settlement of standing charges ie £64.42 which has been paid (see above). An application to disconnect the hall from the service is currently underway; the Chairman to advise Clerk if this cannot be resolved.

871. To receive and consider a report on the Defibrillator Project

In the absence of Cllr De Grey, this will be deferred to the next meeting in January.



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872. To consider amending strategies for the refurbishment of the Village Hall

Further to discussions held at the previous meeting, details of plastic fencing and stakes to section-off the entrance to the hall, were presented. It was PROPOSED that the fencing be purchased at an approximate cost of £40.00 by the Chairman and this was SECONDED by Cllr Hyde. All AGREED.

Cllrs AGREED that refurbishment was no longer viable given the extent of disrepair and potential safety issues surrounding the structure; considering this, the Chairman is to write to Parishioners, consulting them on the alternative option of demolition of the hall, and subsequent use of the area as a community space for residents. Letter to donors to be drafted by the Chairman, once consultation has taken place, confirming change of strategy, and the offer to refund donations. Deeds to be circulated to Councillors so that an informed decision can be made within legal parameters.

873. To review and consider updates to the Council Website

Cllr Wesley-Smith confirmed that the Council needed to undertake certain changes to the website in order to be compliant with legal standards. Clerk to action and Cllr Wesley-Smith to oversee this as on-going project.

874. Consider the proposal to catalogue and archive documentation

Cllr Wesley-Smith confirmed that the Clerk had sorted through historic documentation that was no longer needed in physical format. A list was circulated to the Council detailing the documents suggested for archive. It was unanimously AGREED that safe keeping of these papers should be transferred to the Norfolk Records Office. The Chairman offered to take these to the NRO once they are collated.

875. Review and Consider updates of Policies and Procedures

Cllr Wesley-Smith confirmed that part of legal compliance was to ensure the Council had in place policies and practices as recommended by NALC. Cllr Wesley-Smith and the Clerk to address this as an ongoing project.

876. To receive and consider Planning applications

3PL/2019/0767/HOU – Proposed single storey rear extension to Mere Barn, Home Farm Lane, Merton.

Despite the deadline for Consultation having passed, this application is still marked as 'undecided' on the BDC Planning Portal; it was AGREED that the Council OBJECT to the application in its current format with the recommendation that conditions be applied to help mitigate concerns with regards surface water flooding and drainage. Clerk to register comments with Planning.

877. To consider District Cllr Eagle's offer of additional grass-cuts

This was NOTED.

878. To receive correspondence (including that issued post-Agenda)

Correspondence was noted.

An email from District Cllr Eagle offering loan of temporary road signs to reduce speeding has been received; it was unanimously AGREED that the Council should request loan of one of these signs as soon as available.

879. To confirm the date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place at St Peter's Church at 6.30pm on 14th January 2020.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.05pm.