

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners of Merton – M1/2021

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISHIONERS OF MERTON
HELD AT THE VILLAGE HALL
AT 19:30 ON 21 JUNE 2021

PRESENT: Tony Bradley (Chairman Parish Council) AB

IN ATTENDANCE: Parish Councillors: Gemma Allen, Martin Smith and Paul Stubbs GA/MS/PS
Fourteen members of the public (*Contact details recorded for track and trace purposes*).
T. Charlesworth (Clerk/RFO Parish Council) TC

1. APOLOGIES: None.
2. MINUTES: **RESOLVED:**
 - 2.1. To Confirm minutes of Annual Meeting of the Parishioners of Merton held on 20 May 2019: Previously signed by the Chairman at the Parish Council meeting held on 17 June 2019 M4/19-4.2.
3. CHAIRMAN'S/FINANCIAL REPORT: The Chairman presented his report for the year; referring to expenses verses receipts against the budget; advising that there were no spending restrictions in place when the Parish Council received objections to the decision to spend on the Play Area; parishioners felt it was unfair to present as an objection to the spending; the concerns were raised about consulting the village regarding proposals; to address concerns the PC are making provision to amend its Financial Regulations to include a 'Trigger Point' of five thousand pounds to consult with the village. The balance sheet reflects funds held by the council; plans and proposals for the village hall are on display; the Defibrillator is installed with registration to be completed.
 - i. Parish Council Members/Chairman: *See 8 below.*
4. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT(S): None present.
5. REPORTS FROM GUESTS/REPRESENTATIVES:
 - a) Traffic Calming Working Group: Representative Simon Ward took the floor: He reported that the group was initially formed two years ago when several initial meetings took place, no further meetings took place until recently, when the group have met twice, due to COVID-19 restrictions; he has also attended two meeting with Ambrosden Parish Council regarding traffic calming and has read so many articles it defies. The subject is recognised as a serious issue and needs prioritising; a number of discussions have taken place regarding the options available, whilst there are reasons for and against some options the largest restriction is funding and it would take at least another two to three years to reach the costs of some of the larger options. The Group recommends that the 'Best Value' for the £9,000.00 currently available, through grant and the PC, would be to purchase portable solar powered SID's (Speed Indicator Device), one for each end of the village; with the option to provide Data; County Cllr. C. Miller has agreed to support the proposal with Highways. C.D.C. will consult with any property owners that may be affected by the positioning of poles to support the equipment. Following discussions it was agreed that although not a solution this would be a start of something that has been of concern for over twenty years; he expressed his thanks for the continued support since the group was formed two years ago. The proposal will now be formally presented to the PC. Thanks were expressed to SW. It was noted that out of 105 slips 46 supported the proposals with 3 no's.
 - b) Merton Community Woodland: No-one present.
6. VILLAGE HALL PROPOSALS: The Chairman talked through the proposals; plans have been circulated and are on display boards in the hall and the option to respond by slip given, and explained that the OCRLC have obtained a twenty-thousand pound grant that has to be match funded; the

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners of Merton – M1/2021

current proposals have been costed at approximately seventy-thousand pounds; the PC has made applications for funding and is currently at Stage 2 for Viridor; GA has responded to questions from the National Lottery application; the PC need to approve further applications. The club has a commitment to the Parish Council for the use of the facilities and will continue to pay a yearly fee; these were overlooked last year as they were unable to utilise the facilities due to COVID restrictions and would be open to football teams using the facilities around there seasons. Proposals for changing rooms; could the club consider male and female facilities to allow for mixed teams.

7. DEFIBRILLATOR: Has been installed and awaiting registration so that it can be utilised.
8. OPEN FORUM:
 - a) Parish Council Members/Chairman: The Chairman took the opportunity to explain the Parish Council's imminent position with his resignation of 30 June, leaving three councillors and no Chairman; the Clerk clarified the situation explaining that the council cannot function without a Chairman meaning that any proposals considered not being able to be completed as cheques etc., could not be signed; there is training for any new councillors or Chairman.
 - b) The Manor: The Parish Council are of the understanding that it has been sold; Cllr. GA is intending to write to the new owners on behalf of the PC.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.30.

Draft Minutes subject to Confirmation.

Approved and Signed by the Presiding Chairman

Date