

Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd July 2018
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr M Lee ML		Cllr M Haque	
Cllr R Kipling RK			
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

In attendance: Cllr D Bell

There were no Members of the Public attending.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs P Lee (family commitment), Nunn (commences leave of absence) and Lynch-Smith (ill health).

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted apologies from Cllrs P & M Lee, Nunn and Lynch-Smith.

2. Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance.

3. Declarations of Interest

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Nothing to declare.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature
Nothing to declare.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25th June 2018, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 25th June 2018 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr J Barber.

5. Finance

5.1 Members received Parish Council payment approvals for July. The Clerk/RFO advised invoice for Bloom includes summer planting.

Meriden Parish Council July payments £5,209.10 agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Kipling proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council July payments of £5,209.10 seconded by Cllr Haque.

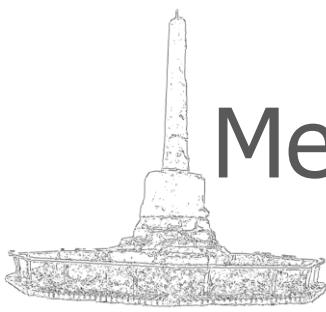
Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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Members received sports park payments approval for July. The Clerk/RFO highlighted insurance renewal payment of £2,486.30 with new provider Came & Company.

Meriden Sports Park July payments £5,778.30.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr M Lee proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park July payments of £5,778.30 seconded by Cllr Kipling.

RW asked for Members approval for Chair and Clerk to sign off August payments given forthcoming holiday period. Members unanimously agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Chair and Clerk to sign off August payments only under delegated powers unanimously approved by Members.

5.2 Finance Committee Recommendations

The finance committee minutes of 16th July had been circulated to members for ease of reference. Finance committee recommendation is to approve quarter 1 reconciled accounts and internal controls for all bank accounts for Parish Council and Sports Park.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Kipling proposed approval of quarter 1 reconciliation and internal controls; seconded by Cllr J Barber.

5.3 Council Precept Tax Reduction Scheme

This was discussed briefly but deferred to September's meeting. The council tax reduction scheme was introduced from 1st April 2017 whereby a minimum payment of 15% that all working age customers have to pay towards their council tax. The clerk was requested to contact Gemma Farrington to determine explanation and understanding of what is being proposed for consultation; specifically what it means to Parish & Town Councils and how is the tax reduction scheme be calculated.

Action: Clerk to contact Gemma Farrington for explanation and understanding of proposed review and consultation for September's meeting.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials

ML enquired if the clerk had received anything from SMBC regarding Remembrance Sunday road closures, which she had not. Speaking on behalf of Cllr P Lee, ML conveyed his wish for Cllr R Weaver BEM, as chair of the parish council, to lay the wreath at the Memorial which was unanimously agreed. He also called for his usual volunteers to be available for steward duties on the day.

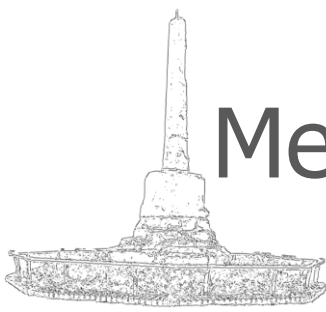
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Action: Cllr P Lee to follow up with SMBC. RW to lay wreath – accepted and agreed.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

RW read email received from Caroline Stockham, Solicitor, advising the matter has been referred to Coventry Diocese and PCC Solicitor.

Action: Caroline Stockham to advise when in receipt of response.

6.3 Meriden Pool

Clerk reported that the works carried out by Murlac is completed. Jetwashing of furniture and fencing to be completed by w/e 28th July. With the lack of rain the seed has not taken, but SMBC have given assurances that turf to be considered for September laying. She reported resident concerns of dropped water levels and after taking advice from SMBC they are happy to monitor.

The clerk asked Members for their thoughts on seating for new pathway and gateway asking if Meriden School would consider donating. MH advised that perhaps the airport would contribute; Cllr Bell also took down the cost for consideration. Amey returned to clean up and remove weeds.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SMBC to ensure final finish; local businesses/school for seat donation.

6.3(i) Red Kite Management Plan & Suez Funding

Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Clerk reported all allotments occupied with rents paid. There have been reports of children play on the allotments and trampling over produce. This has been referred to the Police Rurals team to monitor.

Action: Clerk to monitor with allotment holders.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Clerk reported a telephone call from resident regarding the Fillongley Road footpath to Eaves Green Lane and across to the Queens Head. It is knee deep with bramble and nettle that needs cutting back. RK reported that the temporary footpath across the quarry was in need of attention on Harworth Estates land.

Action: Clerk to contact SMBC Footpaths officer and landowner for assistance.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

RW advised update on dust monitoring and air quality. SMBC public health have not provided an update on purchase of air monitoring equipment. Meriden identified as one of three areas to be targeted. Meanwhile residents of Meriden Park Homes continue to collect evidence and keep diaries of dust nuisance. A meeting of residents and general manager of A & A has been arranged.

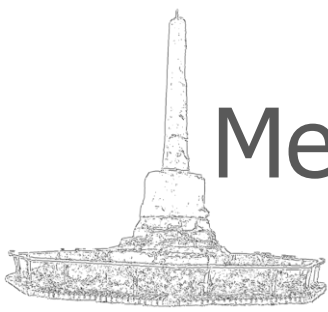
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Additionally NRS have contacted the PC offering the loan of dust monitoring equipment; the site manager has contacted A & A and the PC has requested this equipment be placed in gardens in direct line to quarry operations.

Action: A & A, NRS, parish council and residents to work together to identify and improve dust nuisance and air quality. Clerk to contact Public Health for update on SMBC equipment.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

RW reported that she had been elected Chair of SAC with Cllr David Cuthbert, Hampton PC, as Deputy Chair. Andrew Kinsey was guest speaker talking about the legal services that SMBC may now provide to Parish & Town Councils which are more competitive than commercial solicitors. Alison McGrory has been co-opted as a non-voting member of SAC and she is assisting with the review and update of Parish & Town Council Charter.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

The clerk advised she had received notification of the Arden Tree Scheme and had identified three open green spaces that may benefit being (i) Meriden Gate (ii) Pool and (iii) Park. In principle Members agreed and the clerk to speak to SMBC Tree Officer and Ecologist for advice.

Action: Clerk to speak to SMBC Tree Officer and Ecologist for advice on species including hedge replacement.

6.9 Community Surgeries

Community Surgery 9th July 2018 - Pavilion

Facilitated by Barbara Bland supported by Bruce Brant Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and PCSO Toni Rheeston with 5 residents in attendance and Cllr J Barber.

- Resident concerns regarding planning application for 3 storey apartment block on site of substation, 75 Main Road. Loss of privacy, parking, intensive development, loss of light, removal of verges and trees all discussed. Agreed that PC would be opposing the application supporting all issues raised above. Offer to support residents' access SMBC planning portal via library IT suite.

Action: Clerk to write to SMBC case officer with reasons of opposition and support to neighbouring properties.

- Resident expressed concern for increased crime in Meriden, speeding traffic and parking.

Action: Neighbourhood Coordinator and PCSO Rheeston to raise concerns at next Rural LPS meeting. Parish Council to meet with SMBC enforcement and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

- Request for update re Pool Project and concerns over dropping water levels.

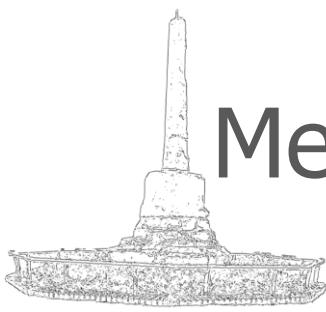
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Action: Clerk to contact SMBC for update re. (i) pool tidy including removal of weeds to fence line on Main and Berkswell Roads; (ii) Murlac removal of security fencing; (iii) emptying of bins (iv) water levels.

Clerk to liaise with PC contractors regarding jet washing of fencing and seating and repairs of wooden benches and noticeboard.

PCSO Rheetson advised there are issues of feeding the ducks inappropriately and there has been opportunity to address this with several residents who are causing public health and environmental issues with their kindness, reintroducing rats along with the ill health of wildfowl. More signage is required to educate the local community on wildfowl diet.

Complaints have also been received regarding seagull infestation in and around local properties and gardens causing droppings mess on cars and properties and feelings of “being under attack”.

Action: Neighbourhood, Police and parish council to speak to public health and environmental teams for assistance in managing the responsible feeding of wildfowl and removal of rat infestation causing public health issues and environmental damage.

- Resident concerns of drugs and ASB on Maxstoke Lane; evidence of discarded drug paraphernalia on footpath to A45 and grazing field. Also gate being opened and vehicles including bikes driving on footpath and into field.

Action: PCSO Rheetson to liaise with colleagues; observe and increase patrols. Also check logs as to frequency of public incident reporting. Further action to be advised.

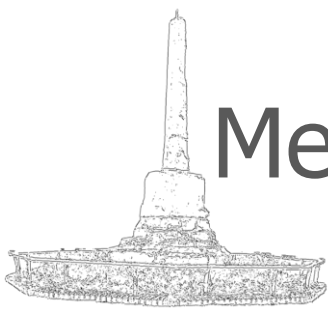
6.10 Community Speed Watch
Nothing to report.

6.11 HS2
Cllr Bell advised that HS2 contractors have now been appointed. Work to Stonebridge Island will commence imminently and Balsall Common is the designated haul route. There is no other information at this time.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update
RW reported that Directors met with Trustees on 9th July 2018. Directors presented their business and marketing plans along with cashflow forecast, park usage and risk/contract management review. Income remains steady and Trustees meet the core operating costs as per the agreement. Picnic in the Park took place on 22nd July, was very well organised with 300 children and families attending a wonderful day of fun, sun and games.

Signed Chair Dated

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6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update
Nothing to report.

7. Clerk's Report

ML asked about the recent complaints regarding wildfowl feeding reported in community surgery. The clerk advised this matter had now been escalated to Head of Parks and together with the parish council the matter is to be pursued with Public Health and Environmental Services. A letter to be sent to Balsall Common Co-Op for their safe disposal of unwanted produce.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SMBC.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr Bell reported that the Local Plan was at a concept planning stage with no apparent urgency attached. SMBC are under pressure from other Local Authorities regarding their new housing allocation with at least an additional 2,000 houses required in the Borough to rural areas.

9. Correspondence & Communication

- Dame Caroline Spelman MP – HS2 funding notification.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

Action: Clerk to provide a September update.

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

ML reported that previously tabled events will continue in 2018.

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

ML updated on current situation regarding the Poppy Memorial. Quotes have been received for a surround of sandstone tiles; the Poppy to be cut out of red sandstone. Mr Douglas has taken a lead on this will produce a CAD design. Projected costs for foundation £3850 and red/gold sandstone £1322 without the stone cutting. A proposed cost of £6000 plus VAT.

Action: ML/WW1 Committee

MH advised that she had approached the Airport Trust Fund to see if the project was feasible to apply for funding for a "Legacy Monument". This was confirmed and MH will start completing the application process.

Action: MH

10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

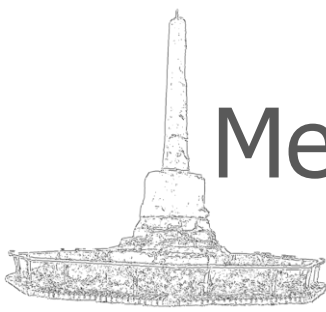
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10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)
Nothing to report.

10.5 Highways
Please item 11.2(i)

10.5(i) Grit Bins

Action: FLS to undertake audit for Highways during summer recess.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Clerk to sort out Deeds of Ownership of parish council land and change address of parish council to comply with current registered office address. Members considered Pavilion as registered office and getting a post box installed. Clerk to explore PO Box number with Post Office.

Action: Clerk as above.

10.7 Litter

Nothing to report.

10.8 Mobile Mast Update

Nothing to report.

10.9 Local Council Award Scheme

Clerk to arrange WALC interim inspection in readiness to apply for the quality charter mark.

Action: Clerk to contact John Crossling, WALC.

10.10 Meriden Public Transport

Nothing to report.

10.11 Funday Sunday

The event took place on 8th July 2018 and this item will be removed from next agenda.

Action: Clerk

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

ML provided an update as follows:-

- NP July meeting postponed to 21st August;
- House Need survey distributed to households and to date 19 surveys have been returned;
- Results will be available for August meeting;
- H2L emailed for logo and strapline to be included on questionnaire;

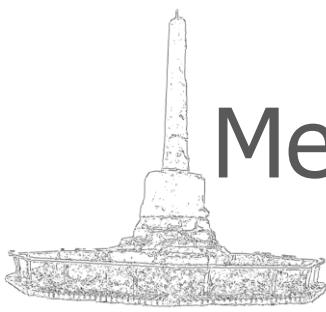
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- When results of survey have been analysed then we can start populating into pre-submission draft document;
- Awaiting mapping of open green spaces and conservation areas.

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

- This funding will assist with open green spaces work.

Action: NP Group

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

RW circulated latest V.12 to Members for consideration and comments. All comments for inclusion to Clerk.

Action: All. Clerk to arrange meeting with Kath Hemmings and Bruce Brant.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence

RW reported no update had been received other than this remains a work in progress with SMBC officers who will advise proposal and public consultation in due course.

Action: RW/Clerk to liaise with Highways.

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

Please refer to item 8 and Cllr Bell's comments.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates

Clerk reported current planning applications in process are:-

PL/2018/01172/PPFL
White Gables

PL/2018/01489/MINFHO
Grange Farm

PL/2018/01606/MINFHO
Armada Drive

PL/2018/01804/MINFHO
7 Arden Close

PL/2018/01566/PPFL
75 Main Road

PL/2018/01997/PPFL (Resubmission PL/2018/00531/PPFL)
155A Main Road

PL/2018/01204/PPFL
Hollyberry Cottage

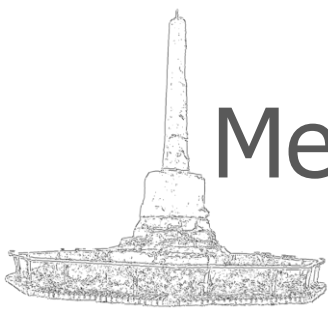
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PL/2018/02008/PPFL

Marlbrook Farm

Action: Clerk and Planning Committee (RW/RK).

13. Parish Council Development Day

Nothing to report.

14. Annual Parish Assembly

RW/Clerk to meet regarding Meriden Mag article for community group volunteers for Meriden.

Action: RW/Clerk.

15. Contested Election 2019

RW reported that WALC is negotiating with SMBC dates in January 2019 for all interested parties to attend a briefing on becoming a Parish Councillor.

16. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 24th September 2018 at 7.30 pm Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.25 hours.

Signed Chair Dated

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