

Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th June 2018
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr F Lynch-Smith			
Cllr R Kipling RK			
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

There were two Members of the Public in attendance and Cllr K Allsopp.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs P & M Lee (family commitment), Nunn (commences leave of absence) and Haque (work). Chair acknowledged the meeting to be quorate.

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

2. Public Participation

Chair invited any questions or concerns from members of the public as follows:-

- Noise and nuisance from Heart of England Club. The Triumph Club is a regular user, but there are other biker communities that are using the club who present nuisance with engine noise (revving bikes), riding around lanes and general noise from drinking outside in car park. These are not isolated incidents but happening every night of the week. Letters and telephone calls have been made to the Club but without response. The Police have been called and attended site. Mr Wilkinson, SMBC enforcement officer, has also been contacted. His recommendation is to get as many residents to object and also get the support of the parish council. Evidence diary is required providing dates, times and registrations if possible. Residents asked for the support of the parish council including the removal of A-Boards on the pedestrian walkway.
- It is noted that the Club Committee has changed and rules are relaxed.
- It is also noted that the recent charity fundraiser was also very noisy with music, traffic and extended over the advertised times.

Chair recommends involving neighbours and collecting a diary of evidence which the parish council can then endorse.

Action: Clerk to speak to Neighbourhood and Rural Police Team.

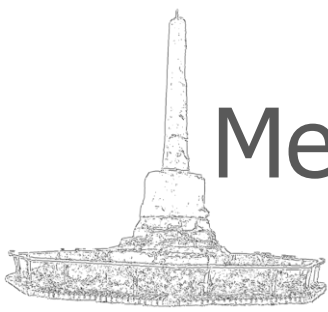
3. Declarations of Interest

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.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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4. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21st May 2018, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2018 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr J Barber.

5. Finance

5.1 Members received Parish Council payment approvals for June. The Clerk/RFO advised the payments were high due to inclusion of:-

- CCTV digitally enhanced security system installation.
- Insurance proposal.

Meriden Parish Council June payments £13,190.10.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Kipling proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council June payments of £13,190.10 seconded by Cllr Lynch-Smith.

Members received sports park payments approval for June. The Clerk/RFO highlighted Water Plus arrears of £765.31 reported at May's meeting was in fact incorrect and Water Plus have now confirmed there is no arrears on the account.

Meriden Sports Park June payments £3,750.55.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr R Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park June payments of £3,750.55 seconded by Cllr Barber.

5.2 Renewal of Insurance – Came & Company

Chair advised the clerk had undertaken a review of insurance policy under risk management and received three quotations from alternative providers and recommends approval. Clerk added that Came & Company have provided a more comprehensive policy for the parish council based on its experience of insuring parish and town councils. It is a better fit to meet the demands of parish council requirements. The premium has also reduced by £600 per annum that includes a further percentage reduction for a 3 year agreement. Members approved the renewal of insurance with Came & Company.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Kipling proposed approval of insurance renewal with Came & Company for a 3 year term; seconded by Cllr Lynch-Smith.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

FLS reported that there will be no films during the summer and the Big Picture Show resumes in the Autumn.

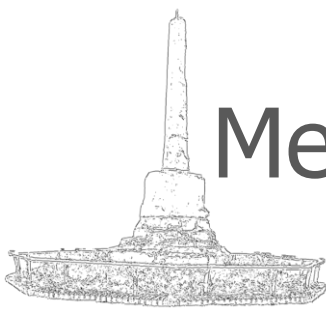
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6.2 War Memorials

Chair advised that the parish council was challenging the PCC regarding the additional costs expected to be paid for on their behalf. The matter currently sits with respective solicitors. An email update has been requested but there has been no further communication with the PCC since 21st May 2018.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Ms Stockham, solicitor.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Clerk had registered with Heritage Lottery Fund and scoped out a 1,000 word project expression of interest to submit. Assessment process currently has a 10 week lead time.

6.3 Meriden Pool

Clerk reported that she attended the pool handover site meeting on 22nd June with SMBC and Murlac. The project is now finished with Murlac coming back on site in 4 weeks' time to remove fencing and assess reseeded area, also to remove tree branch. SMBC are liaising with Amey and Rangers to see what capacity they may have to trim and weed fenced boundary to Berkswell Road and Main Road. There is debris and litter and an overall tidy to be undertaken. The path has been cut and a bridge put in for access to rear of Pool.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SMBC to ensure final finish.

Chair reported that there had been some offensive and negative comments placed on social media regarding the felling of the horse chestnut tree which was diseased with bleeding canker and presented a safety risk to visitors as branches were not only disease damaged but also wind damaged. It was not a decision taken lightly and not without the advice of tree specialist and SMBC's tree officer and head of service. Unfortunately with the Pool being the responsibility of SMBC together with all liability for public safety the decision to remove the tree was SMBCs and not the parish councils however the decision was approved given the public risk.

6.3(i) Red Kite Management Plan & Suez Funding

Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

FLS reported that footpaths are overgrown; chair suggested a telephone call to the footpath's officer for assistance with cutting back.

Action: FLS to contact SMBC Footpaths officer.

RK advised that he attended a footpath meeting with Footpaths Officer, Packington Estate, Rambler's Association and Cllr Lloyd (Berkswell PC) regarding the temporary

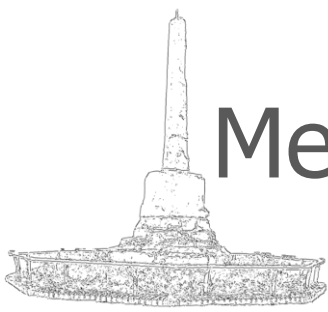
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footpath to remain in situ and made permanent rather than reinstate the original footpath which crosses A & A Operations through Meriden Quarry into Berkswell. RK stated he was happy with the proposal and it appeared to be a sensible decision as the A & A operations would continue for another 10-12 years and the footpath may never be in a position to be reinstated. Therefore for amenity value the current footpath can be maintained and improved.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Chair report the group met on 4th June 2018. Meeting content included:-

- Tarmac proposed planning application;
- Air Quality;
- NRS retrospective planning application;
- Noise from Area G;
- Roadsweeping;

A full account of meeting minutes is on parish council website for ease of public reference.

Chair advised that concerns had been raised by Somers Wood regarding increased noise levels and nuisance to site users. The parish council wrote to Mr Wigfield, SMBC planning and retracted their statement of support formally. After extensive communication with planning the decision has been deferred and the matter has been referred to the NRS Agent and a site visit requested.

Action: Clerk to liaise with NRS and Agent to arrange visit and resolve resident issues.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries

Community Surgery 16th April 2018 - Pavilion

Facilitated by Barbara Bland with **2 residents in attendance.**

- Speeding traffic Hampton Lane. Disappointment that mobile speed sign trials are no longer programmed for 2018.

Action: BB to write to Davinder Chohan advising of new residents group and endorsing traffic management.

Action: BB to write to Ashley Prior requesting assistance with traffic calming initiatives for hotspots outlined in parish council report.

- Concerns that HGVs are using Hampton Lane and wider parish highway networks; unbeknown to parish council and residents, Shepherds Lane was closed for resurfacing works which meant all HGVs were diverted through Meriden via Hampton Lane for a 2 week period.

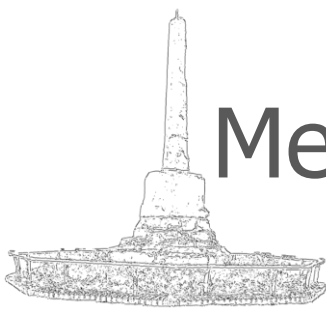
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Action: BB to contact SMBC & NWBC & WCC to request joined up working and communication to residents of potential traffic diversions affecting residents.

- Concerns regarding windblown dust from Quarry Operators settling on Meriden Hall Park homes. Samples and photographs collected as evidence.

Action: Residents to call all incidents into EA.

- Concerns raised regarding potential planning application for additional park homes to be sited on walled garden and car park.

Action: Clerk to monitor.

Community Surgery 11th June 2018 – Pavilion

There was one member of the public and Cllr Allsopp and Cllr Allsopp in attendance; two telephone calls received from residents who were unable to attend.

- Heart of England Club – recent fundraising event noise nuisance; plus evening disturbances

Action: Clerk to advise WM Police Rurals Team.

- Area G noise nuisance due to new recycling process – Somers Wood Caravan Park

Action: Clerk to write to Mr Wigfield regarding retrospective planning application.

Action: Cllr Allsopp to contact with Mr Wigfield/Planning.

- Request for update re Pool Project and programme of works to finish.....When? Absolute mess etc..

Action: Clerk to contact SMBC for update and request site meeting with contractors.

- Co-Op deliveries from Main Road and Arden Close; early deliveries between 6.30-7am outside delivery schedule; engines and refrigeration units left running; agency drivers not aware of access from Arden Close; regularly running over private property; nuisance/disturbance.

Action: Clerk to email Sam Buxton, Regional Manager, and request follow up meeting with himself, Depot and Transport Managers.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

Nothing to report.

6.11 HS2

Nothing to report.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update

Nothing to report.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

FLS reported that there had been email communication regarding the CCTV situation and parish council request for financial assistance. Chair of Trustees will respond to the parish council.

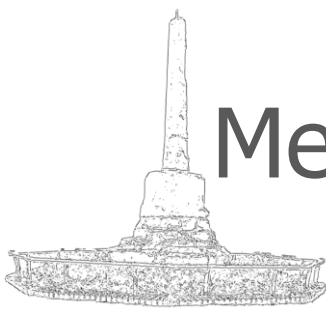
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7. Clerk's Report

Members received report prior to meeting and no questions were raised.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr Allsopp advised nothing to report.

There was no further update on the Fillongley Road Bridge repairs.

9. Correspondence & Communication

- Dame Caroline Spelman MP – acknowledges receipt of parish council response to gitting of Eaves Green/Showell Lanes.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Clerk awaits feedback from WW1 meeting on 23rd June re. taking forward funding application as reported in item 10.2(i).

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Chair provided an update that the Centre of England Arts Ceramist does not want the commission.

10.3 Meriden Gate

Cllr Allsopp stated that there is no news; the clerk has emailed Andrew Kinsey, SMBC solicitor for update on freehold transfer of park, but the two maybe related and currently SMBC have served an enforcement notice on David Wilson Homes. Cllr Allsopp will look into and provide update at July's meeting.

Action: Cllr Allsopp to look into and provide update for July's meeting.

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

Chair reported that a grit bin audit had been promised by the parish council to advise SMBC what bins needed replenishing before the onset of winter 2018/19 together with updated signage and numbers for public to report grit replenishment. FLS said she would undertake the audit during the school holidays when she had availability.

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

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

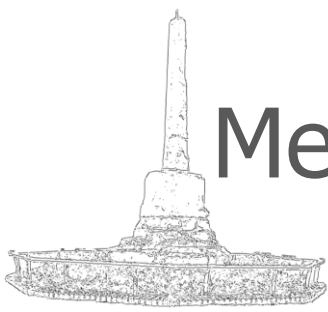
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Nothing to report.

10.7 Litter

Clerk advised that Scouts had undertaken a litter pick but did not involve the parish council. Any community event will now be arranged for the autumn.

10.8 Mobile Mast Update

Nothing to report.

10.9 Local Council Award Scheme

Chair reported that at the recent Council development meeting the decision to request a WALC interim inspection was agreed as it was considered we are ready to apply for the quality charter mark.

10.10 Meriden Public Transport

Nothing to report.

10.11 Funday Sunday

The event organiser has provide his risk assessment which was opportune as I had a meeting with the new insurance broker. Everything is in order but the insurer requested confirmation on the following:-

- LPG BBQ – gas certificate required
- Food Hygiene certificate
- PA System – to be plugged into electricity box on Green; PAT testing certificate required
- Parish Council insurance covers event venue (The Green) only; not the event itself as the parish council is not the organiser. Therefore insurance for the event from the event organiser is required.

Action: Clerk to speak to Event Organiser re. above.

The clerk reported that the Event Organiser has requested the Pavilion Toilets to be available. Those members present discussed at length how this could be achieved as all present were not available for the event itself. FLS made the helpful suggestion to use Strawberry Bank as this had been risk assessed for other events. Consideration was given to key holders and building access but nothing was workable.

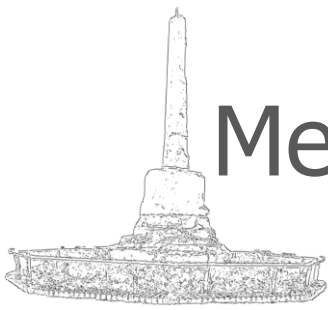
Action: Clerk to speak to Event Organiser.

Access to the storage is required for Scouts to collect poles and mesh fence; again availability was an issue for keyholders. RW volunteered to open up on the Friday 6th July after 6.30pm but requested a definite time from Scouts.

Action: Clerk to speak to Event Organiser.

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11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Chair provided an update from Cllr M Lee as follows:-

- NP group met on 19th June;
- House Need short survey questionnaire gone through and queries taken back to survey author for amends;
- H2L emailed for logo and strapline to be included on questionnaire;
- Agreed 2nd class post;
- 3 logos to be placed on front of questionnaire;
- Query received from Locality regarding desk top study and up to date information on housing lists to be requested from SMBC;
- The research questions are open ended and therefore will provide answers to what is understood to be required;
- The timeline has been set back and it is likely that the referendum for the Neighbourhood Plan will coincide with Solihull Local Plan consultation.
- The next meeting is 24th July 2018 at 7pm Pavilion.

Chair reported that the parish council awaits outcome of Community Right to Bid on remaining section of old Copse.

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

Nothing to report.

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence

Chair report that she and the clerk had met twice with David Keaney (DK) and Stephen Hawley (SH), Highways, to review the report that was sent to Ashley Prior in January 2018. SH was undertaking the review of Meriden's parking restrictions and the proposal to be taken forward includes:-

- Removal of parking restrictions Glovers Close
- Removal of parking restrictions The Croft
- Traffic junction calming Leys Lane/Fillongley Road
- Yellow lines outside Manor Hotel
- Permit parking for Darlaston Row Cottages
- Parking restrictions 2 hour waiting between 8am-6pm daily parking layby Green/Main Road
- Refresh double yellow lines with loading restrictions at all times exit service road
- Refresh double yellow lines and traffic junction calming service road exit and Main Road
- Refresh double yellow lines at entrance and exit Service Road

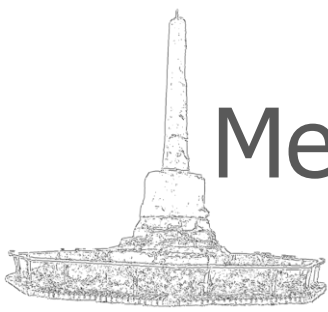
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- Traffic junction calming at entrance to service road from Fillongley with reverse restriction
- Refresh double yellow lines Fillongley Road from Maxstoke Lane to Bus Stop
- Remove Bus Stop and extend double yellow lines
- Traffic junction calming at entrance to Winspear from Fillongley
- Consider parking bay Birmingham Road to Coronation Island
- Bollards to be installed where removed at crossing point Fillongley Road to Service Road.

All the above is subject to public consultation and TRO (traffic regulation orders). Projected time line September 2018 subject to consultee approval.

Action: RW/Clerk to liaise with Highways and provide update at July’s meeting.

RK asked how this would be policed as there is no enforcement currently. RW reported that she had met with CEO of SMBC regarding parking issues and he pledged that SMBC will part-fund parish and town councils to provide their own enforcement officer. RW has spoken to Balsall Common PC Chair who is supported and agreed to share an officer. RW has done a job description and this has been sent to Carl Newman and Bruce Brant for their comments and consideration. The enforcement officer role will be contracted out by SMBC on behalf of the parish council.

Action: RW to work through process with SMBC and Balsall Common PC.

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

Nothing to report.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates

Cllr Nunn has commenced a period of extended leave due to ill health. Members agreed that the clerk will take over collation of information from planning committee and post on SMBC planning portal for the foreseeable future. Current planning applications in process are:-

- White Gables
- Hollyberry Cottage
- 3 Armarna Drive
- Grange Farm
- Area G NRS – site visit to be arranged with deferment of decision and site visit to be arranged.

RK agreed to review comments to date and forward to clerk for posting to SMBC.

Clerk reported that tonight she has learnt 45 Strawberry Fields has received planning approval to extend garden into old copse, even though there was good historical evidence of keeping this land locked site. The parish council comments were not included in consultee comments. Emails have been sent to Lawrence Osborne and Rebecca Hadley, Case Officer. The parish council had put a community right to bid application to SMBC which remains in process.

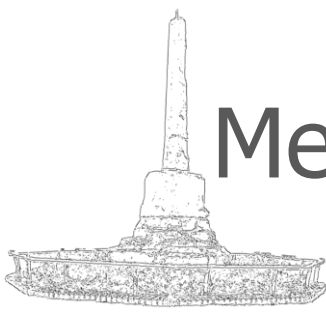
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Action: Cllr Allsopp to investigate.

Action: Clerk to take over planning comments to SMBC portal; RK to send all comments to clerk.

13. Parish Council Development Day

RW reported a productive evening considering content and amends to SMBC Parish & Town Council Charter; Self Evaluation of the parish council and Local Council Award Scheme.

Action: RW to feed back to Charter working group; clerk to arrange for WALC pre-submission inspection; review self-evaluation working papers.

14. Annual Parish Assembly

RW requested list of local groups requesting volunteers from clerk, so she may open discussion with Sustain for community engagement for volunteer recruitment; also an advertisement to be placed in next edition of Meriden Mag for September.

15. Contested Election 2019

RW reported that information being given to interested parties that have come forward to learn more. They will be some training given by SMBC for those interested in becoming councillors.

16. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

- Parish Council communications and social media
- Parish Council Code of Conduct

17. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 23rd July 2018 at 7.30 pm
Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.07 hours.

Signed Chair Dated

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