

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14th May 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Mrs Weaver (Chair), Mr Kipling (Vice Chair), Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Lee, Mrs Markham, Mr Markham, and six members of the public.

1. Apologies

No apologies received.

2. Election of Chairman

The Chair called for nominations for Chairman.

Ms Weaver.

Proposed by Mr Kipling.

Seconded

by Mr Markham.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chairman.

Mr Kipling

Proposed by Mr Goodsir

Seconded

by Mrs Lee

4. Election of Sub – Committees and Representatives.

Responsible Finance Officer

Mrs Hall

(Clerk)

Internal Auditor

Mr S Wilcox

Bank Mandate Signatures

Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall, Mr Goodsir

Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee

Mrs Goodsir

School Governors for Parish Council

Mrs Goodsir

Committee Member for War Memorial

Mr Markham

Sub – Committee

All Councillors

Finance

All Councillors and Clerk

Pool

Mr Goodsir, Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall

Allotment Representative

Mrs Hall, Mr Goodsir

Bus Shelters

Agreed no longer required

Footpaths / Forum

Mrs Hamilton

Heritage and Tourism

Agreed no longer required

Public Conveniences

Agreed no longer required

Meriden Ward Forum

Agreed no longer required in view of Local Council

Charter

Meriden Sands Working Group

Mr Kipling, Mr Markham

Conservation Committee

Ms Weaver

Local Strategic Partnership

Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall

Police Rural Assembly

Mr Markham

W&WMALC Representatives

Agreed no longer required

Solihull Area Committee

Ms Weaver, Mr Kipling

Tree Wardens

Mrs Markham

Village Appraisal

Mrs Lee, Ms Weaver, Mrs Goodsir

The Chair reminded all sub committees that they should report back at each formal Parish Council meeting under the section Received Reports.

5. Declaration of Interest

The Chair invited members to make declaration of personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda of meeting.

6. Minutes of Last Meeting.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

8. Public Participation

8.1 Planning application 2008/689 Pertemps

Resident enquired as to the present position. Meriden Parish Council have submitted their response objecting to the application. Chair also sent our comments to District Councillor Bell. Resident was advised by the Chair that they can also write to Solihull Borough Council or local MP with objection. The application will be listed for Planning Committee Meeting and the date can be found on Solihull Borough Council website.

9. Correspondence / Communication

9.1 Solihull MBC – Solihull Rights of Way Improvement Plan

After consultation and approval, the Rights of Way improvement plan has recently been published. It is available to view or download on www.solihull.gov.uk/transport/publicrightsofway_11763.htm. Alternatively, printed copies are available in libraries across the Borough.

9.2 WALC – CiLCA Training for Clerk

Group training session included in the CiLCA registration fee to be held in Wellesbourne on Thursday 9th October 2008 from 2pm to 5pm. Clerk to attend.

9.3 National Express – update from Open Meeting

Letter received from Mark Kipling, Area Manager Acocks Green. Copies circulated to Councillors with Agenda. It was suggested that we follow up the suggestion to approach Centro for a subsidised service in the evening. Letters read out by Chair. Clerk to email Val Martin for details of where letters can be accessed in the Meriden Mag. Copies posted onto the notice boards, library. Clerk has responded and thanked him for his feedback.

9.4 Resident – Car sale site, Millison's Wood

Resident would like to know the Parish Council's position to the "unofficial" car sales site which has appeared in the old paper and general store next to Blitz. Cars openly offered for sale on the grass verge next to the post box and a number are usually on the hard standing in front of the building. Refers to a byelaw forbidding permanent parking of caravans/boats on front drives. Considers the whole site is an eyesore, and a misuse of domestic property and an affront to the area.

David Wigfield of Solihull Planning Enforcement has advised that there is no by-law restricting the parking of boats/caravans on driveways and it is therefore entirely lawful to do so (unless it is in breach of a covenant on the deeds of the property concerned). Cars being sold on the public highway is unlawful under the Highways Act and Susan East should be able to assist in this respect. Cars being sold from the property itself could be a breach of planning control depending on the facts ie intensity/frequency.

Susan East has referred the matter to Trading Standards who will look into the number of cars sold etc.

AGREED

Clerk to respond to resident with comments from David Wigfield and Sue East.

9.5 Cllr Allsopp – Maxstoke Lane potholes

Representatives from Solihull MBC and Severn Trent inspected the site on Friday 9th May. Outcome of that meeting is that Severn Trent will be attending this week with a camera to survey the area.

10. Receive Reports.

10.1 The Chair and the Clerk met with Gerry Russell Group Scout Leader and Ken Edwards Treasurer

on Monday 12th May at the Scout Hut following discussions re the previous Parish Council's donation over the last number of years and flag raising duties. Clerk reported on the history of previous Council's decisions/discussions re donations.

RESOLVED

To write to 1st Meriden Scouts suggesting that the flag raising duties are raised to £150 with the Scout Group carrying out their own risk assessment. That the payment of the flag raising duties is brought forward to June and suggest that is continued each financial year thereafter. Scouts to make a detailed donation request in December in time for the budget for the next financial year. That the Parish Council are happy to assist with bids in partnership.

11. Village Matters.

11.1 Update on Village Appraisal

All questionnaires have been circulated and are being returned. Library, Blitz and The Centre are being used well as collection points. Questionnaires are being completed on line.

11.2 Update on Maxstoke Lane Playing Fields Development

A letter has been sent to the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC. Letter read out. Mark Rogers has responded and a meeting is being set up between Solihull, Mike Swallow, three ward councillors and two representatives from the Parish Council on Monday 19th May at 4pm. Rosie Weaver, Bob Kipling and Julie Hall attend.

11.3 Heart of England Alliance Football Academy

Heart of England Alliance will be running a training camp at Maxstoke Lane playing fields starting on the 26th July 2008 and hoping to run every Saturday morning throughout the summer holidays. They are offering top quality football coaching for children aged 5 to 14 of all abilities in a fun and safe environment. All staff are CRB checked and are First Aid trained. This information has been put in the Meriden Mag.

Clerk met with representatives from Heart of England Football Alliance at the playing fields on Friday 6th May. We were unable to gain access to the changing facilities due to the door being damaged by somebody trying to force entry. Clerk has asked Christopher Dean of Advanced Maintenance Services to quote for replacing the locks.

In order to run the training for children they will have to obtain the following equipment; 4 portable goal posts, passing arcs, agility set, boundary poles, sports markers, cone kit, footballs size 4, bibs, F.A compliant first aid kit. The cost of this in total is approximately £750. They would be grateful if the Parish Council could consider financial assistance with the set up costs.

AGREED

That the improvements highlighted in the Wicksteed Leisure safety inspection are to take priority. To support them in applying for grants.

Draft contract has been reviewed by Michael Blamire Brown. Contract handed to Councillors at the meeting for comments.

AGREED

Clerk to write to Heart of England Alliance with contract for signature and keys.

11.4 Dog fouling bins

Price range from £115.99 to £295.91.

AGREED

That one bin be purchased but for Mrs Goodsir to discuss with the school appropriate location.

11.5 Litter bins for Maxstoke Lane Playing Fields

Prices range from - £165 to £456.

AGREED

To confirm with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator who is to replace the bins.

11.6 Allotments

SMG Services, Christopher Dean of Advanced Maintenance Services and Brian Ball have all been contacted for quotes to cut plot 1 which is shoulder height in brambles back to ground level and to trim the footpath on the left hand side so that there is one clear path from top to bottom. Clerk has met with both Christopher Dean and Brian Ball at the allotments to go through the requirements. Quotes obtained as follows:

Advance Maintenance Services – To clear allotment 1 and trim entire length of footpath not to include disposal of waste Clerk was advised it would be cheaper to get a skip) .

£300.00

Brian Ball - To reduce the brambles to ground level on plot 1
45.00

£

£ 20.00 To trim the pathway along left hand side
Clearing rubbish in hedgerows (may need skip)

£100.00

RESOLVED

For Brian Ball to carry out works. Plot 1 only to be cut back once there is a tenant.

11.7 Christmas Tree Lights and Hanging Baskets

Christmas lights. Clerk has asked Solihull MBC whether they would be able to offer any assistance in this respect. The reply from the Neighbourhood Manager was “*sorry we cannot use Neighbourhood funding for Christmas lights as the Council has made a decision that it does not pay for lights, in other areas they are funded by traders and we can't go against that.*” Clerk is awaiting costings from a company who rent out trees that attach to lampposts which are solar powered.

Hanging baskets – see handout. Issue raised at previous meeting was cost of watering. Clerk has obtained details of planters which are self watering as they have a reservoir of water of 10 litres. These planters are £57.56 each. They can be hung on lampposts but the brackets required are nearly double the cost of the planters themselves. Brian Ball has suggested a very approximate cost of filling single layer hanging baskets at £15 each. Clerk/RFO does not consider that there are sufficient funds in the budget to make any unbudgeted purchases of this scale this early in this financial year.

RESOLVED

To put this back on the agenda when considering the Budget for 2009/2010.

11.8 Maxstoke Lane Playing Fields – damaged fencing

This was damaged by youths on Monday night. Clerk as asked Advanced Maintenance Services to repair fence and they have quoted £350.00 to replace it as it is.

RESOLVED

To replace it with just post and rail fencing and to fill in with shrubs.

ADDITIONAL

11.8 Clerk will be on holiday from 24th May returning 1st June.

11.9 Playing Facilities Inspection Report by Wickstead Leisure

Report copied to all Councillors. Areas of high priority as follows, safety surfaces around the two swings, replacement of two swing seats, operators sign. Wickstead have quoted £25 each for the seats (excluding carriage and VAT) and £80 for fitting. Clerk suggests that the seat that needs replacing on the double swing is replaced with a toddler seat as there are none in the park.

Clerk is awaiting contact by Area Manager who will provide a quote for the surfacing and operators sign. Will also ask him to quote for a toddler swing.

This was raised at the meeting on 19th May with Mark Rogers. Solihull Borough Council have asked that the quotation is sent to them so that they can consider financial assistance in this respect.

11.10 Cycle rides from Methodist Church

Mr John Bennett is organising a cycling event this Saturday morning from the Methodist Church. Parking will be provided by Pertemps and last year they had overflow parking on the playing fields. He has requested that the gate to the playing fields is opened early on Saturday morning from the Methodist Church. Clerk has confirmed that the gate will be opened.

AGREED

No objections.

11.11 The Green

Councillor Goodisir has requested that the Parish Council apply for a byelaw that no ball games be played on The Green as soon as possible.

AGREED

To be discussed with in conjunction with the alcohol free zones at the next Solihull Area Committee Meeting.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 P/A2008/797 – 65 Fillongley Road, Meriden

Bedroom ensuite extension over existing covered access.

RESOLVED

Over intensification.

ADDITIONAL

12.2 P/A2007/2162 – Brooklyn, Main Road, Meriden

Listed building application for alterations to dining room roof, rear porch, WC and roof with front access gates and posts.

Solihull MBC granted listed building consent.

12.3 P/A2008/854 – North Warwickshire Golf Club, Hampton Lane, Meriden

Change of use of 2 No areas of North Warwickshire Golf Club from agricultural to leisure and 1 area from recreational to leisure.

RESOLVED

No observation.

13. Accounts

01) Notices to be posted end of May on Noticeboards displaying Audit Date 23rd July with a summary of electors rights.

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is 11th June 2008 and Parish Council Meeting is Monday 23rd June both starting at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Chair _____

Date _____