

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd February 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver, Bob Kipling, Shirley Goodsir, Graeme Goodsir, Marilyn Hamilton, Melanie Lee (arrived late.)

1. Apologies

David Bell. Sarah Markham and Melanie Lee will arrive late.

Absent

Will Markham.

2. Declaration of Interest

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

None declared.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 16th December 2009 have been amended as discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 25th January 2010. Having been circulated again, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3.2 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 25th January 2010, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 Mr Philip Lloyd-Williams will be attending the Parish Council Meeting on 28th June.

4.2 **CPRE “Stop the Drop”** – litter picking frequencies circulated with agenda.

AGREED

- Councillors/public need to notify the Clerk of specific areas which need attention.
- To put on the agenda for the next meeting – Litter left after refuse collections.

4.3 **WALC – Annual Briefing Day 6th March** – Rosie Weaver/Graeme Goodsir attending.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Street lights on Meriden Hill – one lamp column in particular adjacent to houses in Millison’s Wood on the right hand side (going into MW) is adjacent to a tree which is still overgrown.

5.2 Rubbish – under the trees and hedges.

5.3 Dog fouling – Chair commented that the Parish Council have raised this issue in the Meriden Mag. Unless somebody is seen there is little that can be done to enforce penalties.

5.4 Presentation of the parish – it was felt that the general condition of the parish is not as good as it should be. The Chair commented that the Parish Council lobby regularly and meet monthly with SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator. Residents can take action themselves by contacting their Borough Councillors.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 **Letter re Union Flag from representatives from 1st Meriden Scouts who carry out the flag raising duties** – the union flag is now about 20 years old, it is fraying and looking discoloured.

Request for a new flag to be purchased. Clerk presented three quotes.

RESOLVED

Clerk to liaise with those who raise the flag to ensure the correct quality of flag is purchased. The maximum expenditure is £160 (plus VAT).

6.2 **Development Strategy for NALC and Service Provision to member councils** – email and documentation pre-circulated to Councillors. No comments. Clerk and Chair to respond.

- 6.3 **Solihull Youth Offending Service** – Letter circulated with the agenda offering the services of the Reparation Team. Ideas for a project were:
- Tidy up allotments.
 - Litter pick under the trees/bushes/bus stops along Fillongley Road/Meriden Hill/Hampton Lane.
- 6.4 **WALC – Nominations for Attendance at Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 22nd July 2010.**
AGREED
Rosie Weaver and Bob Kipling as Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council be nominated.
- 6.5 **SMBC – Draft Ward Action Plan 2010/2011** – pre-circulated with agenda. Comments provided by the Chair of the Meriden Parish Action Group (MPAG) were read out.
AGREED
- To support the comments made by Chair of MPAG.
 - Additional comments – parking/driving on pavements and verges.
- 6.6 **St Laurence Church**
Letter received from the Parochial Church Council advising of the rising costs of maintaining the churchyard with a request for the annual donation of £600 to be increased to £1500. They would also be grateful to receive the parish council's assistance on tendering. Donation for 2008/2009 not received by them.
RESOLVED
- The budget for 2010/2011 is already fixed. As the donation is usually paid in January, the financial position of the Parish Council budget is reviewed at that time to consider whether the additional £900 can be paid. In the meantime, the clerk can request that the grant application form as recently adopted by the Parish Council is completed by the PCC so that the information is readily available for that time.
 - Clerk to provide information to the PCC regarding the tender process.
 - The annual donations for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 be paid.
 - Clerk to look into the history of the annual donation.
- 6.7 **WALC Training** – Hands-on Training or Volunteer Playground Inspectors – Saturday 17th April 2010 9.30am to 1pm. Bishops Itchington, Southam. £30 per delegate. For practical advice on inspecting play equipment and provide a hands on practical “walk and talk” on a mixture of equipment with a RoSPA Playsafety Inspector and Trainer and Director of the Register of Play Inspectors International.
RESOLVED
Clerk to attend with new contractor responsible for play area.
- 7. Receive Reports**
- 7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – no meeting.
- 7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – meeting clashed with joint surgery – headteacher is retiring at the end of the summer term.
- 7.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – no report.
- 7.4 **Pool** – Bob Kipling and resident visited the pool. Resident fed back findings. Clerk to confirm with SMBC the location of the two other manholes. Bob and Rosie to meet to discuss and to look at the bid.
- 7.5 **Allotment Representative** – no report.
- 7.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – properties on Main Road have marked out pieces of land to the rear of their boundaries.
- 7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – no report.
- 7.8 **Conservation Committee** – meeting next week.
- 7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** - no report.
- 7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – no report.
- 7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – January meeting cancelled because of snow. Next meeting April.

7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.

7.13 **Parish Plan** – need more volunteers. Review of Parish Plan – April 23rd SMBC.

7.14 **Community Surgery** – Clerk attended. Next surgery Monday 8th March.

Issues reported :

- Fillongley Road cut in on right hand side. Verge is being driven over and muddy. Cannot put bollards there but they can put Grass Cote on the corners. (Like a mesh which the grass grows through to prevent it getting muddy).
- Barratts Homes signs on lampposts on Main Road by roundabout.
- Grit bin at the bottom of Leys Lane pushed over.

Public conveniences – clerk has received plan of toilets not to scale. Clerk to email to the police architect. SMBC have confirmed they will put £5,000 of their budget towards this project.

Pot holes – SMBC investing £165,000 for an additional 2x crews. Work to be carried out now to the end of March. There is a backlog of 500+ jobs.

Leys Lane fence adjacent to pond. Clerk chasing this issue. This has been confirmed as SMBC responsibility and will be repaired shortly.

Drop kerbs – adjacent to Shirley's Garage – this is scheduled for pram crossing with knobby kerbs. Fillongley Road has been scheduled.

7.15 **Joint Councillor Surgery** – Attended by Mrs Goodsir, Clerk and Ken Allsopp. Two residents attended.

AGREED Bob Kipling and Graeme Goodsir will attend the next surgery on Wednesday 10th March

7.16 **Community Speed Watch** – still need more volunteers. Training days coming up in April/May which have been advertised in Meriden Mag.

7.17 **WALC Training** – Responding to planning applications. Saturday 13th February 2010 10-1pm. Clerk, Chair, Shirley Goodsir and Sarah Markham attended. Notes provided to each councillor and chair of MPAG.

8. Village Matters

8.1 **Development at Maxstoke Lane.**

- Feedback from quarterly meeting. Chair, Clerk and Melanie Lee attended. Minutes produced by developer circulated – strictly private and confidential due to commercially sensitive information.
- Advice awaited from DTZ on proposals for repositioning the pump station and associated changes to layout.

8.2 **New Play Facility – Hampton Lane.**

- Further discussion took place around maintenance of new play facility. Clerk to clarify with SMBC any affects on endowment sum.
- Clerk will be arranging a meeting with the Parish Council's bank manager to discuss the expected income from minimum endowment figure. Sarah Markham agreed to attend with the Clerk.

8.3 **Flower beds on Roundabout in the village centre.**

Clerk and Chair met with Susan East (SMBC Neighbourhood Co-ordinator), Lorna Teager (SMBC Streetcare) and Dave Tipping (SMBC Parks and Open Spaces) on Friday 12th February.

- SMBC agree beds need replacing.
- From a horticultural point of view, as the beds have had roses for some time not advisable to use roses again as they can suffer Rose Replant disease.
- HofE Roses are not grown commercially. To have them again they would have to be grown as a one off by a commercial grower. This would be very expensive due to the small quantity.
- More healthy rose plants can be removed and put in the PC containers. 20% chance of survival.
- SMBC will be liaising with their landscape architect to produce possible designs using the current beds for the PC to consider.
- Planting hoped to be completed May time.

Clerk has liaised with contractor who maintains The Green. He agrees that roses can suffer replanting disease and suggests putting surviving plants around the Centre Cross rather than the planters as they will be in the ground. He will look at doing this in the next week or so.

8.4 **Communications**

AGREED

Melanie Lee to be responsible for Twitter. To review after 3 months.

- 8.5 **Bus Shelters Service Information** – At the December meeting the Parish Council decided to ask Centro to supply the service information cases so that they can install them themselves. Centro have responded by asking the Parish Council to consider whether they can install a bus stop pole adjacent to the shelter instead of positioning separate timetable cases inside the shelters. This would resolve the incompatibility issues and risk of damage to our shelters.

AGREED

Would not like additional poles to be installed around the village. To maintain the decision to fit the cases themselves.

9 **Planning Matters**

- 9.1 **2009/2063 – Grange Farm, Fillongley Road, Meriden** – conversion of existing barns to two dwellings.

RESOLVED

No objection.

- 9.2 **2010/61 – 9&11 Albert Road, Millison's Wood** – alterations and rear extensions to 9&11 Albert Road.

RESOLVED

Neighbour notification.

- 9.3 **2010/74 – Jesmond, Fillongley Road, Meriden** - single storey side extensions and second storey rear extension/loft conversion. One objection copied to the parish council pre-circulated with agenda.

RESOLVED

a) The parish council would like as much hedge as possible to be retained; b) Relationship/affect on neighbouring properties ie will the extension be overbearing on its neighbours. The parish council understand the planning officer will be measuring the height difference and gap between the two properties in order to assess this.

- 9.4 **2010/72 – 30 Bonneville Close, Millison's Wood** - raise roof level over rear store area in order to convert to kitchen.

RESOLVED

Local knowledge questions the existence of a kitchen store. Neighbour notification.

- 9.5 **2010/53 – Couchmans Farm, Harvest Hill Lane, Allesley** – replacement house and garage.

RESOLVED

Object due to the presence of bats in the existing property.

10. **Finance and Parish Council Governance.**

- a) **Parish Appraisal/Plan finance** - Now the production of the parish plan and all the financial transactions are complete, a request has been sent to SMBC for the grant monies in the sum of £3600. A cheque should be received shortly. If the cheque received is for the full amount the cost of the parish appraisal/plan to the parish totalled approximately £45.

b) **Standing Orders**

National Association of Local Council's has now produced updated and improved Standing Orders for Local Councils 2010. Part 2 which contains the model set of standing orders has been made available free of charge on line via WALC website. Printed off for each councillor and pre-circulated with the agenda. For review at the next meeting.

RESOLVED

Clerk can order a set of part 2 in the sum of £25.

c) **Code of Conduct**

Guide for Members on the Code of Conduct – copy for each councillor.

Accounts received

01)	Eon - changing rooms electricity overcharge.	£ 30.00
02)	R Weaver – repayment for training not attended.	£ 30.00

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is the Parish Council Meeting on Monday March 29th 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall .

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION – none.