

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd September 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

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

1. Apologies

District Councillor Bell, Mr 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

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 18th August 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Sub-committee meeting on 10th September 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Remembrance Sunday Service

Mr Lee the event co-ordinator has received approval from Solihull MBC and Police for the parade. Need padlocks and chains for the signs and two way radio. Clerk to cost the chains and padlocks. Sarah Markham to investigate obtaining radios from army.

5.2 Allotments

- Thank you to the Parish Council for the interest they have shown. Resident would like to keep chickens on the allotments. Clerk advised Councillors/resident that under S12 of the Allotments Act 1950 the Parish Council has a statutory duty to allow allotment tenants to keep chickens and rabbits. The Clerk has contacted Solihull MBC who have advised there are no bylaws against this in the borough. The Act does state that it is notwithstanding to any provision to the contrary in any lease or tenancy..... The Clerk is therefore making enquiries with Taylor Woodrow, the landowners as to whether they have any objections. The item will be kept on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Tenants would like to set up an allotment association. Clerk to write to tenants.
- Once a year would like to hold a traditional fair where produce from the allotments/cakes/jam etc are sold.
- Mrs Willis will check frequently for water leaks from the tanks/taps.

5.3 Street lights along Meriden Hill are still covered by overgrown trees.

5.4 Cars driving down footpaths. Resident provided photographs.

5.5 Fir trees along Fillongley Road need cutting back off the footpath.

5.6 Footpath along Fillongley Road both sides from the shops to the school are in a bad state of repair.

5.7 Meriden Garage – when will building works commence?

- 5.8 Solihull MBC contractors, Enterprise have 6-10 workers looking after just the roundabout by the shops. Hampton Lane and Main Road are not maintained properly. Their vans are parked on the verges churning them up. We should obtain a copy of their Method Statement which Enterprise should have to provide for the job. This should contain parking provisions.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 Local biodiversity Action Plan for Local Communities

“Parish BAP” documentation has been on circulation since August Parish Council Meeting. Any comments? Survey to be completed by 30th September.

6.2 Solihull MBC – Britian in Bloom Garden Competition 2008

The Green was entered but was not put through to the final stages. Results for the National Britain in Bloom competition are awaited.

6.3 Meriden Mag Editors

Thank you email to the Parish Council for their letter praising the work Val and Margaret do in respect of the Meriden Mag.

6.4 Solihull MBC – Application for Premises Licence for Berryfields Farm Shop

Discussed at Sub-Committee on 10th September.

RATIFIED

As Meriden has a number of outlets (3) already in the village with extended opening hours do we need a fourth. If the alcohol sold at the farm shop is in keeping with other products sold, ie speciality, locally produced the Parish Council have no issue with that.

6.5 Friends of the Earth – New group forming in Solihull

Would we like them to come to one of our meetings to give a short presentation?

AGREED

To invite them to a sub-committee meeting in February/March.

6.6 NALC – Revised Budget 2008/2009 & 2009/2010

NALC have suffered a withdrawal of government funding. Basically, NALC are reducing expenditure by not filling staff vacancies. To raise further income, NALC are increasing the annual affiliation fees by 1.39p per elector to 6.32p per elector. (The annual subscription paid by Meriden Parish Council for this year was £565 which will raise to approx £725 next year). Comments are required from the Parish Council as to an accepted level of increase in the fee for Ms Weaver to take back to Solihull Area Committee.

AGREED

There should be no increase and there should be a review of the services they provide.

7. Receive Reports

- **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** - Mrs Goodsir – No report
- **School Governors for Parish Council** – Mrs Goodsir
Next meeting is on Wednesday 1st October at 6pm where they will form their committees and agree a plan for the year.
- **Committee Member for War Memorial** - Mr Markham – No report.
- **Pool** - Mr Goodsir, Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall – on the agenda.
- **Allotment Representative** - Mrs Hall, Mr Goodsir – on the agenda.
- **Footpaths / Forum** - Mrs Hamilton
Letter read out which the Clerk had received today advising issues reported to them recently have been rectified.
- **Meriden Sands Working Group** - Mr Kipling, Mr Markham
Mr Kipling has spoken with District Councillor Lea who is going to arrange a meeting.
- **Conservation Committee** - Ms Weaver – documentation on circulation.

- **Local Strategic Partnership** - Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall
West Midlands Rural Assembly Spatial Strategy will be going on circulation. Consultation ends 8th December. Solihull MBC Local Development Framework – further consultation will be in November/December time.
- **Police Rural Assembly** - Mr Markham – minutes will go on circulation once received.
- **Solihull Area Committee** - Ms Weaver, Mr Kipling
Next meeting is 2nd October in Hampton when Sharon Williams will be attending to discuss the Community Speed Watch initiative.
- **Tree Wardens** - Mrs Markham
Mrs Markham will circulate an up to date list of TPO's to all Councillors.
- **Village Appraisal** - Mrs Lee, Ms Weaver, Mrs Goodsir – on the agenda.
- **Police Priority Setting Meeting** - Mrs Markham, Mrs Hall- no report.
- **West Midlands Police Focus Group Meeting 22/8/08** - Mrs and Mrs Goodsir – awaiting the minutes.

8. Village Matters

8.1 Village Appraisal Update

- Household Questionnaire results handed to each Councillor.
- The Steering Group are continuing to recruit new volunteers to become involved.
- Next meeting 13th October at Heart of England Social Club to discuss the Open Meeting on 15th October.
- Thank you to Mrs Markham for her theme group report on the Environment.

8.2 Maxstoke Lane Development

- Meeting notes from 4th September and 11th September have been circulated to all Councillors.
- Response from Mike Swallow to the queries raised in respect of costs incurred by SMBC to date. All queries accounted for.
- Letter to Mike Swallow with issues the Parish Council wanted to be put before Cabinet on 15th September was included in the Cabinet papers.
- Feedback from Cabinet Meeting on 15th September has been circulated to Councillors.
- Statement for public cannot go out until tomorrow due to the Cabinet “Call In Process” (details of this were read out by the Chair).

AGREED

No amendments to the statement.

8.3 Heart of England Football Alliance

- The playing fields have had a soggy patch which is on the pitch. With the excessive amount of rain which we have had recently, the patch has got considerably worse and a hole approx the size of a bucket developed. In order to make the hole safe, the Clerk purchased 75Kilo of stone which has been put in the hole. The football team added sand and hardcore which improved it further.
- Unfortunately, on 11th September a quad bike drove around the playing fields and continually drove through the wet patch making it considerably worse. The driver has been identified and the police have been informed. We have a member of the public who is willing to assist with identification.
- As a result, the pitch is unplayable and in order to prevent themselves from being knocked out of the league the football team have had to find an alternative pitch.
- Although the football team were having the pitch for free, they were spending a huge amount of time and money marking out the pitch and were faced with having to purchase a line marker. They did not consider the one in the changing rooms to be adequate.
- The current situation with regard to the football academy is unknown. The session on Saturday 20th September was cancelled. The Clerk spoke with one of the team last week who said he would confirm their thoughts this week.
- Severn Trent have attended the playing fields and have taken water samples to ensue the water is not contaminated. The results will be sent to the Clerk shortly.

- Funds allocated for playing field improvements this year were in the sum of £1250. This has already been spent on the repairs to the changing rooms which were in the sum of £2032.75. A further £4,000 is allocated to “Professional Charges Playing Field” in the sum of £4,000 but this is in reserve for any solicitors fees in relation to the development. Even if the water is due to blocked/broken pipework there is no guarantee that the break is at the point where the water is coming up. The break could be further down the pipe and the water could be backing up coming out of the ground at the weakest point.

AGREED

That this should be followed up more formally with the police as the parish has lost a football academy and football team.

8.4 Pond

Solihull MBC have received a fee proposal from BWB for the investigative work, and they are raising an order for them to proceed.

8.5 Solihull MBC – Application for a modification order to add a public footpath Birmingham Road to Maxstoke Lane, Meriden

Further questionnaires are being obtained from residents.

8.6 Community Speed Watch

- Ms Weaver and the Clerk discussed this with PC Sharon Williams at the Community Surgery on Monday. Training will commence shortly in Berkswell. The police are unable to train volunteers from Meriden and Berkswell together as Berkswell have 20+ attendees at their training. Meriden is next on the list to be trained which PC Williams thinks will be in January.
- Three roads with speed limits of 30-50mph can be allocated all of which will be risk assessed for suitability by the Police.
- Sharon Williams will attend our sub-committee meeting on 14th November and 2nd October
- A Co-Ordinator will be require to run the scheme. Any volunteers should contact the Clerk.

8.7 Automatic Number Plate Recognition

No report. To be taken off the agenda until further notice.

8.8 West Midlands Police – Parking Offences

No further information from Mr Markham.

8.9 Reducing your Carbon Neutral Footprint.

No further report.

8.10 Meeting dates for 2009

List of Meeting Dates handed out to each Councillor.

AGREED

That the dates for 2009 are agreed.

8.11 Open meeting on 15th October – Airport Police Presentation and Village Appraisal

No further discussion required.

8.12 Allotments

- Clerk wrote to residents saying “The Parish Council are aware of the many unwanted items scattered in the hedgerows/walkways left by previous tenants on the allotments. Arrangements have therefore been made for any such items to be collected and disposed of on Tuesday 26th August.....” However, this has been greatly abused and other items such as bags of clippings, hedge cuttings branches have been left on the pile. Mr Ball is unable to remove the pile for the £100 originally quoted. A skip will cost approximately £160.
- Clerk proposes to write to the tenants, re quoting the letter and asking those residents responsible to remove those items which should not be on the pile.

- Today, Councillor Bell emailed the Clerk asking if we would like to hold a clean up day when we could have some assistance from the probation service. Clerk has replied asking if they could help with the pile in the allotments.

Gate at the bottom entrance.

The allotment holders who have requested the gate (for added security) have confirmed that they will put up the gate if it is provided by the Parish Council. There is currently a hole in the hedge with no barrier of any kind. A quote for parts has been obtained from CW Young Limited which is as follows:

Wooden Gate 6ft x 3ft	£37.60
Wooden posts x2	£ 7.88
Spiked metal posts (to go in ground) x 2	£12.92
Hinges	£ 5.64
Bolt	£ 3.90
TOTAL	£67.94

RESOLVED

To purchase gate for allotment tenants to erect.

Water trough overflow and tap running

Email received from Tenant at 22.35 on Saturday 20th September to say that trough by plot 14 was overflowing. Mr Hall, clerks husband kindly went to have a look and stopped it from overflowing. He also noticed that a new looking tap further up the hedge was running and could not be stopped. The tap had a screw end on it and therefore he attached a blank on the tap so that it no longer runs.

8.13 Parish Council Website

This item has been added to the agenda by Mrs Markham and Mrs Lee individually.

AGREED

Mrs Lee to take on the Website which needs re-organising. Mrs Markham to assist.

8.14 Youth Initiative

Mr Markham will be emailing all Councillors shortly in this respect.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 2008/1542 - North Warwickshire Golf Club, Hampton Lane, Meriden – Change of use for three areas of land from agricultural/recreational to leisure purposes to accommodate three additional tees.

RATIFIED

No comment.

9.2 2008/1600 – 107 Alspath Road, Meriden – Two storey rear extension and front porch extension. (Resubmission 2008/880).

RATIFIED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.3 2008/1607 – 51 Fillongley Road, Meriden – Erection of an attached garage. Amendment to planning approval No. 2007/2187.

RATIFIED

The Parish Council reiterate their comments made on the previous application regarding the removal of the original hedgerow. They have concerns over the reduction of car parking space. The occupier will be unable to park on the verges or road side as this will cause an obstruction to the school. Neighbour notification.

9.4 2008/1582 – 24 Grace Road, Millisons Wood – Construction of a single storey timber framed garden building for use in association with the main dwelling.

RATIFIED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.5 2008/1643 – Land at Hollyberry End, Harvest Hill Lane, Meriden – Outline planning permission for a detached two storey four bedroom dwelling with attached garage.

RESOLVED

Object, the land is green belt and has not been identified for new housing.

10. Accounts

Payments Received

01 Allotment Rent £ 15.00

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is 15th October, an open meeting and the next Parish Council Meeting is on 27th October both starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The next Parish Council meeting is the Clerks husbands 40th birthday and the Clerk sends her apologies. Mrs Markham has kindly offered to take the minutes of that meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.17pm

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION.

- a) Solihull MBC – Conservation Committee Meeting Notes for 26/8/08
- b) WRCC – Country Matters – Issue 40 Summer 2008
- c) WALC – Annual Report.
- d) NALC – Local Council Review – September 2008
- e) CPRE – Fieldwork – September 2008
- f) The Independent – article on Biofuels : The Growing Debate