

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th July 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Melanie Lee, Bob Kipling, Rosie Weaver, Will Markham, Graeme Goodsir, Shirley Goodsir, Marilyn Hamilton and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies

None

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.

The Chair declared a prejudicial interest and would not be voting in the co-option of new councillor.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 28 June 2010, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Appointment of New Clerk

RESOLVED

That Shafim Kauser is appointed as the New Clerk to the Parish Council.

6 Appointment of New Councillor

A secret paper ballot was held. The results were four votes for Paul Lee and two votes for Max Barber. It was noted that Max Barber had relevant experience to help deliver the Parish Plan. Max agreed to become involved with helping to deliver the Parish Plan.

RESOLVED

That Paul Lee is appointed as the New Councillor.

7. Public Participation

- 7.1 Resident commented that there was overgrown foliage on the A45/Meriden Road causing difficulty to see some signs. Resident also commented that the lighting is very poor on Meriden Hill affecting ability to read signs.
- 7.2 Resident expressed concern over the 'new neighbours' at Eaves Green and sought the Parish Council's view. The Chair updated upon the current position and advised that the Parish Council are Statutory Consultees. The Parish Council's limited powers were outlined. The Chair informed that a letter of objection had been submitted in response to the planning application which had been refused. The deadline for the Appeal is 9th August 2010. The Parish is in regular contact with SMBC and will be informed if an appeal is submitted.
- 7.3 A resident asked when the Parish had received notification of the planning application. The Chair informed that notification was received in the same way as all other planning applications. The Parish Council had requested a copy of the application earlier but SMBC could not deliver this earlier.
- 7.4 Resident raised issue of rubbish bags littering the A45 from the Island towards Maxstoke Lane.
- 7.5 Residents informed of their experience with trying to book the taxi service following the withdrawal of the bus service. The service is inadequate and the advance booking system is not working. A resident advised that she will be forced to hand in her notice as she is unable to get to and from work in Balsall Common. She is aware of many other residents that are in a similar position.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council will report the overgrown foliage and poor lighting to SMBC.

That the Parish Council will report in the Meriden Mag as to the role and powers of the Parish Council relating to planning applications.

The issue of rubbish littering the A45 from the Island towards Maxstoke Lane is placed on the Agenda at the next meeting.

Will Markham excused as he was feeling unwell.

8. Correspondence and Communication

8.1 **1st Meriden Scouts – Thank letter for the donation and funds for flag raising.**

8.2 **Rotary Club of Meriden – Thank you letter** for the use of the playing fields for the Megaride. Event raised money for two charities, the MS Society and the Warwickshire & Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. More money is yet to be received and they expect the final amount to be about £3500. (A little less than other years but England were playing a World Cup match that day!).

9. Receive Reports

9.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – no report

9.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – no report

9.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – no report

9.4 **Pool** – meeting to take place separately. Rosie Weaver to meet with Tony Walsh to advise upon replies received.

9.5 **Allotment Representative** – no report

9.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – overgrown but would expect that.

9.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – no report

9.8 **Conservation Committee** –two meetings held. Nothing appertaining to Meriden

9.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** - fed back about forum meetings

9.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – no meeting

9.11 **Solihull Area Committee** - RW is Chair of the Committee. Attempt to work together on issues affecting all. Met with Sarah Barnes and Chris from the Solihull Partnership who informed that they have to find 25% cut in their budget. They are happy to attend a Parish Council meeting to talk about local matters.

9.12 **Tree Wardens** – Concerns about Oak Tree in playing fields. Councillors requested a list of all trees with a TPO

9.13 **Parish Plan** – meeting held last week. Chair provided feedback.

9.14 **Community Surgery** – Rosie Weaver and Julie Hall attended with 2 representatives from police and 2 representatives from SMBC. No residents attended. Meeting was useful to discuss matters with police and SMBC.

9.15 **Joint Councillor Surgery** – RW provided feedback. No residents attended.

9.15 **Community Speed Watch** – Chair reported that a series of six consecutive weekends was undertaken. Results were interesting and it was reported that over time the level of drivers over the limit was decreasing displaying that the initiative was effective. It is intended to continue and to target hotspots.

- 9.16 **Fusion Football Sessions – Wednesday evenings** –for children over 14. It was reported by JH that 12-16 children attended. The sessions are progressing well.
- 9.17 **Paul Jayes Football Academy – Meriden Rovers – Saturday Mornings.** For children between 5 and 8. Around 16 children attend. Resumes in September but there will be a weeklong camp on 23rd August.

10. Village Matters

10.1 **Development Hampton Lane/Maxstoke Lane**

10.1.1 Local Lettings Policy – RW met with John Pitcher who has agreed to a local lettings policy. Criteria read out (attached as appendix 1 to the minutes). BK suggested that Parish Council should have a bigger say in the allocation of properties. RW agreed that the criteria should be tightened RW suggested a further meeting with John Pitcher to discuss the lettings policy.

10.1.2 Developers agreement of preferred play equipment provider – price negotiations ongoing between Wicksteed and DTZ.

10.1.3 Competition – name for new play facility – September 2010 with School.

10.1.4 Management of new play facility – Chair went through the options. It was preferred to have a Community Interest Company as the new facility is a community asset open to everybody.

10.1.5 Julie Hall's agreement to act on behalf of SMBC/PC as an independent consultant to oversee the development on the new play facility until completion of the works.

10.2 **Tennis Courts – Maxstoke Lane Park**

An update was provided by the Chair regarding the offer received from Priority Builders to remove the fencing, dismantle the tennis courts and remove the material. On the basis that the Parish Council considers the offer to be of best value it is

RESOLVED

That the parish council suspend point 11.1(h) of the financial regulations which states When it is to enter into a contract less than £50,000 in value for supply of goods or materials or for the execution of works or specialist services as are excepted as set out in paragraph (a) the Clerk or RFO shall obtain three quotations (priced descriptions of the proposed supply); where the value is below £1,000 and above £100 the Clerk or RFO shall strive to obtain three estimates. Otherwise, Regulation 10.3 above shall apply.

10.3 **Withdrawal of bus service between Balsall Common, Berkswell and Meriden.**

- 10.3.1 JH informed that details and evidence of the problems regarding the booking of the taxi service had been provided. We have been informed that they will get back to us.
- 10.3.2 A resident informed of her difficulty with booking the taxi service. Resident was concerned as the withdrawal of the bus service is forcing her to give up work.
- 10.3.3 RW attended a partnership forum. The Partnership co-ordinator will be having a meeting with Transport at senior level and will raise the issue formally with Centro. RW also informed that we have let our MP know about the situation and we will write again providing evidence of the difficulty this imposes.
- 10.3.4 RW informed that individually residents should write to the Borough Councillors and MP as these are the people who can put pressure on companies to change.
- 10.3.6 Residents questioned why Oak Lane could not be opened up again with traffic lights. People are crossing the A45 already so there should not be any problem with moving the bus stop. Also, when the A45 was shut, it was proposed that a flyover would be built but this did not happen due to cost.

RESOLVED (proposed by BK and seconded by RW)

That the Parish Council will write to Coventry City Council to request that they reopen Oak Lane for buses only so that route 900 may be reinstated.

- 10.4 **Public Conveniences – Project** – An update was provided to convert these into storage space. The police are continuing to support the project although cutbacks have meant that they are not able to instruct an architect. They have suggested that we obtain quotes for them to consider. BK to make enquiries and see if a specification can be obtained.

10.5 **Cleaning of Standing Cross and Cyclists Memorial**
JH provided an update. These are Grade 2 listed monuments. We also have to obtain English Heritage consent. It is necessary to wait for the main person to return from personal developmental leave as he has the relevant expertise to advise upon the cleaning process.

10.6 **Parking on The Green**
Posts have been ordered by the neighbourhood co-ordinator to narrow the gaps for cars to pass through.

RESOLVED

For the parish council to call the conservation officer to check that all is above board.

10.7 **Meriden Heath Painting**
This painting was temporarily moved to Packington Estates whilst maintenance works were undertaken at the library. Works have now been completed. Awaiting clarification from library when the painting can be returned.

11 Planning Matters

11.1 **2010/684 – Eaves Green Lane – Update.**
Notification received from SMBC that the application has been refused. The applicant can appeal and if that is the case the Parish Council will be informed.

11.2 **2010/809 – 59 Main Road, Meriden – Replace flat felted roof with pitched tiled roof.**
RESOLVED
Detracts from design concept and changes the street scene

11.3 **2010/1028 – 77c Main Road, Meriden – Ground floor front extension to form a porch.**
RESOLVED
No comment – neighbour notification

11.4 **2010/1031 – Meriden Hall Residential Park, Meriden Hall, Main Road, Meriden – clear brambles, elder and self set trees under 4 inches, leave corridors of scrub and wild areas, carry out remedial pruning and fell any dead, dangerous or diseased trees, re coppice hazel stools, thin out over dense self set sycamore trees, replant a variety of native trees and shrub species.**
RESOLVED
Object green belt, area of natural beauty, flora and wildlife. No bat survey submitted. Concerns over future development as there are regular planning applications from this site.

11.5 **2010/1057 – 117 Fillongley Road, Meriden – Erect a brick built garden wall to front boundary elevation.**
RESOLVED
Object, works already undertaken and not in keeping with the street scene – used new brick.

11.6 **2010/1070 – Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road, Meriden – application to extend time limit for planning application number 2007/858 for a three storey apartment block containing 8 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 6 no. 1 bedroom apartments.**
RESOLVED
Object, Parish Plan states that flats are not what Meriden needs. Issue over parking as none is available. Footpath application not resolved. Three storey apartment block not appropriate in Meriden. Reiterate objections in original application.

11.7 **2010/1141 – Land adjoining Hampton Lane, Meriden, Just south-west of the roundabout - Oak Tree – fell tree as it is located in proposed cricket pitch.**
RESOLVED

Object to felling of the tree. However, if the tree is felled, the Parish Council would like to be consulted upon the choice of trees in the mitigation planting scheme.

12. Accounts

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

13 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 23rd August 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 10.02 pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____