

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 27th April 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Ms Weaver (Chair), Mr Kipling (Vice Chair), Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Lee, Mrs Markham two members of the public and District Councillor Bell.

1. Apologies

Marilyn Hamilton

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.

Mrs Lee – allotments and Remembrance Sunday.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 23rd March 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3.2 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th April 2009 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

23.3.09 – 8.8 – The booking of the village hall for the August sub committee meeting has now been confirmed as cancelled by the Village Hall Management Committee.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Stationary traffic parked on footpaths and grass verges.

5.2 Bank on Meriden Hill is not maintained satisfactorily.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 Sustain – SMBC Annual Report

Last year SMBC consulted with a range of stakeholders on its annual report and feedback was incorporated into the final draft for 07/08. Views are now being taken on this final draft via an on-line survey which will in turn inform the next Annual Report. RW has responded direct. No volunteers to respond on behalf of the parish council.

6.2 Solihull NHS Trust – Healthcare Walk in Centre

Notification of a new walk in centre located near the main entrance to Solihull Hospital in Lode Lane. Open from 8am – 8pm every day and offers a range of GP and nurse-led services. Anyone is able to see a doctor or nurse at the centre with or without an appointment.

6.3 WALC Newsletter March 2009 – on circulation

Includes:

a) Legal Briefing L01-09 The Parish Councils (Power to promote well being) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2008.

b) Programme of briefing events from 2009

6.4 SMBC – Proposed Speed Limit Changes on A and B Classified Roads

Letter from SMBC circulated with the agenda.

AGREED RESPONSE

The parish council is in support of the speed changes however, it was felt that it is enforcement that is needed to reduce speeding and not a reduction in the speed limits. Additionally, they are concerned that the reductions in speed limits will increase signage.

Ms Weaver fed back on a meeting she had attended along with the Clerk and Iain Roxburgh with Emily Walsh from the Transport Department at Solihull MBC. The meeting took place on site in Meriden. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the concerns over the access issues at

Maxstoke Lane for the new development, the pelican crossing to the new play facility and Hampton lane and the wider traffic issues ie parking/speed etc which are apparent from the village appraisal.

6.5 Coventry City Council – Core Strategy

Letter and CD circulated by clerk to all Councillors. Comments from Mr Kipling are where will all of the additional people work. It is over ambitious and they are unlikely to meet the housing needs anyway.

AGREED

All members to give one comment to the clerk.

ADDITIONAL

6.6 Best Kept Village Competition 2009

AGREED

Mrs Goodsir to show judges around on 18th May 2009 and to meet them on the village green at 3.45pm.

6.7 St Laurence Church

Letter received from Rev. Dawkins asking for support from the parish council in his bid for further funding required for repairs to the church tower.

AGREED

Ms Weaver and Clerk to write a letter of support on behalf of the parish council.

7. Receive Reports

7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – windows have now been replaced and they are looking into obtaining a ramp for wheelchair/pushchair access.

7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – no report.

7.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – no report.

7.4 **Pool** – on the agenda.

7.5 **Allotment Representative** – on the agenda.

7.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – no report.

7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – no report.

7.8 **Conservation Committee** – nothing on the agenda for Meriden at the last meeting.

7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report.

7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – minutes of last meeting will be circulated once received.

7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – no meeting but Ms Weaver who chairs the committee has had a meeting with the leader of Solihull MBC and the Monitoring Officer. The leader of the council and Ms Weaver will put together an agreement so that every chair and clerk of each parish meet with Cabinet on a quarterly basis.

7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.

7.13 **Village Appraisal** – on agenda.

7.14 **West Midlands Police** – Effective and Strategic Community Partnership Conference 23rd and 24th March. – The programme was developed to assist partnership agencies in understanding each others business so that collaborative solutions are reached for positive neighbourhood management. The police were asked to invite an agency partner to attend the conference and our neighbourhood police team invited the Clerk. Two key points were to know your partners and what they can bring to a partnership. That partnerships needs commitment from all parties to be successful.

7.15 **Parish and town planning training 20th April 6pm** – attended by Ms Weaver and Mrs Lee. Notes handed out.

7.16 **Community Surgery** – Monday 20th April at Library. Not attended by police. Clerk / Chair attended. 4 residents from Maxstoke Lane, Maxstoke Close and Alspath Road attended, all sharing the same concerns over anti social behaviour and wanting to speak to the police who they consider are not doing enough to tackle the problem.

- Clerk has asked residents to log all incidents, whether reported to the police or not with the date, time location, descriptions and log numbers. Residents and clerk then to attend the next police priority setting meeting.
- Clerk has advised that information will be put in the next edition of the Mag detailing how to report incidents to the police.

- Clerk has written to Chief Superintendant asking for dates of the next police priority setting meetings together with a paragraph from themselves detailing how they deal with an incident once it is reported and what their priorities are regarding response.
- Police at Balsall Common have been informed of the residents concerns.

8. **Village Matters**

8.1 **Development**

- a) Meeting 21st April 2009 – DWH/SMBC/PC notes circulated via email. The main points are that the detailed plans are still not completed. Some of the issues we have raised have been incorporated and the number of houses has now reduced to 80 but without a reduction in the capital receipt.

The parish council need to start thinking about the options over who manages/maintains the new play facility in Hampton Lane.

AGREED

For Ms Weaver and Clerk to have informal discussions with management committees within the parish to establish their views on asset management trusts to establish whether a more formal option appraisal is necessary.

- b) Public consultation – provisionally booked for Friday June 5th in the Village Hall.

8.2 **Village Appraisal**

Next meeting is Thursday April 30th at 7.30pm Heart of England Social Club.

8.3 **Community Speed Watch**

Training at the Cromwell Room, The Bear, Berkswell is due to take place on 29th April at 10am and 30th April at 6pm.

8.4 **Alcohol Free Zone**

Mr Markham will produce a report within 14 days.

8.5 **Allotments**

- a) First meeting of the allotment association took place on 8th April at the Bulls Head. A couple of issues have been raised for the parish council to consider:
- Parking on plot 1** – clerk to clarify with SMBC whether putting down hardcore would constitute a non temporary parking space and would require planning. Response from SMBC was “ *technically this engineering operation and requires permission. But before I can confirm the matter I will need further details to how much hardcore would need to be laid or whether it is repair and maintenance of existing hardcore areas to see if it is so de minimis that we would not ask for a planning application*” Clerk has asked what amount could be put down before planning is required.
 - Request for another clearance project** – the Clerk has made enquiries and is awaiting a response as the neighbourhood coordinator is on annual leave at present.
 - National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens Limited Membership** – a request that the parish council considers applying on behalf of the tenants at a cost of £55. Clerk/Cllr David Bell to find out further information for discussion at the next meeting.
 - Bonfires** – a request that the parish council reconsider their decision not to allow bonfires. Again, clerk/Cllr David Bell to find out further information for further discussion at the next meeting.
- b) Letter from resident asking the parish council to look into the possibility of obtaining another piece of land due to fact that the current piece of land being promoted by Taylor Wimpey in the new Local Development Framework. Clerk has responded by stating that the PC do not own a piece of land and are not in the financial position to purchase any land. The PC will review the situation at that point after discussions with the developers.

8.6 **Remembrance Day Service – one off donation for 2009/2010 for the purchase of equipment.** Cost estimate £650.

AGREED

To look at what other parishes are doing to fund the service.

To look into any possible bids.

To obtain another quote.

8.7 Youth Club

The open days on the 14th and 16th April went well. Seven young people turned up. They now have all the equipment, table tennis table, pool/snooker table, Wii, Xbox, projector/screen, 3 laptops, cameras and tuck. It will run every Thursday from 4.30pm to 6pm. Kevin is now advertising.

8.9 New play equipment at Maxstoke Lane playing fields.

SMBC Cabinet Members have now approved funding of £10,000 of the cost of the additional facilities on the existing sports ground at Maxstoke Lane. This is on the basis that this will be reimbursed out of the capital receipt from the sale of the playing fields before the balance is split between the two councils. Clerk has received confirmation from SMBC that a planning permission is not required due to the height of the equipment being under 4m.

8.10 Warwickshire Rural Community Council – Best Village Competition 2009.

No report.

8.11 Warwickshire County Council – Minerals Core Strategy, Revised Spatial Options February 2009.

Clive Jones, Mr Kipling and Mrs Lee will respond to this.

8.12 Footpath on the bank in Church Lane – cutting back of the trees.

Request from the clerk for historical information on this issue.

AGREED

Clerk to refer this issue back to SMBC. The area/trees have never been maintained by the parish council.

8.13 Pond – Investigation Report

Copy of the “Conclusions and Recommendations” page circulated to all councillors with the agenda Full copy of the report is on circulation. There will be a meeting between SMBC/MPC and BWD shortly to discuss necessary works and funding.

Queries were raised over the condition of the wall and that this is not addressed in the report. This will be raised by the representatives of the parish council attending the forthcoming meeting.

8.14 SMBC – Neighbourhoods Project and Parish Council Involvement.

Ms Weaver met with Sarah Barnes, the Neighbourhoods Project Manager from Solihull Partnership. The project is about looking at how they can get better at engaging with people to find out what they need and at designing services to meet those needs. She was keen to involve parish councils in this work and contacted Ms Weaver for her advice as to how to achieve this. Ms Weaver has offered the parish council's assistance in piloting some issues. She will contact us again when she has more information available.

8.15 Cyclist Memorial Service – Sunday 17th May

Wreath purchased in previous years and layed by Councillor.

AGREED

To purchase wreath at a cost of approximately £25-£30

For Mr Markham to lay the wreath.

8.16 Meriden Mag

Deadline Tuesday 5th May. Current issues in our report are link to chairs report, pond update, CSW update, information on how to report ASB and some advice from the police, new play equipment at school. To add information about feeding ducks bread.

9 Planning Matters

9.1 2009/420 – Shirley Farm, Shirley Lane, Meriden – removal of condition number 3 of planning permission 2001/1686 restricting the use of the buildings to holiday and bed and breakfast only.
RESOLVED

Object – greenbelt. No statement of intention.

9.2 2009/417 – Little Meadow, Harvest Hill Lane, Meriden - amendments to previous approved planning application number 2006/2217/S

RESOLVED

Object – not clear on the application form as to what the application is. Also it is in greenbelt.

9.3 2009/438 – Bolberry Cottage, Back Lane, Meriden – first floor extension to create two bedrooms and internal alterations to provide new shower room (resub of app 2009/42).

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.4 2009/490 – Maxstoke, Hampton Lane, Meriden - two storey side extension to form gym and en suite master bedroom.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.5 2009/503 & 504 – Thatched Cottage, The Green, Meriden – reinstatement of covered way and new garden shed. Listed building works and full application.

RESOLVED

Leave to conservation committee.

9.6 2009/542 – Waterworks Cottage, Showell Lane, Meriden – two storey side extension.

RESOLVED

Object due to the size of the extension and it is in greenbelt.

10. Accounts

a) West Midlands Pension Fund – Employer Contributions 2009/2010
Rate for 2009/2010 is 17%.

b) VAT return for HM Customs and Excise completed and request for £488.96

RESOLVED

That the above are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is the Annual Parish Council Meeting on Wednesday 13th May starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall the following meeting is a sub committee meeting on Wednesday 10th June 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.23 pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

- a) Neighbourhood Management Area 3 – March Report.
- b) Sustain – information pack.
- c) Copy letter from Chief Executive of Centro to Caroline Spelman re bus services.
- d) Countryside Voice – Spring 2009 edition.
- e) WALC – Newsletter March 2009 (see 6.3 above.)
- f) SMBC – Conservation Committee, meeting notes 14/4/09.
- g) SUSTAIN – Newsletter February 2009.
- h) Heart of England Way Association – Footnotes Spring 2009.
- i) Meriden Village Hall Management Committee – Accounts 2008.