

# Meriden Parish Council

*The Centre of England*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr R Weaver	Chair		
Cllr F Lynch-Smith	Vice Chair		
Cllr M Nunn			
Mrs B Bland	Clerk		

In attendance: Cllr K Allsopp

**Chair welcomed Councillors and Members of the public and opened the meeting, declaring the meeting to be quorate with so many absences.**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr R Kipling - holiday, Cllr J Barber – AGM, Cllrs M Lee and P Lee – Accident, Cllr M Haque – family emergency. Cllr D Bell and Cllr T Diccio – SMBC Council meetings.

Chair suggested that due to the number of apologies received Members should work on the actions of the previous meeting and all other items deferred until next meeting.

**2. Public Participation**

There were 2 members of the public in attendance.

- Residents raised the issue of drugs and beer in the grounds of Meriden, with smoking dope paraphernalia found regularly in the doorway of Pertemps entrance. Users are congregating regularly by the flag poles in the front of the hall. Pertemps have called in the Police and there have been visits to the site. This is being brought to Parish Council attention for liaison with Neighbourhood Team and Police.

Chair asked if there was a crime reference number that residents can use to call in so that all issues may be logged.

**Action: Residents to speak to Pertemps and email clerk with crime reference number.**

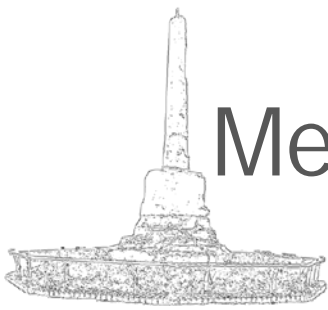
Cllr Nunn suggested letting the fishing club know so they could also keep a look out for antisocial behaviour.

**Action: Cllr Nunn to email clerk with fishing club details.**

- Cllr Weaver asked the clerk to provide an update on the air quality issues brought to Parish Council attention at June’s meeting. Briefly the clerk advised that Neil Pearce, Consultant, had suggested going down the private analysis route. It had been difficult to get a definitive answer from Operators regarding

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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their licence conditions due to each Operator have a different set of conditions attached to their specific licence.

SMBC also deal with any licence application individually and do not look at the cumulative effect of air quality or indeed dust nuisance emanating from all operations collectively. The national benchmark is used by the EA to set what is/is not acceptable for monitoring purposes. When the Parish Council have asked the EA for assistance, it was confirmed that unless an Operator was in breach of their licence conditions, the EA would not follow up any further required due to funds and resources. This is used individually for operators. An independent laboratory to be sourced to carry out analysis of air quality. It was also suggested that the Parish Council would formally write to the EA and request all data from the Quarry Operators under Freedom of Information request.

Chair requested a new sample be collected; half the sample be sent to SMBC's Environmental Health logging the concerns regarding air quality, so it may be formally logged and a formal complaint made. She further added that the Parish Council would undertake independent analysis depending on cost, and if this was to be an issue then an increase in precept would have to be considered.

**Action: Residents to send sample and formal complaint to SMBC Environmental Health. Clerk to source independent Laboratory for analysis of air quality in Meriden. Clerk to write to EA with FOI request for monitoring records of air quality analyses.**

### **3. Declarations of Interest**

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
Nothing to declare.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature  
Nothing to declare.

### **4. Minutes & Confidential Matters**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy. Members approved the minutes as a true record.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr M Nunn proposed acceptance of the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017, seconded by Cllr R Weaver.

### **5. Finance**

5.1 Approve July Payments

The clerk circulated July payments for consideration and approval.

- (i) Meriden Parish Council July payments £4,435.92.

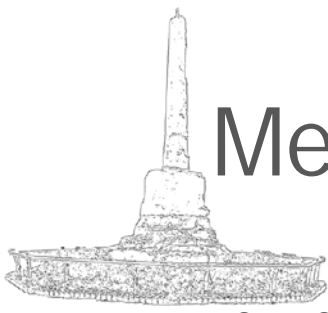
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**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr F Lynch-Smith proposed approval of Meriden Parish Council July payments of £4,435.92 seconded by Cllr M Nunn.

(ii) Meriden Sports Park July payments £8,703.94.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr M Nunn proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park July payments of £8,703.94 seconded by Cllr F Lynch-Smith.

## 5.2 Annual Return & External Audit 2016-17

Chair advised there had been no further communication from Grant Thornton.

## 5.3 Income & Expenditure 01 April-30 June 2017

Chair reported that the finance committee had met prior to the Parish Council meeting today, and their recommendation to approve the Quarter 1 Bank Reconciliation and Income & Expenditure Account.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Lynch-Smith and Cllr M Nunn approved Finance Committee recommendation.

## 5.4 Freehold transfer of Sports Park and VAT

Chair advised this remains with SMBC Legal Team.

## 6. **Progress Reports**

*Chair advised there would be no updates to the following standing.*

### 6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

### 6.2 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

#### 6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Nothing to report.

#### 6.2(ii) Merchant Navy Day

Nothing to report.

### 6.3 Meriden Pool

Nothing to report.

### 6.4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

### 6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

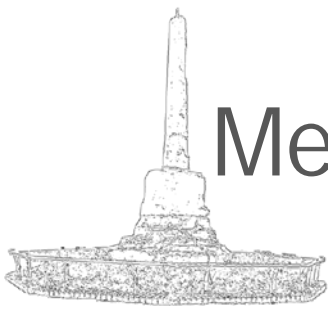
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6.6 Quarries Liaison Group  
Nothing to report.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee  
Nothing to report.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List  
Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries  
Nothing to report.

6.10 Community Speed Watch  
Chair advised that Cllr Barber had replied directly to the resident who had raised her concerns regarding the speed of traffic on Hampton Lane, and around Meriden generally. Cllr Diccico and Dame Caroline Spelman MP had also been emailed regarding Meriden's Speed Watch. Cllr Lynch-Smith reported her disappointment with Police support to get the volunteers trained up and also to conclude final training for the Parish Council so we can operate Speed Watch independently. The recent Speed Watch sessions were successful and one was operated on Hampton Lane, however the last session was cancelled due to the Police not turning up. With the current inconsistencies from Solihull Police the volunteer team is becoming disheartened.

**Please see Action to item 8 below.**

6.11 HS2  
Nothing to report.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)  
Nothing to report.

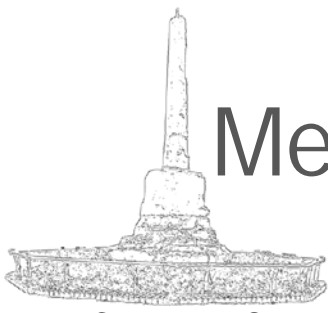
6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update  
Nothing to report.

**7. Clerk's Report**  
Circulated to Members.

**8. District and Ward Councillor Reports**  
Cllr Diccico emailed to raise concerns regarding speeding traffic and Meriden's Speed Watch. This issue had been raised by a resident with Dame Caroline Spelman MP. Cllr Diccico is following this up with Solihull Police regarding the traffic situation in Meriden and also liaising with the Parish Council regarding a Speed Watch initiative.

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Cllr Lynch-Smith stated that she was disappointed that this issue has been raised as Meriden has a Speed Watch team but due to the constraints of Police personnel supporting Meriden’s Speed Watch team it has not been possible to actively operate Meriden’s Speed Watch due to training requirements and the redeployment of the Police team dealing with recent high alert terrorism.

Cllr Allsopp further reported that Ashley Prior had attended a meeting with the Parish Council regarding the traffic concerns and to support the Parish Council with traffic calming measures.

**Action: Cllr Allsopp will reply to Cllr Diccio on behalf of the Parish Council. Cllr Lynch-Smith will follow up with Cllr Barber to confirm training dates for new volunteers and final training for the existing Meriden Speed Watch team.**

Cllr Allsopp reported that he had forwarded an email to the clerk from Mike Eastwood regarding Meriden Gate. Chair stated that this would be picked up under item 10.3 Meriden Gate.

## **9. Correspondence & Communication**

All correspondence has been circulated to Members via email prior to the meeting, to which Members acknowledged receipt.

## **10. Meriden Village Matters**

### 10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

### 10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Nothing to report.

#### 10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Nothing to report.

### 10.3 Meriden Gate

Chair reported that Cllr Allsopp had forwarded an email received from Mike Eastwood, Principal Landscape Architect SMBC, regarding an update to the numerous enquires made as to the current status of SMBC adopting the site. The following email provides and update:-

*“Dear Cllr. Allsopp, I refer to your recent telephone call to the office.*

*With regard the Public Open Space, I can confirm that Council Officers met with representative of Barratt David Wilson Homes (BDWH) on 21 June 2017 to carry out an inspection of the public open space and SUDS area at Maxstoke Lane and set out a list of outstanding defects and remedial works required prior to the transfer of the open space to the Council and adoption of the SUDS.*

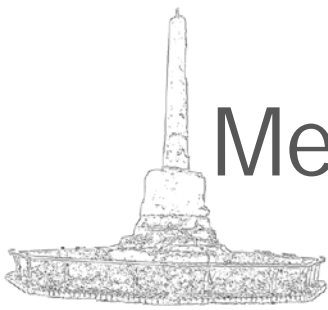
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*My colleague David Waterson (Strategic Land & Property) has written further today requesting confirmation of acceptance of the outstanding remedial works/actions and notification as to when the works are considered to have been completed so that a re-inspection can be arranged.*

*In respect of any Highway issues, I have copied in Debbie Schneider on the e-mail who can clarify the current situation with regard matters of highway adoption."*

Chair thanked Cllr Allsopp for his support in concluding this issue. Cllr Allsopp advised that an email from Mike Eastwood dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2017 advised "I will liaise with my colleagues in Planning and request that this is registered as an enforcement case." The clerk reported that a resident had contacted her to advise a road sweeper had been on site. However significant weeds are visible in the block paving, verges and open space without any maintenance management.

**Action:** Cllr Allsopp and the clerk to continue liaison with SMBC.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)  
Nothing to report.

10.5 Highways  
Please refer to item 12.2(i) below.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership  
Nothing to report.

10.7 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2017  
Nothing to report.

10.8 Litter  
Nothing to report.

10.9 Mobile Mast Update  
Nothing to report.

10.10 Local Council Award Scheme  
Chair advised this will be picked up at Council Development Day arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

10.11 Meriden Public Transport  
Chair advised a response from Mayor Street, Mayor of West Midlands, had been received and read content to the meeting as follows:-

*"Thank you for your letter and attached petition regarding the Taxi-bus and Ring & Ride services. I am very sorry to hear that you deem te changes to be unsatisfactory.*

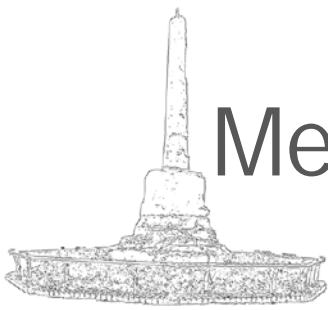
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*I have passed on your correspondence to the Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) section of the West Midlands Combined Authority for review. I can confirm that any petition will be considered in accordance with Transport for West Midlands' Petitions Protocol.*

*As part of our detailed investigation we will engage with a number of stakeholders and as a petition with public support, this matter will be considered by elected Members of the Transport Delivery Committee at the Lead Member Meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017.*

*A member of the Transport for West Midlands' team will then be in touch with you regarding the outcome.*

*I very much hope that this issue can be resolved to the benefit of the local residents."*

A short discussion followed regarding (i) non response of TfWM as promised at last meeting; (ii) Hampton in Arden Petition – and sending it to Mayor Street; (iii) the TfWM promise to investigate the blue bus to take residents to Coventry and access the Mobility Centre for scooters and look into providing a similar service that Birmingham operates bringing mobility aids to a designated bus stop.

**Action:** Clerk to formally write to TfWM reminding them there are items outstanding from last meeting with all TfWM, IGO and Ring & Ride representatives. Clerk to contact Hampton in Arden clerk.

Chair reported the disappointed outcome from Cabinet meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at Civic Suite, Solihull, regarding the cessation of the Meriden school bus transporting children from Millison's Wood, and stated how appalled she was at the undemocratic process which will be viewed by the public. Meriden had a special case with the minimal saving to education budget v. the cost of improving footpaths and lighting, and the increased maintenance programmes required including private landowners to cut back their boundaries. The Safe Walking Assessment carried out did not take account of the return journey which included a half mile walk up Meriden hill. The public would not be impressed with the process of democracy as it seemed no account was taken on others views and therefore it seemed that the decision was predetermined. The discussion after the meeting with the three Councillors who were also unhappy with the decision said they would discuss with their leaders for the decision to be called in; it was not. Chair added that she had a discussion with the CEO of SMBC in a meeting with Chair of Solihull Area Committee and she sent an email to the Leader about her views of how the decision was arrived especially in the era of austerity

## **11. Solihull Partnership Forum**

Nothing to report.

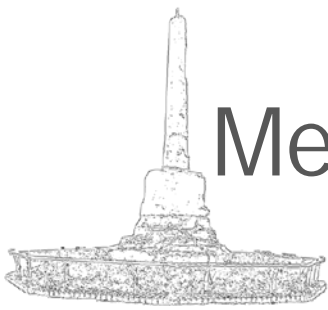
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## **12. Planning Matters**

### 12.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Nothing to report.

#### 12.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

Chair advised funding bid now completed and ready to submit.

**Action: Cllr M Lee to confirm submission.**

### 12.2 Neighbourhoods Community Action Plan

Chair circulated revised and updated Action Plan to Members present. Nothing further to report.

#### 12.2(i) Evidence Base Highways Restriction Review (TRO)

Chair advised that she, Cllr M Lee and the clerk met with Ashley Prior to discuss traffic calming measures, discuss a management strategy and take advice on what can be achieved using the shared space concept and SMBC's support. We conducted a "drive-around" identifying hotspots of Main Road parking outside Manor, hatching, yellow lines, parking restrictions, Fillongley Road crossing and speeding, Hampton Lane speeding, Leys Lane "rat run", Birmingham Road speeding, all gateways into Village.

**Action: Ashley Prior to consider traffic calming measures and report back to Parish Council including providing a presentation on shared space concept in September, with invitations to attend Council Development Day or next Parish Council meeting.**

### 12.3 Solihull Local Plan Review & Meriden Sites

Nothing to report.

### 12.4 Planning Application Status Updates

Chair advised that Cllr Haque had emailed the following update for Members:-

"Can you bring up tonight that I have made comment on the Meriden Park Homes appeal and as per planning committee, I have reiterated the comments from Neil Pearce (Planning Consultant) and SMBCs reason for refusal?"

With regards to Pertemps, I have spoken to Lawrence Osbourne and it is not an application to extend the original, but actually an application to advise the detail on materials so he said there is nothing to pass comment upon.

**Action: Cllr Haque and Planning Committee.**

### 12.5 Community Asset/Right to Bid

Nothing to report.

#### 12.5(i) Register Grade II Listed buildings not included in Heritage Listings for Green Conservation

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

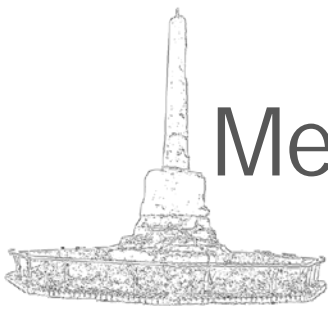
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Nothing to report.

### 12.5(ii)Fields in Trust

Chair advised that an email from Fields in Trust, Head of Programmes, confirming the following:-

“Thank you very much for the application for the Village Green.

As I have visited the site I am pleased to confirm that it is eligible to be part of the Centenary Fields programme. Our Legal Officer Charles, who I have copied in, will be in touch regarding next steps.”

### 13. Parish Council Development Day

**Action:** ALL to attend Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### 14. New Website

Nothing to report.

### 15. Annual Parish Assembly

Chair advised that the clerk had circulated Assembly Notes and Assembly Feedback from attendees to Members.

### 16. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

### 17. Date of Next Meeting

Due to August holiday the next Meeting of Meriden Parish Council is to be held on **18<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 7.30 pm venue Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.**

The Chair closed the meeting at 20.25 hours.

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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