

# Meriden Parish Council

*The Centre of England*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr R Weaver	Chair	Cllr M Nunn	
Cllr M Lee		Cllr R Kipling	
Cllr P Lee		Cllr M Haque	
Cllr J Barber		Mrs B Bland	Clerk

**Chair welcomed Councillors and Members of the public and opened the meeting.**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr F Lynch-Smith due to family bereavement and Cllr K Allsopp.

**2. Public Participation**

There were 3 members of the public in attendance and two representatives from Woodland View. Chair invited any concerns and questions relative to the agenda.

**Under Item 6.6 Quarries Liaison Group:-**

- A resident raised the serious concerns regarding the dust particles that is being blown from Meriden Quarry to Meriden Park Homes. There is evidence of wood granules in the dust deposits collected as samples, which were brought to Councillors. The resident stated that he had reported this to A & A Recycling and the General Manager had attended Meriden Park Homes site and met with concerned residents. He explained that the soil bund was nearing completion; water suppression system and regular monitoring was in place. The General Manager offered to have the resident's car washed to remove residue and advised that there would be an improvement with the completion of bund, water jets and fencing, reducing litter and dust nuisance.
- Another resident advised that his health was being seriously compromised and recent visits to the GP surgery suggest that his lungs are affected and will only get worse with the irritant of breathing in dust.
- Both residents advised that they had made calls to Solihull MBC Environmental Health, left messages, and no-one has called back. A similar call was made to the Environment Agency and it was apparent that neither SMBC nor the EA are communicating, but the EA had provided the name of the Team Leader and incident reference number.
- The residents continued that there are 68 people living on the Park Homes site all affected by wind borne dust particles particularly when there is a West to East wind blowing and this will continue being a problem.

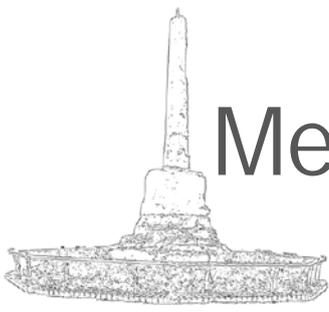
**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

**Clerk:** Barbara Bland

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The advice received from SMBC and the EA is to log as many complaints on the hot line number provided, so an evidence base may be established over the coming months.

Chair advised that a representative from the EA attends the Quarry Liaison Group meetings and is aware of the situation. She further advised that the hot line number will be posted onto Parish Council website, Meriden Mag and Meriden Watch sites including Facebook.

Cllr P Lee suggested the PC contact the EA and under Freedom of Information request what monitoring is undertaken, and records logged.

- Residents stated that A & A advised that they were not the only operator processing wood recycling, as the old Moody operation is also shredding wood. It should also be noted that the new Beechwood biomass plant will commence operations with wood processing.

**Action:** Cllr P Lee reiterated a duty of care to residents and the PC will follow up with EA under FOI requests.

**Action:** Chair advised this will be raised through Quarry Liaison Group once more.

**Action:** A letter to be written on behalf of residents endorsing MPC support.

### Under Item 6.3 Meriden Pool:-

- A resident reported that the Pool levels have dropped.

Chair replied that a meeting with SMBC is arranged for 3<sup>rd</sup> July to discuss Pool management and remedial actions which include dredging and water flow.

**Action:** The clerk will contact SMBC to ensure the plate removed has been replaced; also to establish the flow from the culvert to the Pool opposite No 175 Main Road.

### Under Item 15 Annual Assembly:-

Chair invited Woodland View to provide a summary of their operation and apologised that they had to leave the recent Annual Assembly held in May early before have opportunity of talking.

- Woodland View is a hospital supporting patients with mental health issues and learning disabilities and part of the Priory Trust.
- It is a centre reintegrating residents with local community and reducing anxieties through different therapies offered such as horticulture.
- The majority of residents remain for 12-18 months on rehabilitation programmes before re-joining families or moving onto supported

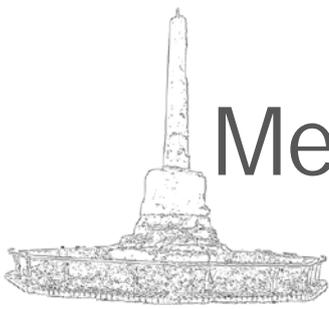
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accommodation. None of the residents would be re-housed in Meriden but would return to areas of Birmingham and Coventry.

- Residents are keen to volunteer for community projects without expectation of payment and have many good ideas.
- Full risk assessment is undertaken prior to engaging with any community access or projects.
- The hospital is a 31-bed facility that is almost full.
- Woodland View is keen to work with the local community and more than willing to consider any projects associated with the Parish Council.

**Action:** Clerk to follow up with Director and arrange a meeting for herself and Chair early July. Some projects already identified where volunteers can support.

### **Under Item 6.9 Community Surgery:-**

- A resident from Darlaston Court advised Council of an incident where the front of his car was removed during night hours. There was great concern regarding the boldness of the offenders, removing the front end of a parked Toyota Yaris on Main Road, during the middle of the night. It is another stage of car crime to enter the village and clearly targeted to order.
- WM Police have issued a crime reference number.
- The area is quite dark with overhanging trees

Cllr P Lee asked about the use of garages to alleviate parking and offer more security?

- The resident stated that the garages were built in 1974 and too tight to get a car in and be able to get out; his previous vehicle was a Polo and this just about fitted.

Cllr P Lee asked about his thoughts of demolishing garages to provide secure parking on site, with a secure barrier and lighting?

- The resident replied that the flats were all leasehold and it would be the landowner who would decide. Some residents had tried to form a management group but without anyone taking a lead this has not been achieved. The site is managed by Hurst Management Agency.

Chair thanked the resident for sharing his concerns.

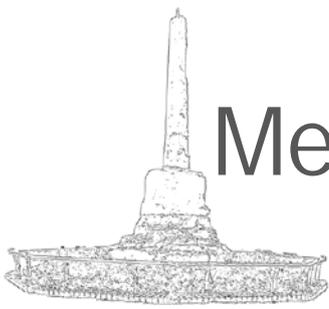
**Action:** Chair advised that this would be put onto website, facebook and Meriden Watch. It would also be raised by the clerk at the next Community and Beat Surgeries. She further stated that a request will be made to Neighbourhood Coordinator to have landowners cut back their trees to provide more light.

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

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

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

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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 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy. Members approved the minutes as a true record.

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

#### 5. Finance

##### 5.1 Approve June Payments

The clerk circulated June payments for consideration and approval.

(i) Meriden Parish Council June payments £13,089.73.

Cllr Kipling queried the payments of £7,820.17 to Sovereign Play asking why this was being paid by the PC and not the Sports Park. Clerk advised that the money for this work was part of the capital receipt draw down in November 2015 for this purpose. The sum of £20,000 had been set aside in MPC's reserves and was identified in the Reserves Policy brought to full Council for approval and signed off on

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr P Lee proposed approval of Meriden Parish Council June payments of £13,089.73 seconded by Cllr R Kipling.

(ii) Meriden Sports Park June payments £7,148.61.

Cllr Nunn queried 2 payments to Davies Sport of £411.48 for March and June, asking if this was a duplication. Clerk advised she would look into and report to finance committee at tomorrow night's meeting. Members agreed subject to finance committee approval of outcome.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr P Lee proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park June payments subject to clerk reporting outcome of duplication to finance committee for approval, seconded by Cllr M Nunn.

##### 5.2 Annual Return & External Audit 2016-17

An acknowledgement from Grant Thornton had been received advising safe receipt of Annual Return and accompanying documentation. There has been no further communication.

##### 5.3 Freehold transfer of Sports Park and VAT

Chair advised that the Legal Agreement is being finalised with Solicitor.

**Action: Chair and clerk to continue working with Solicitor and Trustees.**

#### 6. Progress Reports

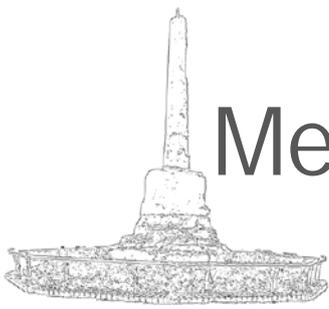
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6.1 Village Hall Management Committee  
Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials  
Nothing to report.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding  
Nothing to report.

6.2(ii) Merchant Navy Day

Cllr P Lee reported since 2000 Merchant Navy Day has been recognised as 3<sup>rd</sup> September organised by Seafarers UK formerly King George's Fund for Sailors formed in 1917. Seafarers UK is encouraging Parish Councils to fly a Red Ensign to commemorate Merchant Navy Day. A certificate will be sent to all Parish Council participants.

Cllr P Lee proposed that the Parish Council purchase a Red Ensign flag, fly it on the Village Green, add it to the list of flag raising duty rota for the Scouts, and participate in this coming and all future Merchant Navy Days. The cost of the flag is £45.71 including delivery, toggle and lanyard attachments. Chair set the limit of expenditure at £80 from reserves.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously agreed for Merchant Navy Day to be commemorated by flying the Red Ensign on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 and each year thereafter, proposed by Cllr P Lee and seconded by Cllr R Kipling.

**Action:** Cllr P Lee to purchase Red Ensign and arrange with Scouts as an addition to their flag raising rota.

6.3 Meriden Pool

Chair advised that a meeting was arranged with Chris Barr for 3<sup>rd</sup> July at 3pm. The focus of the meeting will be the management plan and SITA funding. There is currently algae on top of Pool suggesting lack of oxygen. Ed Bradford to be notified to ensure plate has been put back to allow increased flow from culvert.

**Action:** Chair to report at next meeting.

6.4 Allotments

Clerk advised all tenancy agreements and invoices had been sent out to allotment holders and to date £250 of rents had been received. Reminders will be sent to those who have not paid by due date of 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The two vacant plots had been taken up by those on waiting list on a no rent basis for year one as agreed at May's meeting.

**Action:** Clerk to issue overdue letters to allotment holders who have not paid by 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

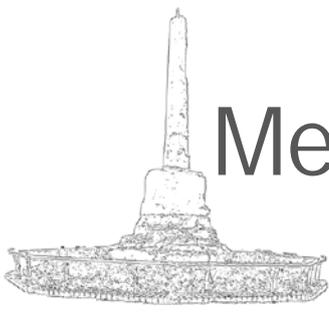
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Nothing to report.

## 6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Chair reported from last meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> June as follows:-

**Beechwood/Silvertree** confirmed that the construction works were progressing well, with client fit-out works scheduled to start in 2-3 weeks' time.

It was further advised that the boiler installation was approximately 6 weeks behind schedule. The intention is to invite local residents to the site to show them around the process and explain how it works. MPC asked where things were at with the environmental permit. The EA confirmed that the application had been received, but was still being assessed to determine whether it had been duly made, before being assigned to an officer to progress. It was explained that Silvertree would be operating the facility. They will be taking on 12 members of staff for which a recruitment programme would be starting shortly.

**Cemex** advised that they were busy. The replacement of the processing plant had been delayed and was now expected in the last quarter of this year. Landfilling operations were due to recommence in the next 6 weeks.

**Colemans** confirmed that the site had been relatively quiet over the last quarter. Improvements have been made to the wheelwash and bowser

**A & A** advised that imports had increased in line with seasonal expectation and confirmed that one the bund had been completed by NRS fencing and dust suppression equipment would be installed.

**NRS** reported their operations are focused on Area G and the bund around Area E and the A & A recycling facility.

Members discussed Shepherds Lane and the yellow marks for resurfacing that had not been done and this is probably 5 months ago; it is the responsibility of North Warks Highways and the clerk was requested to chase. Cllr Kipling stated the wheelwash is not working given the state of mud on road surface and if it is, then it is not big enough to be effective. There are more HGVs using Birmingham Road.

**Action: Clerk to chase up North Warks re Shepherds Lane; contact planning regarding conditions of use for wheelwash.**

## 6.7 Solihull Area Committee

The next meeting will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 and the Police Superintendent for SMBC will be guest speaker. Meriden is hosting the meeting.

## 6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Nothing to report.

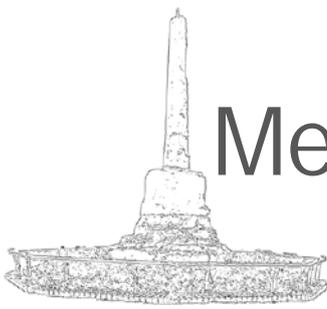
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## 6.9 Community Surgeries

The clerk reported there were no attendees and apologies received from Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

## 6.10 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Barber reported that there were 4 volunteers awaiting training. Numerous requests have been made to WPC Sharon Grant for training dates, but her availability has been limited. Unfortunately the PC is unable to train volunteers as an officer and police equipment is required. WM Police are doing their own speed watch every 3 months, but we want to be in a position whereby we can do our own.

**Action: Cllr Barber to arrange further training sessions and set up dates for summer 2017.**

## 6.11 HS2

Nothing to report.

## 6.12 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)

The next update is due at September's meeting.

## 6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Chair advised final draft of Agreement has been received and a meeting with Solicitor and Trustees will be arranged.

**Action: Clerk to arrange meeting with SMBC Legal Team to agree Agreement with Trustees.**

## 7. Clerk's Report

The clerk advised that no report is available to annual leave.

## 8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

## 9. Correspondence & Communication

All correspondence has been circulated to Members via email prior to the meeting, to which Members acknowledged receipt. Additional items as follows:-

- Pensions Regulator advising that the PC is compliant.
- WALC latest training and event diary – circulated to Members.
- Solihull Civic Honours 2017 inviting nominations.

## 10. Meriden Village Matters

### 10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

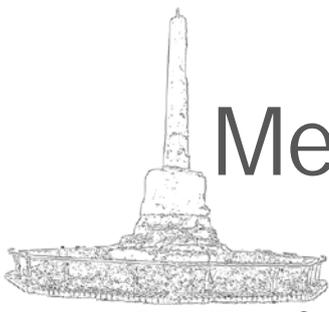
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## 10.2 Village Commemoration WW1 &

### 10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Cllr M Lee reported that the last meeting discussed Memorial Approach. The group is tasked with sourcing stone masons and looking at what can be done and bring all information back to next meeting.

The Parish Council is to take over maintenance of the War Memorial, but currently awaiting feedback from Peter Wright regarding transfer of land from diocese. Funding to be applied for from Memorials Trust and work needed to existing Memorial sites to be identified. It is also being considered to re-site the original Memorial Plaque that was removed from the Village Hall to be displayed at Meriden School.

Cllr Lee asked if the residents from Woodland View could plant up Memorial Approach to improve the look for visitors. It is accepted that a long term solution is required as the cost of carpet bedding twice a year cannot be sustained.

**Action: Cllr M Lee to provide update at next meeting. Clerk to request Dovetail to assist with planting Poppy site as a short term fix.**

## 10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

## 10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

Nothing to report.

## 10.5 Highways

Chair advised notification had been received from Highways regarding resurfacing works to Becks Lane and Harvest Hill which will see a diversion in place between 3<sup>rd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Action: Notification to be posted onto noticeboards.**

## 10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Nothing to report.

## 10.7 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2017

Nothing to report.

## 10.8 Litter

Chair reported that the Scouts had carried out a litter pick of Hampton Lane and the Village Green.

**Action: Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Scouts.**

## 10.9 Mobile Mast Update

The clerk reported she and Chair had met with the new General Manager of the Manor Hotel. He is keen to explore options with service providers and requests

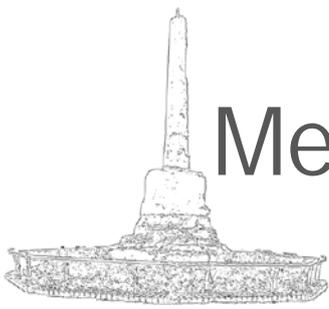
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evidence of demand for a mobile mast as service providers will not consider without local community demand.

Members discussed having a facebook page for mobile mast and setting up a survey monkey page with 10 questions linked to Parish Plan. Chair asked for ideas to be sent to her.

**Action: Chair to organise survey monkey with 10 questions and put onto facebook and website.**

## 10.10 Local Council Award Scheme

Chair advised this remains a work in progress with a completion timeline of March 2018. Clerk reported a conversation she had with John Crossling from WALC who agreed to come out to Meriden and go through checks so the submission may be fine-tuned before going to panel for inspection and approval. Application requires completion by end November 2017 for initial checks December 2017, revisions and then to Panel for January 2018.

**Action: Clerk and All at Council Development Day.**

## 10.11 Meriden Public Transport

Cllr Nunn advised the residents' petition was sent off to Mayor Street recorded delivery and we await a reply.

Chair reported that a letter had been received inviting the Parish Council to speak at Cabinet meeting regarding withdrawal of service. The delegation will be made up of Chair of Council, Chair of Meriden School Governors and Chair of Action Group. Cabinet is meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 6pm at the Civic Suite, Solihull.

**Action: Chair to liaise with Meriden School.**

## 11. Solihull Partnership Forum

Nothing to report.

## 12. Planning Matters

### 12.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Cllr M Lee advised the business survey is being circulated to local businesses via the Business Rate pages, a strategic list of businesses operating within Meriden, by the NP steering group. The next meeting is arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Tyler Parkes, the Agent for the Birmingham Road development, identified in the SMBC Draft Local Plan, together with Avon Planning will be attending either July or September's meeting.

**Action: Cllr M Lee to provide update at next meeting.**

### 12.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

Cllr M Lee advised that she and Chair were progressing the application to be submitted for next funding tranche on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Action: Cllr M Lee and Chair to complete application.**

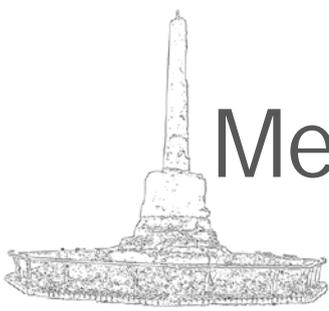
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12.2 Neighbourhoods Community Action Plan  
Nothing to report.

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

Cllr M Lee reported that she and the clerk had attended a joint meeting of Hampton, Balsall, Barston and Berkswell PCs to collectively look at a Traffic Calming Strategy. HS2L funding is available to mitigate the increased volumes of traffic when HS2 development commences later in the year.

There is up to £1M to assist with traffic calming initiatives undertaken as a joined up bid with neighbouring Parishes. There has been some success with the concept of share space removing hatching and creating block paved central reservation.

Hampton circulated their potential traffic calming options for consideration. Berkswell have engaged Ove Arup to undertake a traffic study which took around 6 months to complete and they secured 10K of funding for this purpose.

Meriden was keen to be involved but noted both Hampton and Berkswell were some way ahead of identifying options; Balsall had met with Ashley Prior where he presented his concept of shared space, successes and undertook a walkabout. It was suggested that Meriden follow this route and extend an invitation to Ashley Prior.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously approved an invitation be extended to Ashley Prior.

**Action:** Clerk to write to Ashley Prior inviting him to provide presentation and go on walkabout to look at ideas and feasibility. A further meeting to be arranged with Hampton and Balsall PCs.

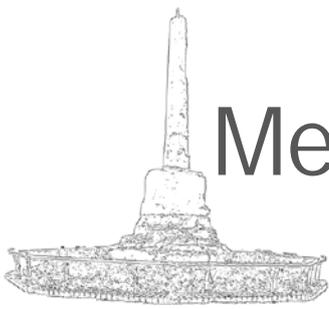
12.3 Solihull Local Plan Review & Meriden Sites  
Nothing to report.

12.4 Planning Application Status Updates

Cllr Haque advised planning committee met on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2017. There are 3 applications outstanding, 2 are in Berkswell Parish with no notification received by Meriden (i) Burger Van, (ii) Lighting – variation to Condition 11 Meriden Quarry, (iii) Retrospective grade II Old Vicarage, Church Lane, who did not realise had to take advise and permission for removal of chimney breast of property within conservation area.

Cllr Weaver advised that a letter had been received from the Planning Inspectorate regarding Morrison Park Homes Appeal for additional mobile home. Previous planning application and appeal had been refused, however this has gone to further

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



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appeal and submission date for reply is 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. It was agreed to ask for planning consultant's input.

Cllr Haque advised she was arranging planning portal training with SMBC planning officer, which will improve access. She also wants to pick up enforcement issues and understand how this is being monitored.

There was a general discussion regarding the tree at Broughton Cottage and suggestion that any TPO tree removal must have a sapling replanted in its place. A conversation with SMBC to enforce any TPO on property is the owner's responsibility to look after it.

**Action: Cllr Haque to (i) arrange planning committee meeting; (ii) liaise with Sheron French to arrange planning portal training; (iii) seek advice from planning consultant regarding Morrison Park Homes appeal – deadline 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

Additionally an email has been received from Stan Ceney, Architect and Agent for the Birmingham Road old garage site development advising that full permission to build the two detached houses on the site has been granted and building will commence shortly.

## 12.5 Community Asset/Right to Bid

Cllr Weaver reported that an email from Martin Saunders replying to clerk's enquiry regarding the proposed "conservation triangle" states:-

*"Thank you for your query about the proposed conservation area including the four listed buildings and entrance to Meriden Hall. I have to say that unfortunately the area seems too limited to qualify for designation. We would expect a larger area and greater number of buildings to produce the special architectural or historic interest that is required to justify designation.*

*Because the buildings mentioned are all listed at grade 2 the consideration of any planning application that affects the buildings or their setting would include evaluation of the effect of the proposals upon the significance of the designated heritage asset/s.*

*Impacts (adverse, neutral or positive) on that significance can be generated by change within the setting beyond the building and its own curtilage/ garden. I feel that this is the level of protection of significance that these designated heritage assets merit, over and above the need for Listed Building Consent for any alterations that affect their special interest, and planning applications for extensions to them or for structures within their curtilage."*

**Action: Cllr M Lee to report at Neighbourhood Planning Group. Clerk to revisit with Martin Saunders.**

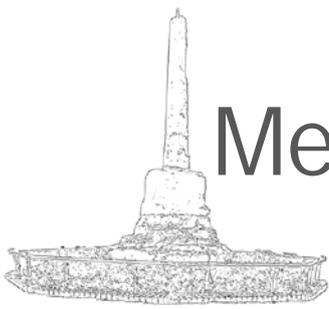
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12.5(i) Register Grade II Listed buildings not included in Heritage Listings for Green Conservation

Cllr M Lee advised this remains a work in progress as part of Neighbourhood Plan.

**Action: Cllr M Lee monitor via Neighbourhood Planning Group.**

12.5(ii) Fields in Trust

Nothing to report.

**Action: Cllr M Lee monitor via Neighbourhood Planning Group.**

### **13. Parish Council Development Day**

Chair advised that an email had been circulated suggesting Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

### **14. New Website**

Cllr M Lee reported that Real Point had not made any progress on completing the website. Real Point continue to support the content management of the old website but nothing is being done to complete the new site so it may go live. The clerk was requested to check payments for new website set up and challenge Real Point's contractual obligation to the PC.

**Action: Cllr M Lee to contact Real Point. Clerk to look at payments made and contractual engagement.**

### **15. Annual Parish Assembly**

Chair reported feedback from this event had proven positive with requests for this to be repeated in 2018 and thereafter. It was hugely successful with excellent attendance from representatives of the various community groups providing three minute presentations on their particular group or activity. Cllr Haque stated she considered this to be a valuable and really good exercise in bringing the groups together and showcasing the different themed groups in the Parish. Cllr P Lee reported he had received very positive feedback too. Cllr Nunn said he found the evening enlightening and very useful in identifying who did what, when and where.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr Haque to type up their respective notes.**

### **16. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda**

Nothing to report.

### **17. Date of Next Meeting**

Cllr Kipling offered his apologies for PC meeting to be held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017 due to being on holiday.

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 21.25 hours.

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

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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