

Minutes of Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 13th May 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver, Bob Kipling, Graeme Goodsir, Shirley Goodsir, Melanie Lee, Marilyn Hamilton, Sarah Markham District Councillors David Bell and Peter Lee and two members of the public.

1. Apologies

None.

Absent – Mr Markham.

2. Election of Chairman

The Chair called for nominations for Chairman
Proposed by *Melanie Lee*.

Rosie Weaver
Seconded by *Marilyn Hamilton*.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chair called for nominations for Vice-Chairman
Proposed by *Graeme Goodsir*.

Bob Kipling
Seconded by *Melanie Lee*.

4. Election of Sub – Committees and Representatives.

Responsible Finance Officer	Mrs Hall (Clerk)
Internal Auditor	Mr S Wilcox
Bank Mandate Signatures	Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall, Mr Goodsir
Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee	Mrs Goodsir
School Governors for Parish Council	Mrs Goodsir
Committee Member for War Memorial	Mr Markham

Sub – Committee	All Councillors
Finance	All Councillors and Clerk
Pool	Mr Goodsir, Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall, Mr Kipling and Mrs Lee.
Allotment Representative	Mrs Lee and Mr Goodsir
Footpaths / Forum	Mrs Hamilton
Meriden Sands Working Group	Mr Kipling, Mr Markham (<i>Cllr Bell agreed to set up the first meeting.</i>)
Conservation Committee	Ms Weaver
Local Strategic Partnership	Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall
Police Rural Assembly	Mr Goodsir
Solihull Area Committee	Ms Weaver, Mr Kipling
Tree Wardens	Mrs Markham
Village Appraisal	Mrs Lee, Ms Weaver, Mrs Goodsir

The Chair reminded all sub committees that they should report back at each formal Parish Council meeting under the section Received Reports.

5. Declaration of Interest

The Chair invited members to make declaration of personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda of meeting.

Melanie Lee declared a personal interest on agenda items 11.5 (allotments) and 11.6 (remembrance day service).

6. Minutes of Last Meeting.

RESOLVED

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

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

8. Public Participation

8.1 Concern over ducks crossing Main Road to get to food left on lawns by residents of Darlaston Court. There are already traffic warning signs in place and the Parish Council have included information in the Meriden Mag about the correct food for ducks.

8.2 Cllr Bell reported that the new Mayor of Solihull is Norman David. The only other change to SMBC Cabinet is Ian Courts return to Regeneration. The Chair thanked David Bell for his assistance during his time as Mayor.

9. Correspondence / Communication

9.1 SMBC – Application for a modification order to add a public footpath

Letter from the Walking and Rights of Way Officer stating that he will soon begin preparing a report on this matter which will be taken to the Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee for determination on the matter later in the year.

9.2 SMBC – Britain in Bloom 2009

Invitation to enter this year's competition.

AGREED

To enter the Green as usual and to apply for the £250 match funding scheme.

9.3 – SMBC - The Gambling Act 2005 – Review of Gambling Policy

Information emailed/posted to councillors. Any comments please to the Clerk. Mr Kipling has already submitted his comments.

10. Receive Reports.

- 10.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – no report.
- 10.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – meeting clashing with tonight's parish council meeting.
- 10.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – no report.
- 10.4 **Pool** – Report has been circulated. Bob Kipling to email his comments to the Clerk in order that they can be passed onto Solihull MBC and BWB.
- 10.5 **Allotment Representative** – see 11.5 on the agenda.
- 10.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – All rural footpaths in good order. The left hand side on the hill behind the Village Hall is overgrown.
- 10.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – David Bell to arrange first meeting.
- 10.8 **Conservation Committee** – Ms Weaver sent apologies to the last meeting as she was unwell. There was one item on the agenda for Meriden for which she passed on the parish council's comments.
- 10.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report.
- 10.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – Minutes on circulation for the last meetin.
- 10.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – no report.
- 10.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.
- 10.13 **Village Appraisal** – see 11.2 on the agenda.

11. Village Matters.

- 11.1 **Development**
No report.
- 11.2 **Village Appraisal**
On the basis of the presentation made at the open meeting on 15th April, Iain is working on a draft of the Plan which will be circulated in the next couple of weeks. Iain apologises for having to cancel the last steering group (being the first ever cancellation of a steering group meeting). A meeting will be fixed for after circulation of the draft plan. Ms Weaver has put in another lottery bid for production of the parish plan.
- 11.3 **Community Speed Watch**
Thank you to Sarah Markham for volunteering as co-ordinator. Training has now taken place. West Midlands Police are reviewing the information gathered from the speed tubes to clarify the speed of vehicles going through Meriden and will be carrying out risk assessments in the selected areas. Once complete, the first trial can take place.
RESOLVED
To purchase the equipment at the cost of £430.

11.4 **Alcohol Free Zone**

Mr Markham has completed a report and Mr Goodsir is seeing him at the weekend to go through it.

11.5 **Allotments**

- a) **Parking on plot 1** – planning permission is required to put hardcore down on the whole of plot 1. Cost of an application is £85. Documents required for the application are : application form, site plan, location plan, landscaping plan at a scale of 1:200. Timescale 6-8 weeks. Enquiries are being made with Taylor Wimpey, the site owners for their views.
- b) **Request for another clearance project** – Enquiries have been made with SMBC as to whether they would fund another clearance project. The project cost Solihull MBC £416 in addition to the large amount of time put into organising it by the neighbourhood co-ordinator. Their funds can be spent on projects to benefit the whole community. The letter from the parish council to tenants in July 2008 stated “...this is a one off arrangement so therefore please use the opportunity to have a good clear up.”

The fly tipping cannot be removed by SMBC as it is on private land. It was suggested that the Clerk contacts Taylor Wimpey for assistance with its removal.

- c) **National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardens Limited Membership** – SMBC are not members on behalf of their allotment holders. The allotment associations or the individual tenants join themselves so that they benefit from the insurance. As the association in Meriden is only informal, tenants would need to join individually. SMBC advice was that PC should not join on behalf of its tenants.

AGREED

That the parish council would not become members of the association on behalf of its tenants.

- d) **Bonfires** – SMBC encourage their allotment holders to compost as much as possible but they do permit allotment holders to have bonfires in accordance with the Code of Conduct for Bonfires issued by Environmental Protection. The guidance for allotments is therefore the same as for residents in Solihull and as long as bonfires are not lit too frequently, are lit as late in the day as possible and not left unattended they are permitted. A number of their sites are setting up communal composting areas. Two bays are needed so that each year one bay is available for the addition of green material, and the other for composted material to be taken from.

RESOLVED

The previous decision not to allow bonfires remains.

11.6 **Remembrance Day Service – one off donation for 2009/2010 for the purchase of equipment.**

RESOLVED

That the parish council purchase equipment, cost to be capped at £605.15. Further quotes to be obtained.

11.7 **New play equipment at Maxstoke Lane playing fields.**

Equipment has been ordered and the due date is 26 June 2009.

11.8 **Pond**

Meeting with SMBC Sue East, Lorna Teager, park rangers, Parish Council and BWB on 28th May at the Bulls Head, Meriden at 11.00am to discuss a community project and the next stages of the necessary works.

11.9 **Land adjacent to Meriden Garage – Enforcement Issue**

Information obtained from SMBC is that they have had problems with this case. A notice was served, no appeal was made and the compliance period has expired. As a result, a legal view then needed to be taken as to whether to consider prosecution. This has resulted in unforeseen problems based around the fact that the registered land owner (of the land adjacent to the garage) no longer lives at the address as given by the Land Registry. SMBC have so far not been able to find where the owner lives so have been unable, to take any further action. However, they are continuing to investigate the matter and/or discuss with the Council's Legal Services section as to the most appropriate course of action and how to resolve the matter. They will update the clerk again when any progress is made.

11.10 Annual Safety Inspection of Maxstoke Lane Playing Fields

RESOLVED

That Wicksteed Leisure are instructed to carry out the annual safety inspection at a cost of £45 plus VAT.

11.11 Anti Social Behaviour

PC Stokes has been in contact with the four residents who attended the community surgery on 21st April.

Mr Goodsir reported that he has spoken to residents affected and is taking witness testimonies from them in order that they can take them to the next police priority setting meeting. He was at the doctors surgery and spoke to a resident who was brought to tears due to the anti social behaviour she is suffering. A letter from the residents GP was read out (Mr Goodsir assured the Chair and Councillors that he had received the residents permission to read out the letter).

Cllr David Bell has visited the residents of a particular bungalow who are vulnerable due to its position. The residents feels they have not received the necessary help from the SMBC ASB team.

Ms Weaver commented that the police have come out. The residents do have a choice to meet and do something as a residents group ie the community surgeries or the police priority setting meetings but they chose not to. The police priority meetings are not often attended but understands that residents may fear victimisation.

Mr Goodsir suggested a community court. Ms Weaver understands that this is not proven to work and individuals must be in receipt of an ASB.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 2009/650 – News Express, The Green, Meriden – Painted fascia sign with through light above.

RESOLVED

Leave to conservation committee.

12.2 2009/570 – Stone Cottages, Berkswell Road, Meriden – Agricultural barn.

RESOLVED

Object. Question its necessity as it is not a working farm.

ADDITIONAL

12.3 2009/695 – 12 Highfield, Meriden – Single Storey side kitchen and W.C study extension.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

12.4 2009/670 – Pertemps Investments Limited, Meriden Hall – Conversion of flats into office accommodation. The works involve providing support to the existing roof structure and the partial removal of a load bearing wall. The existing concrete stairs located in the centre of the property are to be removed and the floor infilled. New access to the first floor will be provided from the adjacent existing first floor offices.

RESOLVED

Leave to conservation committee.

12.5 2009/671 – Pertemps Investments Limited, Meriden Hall – Listed building consent for the conversion of flats into office accommodation.

RESOLVED

Object. Over intensification and listed building.

13. Accounts

a) Notices to be posted end of May on Noticeboards displaying Audit Date 27th July 2009 with a summary of electors rights.

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

- c) VAT return for HM Customs and Excise completed and request for £488.96
- d) HM Revenue & Customs returns completed for 2008/2009 and sent online.
- e) Need to confirm direct debit for monthly payment of £9 per month to Eon for electricity at changing rooms.

RESOLVED

Direct debit to continue for monthly payment of £9 per month to Eon.

- f) Year End Accounts 2008/2009 have been prepared by the Clerk in the same form as previous years, Income and Expenditure Account and they have now been approved by the internal auditor. Internal Auditor Report signed.
- g) Notice of Audit Date 27th July has been received from Clement Keys along with form for Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2009. The council has not been selected this year as part of the 5% sample of local councils each year for intermediate audit.
TO BE RESOLVED
 - a) Annual Return for year ending 31st March 2009 approved (subject to external audit).
 - b) Statement of assurance approved (subject to external audit).

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is 10th June and Parish Council Meeting is 22nd June. There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Chair _____

Date _____

Documents for circulation

- a) CPRE – Outlook Spring/Summer 2009.
- b) Minutes of the Rural Assembly Meeting 12th March 2009