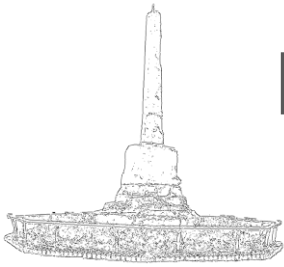


Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

**Meriden Parish Council
Newsletter
for
Meriden Mag
Summer 2017**



Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

The public and press are cordially invited to all parish council meetings at 7.30pm. An opportunity will be given for the public to speak. Look out for the agenda and venue which is posted on the parish notice boards and our website www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk prior to the meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting dates are:

- 26 June 2017 - The Pavilion
- 24 July 2017 - The Pavilion
- No meeting in August

Community Surgeries **11am-12pm:**

- Monday 05 June 2017 – Meriden Library
- Monday 10 July 2017 – The Pavilion
- Monday 07 Aug 2017 – Meriden Library

Police Beat Surgeries at the Library **11am-12pm:**
(Welcome to our new PCSO Toni Rheeston!)

- Thursday 22 June 2017
- Thursday 20 July 2017
- Monday 14 Aug 2017

Should you wish to contact the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk or drop into the Parish Council office on Monday mornings where you may access information or have a private chat with the Clerk to address local community issues.



Barbara Bland
The Pavilion
Meriden Sports Park
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Meriden CV7 7SP

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Your Parish Councillors are:



Rosie Weaver
BEM
(Chair)



Frances
Lynch-Smith
(Vice-Chair)



Bob Kipling



Melanie Lee



Paul Lee



Mandy Haque



Jon Barber



Matthew Nunn

Quarry news - update on the Sand Martins



Following rumours that the Sand Martins' nests have been destroyed, we would like to reassure everybody that NRS Wastecare Ltd are looking after the care of the birds.

Wayne Wardle from NRS explains, "The nests were checked and as there were no young in and 90% were not completed - checked with a snake camera - part of the colony has moved to the top of the lagoon with the rest of the colony which is not being touched until after the breeding season.

"The NRS Meriden site has had two very large colonies for the last three years. These birds are also netted and tagged each year by professionals for monitoring as will the colony at Area E.

"These actions were planned, done with due care and attention, and I believe correctly carried out due to the pressure from the council, Environment Agency and other bodies to complete the work."

Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom axed for 2017

With the rising cuts in spending in local authorities across the nation, Solihull Council has had to make the decision to cease its Neighbourhoods in Bloom initiative from this year. Meriden won best kept village in 2014 and 2015, placing second in 2016. We'd like to thank everyone who helped us achieve these awards over the years. As best we can, the parish council will aim to maintain its floral displays throughout the parish – see **'The Parish Council would like to thank'** on the next page. We will also be planting purple crocus bulbs throughout the parish supporting the initiative from the International Rotary Club to eradicate polio. In 2018, we will enter RHS Britain in Bloom, Heart of England Region, having received a Silver Large Village Award in 2015. Volunteers are needed to meet the exacting competition standards!

The Parish Council would like to thank



Bruce Brant, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, **Sarah Jones** from NAP (Neighbourhood Activity Programme) and the **Neighbourhood Rangers** for the wildflower bank at Coronation Island, benches for Meriden Gate public open space, spring bulbs for the parish, and nesting boxes for the Copse. Our wonderful volunteers **Lynn Parker**, resident representative for Quarry Liaison Group, **Sarah Sharland**, Tree Warden and **Rosie Nunn** for administrative assistance to the Clerk, for their invaluable support. **Wayne Wardle of NRS Wastecare Ltd** for his support and protection of the Sand Martin colony in Meriden Quarry. **Mrs Jeanette Gray** and **Mrs Pat Mills** who have tirelessly campaigned on behalf of residents for community transport and reinstatement of the Ring & Ride Service. **Lee Butterworth** and **his team at Dovetail Facilities Management** for their rapid response during Storm Doris to our request to remove the fallen tree from Main Road.

Taxi Bus - 89 bus - Ring & Ride update

There have been several meetings with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) and IGO with the parish council and the residents' committee led by Mrs Jeanette Gray and Mrs Pat Mills. Following TfWM's public consultation which ran up until 10 February, they introduced a feeder bus to ferry people from their homes to the 89 bus stop. However, this was deemed unsuitable by the residents' committee as many of the people who were used to the Taxi Bus service could not, by any means, board the 89 bus due to accessibility issues.

Then it was agreed to introduce a shuttle service to carry people from their homes to the post office, doctor, library and to the local clubs on the following days and times:

- Tuesdays and Fridays 0945 to 1400
- Wednesdays 0900 to 1600

Also at one of these meetings, a timetable was discussed whereby the 89 would travel to

- Coventry on Monday, Wednesday and Friday 0900, 1307, 1553
- Solihull on Tuesday and Thursday 0950, 1150, 1550

The 89 service does also furnish the Heart of England School from 0815 to 0830 and again in the afternoon 1535 to 1550. Supposedly, it is not a school bus, but does carry a 'school service' notice on the front of the bus.

Mrs Gray said, "The new 89 bus service does 'roam' around the areas, as per the timetable. Again this has not proved popular, consequently people with disabilities and elderly cannot use ordinary public transport as some cannot even walk down their own garden paths. Hence the need for the Taxi Bus or Ring & Ride service.

"The journey to Coventry from Meriden takes one hour and the bus is too large to take people to the mobility centre in Coventry, and as for the journey to Solihull, the 89 does not go into the hospital. The Taxi Bus did! The 89 cannot take blind people as it has no communication system."

Aggie Wathes, member of the residents' committee, added, "The Taxi Bus does not run in Meriden anymore. The service we are getting at the moment is what they call the feeder bus. This is unofficially the pathetic answer to getting people on the 89 bus, but that is not what is required. What the Taxi Bus gave was a service which picked people up from their homes and took them shopping, to the post office and library on a regular basis."

Since the Taxi Bus service ceased in September, there has been continuous dialogue with TfWM and IGO which prompted them to conduct the public consultation. Changes have been made and there is still an opportunity to improve services further e.g. potential to drop residents at Hall Meadow Road to access the Balsall Common Surgery and to open up dialogue with Ring & Ride. A meeting has been scheduled for 9 May to meet with Ring & Ride, TfWM and IGO representatives, together with Meriden, Hampton and Catherine De Barnes representatives. You can read the updates from this meeting on the Parish Council website.

Failing to 'scoop the poop'

Dog fouling continues to be a problem in Meriden Parish. Once again we would like to remind you that if you take out a dog you must clean up after its mess, regardless of whether you are the owner or not. This anti-social behaviour is taken very seriously by the Police and Local Councils. As well as being an unsightly, unpleasant nuisance, dog mess can also be a health hazard. **This is why Meriden Sports Park is a dog-free zone.**

It is an offence to allow a dog to foul in a public place, without clearing the mess up; reference The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, previously The Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996.

Solihull environmental health officers make regular patrols and respond to complaints. For first time offenders fixed penalty notices of £75 (reduced to £50 if paid within 5 days) are given. Persistent offenders can be fined up to £1000 and have gone to jail in Solihull for such an offence. Reports of dog fouling can be done online @ <http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Pests-pollution-food-hygiene/animal/dogfouling>. Please be vigilant and responsible.