



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 29th April 2019  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr R Kipling RK		Cllr F Lynch-Smith FLS	
Cllr M Haque MH		Cllr M Lee ML	Apologies as leaving at 20.30
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

In attendance: Cllr Marie Woollard – new elected Member.

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr P Lee, Cllr M Nunn and Cllr Bell.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members accepted apologies from Cllrs P Lee, Nunn and Bell.

**2. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**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 of Last Meeting – 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed. All matters arising are included in agenda items.

ML advised Cllr P Lee, whilst not standing for election again, wished to continue supporting the parish council and has offered to continue organising the Remembrance Day Service and associated road closures; and to be part of the working group for Operation London Bridge. Chair thanked Cllr Lee for his continued support and welcomed him joining the working group.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Kipling.

**5. Finance**

**5.1** Members received Parish Council payment approvals for April. The clerk advised that payments included insurance renewal of £938.18 and unrepresented payment to Avon Planning of £882.00. Members agreed April payments of £5,656.84.

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

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Barber proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council April payments of £5,656.84 seconded by Cllr Haque.

Members received Sports Park payments approval for April. The clerk advised the payments were high due to unrepresented items at year end and annual service contract for Hygiene Solutions. Members approved Meriden Sports Park April payments of £6,360.18.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park April payments of £6,360.18 seconded by Cllr Barber.

### 5.2 St Laurence Church

Chair advised receipt of email from Peter Wright advising ill health and unavailability to meet before end May/beginning June. The transfer of War Memorial continues to roll on without conclusion. FLS requested an update from Caroline Stockham, SMBC Solicitor who is acting on behalf of parish council. There was frustration that 16 months have passed without resolution. ML stated that at a meeting in 2017 an in principle agreement was given by the parish council subject to legal advice. The parish council is willing to accept the transfer of the War Memorial with each party paying their own costs. ML added that funding is still available from Heritage Monuments Funding and this will support 2020 and 2021 Centenary Commemorations.

Additionally there is no conclusion to the NALC legal guidance given to the parish council that prohibits a parish council from contributing to the costs of maintaining church land and buildings. The PCC has challenged this decision and refers to the LGA 1972 as replacing the 1894 Act; this is not the case and NALC rule that the LGA 1972 does not supersede the 1894 Act and therefore the ruling remains current. RK advised the legal advice given was specific and clear. The parish council may contribute to church requests for funding for such projects as a soup kitchen or other church activities, but not to the maintenance of grounds and buildings belonging to the church.

The clerk advised the parish council is keen to move this on and conclude the matters and is seeking a meeting with the PCC. RK wished to attend.

**Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with St Laurence Church representatives to conclude the request for financial support from the parish council and also transfer of the Memorial. Cllr Kipling stated is willingness to attend a meeting. Clerk/Chair to contact Diocese and SMBC Solicitor.**

### 5.3 Finance Committee Recommendations

Chair advised that the finance committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> April and minutes had been circulated. The purpose of the meeting was to sign off year end 2018-19 in readiness for internal audit on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019. Therefore finance committee recommendation is to approve year end for internal audit. Members unanimously agreed.

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



**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved finance committee recommendation for year-end internal audit. Proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Barber.

**6. Progress Reports**

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee  
Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials  
Refer to item 5.2 above.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding  
Refer to item 5.2 above.

6.3 Meriden Pool

There have been two requests for Memorial Benches to be sited at the Pool. In principle Members agreed subject to SMBC approval and support for specification and installation.

**Action: Clerk to contact Bruce Brant Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.**

6.4 Allotments

Inspection to be carried out and invoices to be raised for new financial year tenancy. Members asked if there would be a rent increase and the clerk replied there will not due to the on-going discussions with Taylor Wimpey regarding land transfer and better water system.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr Barber to arrange date for inspection; clerk to chase Taylor Wimpey.**

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

FLS advise that she has volunteers assisting with walking the footpaths and officially report any areas in need of cutting back. She further added that the grit bin has disappeared from the corner of the A45 slip at Showell Lane.

**Action: Clerk to call SMBC.**

RK reported that when he attended a recent footpath meeting with Harworth Estates, Quarry Operators and SMBC, the quarry footpath diversion was to be maintained and the owners of the land Harworth Estates were responsible for its maintenance. This particular footpath runs alongside Meriden Quarry and connects to the Downlands which is the landscape (fields) behind Strawberry Fields.

**Action: Clerk to contact footpath officer and Harworth Estates and request maintenance.**

Members discussed the land behind Shirley's Garage and the three adjacent Cottages; it was reported that this land had been disturbed and boreholes had been drilled and drainage covers exposed. Apparently landowners had been asked to sell

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

their land and it was noted that this area was identified as one of the sites within the Local Plan draft consultation “call for sites”.

**Action: Clerk to follow up with planning.**

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Cllr Weaver advised the next meeting is 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019. She added her concern that the current diversion is affording drivers to use SatNavs to cut through the village avoiding diversion route. Who will police and enforce the routing agreement when the A452 reopens?

**Action: BB to contact Highways.**

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Cllr Weaver reported a good meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> April with speakers providing an overview of Localities. A forum for all parish and town councils to attend at the Renewal Centre in Solihull is arranged for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May to feed into locality working.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries

**Community Surgery 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019** – Hosted by clerk, Cllr Weaver and Cllr Barber.

- Resident concerns regarding pollarding of tree and thinning of hedgerow on highways/private driveway Berkswell Road opposite HoE Club.

**Action: clerk to report to Darren Parkin and request assistance.**

- Resident concerns regarding fallen tree removal from Birmingham Road Millison’s Wood. Reported to SMBC without action to date.

**Action: clerk to email Darren Parkin for update.**

- Resident concerns regarding traffic calming on fillongley; in particular junction with Leys Lane. Consistent traffic queuing at peak times. Also obstruction from parked vehicles blocking walkways and junction sight lines. Wanting PC support for improvement to current situation affecting residents driveways and access including pavement obstruction. RW requested all CCTV and photographic evidence be sent to the clerk who will liaise with highways officers.

**Action: clerk to contact highways; phase 2 parking restrictions underway with discussion and meeting to be arranged with Paul Tovey. Follow up meeting to be arranged.**

Additional discussions:-

- Enforcement officer update required and clerk to liaise with Paul Tovey;
- Date required for programme of works for TRO’s to be implemented;
- Commencement of speed watch – JB to chase up; all volunteers trained and ready to go to support TRO’s and traffic calming new speed limit introductions;
- Potential concerns re Meriden Quarry expansion. Application picked up regarding EIA for sand and gravel extension by NRS.

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

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- Maxstoke Lane/Maxstoke Close parking obstructions – WM Police referral.
- Potential closure of Spar Shop and conversion to ground floor apartment – resident concerns regarding loss of local retail? More retail requested as Meriden grows.

#### 6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB advised that Speed Watch will restart in May. He awaits PCSO Murdoch confirmation.

**Action: JB to liaise with Police to set up dates and target areas for speed watch to commence.**

#### 6.11 HS2

RW reported an on-line petition for HS2 on the petition.gov.uk website. There was absolute agreement to halt HS2 given the destruction of countryside and environmental damage being done.

**Action: Clerk to write to Caroline Spelman MP.**

#### 6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update (June 2019)

Working through year end closure; specialist works for pitch repairs and contract reviews. The next report is due at June meeting.

#### 6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

FLS advised nothing to report.

### 7. Clerk's Report

Report circulated to Members and there were no questions.

7.1 ML reported that the Annual Assembly will be combined with the launch of the Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 1 Consultation on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. The venue is the Scout Hut and a donation will be made to the Scouts to the same value as hire of village hall. Maurice Barlow will be bringing extra boards. The content of the evening will be a snap shot of what the steering group has been doing. Letters to landowners and local green space guidance will be circulated.

**It was resolved:** Members agreed the donation to the Scouts.

#### 7.4 Operation London Bridge

Nothing to report.

**Action: A working group to be made up of clerk, Cllrs Weaver, Barber, Lynch-Smith and Lee.**

### 8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

### 9. Correspondence & Communication

RW advised receipt of:-

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



- 1<sup>st</sup> Meriden Scouts – acknowledgement and thanks for donation for flag raising duties;
- Seafarers Association advising Red Ensign Day on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. This has already been included on the flag raising calendar and will automatically be done by 1<sup>st</sup> Meriden Scouts.

**10. Meriden Village Matters**

10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report. RW requested an email reminder be sent to Assistant Director Alison McGrory.

**Action: Clerk**

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Nothing to report.

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Nothing to report.

10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

Nothing to report.

10.5 Highways

The following update is received from Paul Tovey for this evening’s meeting:-

**Part-time School 20 mph Speed Limit** – Due to be implemented 15<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (copy of public notice attached)

**New Parking Restrictions (Phase 1)** – No date yet but programmed for Mid-June at latest. Notice will be issued in due course. Additional consultation with residents of Glovers Close and The Croft regarding the revocation of the evening restrictions which has led to the delay. It’s likely these will now not be revoked following feedback received.

**Further proposed parking restrictions (phase 2)** - Information gathering phase. If anyone at this evenings meeting would like a particular location to be included then please capture this and we can discuss when we meet on 13<sup>th</sup> May.

**Increased presence of Parking Warden** – Residents will see a greater presence in the area by the shops and school. Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May to agree how this is taken forward. Any feedback would be good to receive.

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

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**Zebra Crossing Fillongley Road** – Issues have generally settled down. We then plan remove temporary traffic calming features within 2 to 4 weeks of 20mph speed limit being introduced. The impact of the speed limit will be monitored and the results shared with the parish council to then seek agreement to either do nothing or put the traffic calming features back in permanently, potentially with some additional parking restrictions which links nicely to an opportunity to pick other any other parking issues in the village (phase 2).

**Action: RW/JB/Clerk meeting Paul Tovey on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019.**

RW advised Enforcement Officer has started and this is covered by a Service Level Agreement with MBC. We need to explore Leys Lane options; think about reducing speed limit on Birmingham Road from 50mph. Any other comments for the meeting please send to Clerk.

**10.6 Land Registry & Ownership**

RW advised that a draft Deed of Dedication has been sent to the clerk for approval for the Village Green to be designated a Centenary Field. Members agreed for the Deed of Dedication to be sent back for formalisation and approved process to conclude the matter.

**Action: Clerk to send back Members approval of Deed.**

**10.7 Mobile Mast Update**

Nothing to report.

**10.8 Local Council Award Scheme**

Nothing to report.

**10.8(i) Website**

Website meeting arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> May 2-4pm for RW/JB/Clerk.

**10.9 Meriden Public Transport**

The new Community bus has started with positive feedback.

**Action: Clerk to follow up meeting request with Transport for West Midlands.**

**11. Planning Matters**

**11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update**

The Regulation 14 consultation launch is arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019.

**11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid**

Due to Purdah and elections the website re-opens early to mid May. A list to be prepared of items for inclusion and quotations obtained for venue hire, refreshments, printing, banner, advertising.

**Action: ML/RW/Clerk.**

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

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence

Nothing to report.

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

Nothing to report.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates

Clerk reported current planning applications in process are:-

<b>STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED APRIL 2019</b>		
<b>Address</b>	<b>Planning Application</b>	<b>Status</b>
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02008/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02233/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
The Cottage Eaves Green Lane	PL/2018/02965/PPFL Demolition of existing workshop and replacement building of dormer bungalow	<b>Approved</b>
Fairview	Appeal Notice	<b>Inspectorate Appeal Upheld Refusal</b>
Brailes Farm	PL/2019/00353/PPFL New driveway and entrance off Fillongley Road	<b>Refused</b>
Spar Shop The Green	Conversion of retail premises to 2 bedroom apartment PL/2019/00408/PPFL	<b>Approved</b>
Thebes Close	PL/2019/00512/MINFHO Single storey extension and Juliette balcony	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Thatched Cottage	PL/2018/00635/LBC New porch to front and 2 storey extension to rear	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
7 Grace Road	PL/2019/01002/MINFHO Side 2-storey extension and rear single storey extension	<b>New</b>
50 Fillongley Road	PL/2019/00942/MINFHO Single storey rear extension and 2-storey side extension	<b>New</b>

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



Meriden Quarry (Cornets End Farm)	PL/2019/01035/EIASCR Screening opinion in respect of proposed quarry for sand extraction	<b>New (below response received from Mr Wigfield 15-4-19)</b>
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*"I can confirm that the request for a screening opinion relates to a potential proposal for new mineral extraction beyond the existing quarry boundary, to the south-east along Cornets End Lane. Apologies that you couldn't access the relevant documents - I had deliberately not made them public initially because, whilst the Council's screening opinion itself goes on the public register once issued, I wasn't sure if the plans and documents provided to the LPA in connection with a request for a screening opinion should also be in the public realm. There doesn't seem to be anything on this point in the Regs, but having consulted colleagues we have concluded that there is no reason why the documents should not be made public, so I will change their status so they can be viewed on the internet - but for your convenience, they are also attached to this email."*

RK stated that he would like to attend the next Quarry Liaison meeting and also advised the latest application for 50 Fillongley Road detracts from original design.

**12. Parish Council Development Day**

RW advised newly elected Members Cllr Marie Woollard and Cllr James Hughes require email addresses to be set up.

**Action: Clerk to contact Real Point.**

**13. Annual Parish Assembly**

Arranged for 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2019 to include launch of Neighbourhood Plan consultation.

**Action: RW/ML**

**14. Contested Election 2019**

RW advised Meriden was uncontested and congratulated Members; there are two vacancies for co-option and an advert and application form have been drafted. RW invited RK to applying for one of the vacancies due to his experience and knowledge. An application form to be emailed to RK.

**Action: Clerk to email application to RK for submission. Advert to be placed in noticeboards and onto website.**

**15. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda**

The matter of the Big Issue has been raised where the seller has targeted vulnerable residents to purchase more than one copy. Cllr P Lee has already contacted the Big Issue regarding their sellers. The parish council requests better training and less aggressive sales techniques. RK suggested a formal letter be written from the parish council regarding training for sellers. RW said Cllr Lee had already done this and a follow phone call should be made.

**Action: Clerk to call Big Issue.**

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



**16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019 at 7.30 pm  
Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

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

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**CLOSED MEETING UNDER CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**17. Clerk's Remuneration from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019**

RW advised that NALC have undertaken and completed a salary evaluation which has included regrading and scale point amendments. The National Joint Council for Local Government Services has agreed the new pay scales for 2019-2020 to be implemented from 1st April 2019.

Therefor the new salary banding from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 is scale point 20 @ £25,295 p.a. pro-rata within new scale range of LC2 (18-23).

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously approved the new pay scale with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2019; proposed Cllr Kipling and seconded Cllr Barber.

The meeting closed at 21.15 hours.

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

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