

# Meriden Parish Council

*The Centre of England*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th February 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	20.30 left meeting		
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

## 1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Nunn (extended leave of absence due to ill health), Cllr P Lee, Cllr M Lee and Cllr Bell.

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

## 2. Public Participation

There were 8 members of the public present.

RW welcomed Mr Paul Tovey, Group Leader Sustainable Travel & Highway Management SMBC, who had taken away public concerns and opened the floor.

Mr Tovey provided an update on the recent traffic calming trials in Meriden.

- The reference to Meriden School Crossing should be termed Meriden School Zebra Crossing;
- The top chicane has been removed before the bridge as you leave the village;
- Feedback received is that the current Fillongley Road trials have had a positive effect;
- Monitoring continues regarding impact of traffic calming measures;
- Taking forward 20mph speed limit;
- Working with the Parish Council on other traffic calming measures with introduction of TROs to Main Road, Service Road and Enforcement Officer Initiative.

Concerns raised by resident attendees:-

- Cars are overtaking every morning trying to beat oncoming traffic priorities through chicane and slow moving traffic;
- There have been accidents and new layout is dangerous;
- Traffic queues back to Leys Lane causing a bottleneck to get onto Fillongley Road;
- Leys Lane being used as cut through to zebra crossing and traffic chicane by Meriden School;
- Situation worsened by old Fillongley Road, known as service road to Alspath Road properties;

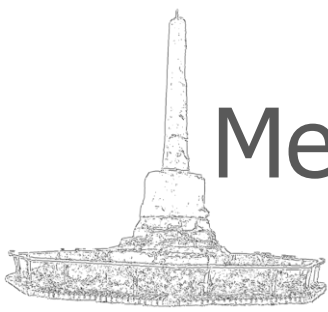
Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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- The Alspath/Leys/Fillongley junction is usually blocked by queueing traffic along with parked cars and some obstruction from school drop off/pick up times. There is enormous congestion at peak times and this could be improved with yellow lines.
- The slow moving farm machinery and vehicles required to be moved between fields are also subject to overtaking by drivers who are unable to wait behind slower moving traffic; particularly the time it takes for farm vehicles/machinery to gather speed after being stationary at chicanes.
- The chicanes are just about wide enough but current width will not allow for combines to get through. A width of 9'6" is needed at curb level for safe movement of agricultural vehicles.
- Flashing speed signs (like Tile Hill) should be implemented.

Mr Tovey replied that phase 1 of the new traffic regulations are currently out for public consultation until 22<sup>nd</sup> February. SMBC want to hear comments both positive and negative and what support there is for phase 1. It is likely that the 20mph speed limit will be implemented by 15<sup>th</sup> March and will take 4 weeks to implement. Thereafter all comments received will be brought together and a plan of action worked out. He further advised that communication with West Midlands Police confirms a mobile speed camera will be used periodically. Mr Tovey added that a vehicle width of 4.2 metres through the chicane was normal; however he is happy to meet members of the farming community to measure vehicle widths and run some tests with moving machinery on the public highway. He further stated that the flashing 3, 2, 1 signs are not known to be very effective and prove to be a drain on limited resources.

To conclude Mr Tovey advised that a petition had been received for a puffin crossing and this was to be heard at Cabinet meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

- It was stated that the current zebra crossing is shaded one side and in full sunlight on the other. With low sun during autumn winter months depending on time of day, drivers cannot see the zebra crossing. Photographs evidence this statement and are to be sent to Mr Tovey.

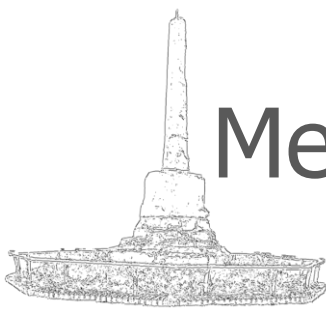
All comments during public consultation should be sent to [TROrders@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:TROrders@solihull.gov.uk) or post to Mr L Stevenson.

Chair thanked Mr Tovey for his attendance once again, his actions and listening to residents and taking away ideas that allow for revision and discussion for improvements and further trials.

- A question was asked about the concentration of traffic calming for Fillongley Road only? Traffic obstruction requires sorting out outside Darlaston Court due to pavement obstruction and parking.

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- Eastern Green proposed traffic layout is requested to be looked at particularly with the new road junction that does not come as far as Oak Lane to accommodate a better transport service from the X1 bus that does not currently service Millisons Wood residents going to Coventry.

The parish council commented that this proposal is part of Coventry’s housing needs allocation with new road layout to A45 required as access routes. There is no doubt that Meriden will be effected by this proposal; Allesley Parish Council and Bablake Ward is engaging with Coventry City Council officers. It has also been noted that Highways England have objected to proposed scheme in its current form.

There was a short break for members of the public to leave the building before full council meeting resumed.

### **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 Meetings – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed. All matters arising are included in agenda items.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Lynch-Smith.

### **5. Finance**

5.1 Members received Parish Council payment approvals for January. Members agreed February payments of £4,489.82. The clerk advised total sum elevated due to additional expenditure for Avon Planning £882.00, Website refresh £360.00, Internal Audit £203.90 and Training/CPD £186.00.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council February payments of £4,489.82 seconded by Cllr Barber.

Members received Sports Park payments approval for February. Members approved Meriden Sports Park February payments of £2,987.69.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park February payments of £2,987.69 seconded by Cllr Barber.

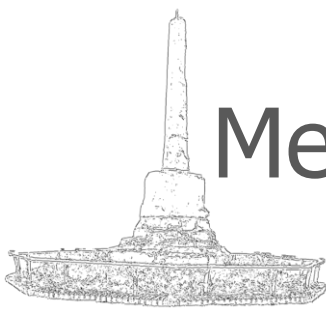
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## 5.2 St Laurence Church Request

This item remains unresolved. A NALC Legal Briefing held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March will undoubtedly lead to a conclusion. However there has been no contact from Andrew Kinsey after several emails requesting his assistance. Cllr Lynch-Smith requested an email reminder be sent with a bcc to Nick Page, CEO.

**Action: Clerk to chase SMBC Solicitor, Andrew Kinsey, for legal opinion and copy in Nick Page, CEO, SMBC.**

## 5.3 Finance Committee Recommendations

- Interim Internal Audit

RW advised the internal audit had been completed with two minor internal control recommendations reported.

- (i) Payment Controls – to put in place a detailed office procedure note covering routine and urgent electronic payment arrangements.
- (ii) Bank Reconciliations – the review of bank reconciliations by Councillors is not evidenced regarding checking of bank reconciliations and a simple check schedule.

**Action: Clerk/RFO to write procedures and have in place for year-end internal audit.**

- Year End Internal Audit

RW recommended approval of quotation for audit, mileage and professional indemnity insurance £250 plus mileage of £18.90.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** Members unanimously approved quotation for year-end internal audit.

- Budget 2019-2020

RW advised that revisions had been made to the outline draft budget and headlines included income amendments to income reflecting increase to precept, tracker interest added, VAT calculated to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018, restricted reserves of £45,725 added. Expenditure adjustments were made removing 3% from chair allowance, home working, war memorial, flag raising, all S137 and community speed watch, Bloom, Local Council Award Scheme, Events and Miscellaneous. GDPR and Election costs had been added to Legal/Professional budget heading.

Finance Committee agreed the revisions and final budget; Recommendation is made to full Council for their approval.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** Members approved the 2019-2020 Budget in accordance with Finance Committee recommendation; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Barber.

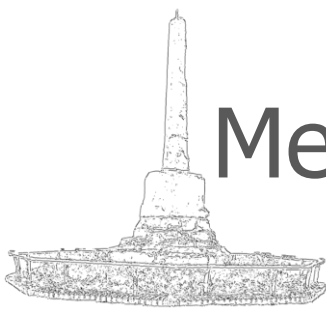
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## **6. Progress Reports**

### 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.

### 6.3 Meriden Pool

Nothing to report.

### 6.4 Allotments

Clerk advised reports of two allotment fence panels are down due to recent high winds. A fence post has gone too. Clerk has emailed Taylor Wimpey and also requested quotation from local contractor.

**Action: Clerk to chase Taylor Wimpey; obtain quotation from contractor and speak to Allotment Association Chair to arrange on-site meeting.**

### 6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

### 6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

The next meeting will be 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

### 6.7 Solihull Area Committee

The next SAC meeting will be 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

### 6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Nothing to report.

### 6.9 Community Surgeries

**Community Surgery 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019** – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant. Cllr Weaver joined us for part of the surgery.

- Concerns raised on Fordson Farm planning applications – two refusals and boundary lines changed; dubious. Highways land that has been built on.

**Action: Bruce Brant advised that Highways going through enforcement process; finalising legal statements with Solicitor. There will be a formal court case. Management responsibility of highways management for Harvest Hill, Becks and Shaft Lane is Adrian Matthews and Arron Heer.**

- Eastern Green development and new road links on A45 – request to get a copy of the proposals. Re-route X1 to Oak Lane to better serve Millisons Wood residents.

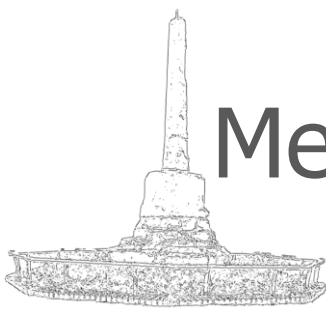
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**Action: Clerk to contact Coventry CC planning officers and obtain link to documents.**

Additional discussions:-

- Active Citizen Funding  
Sgt Hayley Thompson – funding available for anything that contributes to health and wellbeing agenda for local communities. Currently fund is grossly underspent.
- Locality and identifying vulnerable residents for Winter Warmth Initiative.
- Members meeting Planning Officers on 4<sup>th</sup> March – emphasis on locality working and better engagement.
- FOI to be sent in to Tammy Rowley requesting grass cutting/street cleansing/gully cleansing.

## 6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB advised that there are 4 volunteers who will attend training on 27<sup>th</sup> February and 6 volunteers to attend training on 7<sup>th</sup> March. A PCSO is to be available to restart the Community Speed Watch initiative.

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

## 6.11 HS2

RW advised notification received regarding Utility Surveys to be undertaken from 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019 effecting A45, A452 and M42. There are drop in sessions being held across the Borough from 7<sup>th</sup> February to 28<sup>th</sup> March.

A meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm at Civic Suite SMBC providing an overview of proposed work is arranged. Neither Cllr Weaver nor the clerk can attend and Cllr Kipling agreed to go and provide update at March meeting. All information received to be placed on website.

**Action: Cllr Kipling to attend HS2 Briefing on 25<sup>th</sup> February; clerk to ensure all updates received at placed on website.**

## 6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update

Defer to March meeting as joint meeting of Directors and Trustees scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

## 6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Nothing to report.

## 7. Clerk's Report

Report circulated to Members; Cllr Kipling requested clarification on Co-Op meeting and "good outcome".

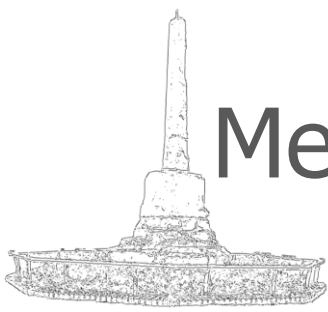
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RW advised that she and the clerk attended the meeting with residents and it was obvious that the large vehicles delivering bread, chilled/frozen and ambient totalled 23 per week. Residents in Arden Close were most affected by rear deliveries with significant obstruction if delivering to front of shop. The Co-Op regional management team took this into account and recommend using 6 smaller vehicles with immediate effect. A follow up meeting is arranged for 7<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

## **8. District and Ward Councillor Reports**

Nothing to report.

## **9. Correspondence & Communication**

RW advised receipt of:-

- Spring Ball 2019 Invitation from the Mayor of Solihull;
- Velo Event Update for Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2019 – Meriden will be on early part of road with full road closures.

## **10. Meriden Village Matters**

### 10.1 Library Update

RW advised that she and clerk were meeting Kate Bunting and Emma Mayhew on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at 11am. The outcome of meeting will be reported at March meeting.

**Action: Clerk/RW and SMBC Libraries Kate Bunting and Emma Mayhew.**

### 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

RW advised receipt of email from Paul Tovey confirming Enforcement Officer Initiative to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019. There will be an allocation of 30 hours of enforcement for Meriden per year.

**Action: RW/Clerk to continue engagement with Mr Tovey and Highways officers to effect implementation and finalise agreement.**

### 10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Nothing to report.

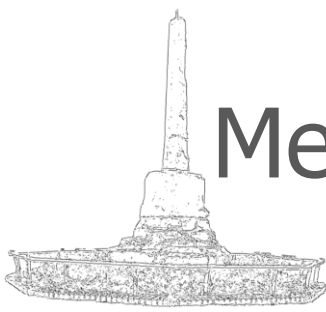
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10.7 Mobile Mast Update  
Nothing to report.

10.8 Local Council Award Scheme  
Nothing to report.

10.8(i) Website  
Clerk advised that the website content is being migrated.  
**Action: Working group continues to refresh and revise content pages.**

10.9 Meriden Public Transport  
Clerk reported that a meeting with TfWM had been requested.  
**Action: Clerk to follow up meeting request with Transport for West Midlands.**

## **11. Planning Matters**

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update  
RW advised that draft v11 of Neighbourhood Plan had been sent to Avon Planning for tweaking; what is left to do is page numbering and improving photographs. In Solihull's draft Local Plan consultation there is a 100 new house allocation to Meriden. The Purdah period is delaying the Regulation 14 consultation. It is anticipated that we need to allocate a further 2 hours of Avon Planning time from 2018/19 reserves.  
**Action: RW/ML to continue steering the working group.**

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid  
Nothing to report.

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan  
Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence  
Reported in item 2 above by Mr Tovey.

### 11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

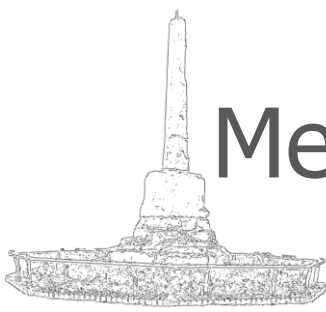
RW advised that the closing date for draft Local Plan consultation is 15<sup>th</sup> March and requested all comments be forwarded to RW for inclusion. Specifically concentrate on infrastructure, open spaces, transport and influence on houses being allocated and house for older people, Balsall Common extra traffic and village redesign.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates  
Clerk reported current planning applications in process are:-

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<b>STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FEBRUARY 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>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02743/PPFL	<b>Refused</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02745/PPFL	<b>Refused</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02744/PPFL	<b>Approved</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02746/PPFL	<b>Approved</b>
Biomass Plant Meriden	PL/2018/01671/EISCOP due to revision of build & plant use – new design due to non-construction of in-vessel composting.	<b>Approved</b>
The Cottage Eaves Green Lane	PL/2018/029656/PPFL Demolition of existing workshop and replacement building of dormer bungalow	<b>Not Found</b>
Ivy House Farm Harvest Hill	PL/2018/03343/PPFL Removal of steel buildings and conversion of brick building into 2 bed and 3 bed residential dwellings	<b>Approved</b>
74 Fillongley Road	PL/2018/03482/MINFHO Single storey & side porch extension	<b>Approved</b>
Swallowfield	PL/2018/03499/MINFHO First & Second Floors additions	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Grange Farm	PL/2018/03555/MINFHO Single storey rear extension to dwelling Unit 2	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Fairview	Appeal Notice	<b>Submission deadline 22-2-19</b>
Lawrenny	PL/2019/00192/MINFHO Erect first floor balcony	<b>New</b>

**Action:** Clerk and Planning Committee (RW/RK) to monitor and process.

## **12. Parish Council Development Day**

RW advised that we need to agree a sub- group to undertake quality audit for Local Council Award Scheme. It was considered that a Monday evening be preferable and the working group would comprise clerk, RW, JB and RK.

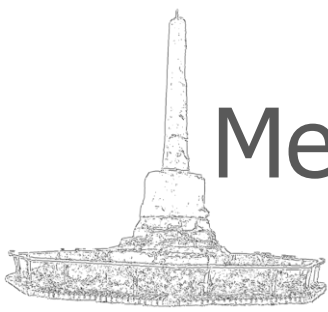
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**Action: Date to be arranged.**

**13. Annual Parish Assembly**

Deferred to next meeting; clerk to take advice from WALC on holding an Annual Parish meeting during Purdah period from 26<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> May at 10pm.

**Action: clerk to take advice from John Crossling, County Officer, WALC.**

**14. Contested Election 2019**

Nothing to report.

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

The clerk advised of a briefing she attended at recent Practitioners Conference regarding Operation London Bridge and what protocol to be in place for Parish and Town Councils. Members requested this be put onto March agenda with slides.

**Action: Clerk to put item on March agenda and share slides.**

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 25th March 2019 at 7.30 pm Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.12 hours.

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