

Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 21st January 2019
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr M Lee		Cllr F Lynch-Smith FLS	
Cllr R Kipling RK		Cll M Haque	
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

1. Welcome & Apologies

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

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

2. Public Participation

There were 20 members of the public present.

RW welcomed Mr Paul Tovey, Group Leader Sustainable Travel & Highway Management SMBC and opened the floor.

Mr Tovey provided an update on the recent traffic calming trials in Meriden. Representation from residents, disabled residents, Meriden School parents and PTA, farming community, out of parish road users and home owners affected by recent trials.

- Temporary and in place for one month;
- Speed survey current being undertaken for traffic in and out of Village;
- Removal of traffic calming at bridge;
- Grid locked with heavy congestion during peak times;
- Developing regulations for parking issues;
- TRO's consultation imminent for parking issues in wider village;
- The crossing is settling down with officers observing driving and pedestrian users;
- A petition has been presented to SMBC by the local community for the crossing to be made into a Puffin, to go to Cabinet on 28th March 2019.
- New TRO's will go to public consultation on 1st February and will run for 21 days to 28th February. It has been well supported and involved Cabinet Member.
- 20 mph proposed outside school;

Concerns raised by attendees:-

- Child safety
- Survey results for crossing;
- Pedestrians safety when using the crossing;
- Driver awareness;

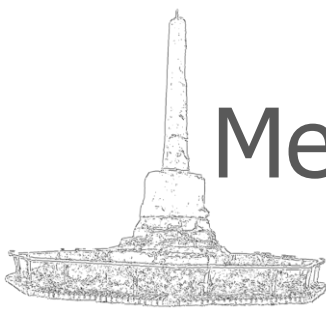
Signed **Chair** **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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- Speed of traffic – reduce speed 50, 40, 30 mph instead of 50 – 30mph;
- Introduction of speed cameras;
- Look at extending designated parking bays for school;
- Traffic calming needed to reduce drivers speed when approaching crossing;
- Drivers still refuse to stop at crossing and show no awareness of crossing approach;
- Residents increasingly unable to get on and off driveways due to traffic congestion from chicanes;
- Sight lines reduced due to re-positioning of barriers;
- Displacement of parking due to restrictions outside school making obstructions to driveways, pavement parking and parking;
- 25% of Fillongley Road traffic now using Leys Lane;
- Leys Lane now cut through and request for bollards to reduce traffic flow;
- Obstruction to Highfield junction with displaced parking;
- From 7am traffic queuing to Lodge Green Lane to get through chicane;
- Very dangerous with several shunts reported to date;
- More lighting is needed on crossing. Poor visibility when approaching crossing as very dark either side;
- Traffic travelling from Fillongley into Meriden going too fast. Speeds reduced when approaching Brailes Farm but then speeds up again;
- Noise increased due to engines revving at chicanes;
- Problems getting out of Meriden Nursery at rear of school for staff and parents;
- Drivers impatience causing safety issues as some not queuing and waiting but overtaking and forcing their way through into the path of oncoming traffic;
- Parents parking inconsiderably due to displaced parking outside school and around crossing causing obstructions to pedestrians and home owners;

RW reported that WM Police now have insurance in place and Meriden Speed Watch will recommence; volunteers are needed and training will be provided. RW added that the parish council in partnership with SMBC will have their own enforcement officer in place for 1st April 2019 to reinforce the proposed new TROs.

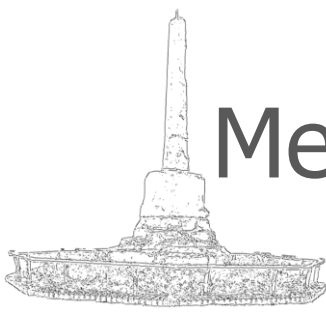
RW thanked Mr Tovey and members of the public for their attendance and advised it had been a useful session to explore options, receive public feedback and be updated on SMBC's actions from October and December's meetings. Mr Tovey agreed to attend the next parish council meeting on 18th February 2019.

Mr Tovey's actions to report at next meeting include:-

- Circulate a copy of the before Traffic Speed Surveys for Fillongley Road (attached)
- Circulate a copy of the after surveys currently on-going / concerned these are in different location too.

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- Carry out some intermediate speed checks in between build-outs due to concerns that traffic then travels at a higher speed to make up lost time.
- Consider reducing speed limit on the approach to the village from the north 50mph to 40 mph.
- Review lighting levels in the vicinity of the new Zebra crossing; particularly concerned about footway on opposite side from the school
- Chicanes generally not working; traffic speeds up between measures / cause heavy braking / accelerating; too close to junction and horns sounded regularly.
- Pedestrian guard rail type to be checked opposite school
- Check displace traffic volumes and speeds on Leys Lane
- Request for increased Police enforcement of traffic speeds
- TRO plan shared; further hard copies requested for display in Library.
- Request for average speed cameras
- Request to consider extending parking bay
- Concern raised about what parents should do who have to travel to school from Millisons Wood. Discuss options with school.
- Awareness of need for large agricultural vehicles to use this section of the highway network.
- Request to convert the facility to a Puffin signal controlled facility, as raised in the petition.

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 – 17th December 2018 & EGM 7th January 2019

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17th December 2018, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed. All matters arising are included in agenda items. The minutes of the EGM held on 7th January 2019 circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 17th December 2018 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Barber. The minutes of the EGM held on 7th January 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr M Lee.

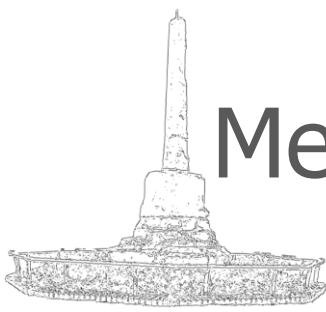
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5. Finance

5.1 Members received Parish Council payment approvals for January. Members agreed January payments of £3,240.60.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Kipling proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council January payments of £3,240.60 seconded by Cllr Barber.

Members received Sports Park payments approval for January. Clerk advised that £184.80 is to be added onto payments sheet due to late receipt of invoice for boot brushes. Members approved Meriden Sports Park January payments of £3,240.60 plus £184.80.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Barber proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park January payments of £3,240.60 plus £184.80 seconded by Cllr Kipling.

5.2 St Laurence Church Request

RW advised the parish council still awaits receipt of advice from SMBC Legal Services; and added that NALC is hosting a Legal Briefing event on 2nd March for parish councils and the content will include financial assistance to Churches.

Action: Clerk to chase SMBC Solicitor, Andrew Kinsey, for legal opinion.

5.3 Finance Committee Recommendations

RW reported finance committee met on 14th January but the meeting was not quorate. The budget was deferred to post interim internal audit at which point the clerk/RFO will fine tune, review headings and have ready for finance committee's next meeting 11th February, for approval and recommendation to full council at February's meeting. ML undertook the internal control checks for quarter 3 in readiness for audit.

Action: Clerk/RFO to review budget and undertake internal audit.

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 but ML advised there was no available funding from Birmingham Airport for St Laurence.

6.3 Meriden Pool

Clerk advised the Friends Group supported by SMBC Rangers planted a 30 metre replacement hedge on 11th January.

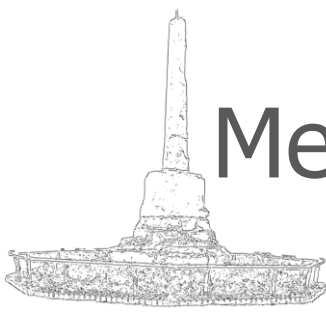
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Phase 2 planting of the rear hedge will be undertaken on 25th January, supported by Rangers and Meriden School Eco Club. RW recorded thanks on behalf of the parish council to the Friends Group, Rangers and Meriden School.

Action: Clerk to liaise with SMBC, Meriden School and Friends to maximise MBC support for planting phase 2 rear hedge.

6.3(i) Red Kite Management Plan & Suez Funding
Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments
Nothing to report.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum
Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group
The next meeting will be 4th March 2019.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee
RW reported that January's meeting was well attended with increased membership. The Charter was signed off and the launch of the Charter will be 19th March 2019 6.30 – 8.30 pm at The Core, Solihull in the presence of the CEO and Leader of the Council.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List
FLS reported that the Tree Officer is looking at TPO's outside Meriden School, Fillongley Road.

6.9 Community Surgeries
Community Surgery 7th January 201 – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant.

- Concerns raised over Heart of England Club parking and enforcement; new licensee; resurrection of underground car parking.

Action: Bruce Brant to contact David Wigfield and Stephen Wilkinson outlining issues raised.

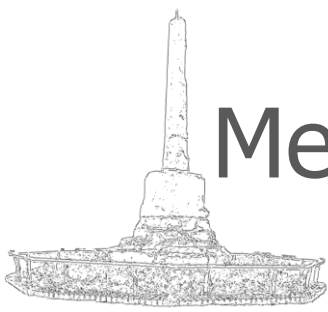
Followed up 2018 actions and closed outstanding issues.

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.
- Picnic Bench and paving for Pool Project; sourced, ordered and awaiting installation date as identified in Ward Action Plan.

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- Data evidence for Hampton Lane speed restrictions; 1,2,3 signage now removed.....Highways to be contacted to see what next to reduce speeds into village.
- Request for Alison McGrory to meet Meriden PC to discuss Locality issues and more.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB advised insurance is now in place and Speed Watch may commence once again. Training to be arranged and a request for volunteers to be assist the parish council to be made with a view to setting up training joint training with Hampton. JB to organise dates future speed watch dates.

Action: JB to arrange training and set up dates for speed watch to commence.

6.11 HS2

RW advised there will be a series of briefings held around the Borough. Dates to be circulated as and when received.

Action: Clerk to circulate when received.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update

Nothing to report.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Nothing to report.

7. **Clerk's Report**

No questions from clerk's reported circulated prior to meeting.

Report circulated to Members. Paul Tovey to be invited to attend January's meeting to provide Members and Resident updates to traffic calming measures re. crossing and Fillongley Road priority/give way chicane.

8. **District and Ward Councillor Reports**

Nothing to report.

9. **Correspondence & Communication**

Nothing to report.

10. **Meriden Village Matters**

10.1 Library Update

RW advised that she and clerk were meeting Kate Bunting and Emma Mayhew on 27th February 2019.

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

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

ML reported one Vigil is planned for 27th June 2019.

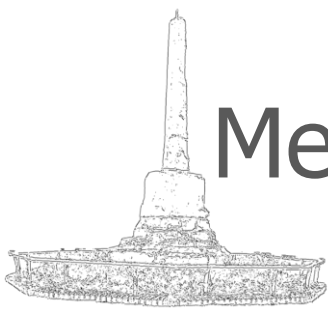
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10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site
Nothing to report.

10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report; awaiting meeting date with Andrew Kinsey, Solicitor, to resolve.

Action: Clerk to chase Andrew Kinsey.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

RW advised that an email received from Richard Beech, Taylor Wimpey Adoptions Manager, providing the following update:-

“I have a copy of the section 106 now and all the planning drawings which I need to digest before I can understand exactly what we need to do. I have contacted Solihull Highways to discuss the steps but the officer in charge has now left and I am waiting for them to let me know who is looking after this job. I have been in touch with Severn Trent to locate the water meter for the allotments. I have your key for your shed. We need to address the shed issue as well. I am very busy at the moment and on my own but will endeavour to push this job forward to completion.”

Action: Clerk to follow up with Mr Beech.

10.5 Highways

Mr Paul Tovey, Group Leader, Sustainable Travel & Highway Management, attended October, December and January’s parish council meetings to provide concerned residents with an overview and update of the recent road traffic calming measures being trialled on Fillongley Road. Attendance at the meetings represented parents of Meriden school children, residents and disabled residents, the farming community, out of parish drivers and pedestrians. Mr Tovey listened to the issues and concerns raised, and emphasised Highways recognised the need for traffic calming and currently were working through a number of trials to find a satisfactory solution to the many problems currently facing residents and users of Fillongley Road. Mr Tovey will be attending February’s parish council meeting to provide updates and answer further questions and concerns.

Mr Stephen Hawley and the parish council have worked together to provide solutions to the many traffic issues on Main Road.

Public consultation on proposed new TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) begins on 1st February running until 22nd February. The plans may be viewed in the Parish Council Office, Mondays and Tuesdays only or the Library Monday, Thursday and Saturday. Letters have been sent to properties on highways affected by the proposals for their participation in the public consultation. All works are expected to be in place and concluded by 31st March 2019.

Action: Clerk to monitor trials with residents and SMBC; and be copied into all email communications.

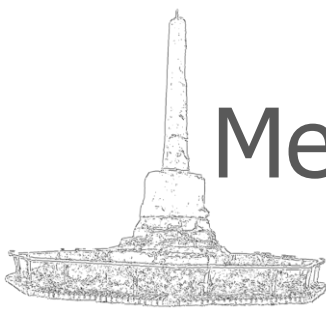
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10.6 Land Registry & Ownership
Nothing to report.

10.7 Mobile Mast Update
Nothing to report.

Action: Clerk to re-engage discussions with the Manor Hotel.

10.8 Local Council Award Scheme
Nothing to report.

10.8(i) Website

Clerk advised that the website is being updated and the working party is to meet at end of January.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Real Point for late January.

10.9 Meriden Public Transport

RW reported that the following had been received from Kieron Bridges, TfWM, advising the following:-

“The proposal around increasing roaming zones was based around the possibility that a standard bus service would be removed from Chadwick End. This is no longer the case, so up until the end of August, the 89 and feeder bus service will be remaining as-is. The 82 service will have some minor timetable changes, especially around the evening peak, but there will not be any changes to the route. We expect to be in a position to confirm who will be operating that route in the next few days.”

Action: Clerk to write to Jon Hayes and TfWM Team regarding new operator and 89 roaming and feeder bus service.

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

ML provided an update on draft v10 of Neighbourhood Plan; there is some polishing to do and content is required where highlighted i.e. open green spaces, rural transport, highways and mapping. Some re-wording is also required in the Design Statement. This will be undertaken over the next couple of weeks and then sent to Avon Planning for final polish prior to public consultation on 9th March; however there may be a clash with SMBC’s consultation on their draft Local Plan Review.

Action: ML to continue steering the working group in readiness for public consultation on 9th March.

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

ML indicated a new application will be done post April; however quotes have been received from Avon Planning for mapping detailing open green space, boundary map and consultant hours to a maximum of £720. There is restricted reserve set aside for Neighbourhood Plan which may be used for this purpose and to meet Regulation 14 consultation period.

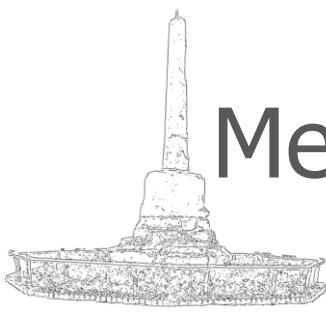
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The new budget for 2019-2020 will also have a restricted reserve allocated to concluding the Neighbourhood Plan process. Any additional funding that may be externally sourced will be used instead of reserves.

Action: ML to send RW and clerk v10 highlighted parts for their input and content amendments/inclusions.

IT WAS RESOLVED: Members considered the use of restricted reserve for the purpose of mapping and consultant hours to meet Regulation 14 consultation process. Members approved the expenditure; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

ML added that the timescale being worked to is mid-February send to SMBC for comments and amends; 6 week turnaround with public consultation booked for 9th March 2019 at the Village Hall between 10am – 12pm. Further displays will be accessible via the Library and Pavilion for the local community to comment.

Action: ML to arrange for memory sticks to be sent to steering group.

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence

Highways has been covered by Mr Tovey under item 2 of agenda.

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

Nothing to report.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates

RW advised the Biomass response has been sent to SMBC with significant technical questions. A & A application has been declined but NRS application is approved.

Clerk reported current planning applications in process are:-

STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED JANUARY 2019		
Address	Planning Application	Status
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02008/PPFL	Awaiting decision
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02233/PPFL	Awaiting decision
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02743/PPFL	Awaiting decision
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02745/PPFL	Awaiting decision
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02744/PPFL	Awaiting decision
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02746/PPFL	Awaiting decision

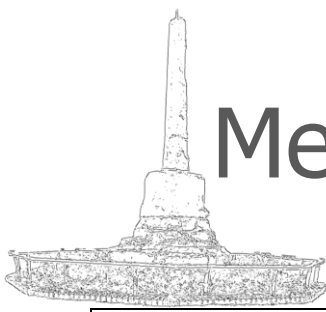
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Land SW Meriden Quarry Cornets End Lane	PL/2018/02524/MWMAJ	Approved
Biomass Plant Meriden	PL/2018/01671/EISCOP due to revision of build & plant use – new design due to non- construction of in-vessel composting.	Awaiting decision
A & A Recycling	NEW Hours of Opening 6-10 Mon-Fri 6-4 Sat & Sun	Refused
NRS c/o OS Holdings	NEW for transport workshop & offices ex Coleman Site	Approved
155A Main Road	PL/2018/01997/PPFL resubmission due to land ownership of PL/2018/00531/PPFL.	Approved
The Cottage Eaves Green Lane	PL/2018/029656/PPFL Demolition of existing workshop and replacement building of dormer bungalow	Awaiting decision
145 Fillongley Road	PL/2018/03065/MINFHO Single Storey front & side extension	Approved
Shirley's Garage	PL/2018/03237/PPFL Demolition of Garage and erection of 8 new dwellings	Approved
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	Awaiting decision
74 Fillongley Road	PL/2018/03482/MINFHO Single storey & side porch extension	Awaiting decision
Swallowfield	PL/2018/03499/MINFHO First & Second Floors additions	Awaiting decision
Grange Farm	PL/2018/03555/MINFHO Single storey rear extension to dwelling Unit 2	Awaiting decision

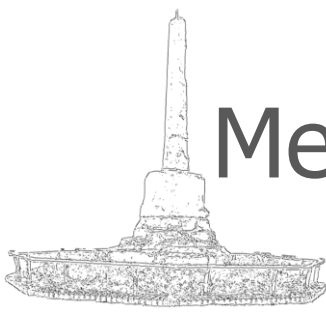
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RK recorded thanks to RW, Clerk and Mrs Parker for their diligence in responding to the planning notification; it is noted how technical and detailed the recent applications content is presented; the detailed replies to SMBC and EA are excellent.

The delegated decision making process needs to be understood and an invitation for planning officers to meet councillors should be arranged specifically for Meriden Quarry but also wider parish i.e. Shirley's Garage.

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

Action: Members requested a meeting be arranged with Mr David Wigfield regarding decision making process by SMBC - clerk.

12. Parish Council Development Day

Deferred to next meeting.

13. Annual Parish Assembly

Deferred to next meeting.

14. Contested Election 2019

RW advised that the date of the briefing event for interested parish councillors is 28th January 2018 at the Council House, Solihull. Information is in noticeboards and on website.

15. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Members requested the attendance of Mr Wigfield, Planning Officer, at next parish council meeting.

Action: Clerk to arrange meeting for planning and councillors.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 18th February 2019 at 7.30 pm Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.23 hours.

Signed Chair Dated

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