

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th June 2019
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr F Lynch-Smith	
Cllr J Barber JB	Vice Chair	Cllr M Woollard	
Cllr R Kipling		Cllr J Hughes	
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

In attendance: Cllr D Howell.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed everyone. Apologies received from Cllr Nunn who remains seriously ill in hospital and we send our very best wishes to Cllr Nunn and his family at this difficult time.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted apologies from Cllr K Allsopp.

2. Public Participation

There were 4 residents in attendance along with Hospital Directors from Woodland View. Chair opened the floor for questions:-

- Sunita Heeley, Hospital Director introduced the new Technical Services Director, and provided a brief overview. A community open day is being arranged for residents to drop in. Woodland View is a rehabilitation centre for adult men with mental health issues. Through a programme of therapies reintroduction to the local community is being delivered with regular litter picking and planting of the roundabout planter at Showell Lane. Cllr Barber extended the parish council thanks to those who engage with the local community and provide a much valued service in litter picking and planting. There will be other opportunities in the future for Woodland View to participate.
- A resident expressed their disappointment of the Village Gateway signage that is dirty and overgrown with trees. The signage on the Mile (Hampton Lane) is disgraceful and covered by trees which need cutting back. All speed limit signs are covered with green mould. Numerous calls to Connect have been made without success.

Cllr Howell advised that she too has raised exactly the same issues and she completely agrees with the sentiment and frustration of residents. She is still waiting for answers from Street Cleansing.

Mrs Heeley advised she too has called SMBC and raised the issues of overgrown trees/shrubs that hang over pavements between Woodland View and top of

Signed Chair **Dated**

Meriden Hill. She has been advised that this is on a programme of works 4 times per year however to her knowledge maintenance was carried out in November and March. Woodland View are cutting back themselves on their boundaries.

Action: Chair advised this would be taken to the Neighbourhood Team at next community surgery however it is street cleansing that contract Amey to undertake maintenance.

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 – 13th May 2019

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13th May 2019, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed. All matters arising are included in agenda items. The key issues reported are Annual Governance and Accountability 2018-19.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 13th May 2019 were approved as accurate; proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council had been circulated for reference specifically for Committee Membership. Given Cllr Nunn’s absence Chair advised a need to re-shuffle Members to cover committee requirements.

- Cllr Nunn Chair of Planning Committee; Cllr Hughes agreed to take on chair of planning committee;
- Cllr Nunn is a Member of Sports Park Management Committee; Cllr Hughes agreed to join Sports Park Management;
- Cllr Nunn is a Member of Finance Committee; Cllr Woollard agreed to join Finance Committee.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members considered and approved the committee membership reshuffle to cover Cllr Nunn’s absence.

5. Finance

5.1 June Payments

Parish Council June payments amounting to £3,191.46 circulated for Members consideration and approval. Cllr Woollard queried Mr Ball’s invoice for £410 and requested a breakdown which was £150 dog bins emptying and £260 Village Green grounds work.

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IT WAS RESOLVED Members considered payments and approved. Proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

Special thanks are recorded by the parish council to Mr Brian Ball for the planting of the Memorial Approach Poppy Site with all agreeing it looks wonderful.

Sports Park June payments amounting to £3,182.60 circulated for Members consideration and approval. The clerk advised two late additions received to be included being Cllr Weaver expenses £24 and Dovetail dishwasher and water heater installation £491.40.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members considered payments and approved. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

5.2 Finance Committee Recommendation

5.2.1 General Power of Competence

The GPC guidance was circulated to Members for consideration; the Power is intended to allow local authorities including parish and town councils wider powers to deliver more to their communities. Also it allows councils to do anything that individuals may do. The criteria is to have two thirds elected members and qualified clerk. Once the council decides it meets the conditions and the GPC is approved, the council retains the ability to use the General Power of Competence until the annual meeting of the council in the next ordinary election year.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members unanimously agreed that the parish council meets the criteria and approved the use of the General Power of Competence. 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

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Chair advised the parish council is meeting with PCC representatives on 3rd July regarding the Memorial on Berkswell Road. There is a need to move along the impasse which has prevented the transfer of land and memorial to the parish council to be concluded. Parish council representatives will be Cllrs Weaver, Kipling, Barber and Mrs Bland.

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported the Triumph Stone be placed in the Heritage Memorial asset register. Also the plaque of the old Rural District Council of Meriden must be protected as part of the parish heritage. Chair confirmed both had been included in the

Signed Chair **Dated**

Neighbourhood Plan; and went on to report that the National Cyclists Memorial on the Village Green should be similarly protected bringing all Memorials into one body responsible for their maintenance and sustainability. Discussion is needed with the Conservators.

Action: Meeting with PCC to conclude transfer of Memorial Berkswell Road and to open discussion with Conservators regarding future of National Cyclists Memorial.

6.3 Meriden Pool

Chair reported that a request had been made to cut back and remove rubbish cleared out of trash screen and left on side of bank. There is a reduction in wildfowl noted and a serious rat problem.

Action: Contact Chris Barr SMBC and Environmental Health.

Work has been done with the Co-Op to reduce the access to food wastage being used for feeding wildfowl. The Regional Manager fully endorses the use of locked bins so access is denied to the waste/recycled food bin and the problem has been reduced.

Clerk noted a request for a Friends Group meeting as soon as possible.

Action: Clerk to arrange with Friends Group and representatives from SMBC.

6.4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Chair advised the group met on 13th June 2019 and it was not the most efficient of meetings. Interesting to learn operators put in new planning applications. There was a lack of discussion around what they are expecting and what it means working Sundays/Bank Holiday Mondays. Response from planning did not support.

Cemex – direct replacement – awaiting finish;

NRS – slowed down aggregates;

A & A – volumes low demand high;

Cemex – to reopen inert landfill.

Briefly discussed planning applications. No highways response on volumes. Highways have requested all operators give numbers of vehicle movements which has not been achieved.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Air Quality – Cllr Howell talked about dust in air and on cars/homes. Sangeeta Leahy has agreed to fund air quality monitor in Meriden. This is a big win and the equipment is currently being calibrated and site identified for several months of monitoring.

Action: Clerk to contact Sangeeta Leahy to discuss suitable sites.

Chair added that it is rare to get a Quarry Liaison Group established and there is only one other in the Midlands that Tarmac is involved with. Meriden’s Quarry Liaison Group is a “model of good practice” and as such Chair has put forward for Council Award.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

The next meeting will be 4th July which will be the AGM; guest speakers will be West Midlands Police briefing about Travelling Communities in Solihull; together with a representative of the Care Commissioning Group regarding health issues across the Borough. All parish and town councils are represented and new Members are welcome to come along.

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List

Nothing to report.

6.8 Community Surgeries

Cllr Barber reported one resident attended the surgery held on 10th June regarding the break-ins to garages sited on Alspath Road.

Action: Clerk to follow up with police and neighbourhood team.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Barber advised that a date is required for July to start speed watch as police presence is required.

Action: Cllr Barber to chase Police Team for their support.

6.11 HS2

Chair advised HS2 works continue. Cllr Howell continued that HS2L are putting S17 planning in for road layouts that SMBC cannot refuse. Enabling works are outside of environmental statement and this has created a difficult situation which SMBC are unable to stop. This issue has been raised by Caroline Spelman MP in Parliament but the definition of enabling works is very broad and a request for a stop notice has been put to Chris Grayling MP for Principal Authorities to stop works, but this has been denied.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update (June 2019)

Nothing to report. Next meeting to be held in July.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Nothing to report.

Signed Chair **Dated**



7. Clerk’s Report

Nothing to report.

7.1 Operation London Bridge

A meeting date is required to start the project.

Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting date with Members of Committee/Working Group.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr Howell is setting up a litter picking group. It will be a formal group under Love Solihull initiative. She reported that bins are full and rubbish/bags are left on the ground particularly on A45 layby and Meriden Mile (Hampton Lane layby).

Cllr Woollard is also involved in this group and storage for additional kit is required. Sarah Jones SMBC Love Solihull Lead is supporting the start-up of this group. Woodland View also expressed their interest in getting involved.

9. Correspondence & Communication

Nothing to report.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

Chair advised a date is required to meet.

Action: Clerk to arrange follow up meeting.

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

Chair reported mixed views expressed on Meriden Watch (endorsed by the Police), Meriden News & Views and parish council face book page. Comments on “new” lines suggest the loss of 3 parking spaces; infact only one parking space has been lost. There are a few extra yellow lines but on the whole all existing lines have been repainted. Lorries now have a full turning circle and the repainting is not yet finished. During the first 6 weeks 2,700 registrations have been collected and for every ticket issued and paid £25 comes back to the parish council for the community.

Signed Chair Dated

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

The Village Green Deed of Trust has been signed off and the Green registered as a “Field in Trust” in perpetuity.

10.7 Mobile Mast Update

Discussion to be reopened with the Manor Hotel new General Manager.

10.8 Local Council Award Scheme

An interim audit meeting to be arranged with John Crossling, WALC. Good inroads have been made for the parish council to receive a Quality Award.

Action: Clerk/John Crossling meeting.

10.8(i) Website

Chair reported that Cllr Barber has done excellent work in updating and reviewing content. Feedback is needed and a meeting to be arranged for finalisation.

Action: Chair, Cllr Barber and clerk to arrange meeting with WALC.

10.9 Meriden Public Transport

Clerk reported that residents are aware that the community bus contract will be out to tender for October start. A meeting has been requested but TfWM are advising August which does not allow for 3 months’ notice or consultation period. Confirmation is acknowledged that there will be no service amendment until 1st October.

Action: clerk will contact TfWM and request meeting.

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Chair advised NDP is nearly complete. She has met with Mrs Lee to proof read before consultation Regulation 14 begins; the document is robust and very good.

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

A funding bid to Locality is submitted to complete regulations 14 and 16 which has been successful. All four bids to Locality for funding have been successful to date.

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence

Chair reported that phase 1 has been completed with the yellow line refresh and loading restrictions. SMBC want the parish council to look at phase 2 which is not likely to be realised until 2020-21 financial year and new budget has been approved. Public feedback to date identifies Leys Lane and Main Road corner outside Village Hall/GP surgery in need of improved safety and speed restrictions. Different options have been explored and speed cameras are too costly an option to sustain.

Signed Chair **Dated**

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review
Nothing to report.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates

Chair reported the planning committee met the focus being the new quarry applications. All objections were posted and case officers have been written to in order to retrieve parish council comments for website.

A resident asked about the development on the Shirley Garage site and variation of conditions to allow additional dwellings to be built. The parish council object on the grounds of density and car parking on and off site. There is limited parking offered which will displace onto Main Road. Five objections are logged and awaiting decision for cabinet member to call it into planning committee.

During the Neighbourhood Plan consultations the household survey and desk top survey informed the need for smaller housing for young families, starter homes and opportunity to downsize and stay in local community.

The design and look of the dwellings has also been raised to be in accordance with being in the middle of a conservation area.

The Neighbourhood Plan, when finished and adopted, will be a legal document that developers will have to take account of design and landscaping. The Neighbourhood Plan for the village will have to fall into line with Solihull's Local Plan and will go to the Planning Inspectorate for approval prior to referendum. Currently we are tweaking v.14 and this will be available for public consultation in the next 3 months.

12. Parish Council Development Day

Chair advised a date is required.

13. Annual Parish Assembly

Chair reported Annual Assembly went well with table top discussions falling into the following categories Environment, Bus Service and Transport, Sport, School, Development and Community. The table work is important and has been captured in the NP work plus parish council future projects. Neighbourhood Plan was the focus of the evening specifically what it means, Regulation 14 consultation, Referendum, raising awareness and the community plan. Chair and Mrs Lee, Chair of NP Working Group, hosted the evening provided feedback on Neighbourhood Plan bids, policies with the public taking an interest in it. Members have received a copy of the summary of notes taken on the night and the local community requests/comments.

Action: Chair and Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

Signed Chair Dated



15. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 22nd July 2019 at 7.30 pm
Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Chair thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at 20.39 hours.

Signed Chair Dated

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