

Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th March 2019
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr R Kipling RK		Cllr F Lynch-Smith FLS	
Cllr M Haque MH		Cllr M Nunn MN	
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk	Cllr M Lee ML	

In attendance: Cllr D Bell, Cllr K Allsopp and Mrs D Howell.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr P Lee.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted apologies from Cllr P Lee.

2. Public Participation

There were 7 members of the public present.

Cllr weaver welcomed and introduced Fiona Woolston and Sophie Powers who will be presenting an overview of HS2. The presentation may be seen as an attachment to the minutes reference "Meriden Parish Council, LM presentation, 25.03.2019".

Questions from attendees:-

- Circulation of hard copy material required for noticeboards? Can HS2 meet printing costs?

Briefings are sent to the clerk for circulation; it will be in order for the clerk to request hard copies to be sent for noticeboards. An email to be sent to the clerk.

- What are the hidden costs?
- Haulage routes to be agreed with SMBC lessening impact on local communities; Routing Agreement essential.

All vehicles used will be branded HS2; there will be a 24 hour helpline for enforcement so police can take necessary action easily recognising vehicles that stray from route. The code of practice has been actioned and the route planning is programmed by the Logistics Team.

- Will there be nightwork?

Nightwork will be minimal within LM's programme of works. Pile drivers will be 24 hours but managed and restricted to lessen impact.

- What will happen to all the soil being dug out? Haulage to quarries?

The overburden of soil will be saved and recycled for use building embankments and raised landscape.

- Congestion due to volumes of cars and passengers?

There will be a small monorail or APM (Automated People Mover) running between, train station, NEC and airport which will transverse to and from interchange.

- Will there be cycle lanes linking Meriden, Balsall, Berkswell?

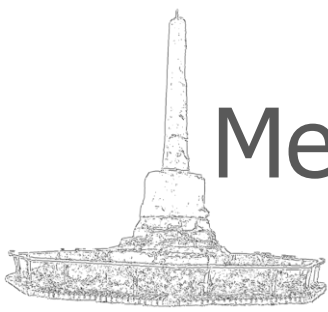
Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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This is not known yet and nothing is agreed with SMBC.

- Masterplan consultation reflects land transferred to HS2L?

Arden Cross is the landowner/holding and HS2L has temporary ownership for land for duration of build. All new road networks including roundabouts will have capacity to increase new road layouts.

Cllr Weaver thanked the HS2 Team for their presentation and looked forward to further updates and presentations in the future. The Team departed the meeting.

Apologies received from Paul Tovey who was not attending due to annual leave. On behalf of Paul Tovey the following update was provided by David Keaney and read out by Cllr Weaver:-

“Our focus at this point is progressing the 20mph part time speed limit. Once operational, monitoring will initially take place to understand the impact of the new speed limit with the chicanes. Once complete the chicanes will be removed and the monitoring will be repeated so that we can understand the impact of the various layouts together and separately.

The results of this monitoring and feedback will determine whether the chicanes should then be reinstated, if so this would be as a permanent feature. If it is determined that the two chicanes by the school should be reinstated, it will also be necessary to implement a new TRO to amend the parking restrictions at this location to address the parking issues experienced during the trial. At this time we would also look to pick up the junction of Leys Lane and consider the need and feasibility for restrictions in Highfield.

The concern of residents over the third chicane feature away from the school remain. If it is determined that a feature at this end of the village does add value, then it would be our intention to look at the feasibility of moving this towards the A45 overbridge. This would mean that it is away from any houses and could then be incorporated into a new gateway feature and 30mph speed limit extension which is being considered.

With regards to the new 20mph part time speed limit, this has now been advertised and the consultation period has come to an end. In total 3 representations were received. Two of the representations whilst supportive, suggested that the 20mph will have a limited impact, with one suggesting the new chicanes were a definite improvement and the other that they had had little effect. The third representation requested new parking restrictions in Highfield.

Having fully considered the representations an instruction to proceed has now been sent to Legal Service to implement the new limit. This will now come into effect on the 13th May.”

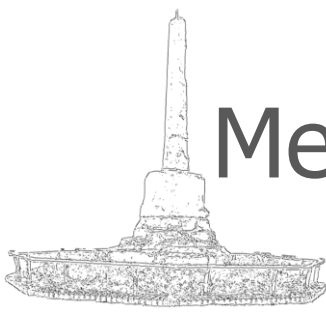
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3. Declarations of Interest

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 – 18th February 2019

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 18th February 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 18th February 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Barber.

5. Finance

5.1 Members received Parish Council payment approvals for March. Members agreed March payments of £3,328.43.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Barber proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council February payments of £3,328.43 seconded by Cllr Nunn.

Members received Sports Park payments approval for March. The clerk advised the payments were high due to committed expenditure for replacement equipment which was part of the rolling programme agreed with Trustees and the specialist works required for pitch/grounds work held over from 2017-18 season. Members approved Meriden Sports Park March payments of £15,135.32.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Barber proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park March payments of £15,135.32 seconded by Cllr Nunn.

5.2 St Laurence Church Request

Cllr Kipling provided a summary from recent NALC Legal Briefing he attended with Cllrs Weaver, Haque and the clerk. The legal advice given is that as per the 1894 Act it is not legal to provide funding to buildings and land belonging to a Church; therefore graveyard maintenance falls into this. Other projects not associated with land and buildings being property of the Church may be funded.

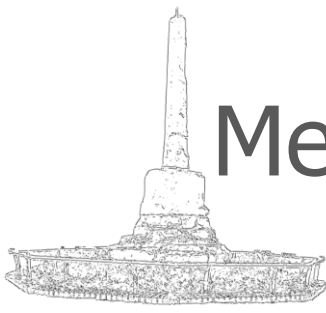
Cllr Weaver reiterated that the NALC Solicitor present clearly stated parish and town councils cannot give money to the Church for graveyard maintenance.

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.

5.3 Finance Committee Recommendations

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Cllr Weaver advised that the finance committee postponed their meeting to April due to year end closure, internal and external audit preparations.

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
Nothing to report; inspection to be carried out.
Action: Clerk and Cllr Barber to arrange date.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum
Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

6.7 Solihull Area Committee
The next SAC meeting will be 18th April 2019. Cllr Weaver said there was good parish and town council representation at Charter Launch with Market Stalls and presentations for Senior Leadership Team including Leader of Council and CEO. Cllr Bell reaffirmed it was good to see representation from so many parish and town councils.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List
Nothing to report.

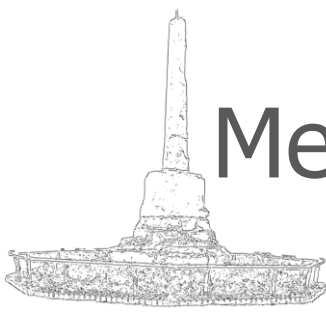
6.9 Community Surgeries
Community Surgery 4th March 2019 – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant in Meriden Library.

- Resident concerns regarding maintenance of Alspath Garages; maintenance required by Solihull Community Housing. Currently an eyesore for properties 18, 19, 20 to look out onto. Also a light is required at the rear of the garages to remove areas for youth congregation, misuse and vandalism.

Action: Bruce Brant to contact SCH for assistance.

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- Resident concerns regarding the bowed wall alongside the walkway which results in crumbling brickwork onto the walkway and cutting back of tree, bush and ivy.

Action: Bruce Brant to write to property owners requesting maintenance to their property.

- Resident request for meeting with Cllr Diccico and officers responsible for highways regarding opening of Oak Lane for better X1 service for Millison's Wood residents tied into Eastern Green development proposals for new A45 road layout.

Action: Clerk to contact Solihull and Coventry CC Planning Officers and Ward Councillors.

- Residents thanked the Clerk and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator for sorting out the lighting issues impacting on their property from the new zebra crossing on Fillongley Road. Also for reversing the chicane layout passing thanks to Highways. Also volunteered for Community Speed Watch as they feel something is finally being done regarding speeding traffic and enforcement.

Action: Clerk to contact Cllr Barber who is co-ordinating speed watch team and training.

- Residents voiced their concerns regarding Heart of England Club specifically nuisance of motorcycle clubs using club on Fridays and Saturdays. Antisocial behaviour, noise nuisance early hours of morning. Emailed photographs and CCTV footage to be shared with relevant officers.

Action: Bruce Brant advised complaints must be called through to Connect for log. Environmental Team to be contacted for assistance. Police to be notified. Evidence to be sent to relevant licensing and environmental officer teams.

Additional discussions:-

- Update on TfWM; potential loss of service. Public meeting requested.
- Vulnerable adults – how best to identify social and transport isolation to signpost for support and assistance.
- Update on Bingo and Craft Groups regarding MPC community engagement both run by volunteers with sports park support.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB advised that there are 15 volunteers all trained. Paperwork to go through and complete; police shift patterns to be advised so speed watch may commence mid-April.

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

6.11 HS2

As per presentation.

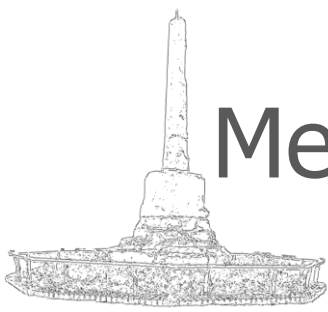
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6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update

Cllr Weaver provided a summary of joint Trustees/Directors meeting as follows:-

- Budget 2019-20 agreed and signed off with core funding agreed;
- Rolling programme 2019-20 agreed;
- Equipment replacement (external) agreed for purchase in line with rolling programme and business plan;
- Pavilion and Park increased users with regular bookings and confirmation for next season by teams;
- Two new community groups are meeting weekly on Wednesdays and Thursdays;
- There is still no conclusion of freehold transfer and therefore no lease agreement can be put in place; the clerk added that Cllr Lynch-Smith had requested a letter be written to Andrew Kinsey, Solicitor for SMBC and Nick Page, CEO which has been done but without reply to date;
- The fund performance is stable with approximately 59K interest per annum that contributes to park core operating costs;
- There will be another round of small grants available to the local community.
- This was a very positive meeting providing Trustees and Directors with forecast for next 12 months.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Nothing to report.

7. Clerk's Report

Report circulated to Members and there were no questions.

7.1 Annual Assembly Cancel & Replace with Parish Council Meeting

The scheduled date of 29th April 2019 will now be a Parish Council meeting only due to the period of Purdah.

It was resolved: Members agreed the cancellation of Annual Assembly to be replaced by Parish Council meeting; proposed Cllr Weaver seconded Cllr Nunn.

7.2 Annual Meeting

The scheduled date for the Annual meeting to be changed from 20th May 2019 to 13th May 2019. This meeting will be for the purpose acceptance of office, election of Chair and Vice Chair, election of sub-committee membership, operating General Power of Competence and Auditors.

It was resolved: Members agreed the change of date for the Annual Meeting from 20th May 2019 to 13th May 2019; proposed Cllr Weaver, seconded Cllr Barber.

7.3 Annual Assembly New Date

Cllr Weaver suggested the new date for the Annual Assembly be used for Neighbourhood Plan consultation. Consideration to be given to suitable dates within

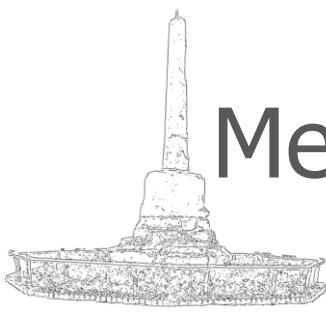
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the period of notification to hold the Annual Parish Meeting being 1st March – 1st June 2019.

Action: Cllrs Weaver and M Lee to liaise for a suitable date.

7.4 Operation London Bridge

- Operation LONDON BRIDGE is the code name given to the passing of HM Queen Elizabeth II.
- Following her departing and the official announcement from Buckingham Palace, a period of 10 days state mourning will follow – D Day being the date of the death and D10 the date of the full state funeral at Westminster Abbey, unless it falls on a Sunday in which case the funeral will take place on D11 Monday.
- It is recommended that all councils prepare themselves and be mindful that there may be pre-arranged council events taking place during the 10 day mourning period that will have to be cancelled and that this is not considered an “insurable risk”.
- There are also several elements which each council will need to consider and to what extent they would like to engage with regards to:
 - Website • Portraits • Condolence book • Area to lay flowers • The proclamation • Church service • Public Participation.

Advice has been requested from SMBC and Deborah Merry has responded to the email request as follows:-

“We do have a protocol but it is largely around the role of the Mayor and civic protocol for Solihull MBC. I would be interested to know what role Philip Peacock envisages for parish and town councils (I know he has written an article for the SLCC Clerk Magazine but I can’t access it). Could you give me any more information about what is suggested for parish and town Councils? We would of course be happy to look at any possible shared arrangements with the parish and town Councils in Solihull Borough if appropriate.”

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

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

Cllr Lynch-Smith requested from Cllr Bell the instructions for refuse collection operatives regarding placement of wheelie bins once emptied.

Action: Cllr Bell to contact Alan Brown for the instructions and forward to the clerk for circulation to Cllr Lynch-Smith.

9. Correspondence & Communication

RW advised receipt of:-

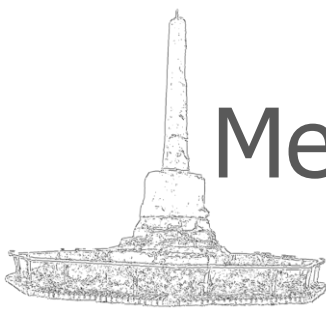
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- 1st Meriden Scouts – request for annual donation of £450 for flag raising duties.

It was resolved: Members considered the request and approved the annual donation of £450. Proposed by Cllr Nunn and seconded by Cllr Lynch-Smith.

- Rev Lynda Lilley – on behalf of Meriden Churches Together. Request to support the parish council during the VELO event or another organisation who will be doing something on the day. The event date is Sunday 12th May 2019.

Action: Refer to Ashley Prior for guidance as he is the lead for SMBC regarding VELO event.

- Ashley Prior re. VELO Event – confirmation email that parish council details have been passed to CSM event organisers.
- The Great British Spring Clean – Jo Ann Williams confirms the national campaign is taking place between 22nd March and 23rd April. Opportunity for local communities to get involved.

Action: Send information to Scouts, Woodland View, Heart of England School and Meriden School.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

Cllr Weaver reported that she and the clerk had met with Alison McGrory and Kate Bunting regarding Library first floor strengthening works. The library hours are reducing from 1st October 2019. SMBC accept the library is a valued asset and this is reaffirmed in Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires and household survey. Task and Finish group reflect the need to come up with other ideas for library use as the footfall is low. The parish council want to work with SMBC to strengthen the first floor so it may be used as storage, office and meeting space. The quoted cost for the works is 36K with 20K committed in parish council reserves for this purpose. This has greatly increased since dialogue was opened in 2012; however it should be noted that 36K is for complete refurbishment of first floor including new kitchen, toilet, rest room and all flooring and decoration. Alison McGrory is to speak to SMBC regarding budget for to meet the remainder of the cost. Cllr Kipling suggested applying to HS2 funding and Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust to secure additional costs required if SMBC and unable to contribute.

Action: Alison McGrory to investigate SMBC budget constraints to secure shortfall of refurbishment costs. A further meeting to be arranged.

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Nothing to report.

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Nothing to report.

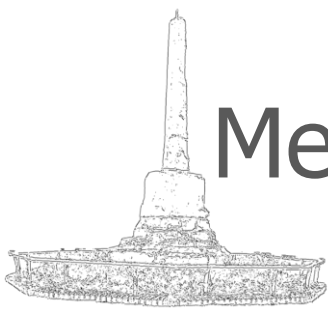
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10.3 Meriden Gate
Nothing to report.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)
Nothing to report.

10.5 Highways
As per update received from Mr Waterson on Mr Tovey's behalf read out by Cllr Weaver.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership
The Deed of Title draft has been sent back to the Solicitor for Fields in Trust.

10.7 Mobile Mast Update
Nothing to report.

10.8 Local Council Award Scheme
Nothing to report.

10.8(i) Website
Nothing to report.

10.9 Meriden Public Transport
Cllr Weaver reported the clerk had received a telephone call from Jon Hayes, Head of Network Delivery, Transport for West Midlands.

Jon advised that IGO (89 bus), Ring & Ride including Taxi Bus (Meriden's Little Blue Bus) and ATG Holdings (parent company and asset holder) has gone into receivership with immediate effect (25-3-19). The service will continue to operate in the coming days, and for this week at least the blue bus will continue alongside 89 service. Jon is tasked with moving the remainder of ATG contracts to other service providers across the West Midlands, finding alternative operators. It is not just Meriden and neighbouring Parishes that are effected; all disabled and vulnerable residents across the West Midlands region receiving Ring & Ride service (approximately 72,000 people). Members commented that they had seen the BBC 6pm News earlier.

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

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Cllr M Lee reported the March meeting had been postponed. The Pre-Submission consultation clashes with Draft Local Plan Review consultation commencing 15th April 2019. The Regulation 14 consultation period will be picked up after Elections in May. It is considered the NDP is in a good place and requires just a few tweaks.

Action: ML to update at next meeting.

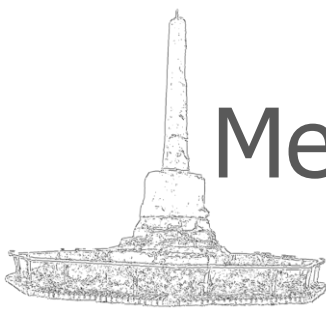
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11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

An application for further Locality Funding will be made 1st April 2019. A quotation from Planning Consultant is required so locality funding may pick up these additional costs.

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:-

STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED MARCH 2019			
Address	Planning Application	Status	
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02008/PPFL	Awaiting decision	
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02233/PPFL	Awaiting decision	
The Cottage Eaves Green Lane	PL/2018/029656/PPFL Demolition of existing workshop and replacement building of dormer bungalow	Not Found	
Swallowfield	PL/2018/03499/MINFHO First & Second Floors additions	Approved	
Grange Farm	PL/2018/03555/MINFHO Single storey rear extension to dwelling Unit 2	Approved	
Fairview	Appeal Notice	Submission deadline 22-2-19	
Lawrenny	PL/2019/00192/MINFHO Erect first floor balcony	Approved	
Brailes Farm	PL/2019/00353/PPFL New driveway and entrance off Fillongley Road	Awaiting decision	

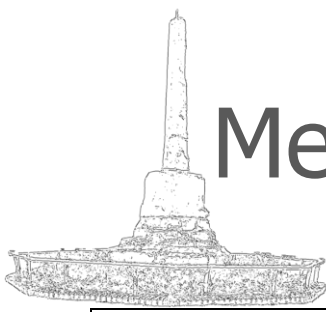
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Spar Shop The Green	Conversion of retail premises to 2 bedroom apartment PL/2019/00408/PPFL	Awaiting decision	
Thebes Close	PL/2019/00512/MINFHO Single storey extension and Juliette balcony	Awaiting decision	
Thatched Cottage	PL/2018/00635/LBC New porch to front and 2 storey extension to rear	New	

12. Parish Council Development Day

Deferred to next meeting.

13. Annual Parish Assembly

Deferred to next meeting.

14. Contested Election 2019

Nothing to report.

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 29th April 2019 at 7.30 pm
Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Cllr Weaver, before closing the meeting, wished to record her personal thanks and those of the Parish Council to Cllrs Paul Lee, Melanie Lee and Mandy Haque. All three councillors have decided not to stand again in the upcoming May election. With years of unprecedented service, commitment and grey hair, it is appreciated that this has been a hard decision for them all to make. Their contribution has been invaluable and on behalf of the Parish Council and residents they have represented over the years, heartfelt thanks and best wishes are extended.

Cllr M thanked Cllr Weaver and advised she will continue to lead the NDP working group to conclusion.

Cllr P Lee had sent an email advising that he would continue responsibility for the Remembrance Day Service arrangements and road closures.

The meeting closed at 21.40 hours.

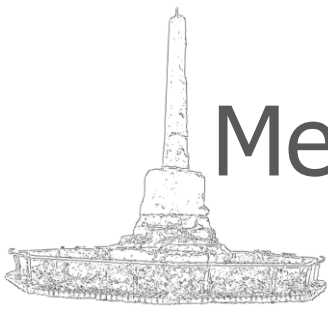
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