

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr M Nunn MN	
Cllr J Barber JB	Vice Chair	Cllr M Woollard MW	
Cll J Hughes JH			
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chair welcomed Members and public attendees. A big welcome from all present for Cllr Nunn's return to office. Apologies received from Cllr Lynch-Smith and Cllr Kipling due to ill health. Cllrs Howell and Diccico also sent apologies due to commitments at the Council House.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Lynch-Smith, Kipling, Howell and Diccico.

**2. Public Participation**

- Street Signs – all street signs require washing; who is responsible? Can members of the public not adopt a sign and keep it clean?
- Roads are supposed to be swept every 2 weeks; this is not happening. Showell Lane has grass growing out of gullies reducing width of highway. This is the same on Birmingham Road from Millisons Wood down Meriden Hill and onto Main Road.

**Action: Bruce Brant (community surgery 9-12-19)**

- Better signage required for top of Meriden Hill onto Showell Lane. The first big sign has lettering peeling off. The bollard on the triangle has been knocked down again. The small mini roundabout has been repaired but the width of the highway is not sufficient for buses and HGVs to turn without hitting the roundabout kerbing.
- A give way sign is required approaching roundabout for drivers unfamiliar with the area and road lay out.

**Action: Paul Tovey & Bruce Brant (community surgery 9-12-19).**

- The Priory (Woodland View) – clients/patients continue using bus shelters as smoking huts. Patients and staff continue to smoke outside grounds on pavement.

**Action: Clerk to write to Woodland View highlighting problem and reminding Woodland View support team that the bus shelters are no smoking and therefore an offence to do so. An audit to be undertaken to determine how many display signs and how many need replacing.**

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

Chair advised a recent complaint of antisocial behaviours of clients/patients in and behind the bus stops and acknowledged the response from the Director of Clinical Services which has been raised at patient community meetings.

**Chair thanked the member of public for raising the above issues and these to be action by the clerk.**

**Chair advised apologies from Paul Tovey and David Keaney for their unavailability to attend tonight's meeting; however the following update is received from David Keaney to be read to the meeting as follows:-**

- **Fillongley Road Phase 2** – The new scheme, which Paul and Steve ran through with you at the last meeting, will build-on, improve and formalise the current trial traffic management layout which has been deployed on the road. The new more centralised layout of the pinch points are intended to aid compliance and reduce driver frustration, whilst the corresponding parking restrictions will remove obstructive and inappropriate parking around the features and nearby junctions which will aid overall operation and traffic flows. These improvements will be supported by a new gateway feature and extended 30mph speed limit which will better inform drivers and should encourage a reduction of speed as they enter the village. Whilst these plans are currently ready and it was our intention to progress the Traffic Regulation Orders necessary to enable elements of the scheme following our last meeting in October, the current Purdah period has meant that we are now unfortunately unable to progress this element of the scheme prior to Christmas. As it is necessary to delivery this scheme as a package of works we now intend to update the School and engage local farmers around the changes in January with the intention of being in a position to have the scheme fully delivered by the end of March.
- **Leys Lane Traffic Count** - The requested traffic surveys for Leys Lane have been commissioned and commenced on the 18<sup>th</sup> of this Month. This survey will collect traffic data over a full 7 day survey period and include turning counts into Leys Lane from either end of the road along with a count of Alspath Road. With this information we will have a good picture of current traffic volumes/patterns which will be used to inform the viability and monitor any subsequent impact should we introduce a trial no through road/cul-de-sac arrangement of Leys Lane as discussed. The results from these surveys typically take 3 to 4 weeks to come back to us and so this will tie in well with Purdah. We will come back to you with a further update once we have the results from this survey, which is likely to be in January now. Plans of the trial layout have also now been prepared should the scheme be progressed. These will also be shared in January alongside the survey data.

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



- **Archery Road** – This location is unlikely to be prioritised for progression given the nature and demand for parking at this location. It is proposed to monitor this site, however no further action is proposed at this time.
- **Meriden Pavilion Parking signage** – I have attached for your consideration a flag sign which promotes and encourages shoppers to use the sports pavilion carpark as discussed. If you are in agreement we would propose that this sign would initially be used to replace the existing flag sign on the roundabout. We can then monitor its impact and effectiveness at encouraging drivers to use the parking facility and then if necessary review the need and feasibility of additional signage. Please let me know if this is something you would like us to progress?
- **Speed Camera** – This request has been noted and logged and will be fed into the Councils ongoing discussions with the Police and Birmingham City Council who we are in partnership with around any future deployment of this technology on the network. Please be minded that any future deployment would be requisite on meeting certain tests including a demonstrable road safety need.

**Mini roundabouts** – The implications of this suggestion/amended layout will be fed into our HS2 Road Safety Fund process (see below). We are currently working with the Road Safety Foundation who are carrying out an independent review of risks on the network. We will ask that the effect of a mini roundabout at this location is fed into their modelling considerations.

**Road Safety Education** – This is something that we have worked with the school on in the past and we will offer further sessions in the new year.

**Road Safety Fund** – The Road Safety Foundation iRAP network review is now completed. They are currently correlating the results from this review and we anticipate receiving their independent report on the surveyed network in the early part of 2020. Once we have this, we will be coming out to discuss the findings with Parish Councils, including Meriden and drawing up prioritised proposals from this.

MN responded that the data gathered from Leys Lane will be useful with good addition to the argument needed. MN said he would also photograph Archery Road parking and verge parking.

**Action: Cllr Nunn.**

MW asked if phase 2 would include additional training for school children crossing Fillongley Road. RW replied that this had been included and an agreed date to be confirmed with school. Under Phase 2 a resident from Maxstoke Lane has contacted

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



MW complaining of parking obstructions to Maxstoke Close and Maxstoke Lane causing residents to have difficulty in getting on and off their drives. RW advised the enforcement officer will be directed to this area.

**Action: Paul Tovey, David Keaney, Bruce Brant (community surgery 9-12-19) and enforcement officer.**

RW also reported Paul Tovey had been requested to organise a sign for shoppers to park in the sports park car park. Another sign is also requested directing drivers to Meriden Park Homes (a recent incident with emergency services not being able to find address of caller has acerbated this request from Park Homes residents).

**Action: Paul Tovey.**

MW added junction of Fairfield Rise/Alspath Road for yellow lines and more hours requested for enforcement officer as area increases. RW confirmed both already discussed with Paul Tovey.

**Action: Paul Tovey.**

**3. Declarations of Interest**

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
 None.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature  
 None.

**4. Minutes of Last Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 were agreed with pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 confirmed as an accurate record.  
 All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

**5. Finance**

**5.1 November Payments**

Parish Council November payments amounting to £4772.94 circulated for Members consideration and approval. Highlights include LITE Limited for maintenance and repair of Christmas lights to Oak Tree at £1,015.20; Tree cut back and site tidy to War Memorial in readiness for Remembrance Sunday at £500.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members considered payments and approved £4772.94 for November. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

Sports Park November payments amounting to £4694.49 circulated for Members consideration and approval. Highlights include boiler repairs at £270; Music Licence renewal at £256.91.

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

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members considered payments and approved £4694.49. Proposed by Cllr Nunn and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

5.2 Finance Committee Recommendation

RW advised that finance committee postponed their November meeting to December in order to await indicative tax base from SMBC and budget refinement. Clerk explained that a scoping exercise had been undertaken for a 6% increase to precept for 2020-21; this amounts to £2.36 per annum per Band D property. This is reflected in the budget, and will be in the Parish Action Plan and Business Plan which are to be completed.

**Action: Finance Committee.**

5.3 DBS Checks

RW explained that provision for DBS checks to be included in budget as the parish work engages our more vulnerable residents and we need to protect ourselves when lone working. Standard checks will be applied for all Councillors and the Clerk.

**Action: Clerk**

**6. Progress Reports**

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

RW advised a children's film was to show in December and this is advertised in the Meriden Mag.

6.2 War Memorials

Clerk advised draft Transfer Deed approved and now await final document for signing.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with Solicitor.**

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Clerk advised that we have received approval to go through to second stage of process for Cyclists Memorial. However the Memorial has been prioritised as low/medium in terms of maintenance and repairs required. Clerk will commence application process.

**Action: Clerk**

The War Memorial continues to be problematic with sending photographic evidence. Clerk will persevere and speak once again to the Monument Conservation Officers to see how we can move this on.

**Action: Clerk**

6.2(ii) Remembrance Sunday was not without incident with the breakdown of the PA system. Unfortunately the parish council was advised too late to set their PA system up, so much of the service was unheard by the hundreds of attendees gathered at the Memorial.

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

Chair, on behalf of the parish council and local community, thanked the Barber family for putting the lamppost poppies up. The poppies will be removed by the end of this week.

**Action: Cllr J Barber.**

6.3 Meriden Pool

6.3(i) Friends Group

Friends Group met on 12<sup>th</sup> November (minutes circulated to Members). Minutes to be put on website. Discussed was (1) where are we now? (2) Maintenance (frequency and bins) (3) Signage and Wildfowl Feeding (4) Friends/Volunteers (two names have come forward from Meriden Views) (5) Future Vision (6) Funding (7) Pool Levels.

**Action: Clerk to raise concerns with SMBC and update at next Friends Group meeting.**

Chair advised that residents had taken lots of photographs and the Friends Group (underwritten by the parish council) was going to produce a calendar.....it will be a rush to achieve Christmas sales and initially a print run of 250 is approved.

**Action: Friends Group and Norwood Press.**

6.3(ii) Management & Funding

Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Chair advised the next meeting is 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. Concerns to be raised regarding increased volumes of Lorries using Meriden roads and not complying with routing agreement; Lorries also running into Area G displaying HS2 contractor badges in cabs. These vehicles should be adhering to same quarry routing agreement limiting HGV access into Village. Complaints also received regarding condition and cleanliness of Birmingham Road at Area G entrance; request for more effective sweeping and highway cleansing. The air monitor has been sited at Meriden School; a request to move the monitor into the triangular hot spot identified from desk top survey.

**Action: Paul Tovey, LM/HS2 Community Team, NRS and Harworth Estates.**

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report.

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

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List  
Nothing to report.

6.8 Community Surgeries

**Community Surgery 11<sup>th</sup> November 2019** – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant and Cllr Weaver at the Library. There were 2 resident attendees.

**Catch up regarding previous actions & resident concerns:-**

- Complaints received from residents and general highway users regarding the surface of Birmingham Road and slippery surface/mud laying on road in wet conditions.  
**Action: Bruce Brant and Quarry Operators.**
- Residents concerns regarding the clearing of The Firs field and what is happening there?  
**Action: Nothing reported to parish council; planning to be contacted.**  
Resident concerns regarding new LED street lighting being too bright.  
**Action: Bruce Brant explained that light dispersal is improved onto highway.**
- Residents request for signage to be mounted onto lamppost indicating entrance to Meriden Hall Park Homes; there has been recent incidents where emergency services could not find the address.  
**Action: Bruce Brant to speak to Highways and arrange signage. The parish could had no issues with the installation of signage to Meriden Hall Park Homes.**
- Speed Watch – still waiting for dates from PCSO Hanley; those sent before and selected by parish council, coincided with leave she had booked so no speed watch reintroduced.  
**Action: PCSO Hanley to email shift dates to BB/JB to confirm volunteer availability and set up speed watch dates for next 6 months.**
- With introduction of phase1 traffic calming and yellow lines/no loading, there is nowhere accessible for blue badge holders to park and access shops. Can a disabled bay be put in on service road?  
**Action: Parish Council and Highways to investigate options.**
- Leys Lane continues to be problematic with obstructive parking on junction to Fillongley Road.  
**Action: Paul Tovey to be invited to next parish council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November to receive resident concerns and update on phases 1 and 2.**

6.10 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Barber advised he is waiting for more dates from PCSO Hanley.

**Action: Cllr Barber to liaise with PCSO Hanley and volunteers.**

6.11 HS2

All updates to be posted onto website for residents.

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

6.12 Meriden Sports Park

Joint meeting with Trustees was useful in outlining budget and proposals for 2020-2021. Directors presented business, marketing, budget and rolling programme.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust

Nothing to report.

**7. Clerk's Report**

All included in meeting content with no questions from councillors.

7.1 Operation London Bridge

Clerk circulated Protocol for Member approval; Chair stated this will be placed on website and share with local community groups identified on the action list. Members approved the Protocol and action list attached, for the death and 10 day mourning period of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** The Protocol for the death and 10 Period of Mourning for HM Queen Elizabeth II is approved; proposed by Cllr Woollard and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

Chair stated that a protocol for Prince Philip is also required. Clerk advised that there is no specific protocol for a period of mourning for Prince Philip and anything she had found was suggesting one protocol adopted for "senior members of the Royal family". An enquiry to be made to Monitoring Officer.

**Action: Clerk.**

**8. District and Ward Councillor Reports**

Chair read the following email from Cllr Diccio for inclusion as follows:-

1. Letter from Lucy Anderton- Head Mistress of Meriden C of E Primary School re. S106 payments to alleviate the funding shortfall due the high proportion of SEND pupils - to Nick Page, CE of the council. I support the asks in the letter and will work with the school to try to release additional funds from SMBC.

2. HS2 - we are obviously awaiting the decision of the Oakervee Committee on the future of HS2 but it looks like it will get the go ahead. Some preparatory works are continuing (on the presumption that it will get the go ahead) and these will accelerate when the decision to proceed is made (after the general election!).

3. Locality Working - I attended the workshop on 21 November at the Manor Hotel. It was informative to hear the objectives to improve infrastructure, reduce isolation of vulnerable residents in East Solihull and reduce ASB/crime etc. Obviously, this will require money and resources- a point I raised at the workshop.

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

**9. Correspondence & Communication**

As circulated to Members.

**10. Meriden Village Matters**

**10.1 Library Update**

Chair reported she and the clerk had met earlier today with Kate Bunting, Library Services. All is progressing well with confirmation that all works should be completed by end of financial year. As we all know libraries are closing and together with SMBC the parish council was keen to retain the library and develop it as a community resource. It is hoped that as the parish council office, the library opening may be extended and alternative uses for the building may be explored. It is likely the parish council office will be relocated from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

**Action: Clerk and SMBC Library Services/Property Services.**

**10.2 VE75**

Chair advised the preparations for a combined VE75 Family Street Party in the Park event on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019 is well underway. A core committee has been formed and letters to be sent to all community groups for their ideas and participation. Local businesses to be written to asking for their support.

**Action: ALL and VE75 Committee.**

**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**

Please refer to Paul Tovey/David Keaney update under item 2 above - Public Participation.

**10.6 Land Registry & Ownership**

Nothing to report.

**10.7 Local Council Award Scheme**

Nothing to report.

**10.7(i) Website**

A meeting to be arranged with Real Point to go through new changes/legislation for public access.

**Action: Cllr Barber and clerk to arrange meeting.**

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

10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport  
Nothing to report.

**11. Planning Matters**

**11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update**

Chair advised she and Mrs Lee had met to incorporate all comments received during Regulation 14 Consultation. The work is more or less complete and ready to go to Planning for Regulation 16 process. Mrs Lee will be leaving moving away from Meriden in the New Year; the new Chair of the NDP group will be Alderman David Bell who has been a member of the group since its conception in 2015. He knows the process, can deal with the public media and dialogue from the public examiner, and has agreed to take on the role of Chair from February 2020.

**Action: Mrs Lee and Cllr Weaver.**

**11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid**

Nothing to report.

**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**

Cllr Hughes advised that the only outstanding application is that for permanent footpath diversion alongside the Meriden Quarry site. There will be no objection due to public safety and accessibility. He further reported he has met with the clerk and identified recent planning applications approved that may benefit from CIL (community infrastructure levy) payments. Ten sites are under query since SMBC adopted CIL in July 2016. We await a reply from SMBC Technical Development Team.

**Action: Cllr Hughes/Clerk.**

**12. Parish Council Development Day**

Date to be arranged for website/LCAS completion.

**13. Annual Parish Assembly**

Deferred to next meeting.

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

The following items to be included in next meeting agenda:-

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

- Climate Emergency – Cllr Weaver
- Digital Review – Cllr Hughes
- Youth Council – linking Hampton, Meriden and Balsall as part of “Youth Solihull” initiative.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30 pm Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Chair thanked Councillors and Members of the public for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

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

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