

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th December 2019
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

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

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed Members and public attendees. Apologies received from Cllr Lynch-Smith and Cllr Kipling due to ill health. No other apologies received.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Lynch-Smith and Kipling.

2. Public Participation

In attendance: 5 Members of the Public who raised the following concerns:-

- Millison’s Wood residents advised they have worked with the police to set up a Street Watch programme which has included police training. Street Watch have reported suspicious behaviours/vehicles and drug paraphernalia and received good police response and incident logging mechanisms.

Chair replied that this is very good to know and if any help is required from the parish council then please contact the clerk. Clerk to request update from Police Team.

- Residents raised concerns over the particulate matter visual on cars, windowsills, garden ponds, and garden furniture. The air borne particles are fibrous and residents feel let down by the numerous times they have raised this as a serious issue without being supported as this is a genuine concern to residents specifically to those living on Berkswell Road and Meriden Hall Park Homes.

Chair replied that this issue is a work in progress. All concerns previously raised have been taken to the Quarry Liaison Group meetings; discussed with Quarry Operators at length; Harworth Estates commissioned Wardell Armstrong to conduct independent dust monitoring with the report and recommendations being sent to Public Health, EA (Environment Agency), Quarry Operators and LPA (Local Planning Authority). As a parish council we are doing our best to work with partners to find a solution to the ongoing problem and alleviate resident concerns. The clerk advised recent contact with the EA who have undertaken a site investigation at the sports park and will be installing dust monitoring equipment for 3 months in the car park.

Signed Chair Dated

Additionally Public Health have installed a dust monitor at Meriden School to analyse air quality. The clerk further added that the EA urge all residents to call the hotline if there are any problems with dust; please phone these through to incident hotline at the time that the dust is occurring, or as soon after the occurrence as possible. If photos and/or videos can be provided too, that would be beneficial. **The Environment Agency's incident hotline number is 0800 80 70 60 and it is manned twenty four hours a day, seven days a week.**

- Residents raised issues regarding the latest planning application for A & A Recycling requesting change of use for extended site opening hours.

Chair advised this is not a new application but a resubmission of the original planning application refused in May 2019 which had gone to appeal and for which the parish council objected to. The parish council will be objecting once again on the same grounds i.e. noise, light pollution, nuisance, increased volumes of traffic, air quality and neighbour dispute.

- Resident asked about road sign cleaning and advised he had undertaken the cleaning of several since last meeting.

Chair offered her thanks and said that a volunteer request was on the Meriden Facebook site. The clerk advised that this matter had been logged with the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator at the community surgery held on 9th December and awaiting update regarding programme of works.

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 – 25th November 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. All matters arising are covered in the agenda however Chair briefly reported:-

- Response from Woodland View had been received and the complaint had been dealt with.
- Friends of Meriden Pool 2020 Calendar has been delivered with sale proceeds raising money for small hand tools for the Friends to assist with Pool maintenance of this much valued community asset.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 25th November 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Barber.

5. Finance

5.1 December Payments

Parish Council December payments amounting to £3573.06 circulated for Members consideration and approval.

Signed Chair Dated

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £3573.06 for December. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

Sports Park December payments amounting to £4299.81 circulated for Members consideration and approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £4299.81. Proposed by Cllr Woollard and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

5.2 Finance Committee Recommendation

Chair advised that finance committee was not quorate so no recommendations can be made to full council. Clerk explained that a 6% increase to precept for 2020-21 had been applied and this would require full council approval at January’s parish council meeting; this reflects a Band D precept charge of £41.73 per annum, amounting to an increase of £2.36 per annum per Band D property.

Finance committee went through budget revisions and reserves. Chair stated that reserves need to reflect the match funding for first floor Library strengthening works to be completed by year end (31st March 2020).

Action: Finance Committee.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials

Clerk advised draft Transfer Deed has been signed by Chair and Clerk and we now await final signed document from Solicitor. Schedule of maintenance works to be established.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Solicitor.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Application for funding to Monuments Trust to be completed for Cyclists Memorial once contact made with Conservators. Awaiting decision for War Memorial pre submission application as photographic evidence has now been accepted.

Action: Clerk to complete application for funding and contact Conservators Trust.

6.3 Meriden Pool

6.3(i) Friends Group

The Friends Group calendars are now on sale to raise funds for the purchase of small hand tools.

Action: Clerk & Friends Group.

Signed Chair **Dated**



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
Clerk advised the 9th December meeting was poorly attended given the confusion over 2nd and 9th December meeting dates. Briefly the mud on Birmingham Road was recorded and discussed; number of lorries to be advised; wheel wash effectiveness to be looked into at Area G; air quality discussed; minutes to be circulated with actions for operators prior to next quarterly meeting; review of terms of reference given new operators; new chair to be nominated (replacement for Cllr Bell), revise and update contact list.

Action: Quarry Liaison Group.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee
The next meeting is arranged for 23rd January 2020.

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List
Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries
Community Surgery 9th December 2019 – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant at the Pavilion. There were no resident attendees.

Catch up regarding previous actions & resident concerns:-

- Complaints received from residents regarding Old Road and remove of trees/ivy and crumbling wall. Matthew Derrington is lead officer for SMBC. All enquiries direct to Lead Officer. Surveying works continue.

Action: SMBC

- Bruce Brant advised Section 81's have been issued on manhole covers. Inspection carried out for lift, level and repair surrounding surface when collapsed. These include those on Church Lane, Meriden Hill and Arden Close. Gully with sharp edge noted by White Cottage. Church Lane completed.

Action: SMBC

- Two of the Church Lane drains require update from Ed Bradford as not within Highways remit.

Action: Ed Bradford and Clerk.

- Complaints received regarding Enforcement Officer Incident. The matter is being investigated by senior officers of Highways and Enforcement. Witness statement taken and forwarded to SMBC.

Signed Chair **Dated**



Action: SMBC to investigate parish council complaint on behalf of residents.

- Highfield photographic evidence of parking on verges which are now rutted.
Action: Email and photos sent to Paul Tovey.
- Residents raised concerns about trees at end of Winspear affecting telephone, TV and wifi connections. Bruce Brant to look into land ownership i.e. Bromford or SCH?
Action: Bruce Brant
- No update on Speed Watch – still awaiting dates from PCSO Hanley. To be raised at next Locality meeting. Email to PCSO Hanley with copies to Kath Hemmings and Bruce Brant.
Action: Clerk
- Bruce Brant to undertake drive around to check bollards down, signage and street lights reported not working or knocked down.
Action: Bruce Brant

6.10 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Barber advised he continues to wait for dates from PCSO Hanley. A team of 15 volunteers are standing by; this matter to be raised at next Locality East meeting.

Action: Cllr Barber to liaise with PCSO Hanley, volunteers and Cllr Weaver to raise at next Locality meeting.

6.11 HS2

All updates to be posted onto website and Facebook for residents. Clerk to invite HS2 Engagement Team to next parish council meeting. Only essential works are currently being undertaken until Government review concluded.

Action: Cllr Barber to put updates received onto website and Facebook.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park

Chair reported that the sports park gates have been closed due to advice from SMBC Public Realm Head of Service given traveller unauthorised encampments in and around the Borough. Currently eviction orders have been served and we have notice of unauthorised encampments in Warwick and Gaydon. The park management team continue to follow SMBC Parks lead of closure of its open green spaces.

Action: Cllr Barber to continue monitoring with SMBC.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust

Nothing to report.

7. Clerk's Report

All included in meeting content with no questions from councillors.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

Signed Chair **Dated**

9. Correspondence & Communication

As emails circulated to Members during the month. A Christmas Card received from the Mayor of Solihull.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

There has been no movement since last meeting.

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 8th May 2019 is well underway. The committee will be meeting with local group leaders on 22nd January 2020 to hear ideas and received written proposals. A letter to be written to the shops. The committee will meet on 3rd February and Meriden School will be making the bunting for the event.

Action: 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

Chair advised plans for Phase 2 consultation underway with SMBC.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Nothing to report.

10.7 Local Council Award Scheme

Development Meeting scheduled for 11th January 2020 to review status of application.

Action: All

10.7(i) Website

A meeting is arranged for tomorrow 17th December for clerk, Cllr Barber and Chair to review.

Action: Clerk to take recommendations from tomorrow's meeting to Real Point.

10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport

Nothing to report.

Signed Chair **Dated**

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Chair explained to residents the importance and purpose of having a Neighbourhood Development Plan including housing need; local assets; valued community assets; businesses; developments; landscapes, heritage; highways; transport; education and health; protecting the village and mapping future needs. The local population have contributed and it is beneficial for this to continue throughout the consultation processes and latterly referendum when residents will be required to vote yes for the NDP to become planning law and part of the Local Authority Local Plan. Currently final revisions are being made to the NDP submission draft prior to Regulation 16, Examiner and Referendum. There have been delays due to two general elections and periods of Purdah. A meeting to be arranged for early January with Mrs Lee prior to her departure from Meriden and handover to Alderman Bell, the NDP new Chair.

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 but will be picked up by finance committee and development meeting.

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 briefly reported the following:-

- PL/2019/01239/PPFL, Fenjohn, Eaves Green Lane, application withdrawn;
- PL/2019/02799/MINFHO, Albert Road, awaiting parish council comment;
- PL/2019/02983/PPFL, Grand View, Birmingham Road, awaiting parish council comment.
- PL/2019/03015/DIS, Workshop, The Cottage, Eaves Green Lane, awaiting parish council comment.

Action: Planning Committee.

12. Climate Change

Chair advised she was going to write a paper but ran out of time; however the subject of climate change is being discussed at a WALC regional meeting where all areas of parish and town councils are represented and County Officers are present. It would seem prudent to wait until there is updates from national and regional associations providing relevant information and expectation on parish and town councils.

Signed Chair **Dated**

It is also worth noting that climate change is to be the key topic at SMBC's joint conference with parish and town councils to be held on 26th February 2020.

Action: Chair as and when update is available.

13. Youth Council

Cllr Hughes he has been looking at other parish councils and in conjunction with Hampton, Balsall, Berkswell and Meriden there is scope to set up a youth council that feeds into the parish councils. An advisor would sit on the youth council with young people's issues discussed and consideration of what young people want to see in their parish. A part time outreach worker could be employed with issues such as knife crime and drug use to feed into wider partnership statistics and evidence base. Chair suggested she would be willing to discuss the proposal with SMBC CEO at their next meeting with a view to part funding a part time youth outreach worker. Chair requested Cllr Hughes emails her with ideas. Age to include primary and secondary with Cllr Hughes visiting schools to outline proposal.

Chair suggested the following objective "getting young people interested in parish and town councils; getting young people more involved in politics and local government. Enabling young people greater representation and a platform for their views to be heard and feeling included in their community".

Action: Cllr Hughes to draft proposal for discussion and consideration.

14. Digital Review

Cllr Hughes advised he will be contacting Breakthrough Communications (they offered RW free review of our present website at NALC conference) for a cost of putting together new website. The owners are ex councillors who should know what the requirements are for parish and town councils. A review of our website policies is also required and some updated. A digital review could show what needs to be done better in respect of technology, social media, and live streaming of parish council meetings. Coventry University may be interested in assisting with this digital review. Protocols will need setting up including privacy in line with GDPR laws. Consideration and discussion needed to take forward. This will be put onto Development Day agenda and will be picked up again at January's full council meeting.

Action: Cllr Hughes.

15. Parish Council Development Day

The parish council team will meet on Saturday 11th January 2020 at 11am to consider:-

- Website
- Local Council Award Scheme
- Digital Review
- Youth Council

16. Annual Parish Assembly

Nothing to report.

Signed Chair **Dated**

17. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

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

- Dementia Friends
- First Aiders
- Dementia & Autism Awareness Training
- Business Network (list for NDP Group) including Saqib Bhatti MP for improving relationships/partnerships with the local business community.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 20th January 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 20.58 hours.

Signed Chair Dated