

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 R Kipling RK | | Cllr F Lynch-Smith FLS | |
| Cll J Hughes JH | | | |
| Mrs B Bland BB | Clerk | | |
| In attendance: | | Cllr Diccio | |

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed guest PCSO Alana Hanley, Members and 8 resident attendees. Apologies received from Cllrs Howell, Allsopp and Barber.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Howell, Allsopp and Barber.

2. Public Participation

Guest: PCSO Alana Hanley (AH) provided invited questions on the following areas:-

- Street Watch
- Burglaries
- Crime Statistics – Meriden is low risk with only 10 burglaries in 2019.
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

A request for more Street Watch training; AH stated that there are only 4 resident volunteers for the parish. More young people are needed to join Street Watch. A higher visibility is needed around the area. AH stressed that Street Watch is not about conflict, but intelligence being the eyes and ears of the police to be effective. Any suspicions to be noted and passed directly to AH. Street Watch training is available that takes approximately 30 minutes and the initiative was introduced to Meriden 12 months ago building up rapport between residents and police team. Insurance is in place and no one has been assaulted with the community doing their bit! Generally it was thought to be positive but more volunteers are required. JH stated that some residents may not want to wear hi-viz drawing attention to themselves and suggested that a training walk could be undertaken with AH which AH agreed to. AH reaffirmed that Street Watch is taking ownership of the local community and acts as a deterrent.

RW said there had been poor communication. AH responded that the previous PCSO responsible for Meriden had moved to Knowle and Meriden had not been supported but since AH has covered Balsall Common communication has improved with Meriden.

Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

RW suggested that a call for volunteers to join up is put onto parish council website, noticeboards, Meriden Watch and Facebook. MN suggested this include the Neighbourhood Watch schemes requesting residents join up.

RW further suggested a request goes into the Meriden Mag supported by the police team giving information about Street Watch and asking for volunteers. AH said funding is available for set up and she is more than happy to come along and do trials/training. The funding also includes for hampers for the elderly/vulnerable residents and litter picking.

Action: RW/clerk to following up Meriden Mag article/noticeboards; RW/JB to post onto Facebook and Meriden Watch.

RW read an email from Cllr Allsopp requesting action be taken on the speeding traffic through the village and how better can this be monitored?

AH replied that Main Road/Birmingham Road had been risk assessed so it was possible to include in a future speed watch. Residents asked for mobile cameras as traffic regularly goes through the village reaching speeds of 60mph. AH asked residents for intelligence on vehicles witnessed in excess of 40mph. Cllr Diccio stated that cars are speeding without meaning to; £100 fines are imposed if caught or a speed awareness course is to be attended. RK added that SMBC is required to redefine road markings i.e. cycle lanes, red lines, hatching and overtaking on opposite side of road/bollards. FLS advised a recent successful Speed Watch had taken place and 2 cameras were in operation both sides of road; this needs to be carried out more often so people are aware of Meriden's zero tolerance of speeding vehicles.

Action: AH to look into mobile cameras and report back to clerk. More dates for Speed Watch to be identified.

AH advised Eaves Green Lane ASB issues have continued to receive pro-active police presence; no-one has been caught and there have been no reports of ASB under the Bridge or in the proximity of properties. The situation will continued to be monitored.

AH advised fly tipping is taken seriously and the rural patrols cover a large area and therefore cannot be visible. A lot of emails have been received from Mr McGrath regarding this issue and the police team are proactively trying to resolve. Cllr Diccio added that SMBC is working hard to prosecute offenders where possible and when caught; currently there is a situation where an offender has been prosecuted and the vehicle confiscated awaiting crushing.

AH reported most recent burglary was focused on Old Road but maintained with the low volume of burglaries in Meriden in 2019 the parish is deemed low risk; however any suspicions call in giving name of road, property and car registration if any.

It was reported that ASB/drugs use continues on Meriden Gate. AH replied that the police team are working with Bromford Housing to resolve issues.

Signed Chair **Dated**

Action: MN to contact AH.

Residents reported that there is less activity under the Bridge which has reduced from nightly nuisance and passed on their thanks to AH for doing this.

RW thanked AH for attending whilst not on duty; it had proved a useful update and AH stated she would be happy to attend future meetings.

Other issues raised by residents:-

- VELO

Last year the Village was closed down; a complete shut down between the triangle that is Leys Lane/Fillongley Road/Main Road/Berkswell Road. A series of emails/letters have been written and latterly a proposal has been sent to Cllr Joe Tildesley giving an alternative and sensible solution to Meriden's shut down. Cllr Diccico confirmed he had seen the email and it made a good compromise to change the route for local residents and he would take it up with Cllr Tildesley on behalf the local community. It was also stated that the date is confirmed as Sunday 21st June 2020 which coincides with Father's Day and Mid Summer's Day.

Action: Cllr Diccico to follow up with Cllr Tildesley regarding alternative route proposal.

RW added that VELO is on SAC agenda (Solihull Area Committee) where there is representation from all Parish and Town Councils in Solihull. The next meeting is 23rd January and the guest speaker is CEO Nick Page, so the issue will be raised with him.

Residents added that the Stewards are not local people but coached in from other areas with £100 being given to each; it would be good to have local people/residents who would benefit from a £100 fee and with local knowledge of roads/highways in place for diversions which was limited last year.

Action: Cllr Diccico to take this up with Cllr Tildesley.

Footpaths/pavements raised as not in good condition with many trip hazards of uneven paving stones; specifically the area from post office to shops.

Action: Cllr Diccico to record with SMBC.

Cllr Diccico advised that he had attended a Neighbourhood meeting regarding potholes and footpaths. A special crew has been set up; residents are requested to call into Connect and register their concern/report the problem. This is the best and most effective way to getting tickets issued. A ticket has been issued for the deep pothole reported at junction of Berkswell Road/Main Road.

RW thanked the PCSO Hanley, residents, Members and Cllr Diccico for their discussion and bringing all issues to the parish council.

Signed Chair **Dated**



3. Declarations of Interest

- 3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
- Cllrs Weaver, Woollard and Nunn declared their personal interests in item 5.3 Request for Donation 5.3(i) Meriden School.
- 3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature
 None.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting – 16th December 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2019 were agreed as an accurate record. All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

IT WAS RESOLVED The minutes of the meeting held on 16th December 2019 were approved; proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

5. Finance

5.1 January Payments

Parish Council January payments amounting to £5,222.62 circulated for Members consideration and approval. Highlights include Avon Planning £1,944 relating to Neighbourhood Development Plan from Locality funding secured; and Edge Finance Management Information licence £328.00

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £5,222.62 for January. Proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Nunn.

Sports Park January payments amounting to £4,509.21 circulated for Members consideration and approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £4,509.21 for January. Proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

5.2 Finance Committee Recommendation

5.2(i) Precept – Approve 6% Increase 2020-2021

Finance committee approved 6% which equates to an increase from £39.37 to £41.73 giving a £2.36 per annum increase per Band D property.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a 6% increase to precept for financial year 2020-2021. Proposed Cllr Kipling and seconded Cllr Hughes.

5.2(ii) Budget 2020-2021

Finance committee approved the budget for 2020-2021 subject to amendments listed in Finance Committee minutes dated 13th January 2020. RW advised that the budget will sit alongside the finished Business Plan, Parish Action Plan and Grants Policy.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members agreed Finance Committee recommendation to approve Budget 2020-2021. Proposed Cllr Kipling and seconded Cllr Nunn.

Action: JH/RW to finish Business Plan. Clerk to update Parish Action Plan and forward to JH/RW. Clerk to review Grants Policy.

Action: Clerk to circulate copy of Budget 2020-2021 to Members at next meeting.

Signed Chair Dated



5.3 Request for Donation

5.3(i) Meriden School

RW read the request from Head Teacher at Meriden School regarding considerable budget cuts with the need to rejuvenate the Key Stage 1 Library and resources. Discussion and consideration by Members ensued regarding parish council support. RW advised the receipt of CIL (community infrastructure levy) monies and consideration to be given to the use of this money for Meriden school. Cllr Diccico is working with Meriden School for recommendation to SMBC for additional funding for 2020-2021 budget as the school budget to date has been greatly reduced. MN suggested that the parish council purchase the resources on behalf of the school to achieve best value purchasing second hand books from Amazon. RK asked if CIL money may be used for education infrastructure which the clerk confirmed to be the case. After some debate it was agreed that a contribution of £2,000 be made available from CIL monies towards the rejuvenation of the Key Stage 1 Library.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a contribution to the rejuvenation of the Key Stage 1 Library be made to Meriden School. Proposed Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Kipling.

5.3(ii) 1st Meriden Scouts

RW read the request from 1st Meriden Scouts regarding the annual donation for flag raising duties. Members unanimously approved a donation of £450 for this purpose.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a donation be made of £450 for flag raising duties performed by 1st Meriden Scouts.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

FLS reported that the village hall committee is applying for grants for refurbishment of toilets to meet current regulations and standards. A work in progress for the foreseeable future.

6.2 War Memorials

RW advised the Deed of Transfer has been completed and the Memorial ownership is now transferred to the parish council.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Clerk advised a meeting to be arranged with Conservators to move forward the application for maintenance of the Cyclists Memorial. A decision is still pending from Monuments Trust regarding the priority grading and criteria for second phase of bid.

Action: Clerk to complete application for funding and arrange meeting with Conservators.

6.3 Meriden Pool

6.3(i) Friends Group

The Friends Group calendars have sales of £365 to date. Proceeds to go towards the purchase of hand tools and protective clothing for volunteers.

Signed Chair **Dated**

The website, Meriden Mag and Facebook to post volunteers required to join Friends Group.

Action: Clerk & Friends Group.

6.3(ii) Management & Funding
Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Resident reports of parking issues on verges that have become rutted by allotment users accessing top allotments by an unofficial pathway that has been created through copse. Clerk to contact Taylor Wimpey and Management Company responsible for site maintenance.

Action: Clerk to contact Taylor Wimpey.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum
Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

The next meeting is to be held on 3rd March 2020. A question was asked about the promise of dust monitoring equipment by the Environment Agency to be sited in the car park of Meriden Sports Park. The clerk confirmed that this was confirmed and she was awaiting instruction from EA for the installation date.

Action: Clerk and EA.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

The next meeting is arranged for 23rd January 2020 with the guest speaker confirmed as Mr Nick Page, CEO, SMBC.

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, in the presence of Cllrs Hughes, Weaver and Lynch-Smith. There were no resident attendees.

Catch up regarding previous actions & resident concerns:-

- Resident complaints regarding gullies James Dawson, Luxor and Birmingham Road. Sweepers attended before Christmas.
- Ed Bradford email confirming he will attend to Birmingham Road drains.
- Coventry City Council will pick up Birmingham Road flooding – Neal Thomas.

Action: Clerk

- Winspear resident concerns regarding trees interfering with TV/WiFi reception. Bruce Brant investigating with Bromford and SCH.

Action: Bruce Brant

Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ

T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

- Gateway signage to be picked up by SCH team; Bruce Brant exploring options for cleansing programme.

Action: Brue Brant

- Stonewater land fly tipping at Maxstoke Bridge.

Action: Clerk

- Leys Lane Footway dangerous as slippery under foot and debris/leaves need collecting/cleansing.

Action: Bruce Brant

- A letter to be drafted to all commercial dog walkers advising of use of dog bins and a contribution to the cost of emptying.

Action: Clerk

- BT Exchange frontage to be included in SMBC programme of works and then grounds work undertaken by parish council to improve and manage area.

Action: Bruce Brant/clerk

- Email from Mr McGrath regarding PCC meeting on 13th January to be forwarded to Kath Hemmings, Bruce Brant and DCI Craig Underwood.

Action: Clerk

Email received from Tony Diccico confirming unaware of crime in Meriden.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported the next Speed Watch is arranged for 24th January 2020. The last Speed Watch had the team logging in both directions and 22 cars were caught speeding.

Action: Cllr Barber to liaise with PCSO Hanley for more dates to be confirmed.

6.11 HS2

Cllr Diccico advised the Implementation Advisory Group is liaising with HS2L. Balsall and Berkswell very effected by new roundabout at Park Lane and access link to Truggist Lane later in the programme. There will be road closures that affect all rural networks to Meriden. Cllr Diccico chairs an open forum where HS2 representatives attend, and representations may be made by members of the public or councillors.

Action: Clerk to forward to Cllr Barber all updates received to put onto website and Facebook pages for public access.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park

Nothing to report.

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

Signed Chair Dated

Clerk: Barbara Bland

55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ

T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

Cllr Diccico gave feedback from the recent public meeting with Crime Commissioner (CC) David Jamieson. Issues raised around fly tipping, ASB and crime were addressed. People’s perceptions of high crime rates in Meriden come from Facebook and social media sites. Requests for more police presence were made but CC blamed budget cuts on government for lack of policing in rural communities. A need for more neighbourhood policing in Meriden and Balsall was recorded and recommendations made to Assistant Director, Alison McGrory, for action planning. Fly tipping is a big area to cover but SMBC is generally very good in removal of rubbish. Prevention is a big issue and covert cameras are being used along with community intelligence. SMBC takes appropriate action when offenders are caught with confiscation of vehicles.

JH wished to record his thanks to Kath Hemmings for her contribution and support. There are actions from the meeting and these have been recently circulated. Cllr Diccico advised he would keep involved and update parish councils.

FLS asked why police use plain cars; surely it would be good to see a police car parked in the village to raise police presence and profile.

Action: Cllr Diccico to ask the question and report back.

Road management for Fillongley Rd– a consultation for proposals to be implemented for efficient flow of traffic, to ease driver frustration and a centralised approach. Current trials on Fillongley Road such as chicane and speed limits to be made permanent including new gateway signage from Fillongley Bridge. Phase 2 of traffic improvements to go out to public consultation.

9. Correspondence & Communication

RW advised that a letter from Barclays Bank confirmed closure of Barclays Tile Hill Branch on 17th February 2020. The nearest branch will be High Street Coventry, or Kenilworth.

Action: Clerk to register with Post Office to take Barclays cheques for paying in purposes.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

RW advised that the Library first floor strengthening works is likely to slide over to the new financial year; the background being that Meriden Library was due for closure but the parish council has worked with SMBC to keep the Library open as through the neighbourhood plan household surveys it is a community asset. The parish council has saved 5K from budget over the last 4 years to match fund SMBC and assist with the upstairs refurbishment. The top floor will become the parish council office with other agencies undertaking drop in sessions the Library becoming a community hub.

Action: Clerk to liaise with Library Services to arrange meeting with Property Services.

Signed Chair **Dated**



10.2 VE75

Community Groups will be meeting with Core Committee and sharing their ideas on 22nd January 2020 at the Pavilion.

Action: VE75 Core 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. Cllr Diccico asked to speak to SMBC regarding transfer of allotments.

Action: Cllr Diccico to report back.

10.5 Highways

Chair advised plans for Phase 2 consultation underway with SMBC.

Action: SMBC Highways Team.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Nothing to report.

10.7 Local Council Award Scheme

RW advised the Development Meeting held on 11th January 2020 was a good session with Member agreement to go for Gold Quality Award. Clerk to review status of application.

Action: All

10.7(i) Website

A work in progress to bring up to date, review and refresh content.

Action: JB and clerk.

10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport

Nothing to report.

10.9 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training, Business Network
RW said work was progressing linking local companies to school with free training or minimal cost training being available for ASD and Parenting/Dementia.

Action: RW

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ

T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

RW reported that Regulation 14 is concluded and the process is about to go to Regulation 16. The timeline has had to move yet again allowing for 2019 elections with periods of Purdah and another local election in May 2020. SMBC is currently reviewing and we await their outcome prior to submitting to Inspectorate with Referendum expected early 2021. The NDP with associated appendices is on the website for public access, and the documents make for interesting reading.

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 this will be linked to budget and business plan.

Action: Clerk/JH/Clerk.

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/2019/02799/MINFHO, Albert Road, withdrawn;
- PL/2019/02983/PPFL, Grand View, Birmingham Road, awaiting decision;
- PL/2019/03015/DIS, Workshop, The Cottage, Eaves Green Lane, awaiting decision.

No new applications received. A & A gone to appeal with parish council letter of objection written to Secretary of State; Woodlands to be submitted to SMBC Planning Committee.

Action: Planning Committee.

12. Climate Change

Chair presented a paper for consideration circulated to Members prior to meeting for comments. The key theme is for Meriden to declare a "Climate Emergency". A working party to be set up looking at what may be done within the parish using NALC framework and key indicators which may be found on their website. RW asked for Member agreement to declare a "Climate Emergency" and to consider how this may be tackled. A Task Group to be set up and all Member comments to be emailed to RW. RW further stated that SMBC Strategy is to be shared at a forthcoming meeting with all parish and town councils on climate emergency by the Leader of the Council.

IT WAS RESOLVED: Members agreed to declare a Climate Emergency and set up a Task Group to tackle what may be done, proving thoughts and ideas of engaging with the local community. Proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

Signed Chair **Dated**

Action: RW/JH

13. Youth Council

Cllr Hughes advised he will be delivering training in March and this item to be deferred.

Action: JH.

14. Digital Review

Cllr Hughes advised Members will be meeting with Breakthrough on 21st January to look at a digital review of social media and website accessibility.

Action: Cllr Hughes.

15. Parish Council Development Day

The parish council team met on 11th January and the following was discussed:-

- Website – update, refresh and review;

Action: JB/Clerk

- Local Council Award Scheme;

Action: Clerk to re-register for Gold Quality Award

- Digital Review;

Action: JH/Breakthrough for all areas of website/social media

- Youth Council

Action: JH/Training March/WALC

16. Annual Parish Assembly

The date of the Annual Parish Assembly is 27th April 2020 at the Village Hall.

Action: Clerk to book Village Hall.

17. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 17th February 2020 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 21.12 hours.

Signed Chair **Dated**