



Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

The public and press are cordially invited to all parish council meetings at 7.30pm. An opportunity will be given for the public to speak. Look out for the agenda and venue which is posted on the parish notice boards and our website www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk prior to the meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting dates are:

- 25 March 2019 – The Pavilion
- 15 April 2019 – The Pavilion
- 29 April 2019 – Annual Parish Assembly Village Hall 7-10pm
- 20 May 2019 – Annual Meeting of Parish Council (Elections & Committee nominations) The Pavilion

Community Surgeries **11am-12pm:**

- Monday 4 March 2019 – Meriden Library
- Monday 8 April 2019 – The Pavilion
- Monday 6 May 2019 – Meriden Library

Local Council Elections

- Thursday 2 May 2019 – Village Hall

**Meriden's Neighbourhood Plan pre-submission draft
DROP-IN session at the Village Hall
Saturday 9 March 10am-2pm**

Your Parish Councillors are:



Rosie Weaver
BEM (Chair)



Matthew Nunn
(Vice-Chair)



Bob Kipling



Melanie Lee



Paul Lee



Mandy Haque



Frances
Lynch-Smith



Jon Barber

Meriden Neighbourhood Plan meetings **6.30pm – 8.00pm:**

- Wednesday 27 March 2019 – The Pavilion
- Wednesday 17 April 2019 – The Pavilion
- Wednesday 22 May – The Pavilion

Should you wish to contact the Parish Council, please contact the Clerk or drop into the Parish Council office on Monday mornings where you may access information or have a private chat with the Clerk to address local community issues.



Barbara Bland
The Pavilion
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Highways Traffic Calming & School Crossing

Mr Paul Tovey, Group Leader, Sustainable Travel & Highway Management, attended October, December, January and February's parish council meetings to provide concerned residents with an overview and update of the recent road traffic calming measures being trialled on Fillongley Road. Attendance at the meetings represented parents of Meriden school children, residents and disabled residents, the farming community, out of parish drivers and pedestrians. Mr Tovey listened to the issues and concerns raised, and emphasised Highways recognised the need for traffic calming and currently were working through a number of trials to find a satisfactory solution to the many problems currently facing residents and users of Fillongley Road. Mr Stephen Hawley and the parish council have worked together to provide solutions to the many traffic issues on Main Road. Public consultation on proposed new TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) took place between 1st and 22nd February. Letters were sent to properties on highways affected by the proposals for their participation in the public consultation. All works are expected to be in place and concluded by 31 March 2019.

Enforcement Officer

Residents for many years have accepted parking restrictions, pedestrian obstruction and inconsiderate parking as an issue. There have been accidents, near misses and vehicles written off particularly around the Village Green shops, service road and parking layby. With the population growth in Meriden increasing car users, access to major city bus routes into Birmingham and Coventry, the local bus service to Solihull, the movement of machinery between fields for our farming community, increased HGV and LGV movements throughout the parish and striving for safe cycle and pedestrian pathways, there is a great need to keep Meriden's highways network accessible and flowing. The parish council is excited to announce a new initiative of their own Enforcement Officer. With the support of SMBC, the Enforcement Officer will be shared by Meriden and Balsall Common and it is anticipated the Officer will be in post for 1 April 2019. This initiative is to improve the parking and traffic flow, and enforce the new TRO SMBC Highways will implement by 31 March 2019.

Friends of Meriden Pool's two days of planting

Lead Friend, Peter Moss, describes the activities. "Thanks to the Parish Council's successful application and generosity of The Arden Tree Scheme, the valuable help and assistance from SMBC Rangers, it was possible to plant two rows of holly and mixed hedging over two days in January. Phase 1 is approximately 30m in length and comprises holly.



"The other, phase 2, is of mixed varieties at the rear of the Pool and is also 30m in length. For the second day we were ably reinforced by a contingent of the Eco Club from Meriden C of E Primary School who seemed to enjoy their time out, got very involved despite a lot of mud and we are most grateful for their help.



"Also, a big thank you to the SMBC Rangers for their help and advice. They also supplied and planted three new trees, one is an oak tree to replace the large horse chestnut that had to be cut down due to Canker disease. No doubt this new addition will outlive the majority of people living in Meriden, several times over, the other two were blended in with existing trees.

"It is hoped that a number of new projects can be announced very soon as we get into the Spring/Summer period; a new picnic bench will be installed to provide visitors additional seating to enjoy the pool setting; the Friends Group will start planning for additional chippings to the rear pathway; and funding will be sourced for the long awaited dipping platform and some more seating for the newly created gate and pathway from Berkswell Road. Meanwhile it is good to see the wildlife settling down and the new addition of a pair of swans is most encouraging. Let us hope they stay and maybe have a family.

"Can we take this opportunity to request that if you are feeding the ducks, etc please do not leave whole slices of bread or rolls lying around, you are only feeding rats who in turn are a danger to young ducklings or their eggs, thank you.

"If you would like to get involved with the Friends of Meriden Pool, please contact the clerk. There is still much to do, and all help is appreciated."

The Parish Council would like to thank

SMBC Rangers, Barry, Adrian, Luke (pictured with the clerk) and **Shamina**, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator **Bruce Brant**, the **Friends of Meriden Pool Group** and **Meriden C of E Primary School Eco Club**. A special thanks to **Lead Friend Peter Moss** whose support has been invaluable to the clerk. Together, and working in partnership, we hope we have made a real difference to a much-loved community amenity and there are more projects to plan for the future.



Have you ever considered being a Parish Councillor?

A series of Prospective Councillor Briefings have been successfully held recently in Warwickshire and the West Midlands. It is not too late for any interested member of the community to stand as a Parish Councillor.

Elections will be 2nd May 2019 and applications need to be submitted by hand to The Council House, Solihull, by 4pm on Wednesday 3rd April 2019. For more information go to walc.org.uk/be-a-councillor or contact the clerk.