

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd April 2007 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Mr Jones (Chairman), Mrs Eccleston, Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mr Grundy, Ms Isham, Mr Kipling, Mr Robinson and 7 members of the public.

1. Apologies

District Councillor Allsopp.

2. Declaration of Interest

The Chair invited members to make declaration of personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda of meeting.

None declared.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

No matters arising.

5. Correspondence / Communication

1) Public Conveniences.

a) Letter from resident complaining of attitude and behaviour of some Councillors at the last meeting specifically related to closure of toilets. Copies for each Councillor.

AGREED

Letter, comments noted and apologise for any perceived offensive remarks. Mr Kipling reprimanded.

b) As all Councillors are aware, access to the toilets has still been possible and a new lock has been fitted to both toilets by the new contractor.

When looking at the conveniences it was discussed that he would quote to power wash and disinfect throughout, remove existing paint where necessary and prepare for repaint. Emulsion ceilings and walls and gloss woodwork where applicable. All paintwork to be cleaned, repair any leaks and silicone seal around toilets, sinks and urinals. Price to include supply of all materials and labour. £950.

RESOLVED

To ask Mr Dean to proceed with work and accept that will be a further small charge for electrical works.

c) Solihull MBC has notified that they are in the process of reviewing and replacing the direction signing in and around Meriden and were prepared to replace direction signing for the public toilets. There are presently two signs which are opposite. They are aware that the toilets are currently closed and asking if signing is required.

AGREED

To request new signing.

Police are notified of feeling let down with sudden change of reported findings regarding toilets.

Ask Police for support along with Agencies when the improved toilet facilities are reopened.

2) Solihull MBC

Invite the Parish Council to take part in Solihull in Bloom 2007 Match Funding Scheme. We have previously discussed the project for this year which involves cleaning, painting and improving the planted area around the Centre Cross.

AGREED

To submit project and seek £250 funding.

3) SCVS

Seeking two voluntary sector organisations from Birmingham and Solihull to represent the sector on the Trust's Assembly of Governors. To forward expression of interest by 13th April.

AGREED

Not to volunteer.

4) Department for Communities and Local Government.

Notification has been received of Model Code of Conduct, Order 2007 (SI No.1159). The order comes into effect 3rd May 2007.

The Borough and Parish Councils have until 2nd October to formally adopt the Code. Solihull MBC aim to adopt the New Code at its meeting on 10th July.

I suggest Meriden Parish Council look to adopt the New Code of Conduct at the meeting 23rd July.

Solihull MBC will write to all Parish Councillors after the elections with register of interest form for completion and a pack of guidance which will include the new code (although the existing code will apply until formal adoption).

5) Solihull MBC

The Council is now in a position to make proposed Dog Control Order 2007. Copy of Draft Order, notice of intent and map are enclosed. All representations to be received by 31st May. Copy to Chairman and one for circulation.

AGREED

To request consultation if it is intended to erect many signs around village.

6) Cricket Club

Request use of Playing Field for some cricket matches for the next two or three seasons. Also ask for financial support, maybe 50-50 basis for artificial wicket to be constructed at an approximate cost of £6000.

AGREED.

Support in principle for the Cricket Club to use Playing Field but there will need to be further discussion on funding.

6. Receive Reports.

No reports received.

7. Village Matters.

1) Cyclists Memorial Service.

AGREED

For wreath to be requested from florist for Mr Grundy to lay.

For Chris Dean to be requested to clean 3 No parking signs on The Green

2) Meriden Pool

Email about rats around Pool. Chased Solihull MBC, problem referred to Environmental Protection who will be doing a survey and another department will arrange notices to ask people not to feed.

Solihull will provide initially two special bins with a hole at base and poison inside.

3) Litter

Complaints of litter and overflowing litter bins around The Green and Playing Fields have been received. Contact has been made with Solihull and the situation, in my view, has improved. Neighbourhood Co-ordinator will pursue for footway around shops and library to be swept.

4) 'Mag'

Deadline is 8th May so Clerk will be able to submit election results with names of 8 elected Councillors.

8. Planning Matters

1) P/A 2007/491 - 27 Fillongley Road.

Single storey side extension to form a bedroom and a shower room.

RATIFIED

Object: Concerns about the possible terracing effect; Concerns about narrowing of vehicular access drive.

2) P/A 2007/639 - Meriden Hall, Main Road.

Remove deadwood and crown reduction by 10% on oak tree.

RATIFIED

Object: To any unnecessary removal of tree; Refer to Tree Officer.

3) P/A 2007/646 - Swallowfield, Hampton Lane.
Construction of new building to provide 18 no. new guest bedrooms.

RATIFIED

Object: Percentage increase; Over intensive development; Adverse impact on surrounding development and landscape.

4) P/A 2007/50 Decision - 179 Fillongley Road.
Full plans refusal for two storey extension to rear to form dayroom with two bedrooms above.

5) P/A 2007/328 Decision - High Firs, Showell Lane.
Full plans approval for replacement 5 bedroom dwelling (resub. of 2006/2176).

6) Solihull MBC – P/A 2006/2064-Meriden Quarry.
Reference to letter sent by Mr Jones the representations will be reported to Members but requesting a financial contribution from Tarmac could not reasonably be pursued as the 5 tests are:
Relevant to planning; necessary to make the proposed development acceptable in planning terms; directly related to proposed development; fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the proposed development and reasonable in all other respects.
Tarmac is not willing to agree to the request.

7) P/A 2007/418 Decision - Stone House Farm Riding School & Livery Stables, Hollyberry End.
Full plans approval for placement of an automated horse walker.

8) P/A 2007/656 – 9 Grace Road, Millison's Wood.
Single storey side extension to create extended kitchen and relocated garage.

RESOLVED

Leave to Neighbour Notification,

9) P/A 2007/839 – The Old Vicarage, Church Lane.
Add pitched roofs to existing flat roof dormers.

RESOLVED

No observations.

10) P/A 2007/841 – The Old Vicarage, Church Lane.
Add pitched roofs to existing flat roof dormers (Listed Building).

RESOLVED

Leave to Conservation Architect.

Mr Jones registered an interest in the following item.

11) P/A 2007/858 - Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road.
Three storey apartment block containing 8 no. 2 bedroom apartments and 6 no. 1 bedroom apartments.

RESOLVED

Object: Outline permission for 9 only after 10 recommended to be refused; Over intensive; Incongruous feature; Adjacent to Listed Building; Intrudes onto Green Belt and dedicated footpath.

9. Accounts

Accounts approved.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the Annual Parish Council Meeting is Wednesday 16th May 2007 starting at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall. This follows local election for Parish Councillors 3rd May.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at approximately 8.55 pm.

Chair RW

Date 16.05.07