

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 18th August 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Ms Weaver (Chair), Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, Mr Kipling, Mrs Lee, Mr Markham, six members of the public and District Ward Councillors Lee and Bell.

1. Apologies

Sarah Markham

2. Declaration of Interest

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

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 28th July 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Speeding of traffic and parking on footpaths and Albert Road.

The Chair replied that these are issues which other residents and the Parish Council share. The Parish Council have regular meetings with the police who are ticketing vehicles which are parked badly. The Parish Council are keen to commence the Community Speed Watch. Mr Markham advised of his work with the police to stop the vehicles which speed regularly in the Village. The Police have new powers enabling them to confiscate and crush cars. It was agreed that the Parish Council would invite the Highways Agency to the Parish Council Sub-Committee meeting in November to discuss this with us further.

5.2 Maxstoke Lane corrective repairs have still not been done.

5.3 Verges on the Birmingham Road have been cut but the ground is badly churned up.

5.4 Builders attending Fir Tree Cottage are churning up the grass verge. Resident to forward the company name to the Clerk to pass on to the Neighbourhood Manager.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 Transforming Transport Consultation Draft Strategic Review 2007-2008

Consultation document circulated to Councillors by Email. Comments required by 12th September 2008.

6.2 Meriden Village Hall Management Committee – 60th Anniversary Celebrations, Saturday 20th September 2008.

Letter asking if the Parish Council would like to participate in the Bazaar/Exhibition taking place from 10.30am until 3.00pm in the Village Hall.

AGREED

Displays from the Village Appraisal Steering Group and Parish Council.

Issues dealt with in each decade to be collated by Mr Goodsir.

Information relating to the Quality Parish Status and the future for the Parish Council.

To be discussed further at the Sub-Committee meeting on 10th September.

6.3 Solihull MBC – Public Rights of Way – Practical Works Summary May – July 2008

Summary of the work of the Rural Footpaths Ranger on circulation.

6.4 Solihull MBC – Planning Application Consultation Process

Letter from Solihull MBC enclosed slides from the meeting in July at SMBC which Clerk attended - now on circulation. Also a questionnaire was received which has been sent to all Parish Councils in the Borough to establish

their requirements to make e-Consultation possible. Clerk has responded on behalf of the Parish Council.

6.5 Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Local Communities

“Parish BAP” document is on circulation. Survey to be completed by 30th September. This item will be put on the agenda again for the September Parish Council Meeting. Councillors were asked to have their comments ready for that meeting.

6.6 Solihull MBC – Youth Website

New website www.solihullyouthspace.org aimed at 13-25 year olds is currently in development and continual review using a focus group of young people.

6.7 West Midlands Police – invitation to Focus Group Meeting to discuss needs within the community

– Friday 22nd August at 10am – Solihull Police Station. Similar to the police priority setting meetings but rather than for the community they are strategic priorities for the whole of the borough. Mr and Mrs Goodsir will attend.

7. Receive Reports

- **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee- Mrs Goodsir**
60th Anniversary Celebrations on 20th September.
- **School Governors for Parish Council - Mrs Goodsir** – no report.
- **Committee Member for War Memorial - Mr Markham** – no report.
- **Pool - Mr Goodsir, Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall** – awaiting update.
- **Allotment Representative - Mrs Hall, Mr Goodsir** – items on the agenda for discussion
- **Footpaths / Forum - Mrs Hamilton**
Somebody has removed the footpath sign by Mrs Hamilton’s house. Clerk to raise with footpath ranger.
- **Meriden Sands Working Group - Mr Kipling, Mr Markham** – Ward Councillors Lee and Bell will arrange a meeting which will incorporate coal extraction issues.
- **Conservation Committee - Ms Weaver**
Application for Meriden Hotel was discussed. Ms Weaver fed back comments of Parish Council ie object to hanging sign but approval of wall sign. The height of the wall in front of the decking was going to be checked to see if it will cover the bottom of the windows.
- **Local Strategic Partnership - Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall** – no report.
- **Police Rural Assembly - Mr Markham** – no report.
- **Solihull Area Committee - Ms Weaver, Mr Kipling** – Feed back on the Health and Wellbeing consultation is required which Ms Weaver will circulate.
- **Tree Wardens - Mrs Markham** – no report.
- **Village Appraisal - Mrs Lee, Ms Weaver, Mrs Goodsir** – next item on the agenda.
- **Police Priority Setting Meeting - Mrs Markham, Mrs Hall** – no report.

8. Village Matters

8.1 Village Appraisal Update

- Minutes of last meeting have been circulated.
- Return rate is now calculated at 60.24%.
- Esos expected to deliver the first draft of the data dump next Tuesday. This will be reviewed by a few members of the Steering Group to decide how best the information can be displayed.
- Newsletter being drafted to publicise the return and achievements made by Steering Group and Parish Council – ie new bus shelter, playing field improvements, football academy, Local Council Charter etc.
- Some theme groups have had meetings and data gathering is underway.
- Open meeting will be on 15th October. There will be a presentation of some of the issues which come out of early analysis of the report from Esos.

8.2 Maxstoke Lane Development

- SMBC have requested a meeting with Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council, SMBC and DTZ representatives. The meeting is to discuss a report going to Cabinet on the retender exercise for Maxstoke Lane, in order to brief us before it goes, which DTZ will also attend. The meeting will be held on 4th September at 4.15pm at SMBC Civic Suite.
- Follow up meeting with Mark Rogers, Ward Councillors, Parish Council, Mike Swallow and Cabinet Member for Resources on 11th September – date to be confirmed.

8.3 Changing Room Repairs

The repairs have now been completed. On stripping the flat roof, it was discovered that additional work was required at the cost of £230. The fascia boards were very bad and have therefore been covered with new wood. The total cost of repairs has increased to £1730.00 (plus VAT of £302.75) Total to be paid £2032.75.

RESOLVED

That the above invoice is agreed.

8.4 Safety Improvements at the Playing Fields

New shackles, bolts and split pins were required to replace the swings. These have been purchased £24.62. Swings are now in place.

RESOLVED

That the above invoice is agreed.

Sweeping of Tennis Courts – Mrs Markham has advised that she no longer wishes to be a volunteer to carry out the weekly sweep up. Mrs Willis kindly volunteered.

8.5 Heart of England Football Alliance

The Football Academy continuing to develop with more new players each week. The open age group have also been training there during the week and have held matches at the playing fields on Sundays. Ms Weaver and the Clerk have been working on a Football Foundation Bid for funding.

8.6 Pond

Update awaited from Kath Hemmings.

8.7 Allotments

A) Clerk wrote to all allotment holders on 31st July advising them that

- Plot 1 would be cut back shortly for car parking during the summer months.
- That any unwanted items scattered in the hedgerows/walkways left by previous tenants would be collected and disposed of on Tuesday 26th August. It was reiterated that this was a one off arrangement and to use the opportunity to have a good clear up.
- To respect the Parish Council decision that there should be no fires on the allotments.

Three individual tenants have replied thanking the Parish Council for their efforts which is restoring a real enthusiasm and buzz at the site.

B) A joint email and a verbal request has been received from three tenants requesting a locked gate at the bottom of the allotments for added security. Clerk has asked whether tenants would be willing to erect the gate if it was provided by the Parish Council.

AGREED

To put this item on the agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.

C) Tenant has emailed asking us to consider for next year

- a veggie/cake/jam competition open to all people of Meriden perhaps in the Village Hall
- open day at the allotments to promote growing your own food and reducing food miles
- changing the rule which prohibits the keeping of chickens on the allotments. (Clerk is looking into this)

D) Tenant of Plot 6 has requested erection of a store/shed. Approx size 6x4.

RESOLVED

Permission is granted for a shed on plot 6 with an approximate size of 6x4.

E) Request from tenant of plot 8 to erect a shed made of toughened plastic, which is green in colour and measures 111cm high, 148cm wide and 84cm deep. It will be placed at the back of the plot in line with other sheds.

RESOLVED

Permission be granted for a plastic container 111cm H, 148cm W and 84cm D to be placed on plot 8.

8.8 Solihull MBC – Application for a modification order to add a public footpath Birmingham Road to Maxstoke Lane, Meriden

Mr Kipling has identified new witnesses and Ms Weaver has identified three new witnesses. Clerk to obtain blank questionnaires. Mr Goodir obtaining photos of plans in the Queens Head.

8.9 Community Speed Watch

No new information to update

8.10 Automatic Number Plate Recognition

Mr Markham will be circulating a report some time after 25th September.

8.11 West Midlands Police – Parking Offences

The following have been issued by West Midlands Police.

Mon 30th June - Polite Notice - Darlaston Court.

Tues 1st July - Polite Notice - Darlaston Court.

Tues 8th July - Polite Notice - Darlaston Court.

Wed 9th July - Polite Notice - Darlaston Court.

Mon 14th July - Polite Notice - Toilets, Main Road.

Wed 16th July - Fixed Penalty Notice - Darlaston Court.

Mr Markham thinks that these may just be the notices issued by Donna Fearn. He will check, get the full figure and pass it on.

8.12 Reducing your Carbon Neutral Footprint

- Article has been put in the Meriden Mag.
- There is a need for Solihull MBC to be greener. Solihull MBC only provide collections of plastic, bottles and cans. Councillor David Bell advised that Solihull MBC do have a strategy in place details of which can be found on their website. Generally, in September it is hoped to launch glass collections and in the next 12 months there will be a further collections.
- Compostable bags. Mrs Markham would like to look into contacting local shops to suggest that they use compostable bags. Ms Weaver advised that there was a specific question relating to this in the Village Appraisal questionnaire and we need to await the results. As a Parish Council we need to listen to the public and consider their views.
- Aeroplanes coming closer to Meriden. Ms Weaver will raise this through the Solihull Area Committee as one of its members is the Chair of the Airport Committee. Mr Markham volunteered to sit on this committee.

8.13 Meeting dates for 2009

It was agreed at the last Parish Council meeting to discuss the meeting requirement further. Do we need Sub-Committee meetings on a monthly basis? Should they be purely planning meetings to avoid duplication?

AGREED

To keep the sub-committee dates in the diary but to use them for guest speakers, open meetings, training, village appraisal etc.

ADDITIONAL ITEM TO THE AGENDA RAISED

8.14 Litter bins on the Green.

Need painting. Clerk to obtain quotes.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 2008/1425 – Meriden Hotel – 155 Main Road, Meriden – Listed building application for retention of timber decking and display of advertisements.

RESOLVED

Leave to Conservation Committee.

9.2 2008/1457 – 2 The Croft, Meriden – Two storey side extension for kitchen, bedroom bathroom and ensuite.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.3 2008/1500 - Rosslyn Cottage, Old Road, Meriden – Two storey side extension to form lounge with master bedroom and en suite to first floor. Resubmission of approval No 2008/460. (Comments from the Parish Council on

application 2008/460 were “Percentage increase concerns. Neighbourhood notification”.

RESOLVED

Reiterate our previous concerns over percentage increase and also leave to neighbour notification.

ADDITIONAL ITEM TO THE AGENDA

9.4 2008/1151 – Swallowfield, Hampton Lane, Meriden – Change of use of three residential bedrooms to bed and breakfast operation.

Solihull MBC decision – Full plans approval – subject to conditions.

10. Accounts

01) Clement Keys – An unqualified audit opinion has been given for Annual Return 2007/2008 on 29th July 2008. They had no queries relating to the accounts submitted and there are no matters to be drawn to the attention of the Parish Council.

Notices have been prepared for “Completion of Audit” and a copy sent to the External Auditor.

Accounts for Payment

1) J Hall – Salary (Expenses none)	£ 653.46
2) HM Revenue & Customs – NI & Income Tax	£ 100.37
3) West Midlands Pension Fund – Superannuation	£ 170.77
4) Mr B Ball – Grass cutting, green and playing field	£ 332.00
5) AMS – C Dean – Clear litter, inspection of playing field	£ 111.00
6) SMG Services – Weekly clear of bus shelters and graffiti.	£ 108.00
7) Clement Keys – Audit Commission approved rates (£285 plus VAT)	£ 334.88
8) R.H. Ledbrook Building Contractors – Repairs to the Changing Rooms At the playing fields, Maxstoke Lane (£1730.00 plus VAT)	£2032.75
9) Warwickshire Rural Community Council – Membership Renewal	£ 22.50
10) Wicksteed Leisure – Shackles, bolts and split pins (inc VAT)	£ 24.61
11) Severn Trent – public toilets	£ 154.13

RESOVLED

That the above accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is 10th September 2008 and the next Parish Council Meeting is on 22nd September 2008 both starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION.

- a) Solihull Area Committee – Annual Report 2007-2008
- b) Heart of England NHS Trust Foundation - Heartbeat – July 2008
- c) West Midlands Police – Minutes of July Rural Assembly Meeting
- d) Warwickshire Life Magazine – article “Meriden the centre of attention”
- e) Solihull NHS Care Trust – Talking About Solihull

- f) Solihull MBC – Rural Footpath Ranger quarterly report.
- g) Environment Agency – Focus newsletter.
- h) Planning Portal e-Consultation Hub slides and brochure.
- i) Parish Biodiversity Action Plan for local communities.
- j) CPRE – Minutes of the regional housing campaign meeting, Coventry 2/7/08.