



Meriden Parish Council

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Minutes of Meriden Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 August 2012 at The Village Hall, Main Road, Meriden. The meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Present:

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| Cllr Mrs M Lee | Chair |
| Cllr Mr R Kipling | Vice Chair |
| Cllr Mrs F Lynch-Smith | |
| Cllr Mr P Lee | |
| Cllr M/s R Weaver | |
| Mrs B Bland | Clerk |

One member of the public was in attendance.

1.Apologies

Cllr Mrs M Haque and Cllr D Bell.

2.Declarations of Interest

Nothing declared by Members.

3.Minutes of 15 June, 25 June & 23 July 2012

The minutes of meetings held on 15 June and 23 July were accepted as an accurate record.

The minutes of the 25 June unavailable and deferred to next meeting. A letter is to be written to the Locum Clerk thanking her for help and support, and requesting that all outstanding items be concluded or transferred to new Clerk by first week of September.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Weaver writes a formal letter of thanks, including no payment to be made for July, until satisfactory handover and outstanding items is concluded.

4.Matters Arising

4.2 A request made by Cllrs Lynch-Smith and Haque for a Confidentiality Policy prior to ICT contract starting. The Clerk presented a copy of the Policy document for ratification.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the contract commence.

4.1 Memorial Bench Millisons Wood to be replaced. Please refer to Agenda Item 9.

5.Public Participation

There was no public participation.

6.Localism Act – Adopt Code of Conduct 2012

Members discussed SMBC and NALC Codes of Conduct. Members were informed of advice given by the Monitoring Officer and recommendations made at the recent SMBS briefing for Town and Parish Councillors, and Clerks. Cllr Kipling proposed acceptance of Solihull MBC Code of Conduct.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Solihull MBC Code of Conduct 2012 be adopted.



6.1 Notification of Register of Interest

All members have now completed notification forms.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk will organise posting onto the Parish Council Website in line with recommendations made by SMBC monitoring officer at recent briefing.

6.2 New Standards Regime Briefing 26 September

A reminder was given to Members attending the above briefing.

IT WAS RESOLVED the Clerk would forward Member's attendance to Monitoring Officer and send out confirmation and reminder email

Members were also advised of a further training event available from The Warwickshire, Solihull & Birmingham Training Partnership for Parish & Town Councils being held on 22 September. Due to commitments it is unlikely Members and Clerk will be unable to attend.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk contacts the Training Partnership to see if further briefings will be delivered.

7. Council Tax Reforms

Cllr Weaver gave an overview of the new Council Tax Reforms. The major change will be the way in which local council tax is calculated and how this will affect all Town and Parish Council income received from April 2013, specifically in Solihull Borough. A recommendation to write to local MPs was tabled.

Cllr Lynch-Smith requested attention be brought to this topic and requested an Officer be invited to speak to Members and Residents. It is understood that the Reform Bill will pass through the House of Lords first week of September. A briefing is being held on 26 September at 4 p.m. which Cllr Weaver will be attending.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the situation be monitored due to impact on 2013-14 budget setting process and reduction in Council precept charges.

8. Meriden Library – Update

It was noted that to date 80 survey questionnaires had been completed and returned out of 983 households. Cllr Lynch-Smith is going to target residents going into the Library to ensure they are completing a questionnaire. She will also hand surveys out to parents attending the football match on 22 August together with those dropping children off to Sports Camp. The deadline for completed surveys is 25 August 2012.

IT WAS RESOLVED that members will continue to monitor survey response.

9. Memorial Bench

The Clerk presented two quotations for the purchase of a new bench. Members agreed that the Parish Council will meet the cost of this purchase and installation on this occasion only. The family will be notified and asked to maintain at their own expense once installation has taken place and in future there will be no replacement bench purchased by the Parish Council with responsibility hereon in being with the family.



IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk notify the family regarding the purchase of a replacement bench outlining the above condition.

The Clerk had received a request from a resident seeking permission to purchase a memorial bench for a deceased family member and site it on the grass verge between Millisons Wood bus stop and Millisons Wood roundabout at Showell Lane.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk notify the resident that in principle it is agreed subject to permission being granted by Solihull MBC. The Clerk will also advise that no cost will be met by the Parish Council for supply, installation and maintenance of this memorial bench.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk will draft a Policy document for the purpose of future requests for Memorial Benches in accordance with Members resolutions. The Policy will also reflect the use of the 20 existing benches in Meriden Village for the purposes of being offered as Memorials by having a memorial plaque fitted, the cost of which will be met by the family/executor.

10.Receive Reports

10.1 **Village Hall** The Village Committee met and it was reported that the land around the Village Hall belongs to the Village Hall, and this belongs to the Village valued at 98K. The application for ownership is currently in process with Land Registry.

10.2 **Meriden School** The flooding work will be completed by the end of the summer holidays.

10.3 **War Memorial** Nothing to report.

10.4 **Pool** Members wish exploration of replanting trees that have been pollarded.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk contact Neighbourhood Co-ordinator re. replacement of lost trees at Duck Pond and also to ask if the tree in the middle of pond is to be pollard?

10.5 **Allotments** Nothing to report. Public enquiry 24 June 2012 and awaiting outcome.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr P Lee calls Planning Consultant and chase up.

10.6 **Footpaths** Cllr Lynch-Smith has taken over responsibility for footpaths. The Clerk reported resident complaints regarding overgrown footpaths and a resident request for the Clerk and Parish Councillors to regularly walk them.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Lynch-Smith makes contact with Footpaths Officer and obtains Ordnance Survey map detailing Meriden footpaths. A form will be designed for members of the public as a mechanism to report any issues.

10.7 **Mining & Minerals** Notification from Solihull MBC has been received on 16 August advising of planning permission 15 year extension applications for extraction and backfill of Meriden Quarries at Arden Brickworks, Somers and Cornets End.



Members discussed this issue setting out the following conditions to be included in a Parish Council reponse:-

1. Resident complaint received by member regarding lorry use of Cornets End Lane and mud;
2. Wheel washers not operating;
3. The sweeping of Cornets End Lane does not include verges that at full of mud and dirt;
4. Environmental impact of wildlife/flora/fauna;
5. Tarmac lorries travelling through Village.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr M Lee email Cllr D Bell for his response; that the Clerk scan and email a copy of Solihull's letter to Members for their response; Cllr M Lee to draft a letter taking account of all Member's responses; deadline for reply to Solihull is Friday 07 September 2012.

10.8 **Local Strategic Partnership** Nothing to report.

10.9 **Solihull Area Committee** Nothing to report.

10.10 **Tree Wardens** Nothing to report.

10.11 **Community Surgeries** Actions followed up by Clerk and requests made to Highways, Housing, Parks and West Midlands Police on behalf of Meriden resident complainants. All work in progress with follow up Police Surgery at Pavilion on 27 August.

10.12 **Community Speed Watch** Reinstate due to resident complaints of increase in heavy vehicles and speeding traffic.

IT WAS RESOLVED to bring to the attention of Community Police Surgery.

10.13 **HS2** Cllr Lynch-Smith updated on Community Forum and the suggestion to form an umbrella organisation as there is a current overlap. Additional news informs property ownership survey (who owns what and is owner identified, if unknown then notices served and land "grabbed"); wildlife and aerial surveys in progress. Solihull Community Forum is made up of paid officers and therefore community representation is welcome.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Members would support the formation of an umbrella organisation. Cllr Lynch-Smith to volunteer for umbrella organisation with a role of mitigation rather than lobbying for the purposes of environmental impact.

11.Meriden Sports Park

Cllr M Lee gave an update on snagging issues stating how disappointing to only have 9 of the 21 outstanding items completed. There was also disappointment in the CCTV equipment supplied including the money that was spent on the CCTV. A request has been made to Mike Swallow for a breakdown of costs.



Cllrs R Kipling and P Lee were vociferous about the build, timeline, completion, playing field not fit for purpose, loss of revenue and DWH (David Wilson Homes) possible breach of contract for the practical completion has not been met. They urged a formal complaint be made to the Chief Executive of Solihull MBC and dictated an outline letter to the Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk draft a letter of complaint to Mark Rogers, Mike Swallow and John Shaw clearly stating a possible breach of contract and advising of taking legal advice. The Clerk will email members for their approval prior to signing.

11.1 Update

Farm Watch - It was advised that the Farm Watch surgery will be hosted at the Pavilion by Shirley Police.

Netball – free training has been secured for taster sessions for children, young people and adults aged 10 plus. Good attendance is reported and the Sports Co-ordinator will assess continuation.

Tennis – The Sports Park has been approached by a local tennis coach who wants to introduce taster sessions to Meriden on 09 September for children, young people and adults aged 4 plus. This will be a Sunday morning session and continuation will be gauged by demand and take up of session.

Football – Newly formed U-13 team will be playing their first match on Saturday 01 September.

12.Planning Matters

12.1 The Clerk informed Members she had contacted Solihull Planners who are undergoing a review of their process for notifying Town and Parish Councils of Neighbourhood Applications. No notifications had been received for consideration at this meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk follow up for next meeting.

12.2 Cllr Lynch-Smith advised she had spent valuable time with Grace Tuckey who had given a detailed overview of historical and current land ownership in Meriden producing maps. A suggestion for Grace Tuckey to make an audio recording for Parish records was discussed together with an archive being sited in Meriden Library.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Cllr Lynch-Smith ask Grace Tuckey and Doreen Agutter to get involved as a Community project.

13.Finance

13.1 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that payment be made to all suppliers listed.

13.2 Nothing to report.

13.3 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Clerk and Vice Chair be added to cheque signatories . Members completed new mandate paperwork and actioned by Clerk.



13.4 **IT WAS RESOLVED** that this be agreed the confidential enclosure be agreed.

13.5 Nothing to report.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk follow up with Auditors.

13.6 The Clerk presented to the meeting correspondence received from AdvantEdge regarding finance software packages that the Parish Council purchased under the terms of a five year contract in 2008.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk organise training and bring accounts up to date using the financial software available.

15.Any Other Business

Members were advised of email correspondence from the Packington Estate requesting Parish Council's feedback to closure of a layby on Hampton Lane (Meriden Mile).

16.Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 24 September 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Chair : _____

Date: _____