

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th August 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver, Shirley Goodsir, Graeme Goodsir, Marilyn Hamilton, Melanie Lee and three members of the public.

1. **Apologies**
Sarah Markham
Will Markham

Absent
Bob Kipling

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.

None declared.

3. **Minutes**

3.1 **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 22nd June 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3.2 **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Sub – Committee Meeting on 8th July, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3.3 **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 27th July 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. **Matters arising from the minutes**

4.1 **Reply from Darren Allen to comments about the replacement streetlights scheme.**

The lanterns they are proposing use the most up to date street lighting technology. The lantern is a pot optic, this means that the lamp and reflector are recessed into the body of the lantern, providing optimum optical control of the light emitted. The lanterns meet the latest European lighting codes where light pollution forms part of the code. The new codes also have maximum lighting levels that must be adhered to where previously the old British standard had no maximum level. The predicted savings in energy is £1900.00 and reduction in carbon of 7082kg across the proposed scheme.

5. **Public Participation**

5.1 The minutes on the website are in PDF Format which some people are unable to print. Melanie Lee to check and liaise with 2geeDesign.

5.2 Anti social behaviour in Alspath Road. All that can be done is being done by Solihull ASB to assist residents.

6. **Correspondence and Communication**

6.1 **Letter from Solihull Partnership enclosing copies of the following which are on circulation:**

- **Solihull Safer Communities Plan 2008-2011** (working to reduce crime and disorder and make our communities feel safer)
- **The Compact Plus 2008-2013** (an agreement to improve relations between the Solihull Partnership and the third sector).
- **One Borough: an equal chance for all 2008-2018** (sustainable community strategy for Solihull).

6.2 **WALC – The Power of Well Being Training – Briefing Event for All Clerks and Councillors**

Tuesday 15th September 2009 7.30pm to 9pm at the Town Hall, The Parade, Royal Leamington Spa, CV32. £5 per delegate.

Councillors who wish to attend are: Melanie Lee, Shirley Goodsir and Marilyn Hamilton.

6.3 **BT – Adoption of Red Telephone Kiosk at Albert Road, Millison’s Wood.**
Letter pre-circulated with the agenda. Asking the Parish Council whether they would like to adopt the above kiosk for the cost of £1. This is not a grade II listed kiosk. We have until October 31st to reply.

AGREED

To make enquiries to find out information from those councils who have already adopted a kiosk costs etc.

To make enquiries with BT, if it is decided after 1 year not to continue with the adoption whose responsibility is it to take away.

6.4 **Village Concerns raised by resident (who was present at the meeting).**

Email received raising the following concerns:

- a) Anti Social Behaviour – drinking of alcohol resulting in abusive behaviour from youths around the Green.
- b) Exchanging of “sweet packets” for money outside the library.
- c) Use of nudes for figure drawing in the Village Hall.

Clerk has responded advising that the PC is aware of ASB issues around the Green and other areas in Meriden Parish. We are working with the police and a PCSO has been recruited. A Dome Hawk Camera is being considered and residents are being asked for their opinion in this issue of Mag. Details of how to report ASB were published in the last edition of the Mag.

The Chair had taken advice in response to point c). The morality and preferences of individuals should not and cannot be used to determine who books or uses the facility and all individuals irrespective of their religion gender race or sexuality are treated equally in this regard. The enquiry should be directed to the Village Hall Management Committee.

The resident who was present at the meeting added that he considered decision trees could be a good way of delivering information to residents. He will attend the next community surgery at the library to discuss the idea with the neighbourhood co-ordinator and police.

6.5 **“The Neglect of Millison’s Wood” – Parish Council copied into email from resident to Ken Meeson.** Copy of email pre-circulated together with Clerks response. No further response to be given.

6.6 **Email from Doreen Argutter, Local Historian**

Last year she was given 200 water colours mainly of the village painted by Dr Kittermaster in 1830s. They will be kept for their preservation in the Warwickshire County Record Office. She is hoping to create a personal website to help advertise them and encourage knowledge of Meriden’s history. IF she does this would the parish council be happy for there to be a link from the parish council website to hers.

AGREED

Melanie Lee to contact Mrs Argutter to confirm that a link could be put on the parish council website and to offer any help in this regard.

6.7 **Moles/New Equipment Damage and Theft of centre plants in parish containers.**

Brian Ball telephoned the clerk to report the following

Moles – the situation is getting worse and the hills are now encroaching onto the football pitch. He considers it to be too big an area to leave the grass long. Could the parish council reconsider getting the mole catcher out. The quote obtained in June by the Clerk was for £180 plus VAT.

AGREED

To contact Environmental Services for advice on the best time of year for treating Moles. If appropriate to arrange for treatment.

New Equipment – Brian reported that the new piece of equipment has been damaged. This has been reported to Wicksteed for repair.

Theft of plants – the centre plant in many of the containers have been stolen. Brian does not have any more to replace them and they are quite expensive. The planters look colourful anyway. Do we want to replace them?

AGREED

That the planters should be left as they are.

ADDITIONAL

6.8 Britain in Bloom

Letter received from SMBC. The Green has successfully put through to the final round of judging. Invitation to the presentation ceremony on Tuesday 15th September at 6.30pm at Notcutts Garden Centre, Stratford Road, Shirley to find out whether the Green was selected as the “best of the best” this year.

AGREED

To ask Brian Ball and his wife if they would like to attend.

6.9 Football posts

SMG have today reported that the goal posts in the playing fields have been pulled out of the ground and set alight. He is willing to remove them in the morning and take them to his premises. Clerk has asked him to quote for repairing them and putting them back into the ground.

AGREED

To ask SMG to remove the posts and take them to their premises for safe keeping/repair.

6.10 Heart of England Way Association – installation of interpretation board at St Laurence Church on Wednesday.

AGREED

Shirley/Graeme to attend.

7. Receive Reports

7.1 Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee – next meeting 24/9/09.

7.2 School Governors for Parish Council – No recent meeting. They are digging the foundations for the new class room.

7.3 Committee Member for War Memorial – No report.

7.4 Pool – Kath Hemming, SMBC Neighbourhood Manager was asked to formally put in writing the verbal agreements made around match funding for the pond. A letter has now been received which advises that SMBC cannot commit any further funding to this project and the parish council will need to seek funding from other sources.

Email received from Susan East today who has had confirmation from the Environment Champions that they have some volunteers for the clear up on Wednesday 14th October. The main area that they will be focusing on will be around the commemorative bench to ensure that the vegetation is cut back.

Sue is awaiting confirmation that this date is ok for the park ranger who will be working with the school children making bird boxes and that the information sign will be ready so the volunteers can install.

7.5 Allotment Representative – Resident/tenant who was present at the meeting thanked the parish council for their help in improving the site. The allotment association had arranged a clean up for the 19th July but disappointingly only two tenants turned up. Communication needs to be reviewed. Clerk to find out whether green recycling bins can be provided at the allotments. Melanie Lee will contact Clive Jones about a chipper.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum – Summary of Works on circulation.

7.7 Meriden Sands Working Group – No report.

- 7.8 **Conservation Committee** – Meeting notes are on circulation.
- 7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – No report.
- 7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** - Minutes of 11/6/09 now on circulation.
- 7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – Next meeting is 1st October. Leader of the Council with representatives of the Cabinet will meet with Chairs of all parish and town councils quarterly to discuss issues collectively.
- 7.12 **Tree Wardens** – No report.
- 7.13 **Parish Plan** – The Parish Plan is nearly completed.
- 7.14 **Community Surgery Monday 17th August**
 Attended by Shirley, Susan East and PC's George Stokes and Donna Fearn. Five residents attended with complaints over anti social behaviour. PC Stokes and Fearn advised that a group of six children are causing considerable disturbance and all of their parents have been contacted. They would like the Parish Council to consider the Dome Hawk Camera as soon as possible.
- 8. Village Matters**
- 8.1 **Parish Plan**
 No additional report to 7.13 above.
- 8.2 **Community Speed Watch**
 Still awaiting on the police to complete their risk assessments.
- 8.3 **Alcohol Free Zone**
 Report from Graeme Goodsir read out. Clerk to type it up and put it on the website.
- 8.4 **Allotments**
 No additional report to 7.5 above.
- 8.5 **Remembrance Day Service – one off donation for 2009/2010 for the purchase of equipment.**
 A risk assessment being carried out by the police on the 3rd September will show how much equipment is required.
- 8.6 **Youth Club**
 Will commence again in the Autumn.
- 8.7 **Pond**
 No additional report to 7.3 above.
- 8.8 **Dome Hawk Camera**
 So far the Clerk has received one text message from a resident in support of the Dome Hawk Camera. The Chair has received two verbal approvals.
- There have been further incidents recently to support our application. The new piece of equipment has been damaged further by one of the legs and ball attachments being removed. The far goal posts have been pulled down, hay from the adjoining field put on top and then set alight. The latter incident being reported to the Clerk today by PC Stokes.
- 8.9 **Design Competition – Changing Rooms**
AGREED
 Rosie Weaver to contact Kevin Hunt to see if the Youth Club would be interested in this project.

8.10 **New play equipment at Maxstoke Lane playing fields.**

Installation is now complete and the damaged safety surfacing has now been repaired.

RESOLVED

That the Clerk can sign the Certificate of Satisfaction to confirm that the installation services have been carried out at the site have been completed.

8.11 **Development, Maxstoke Lane, Meriden**

- a) Letter received from Ray Walker, Land Manager of David Wilson Homes enclosing designs and drawings contained within their “draft application” for the development which has been submitted to SMBC in accordance with their obligations of the Development Agreement. If anybody would like to see the documents please book a time with the Clerk.
- b) Option Appraisal – **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council will instruct a professional independent person to carry out option appraisal at a cost of approximately £500 per day in order that they can make an informed decision as whether or not to take over maintenance of the new play facility at Maxstoke Lane. (proposed by Melanie Lee and seconded by Bob Kipling).

9 Planning Matters

- 9.1 **2009/1024 – Diddington Hall, Diddington Lane, Meriden** – Listed building application for the change of use from offices to non residential institution (D1) to include disabled access and toilet block. (Martin Saunders emailed to agree extension to 25th August).

RESOLVED

Leave to Conservation Committee.

- 9.2 **2009/1227 – Spar Stores 1 The Green, Meriden** – Retention of 2 refrigeration units and erection of enclosure.

RESOLVED

Leave to Conservation Committee and neighbour notification.

10. Accounts

- a) **Clement Keys – Annual Return 2008/2009**

An unqualified audit opinion has been given for Annual Return 2008/2009. Following correspondence requesting that the clerk amended and initial the figures in boxes one and six to correctly account for an adjustment which the clerk made in the VAT recoverable as a valid VAT invoice could not be obtained.

Notices have been prepared for “Completion of Audit” with copy for Auditor.

- b) **A new edition of the Local Council Administration book** which the Clerk uses regularly has now been published. The cost of the book is £67. The new edition is updated to include all legislative developments since the title was last published in 2006.

RESOLVED

That the new edition can be purchased.

- c) **Clerks Performance Development Review**

Rosie Weaver and Shirley Goodsir have met with the Clerk on two occasions to carry out a review of last year and to agree any development needs for next year.

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is the sub committee meeting on 9th September 2009 and the next parish council meeting is 28th September 2009 both commencing at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

- a) Solihull MBC – Conservation Advisory Committee Meeting Notes 28/7/09.
- b) Solihull NHS Care Trust – Annual Report 2008/2009.
- c) WRCC – Country Matters Issue 42 Summer 09 (copies also up at Village Hall and at Doctors).
- d) Solihull MBC Conservation Committee – Meeting notes 18/8/09.
- e) West Midlands Police – Minutes of Rural Assembly Meeting 11/6/09.
- f) Solihull Shopmobility Leaflet – Issue 28 July 2009.
- g) Solihull MBC – Public Rights of Way - Summary of Works.
- h) Solihull Partnership – Solihull Safer Communities Plan.
- i) Solihull Partnership – The Compact Plus for Solihull.
- j) Solihull Partnership – One Borough: an equal chance for all.
- k) Solihull MBC – Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report – 2008/2009.
- l) Solihull MBC – Neighbourhood Management Report July 2009.