

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2007 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Ms Weaver (Chair), Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, Mr Kipling, Mrs Lee, and two members of the public.

1. Apologies

Mrs Markham, Mrs Markham.

2. Declaration of Interest

Mr Kipling declared a prejudicial interest in item 8.1.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 26th November 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None

Discussion of Planning application 2007/2450 Open Windrow Composting of Organic Material at Berkswell Quarry, Cornets End Lane, Meriden

Solihull MBC have agreed an extension of time to 17th December to submit our response.

Berkswell Parish Council are not attending the meeting tonight. They have already submitted their observations.

- request for wash off facilities to be provided and lorries washed off prior to leaving the site
- lorries only operate working hours and not weekends or bank holidays
- that further restrictions are placed on the road to keep it clean

A report received from a resident was circulated with the minutes.

RESOLVED

That the questions the report suggested we asked should be included in our response to Solihull. We should reiterate the observations of Berkswell Parish Council and include information the Clerk obtained from Scottish Environment Protection Agency website.

5. Public Participation

1) Parking in Meriden

Tipper lorries marked with Colman & Co are continuing to park in Birmingham Road. There is also a white coach registration number PSV261 regularly in the village. It was seen recently driving partially on the pavement behind a family walking along the pavement. It parks on the drop down part on the pavement which is also on double yellow lines. It has been reported to the Police by residents. Clerk to raise it with local police officer.

2) Through Traffic in Meriden

It was suggested that we find out the cost of a full traffic survey where traffic is stopped and drivers are asked travel details. We could then use that survey to have restrictions placed on Main Road.

AGREED

Clerk to speak to Solihull MBC .

6. Correspondence and Communication

1) Warwickshire, Solihull, Birmingham Training Partnership

“The Next Step – Making the most of your role as Parish and Town Councillors”. 10.00am – 4pm Saturday 2nd February 2008. £30 per delegate. Booking form to be returned with payment by Friday 25th January 2008. Mrs Lee to attend.

2) Solihull MBC – Licensing Act 2003

A response has been received from Solihull MBC to our queries raised in respect of points 2.2 and 4.9 of the draft revised statement of licensing policy. These paragraphs have been removed from the draft. The policy document has now been revised following consultation, and subject to Full Council approval, will be published in January.

3) West Midlands Police – Distraction burglaries

Two emails have been received in respect of distraction burglaries in the area. People are claiming to be from either Npower or the Water Board. It is advised that identification of the caller is checked on the following numbers : Npower 08456 0111 102 and Severn Trent 08457 500 500. Clerk will put details on the notice boards.

ADDITIONAL

4) Christmas Tree

A resident has queried where the other Christmas tree is and why the lights are not on the tree on the island. We have only ever had the one tree.

AGREED

Clerk to check the current situation with the tree on the island with Clive Jones.

5) Cricket Club Trophy

We have been asked if we would kindly agree to store a silver trophy which the Cricket Club have won, in the filing cabinet at the Library.

AGREED

Trophy can be stored in the library. Clerk to check position with libraries insurance.

6) West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting

Minutes of the last Rural Assembly Meeting held on 4th October copied and handed out to Councillors. The next meeting is on Thursday 17th January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Civic Suite at the Council House. Mr Markham to attend.

7. Receive Reports

1) Solihull Partnership Forum Meeting

Chair and Clerk attended Solihull Partnership Forum held by Sustain and Solihull Partnership to learn about developments to the structure for the Local Strategic Partnership and to receive an update on the new Sustainable Community Strategy for Solihull. Awaiting copy of the draft Community Strategy and meeting notes. To be circulated once received for comments by 31st January.

2) Village Appraisal

An update was given on the current position of the Village Appraisal. Results have been analysed from the WI. Representatives from the Steering Group attended Meriden School to speak to the Children. Information has been collated from the children and is yet to be analysed. Next meeting is Thursday 13th December 7.30pm in the Heart of England Social Club.

RESOLVED

That the sub-committee meetings on 13th February 2008 and 19th March 2008 be used as open meetings for the Village Appraisal.

8. Village Matters

1) Public Conveniences

Estimate received from a local building contractor to demolish the toilet block and remove all debris from site. Seal off water and electric supplies. Remove concrete base. Level ground and lay turf. £10,175 (+VAT £1780.63); Total £11,955.63.

Clerk has arranged a site visit to the bus shelter adjacent to the toilets with Susan East, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and representative from Solihull MBC who can advise on the soil erosion and necessity to move shelter. Thursday 13th December 12pm meeting at The Bulls Head car park.

Water bill has been received for period of 23rd August 07 to 28th November 07 for £280.00. This is not an estimate. The toilets have consumed 115 cubic metres of water although they are closed. This is high water consumption even compared to when toilets were open.

RESOLVED

Clerk to check with Solihull MBC that we can use somebody else to carry out work on the public conveniences or for them to requote.

Clerk, and either Mr or Mrs Goodsir to attend bus shelter site visit.

Clerk to contact Chris Dean who has the keys for the public conveniences to turn off water and electricity.

2) Solihull Area Committee

Meriden Parish Council are to provide five issues which we would like to take to the Solihull Area Committee to consolidate with other Parish Councils.

RESOLVED

That the following issues be raised. Antisocial behaviour; WALC's protocol for parish and town councils to be involved in the provision of services; traffic calming; poor bus service into Solihull particularly in evening; traffic

wardens.

3) Local Council Charter

Parish and Town Council have been asked to sign up to the Charter. Representatives of the Parish Council have therefore been invited to attend the Solihull Area Committee meeting on 17th January (venue to be confirmed) to be involved in final discussions.

AGREED

Ms Weaver and Mr Kipling to attend.

4) Aggregate Levy Fund

The closing date for applications this financial year has passed. It is not yet confirmed whether the fund will be available for application next financial year. Clerk has diarised to check.

5) ID Cards

Draft circulated at meeting for approval.

RESOLVED

That ID cards be produced by the Clerk for each Councillor. To include a telephone number for confirmation of ID. Date and logo off the website.

6) Pond

A meeting has been arranged for 1.30pm on Monday 17th December at The Bulls Head with Stuart Nelmes of BWB Consulting Limited (Integrated Engineer and Environmental Consultants) and Susan East, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Solihull MBC. The meeting is to discuss the Breathing Spaces grant application.

AGREED

Ms Weaver, Clerk, Mr and Mrs Goodsir to attend.

7) Tenders for Contracts for year 2008/2009

A list of tenders per contract is circulated for discussion. (Copy attached to minutes.)

RESOLVED

Contract 1 awarded to Mr Ball

Contract 2 awarded to Advanced Maintenance Services

Contract 3 awarded to SMG

Contract 4 awarded to SMG

Contract 5 awarded to SMG

Contract 6 awarded to suspend as toilets now closed.

8) Remembrance Sunday

AGREED

Thank you letters to Mr Moorhouse, Mr Hammon and Mr Barstow for involvement and organisation in the Remembrance Day Service.

9) 900 Bus Service

Clerk contacted Mike Fox at West Midlands Travel garage where the 900 service is run from. He answered specific questions raised by Clerk which were read out.

RESOLVED

To invite representative to an open meeting in February for further discussion.

9. Planning Matters

1) P/A 2007/2573 – Heathfield – Cornets End Lane, Meriden

First floor dormer extension.

RESOLVED

Over intensification of green belt site.

2) P/A 2007/2351 – 118 Fillongley Road, Meriden

Full plans approval for retrospective garage extension and new boundary wall.

3) P/A 2007/2450 – Berkswell Quarry, Cornets End Lane, Meriden

Open Windrow Composting of Organic Material

RESOLVED

To respond raising questions provided in the report, to reiterate Berkswell Parish Councils comments and to incorporate information from DEFRA website.

ADDITIONAL

4) P/A 2007/2462 – Back Lane, Back Lane Farm, Meriden

Erection of stable block at front of property on site of previous stable block. Resubmission of application number 2006/2276 (*unable to locate any information on application 2006/2276*)

TO BE RESOLVED (plans and notification awaited)

5) P/A 2007/2713 – Millisons Wood, Meriden

Thinning of various trees in relation to delivery of the Forestry Commissions Native Woodland Plan.

RESOLVED

No comment

10. Accounts

a) AdvantEDGE Finance – Online Accounting Service. Edge Designs, based in Coventry has been leading the market in supply of local council management solutions for 15 years. For a full accounting system which has the following benefits:

- Remote access from office or home
- Remote access for auditors with read only access
- Data automatically backed up and secure
- Unlimited helpdesk support
- Latest software always in use
- Fixed cost with term contract, 3 years (£150 per annum) or 5 years (£135 per annum).

Additional one off cost of £250 for training.

RESOLVED

To enter contract of 5 years with Edge Designs for AdvantEdge Finance.

b) Village Hall – Donation

RESOLVED

That this be reduced to £750 to reflect the greater call on the Parish Council's finances over the next couple of years.

The accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Finance/Sub-Committee Meeting is 16th January 2008 and the next Parish Council Meeting is on 28th January 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 : _____