



# Meriden Parish Council

*the centre of england*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2016  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr R Weaver	Chair	Cllr M Nunn	
Cllr F Lynch-Smith		Cllr P Lee	
Cllr R Kipling			
Cllr M Lee		Mrs B Bland	Clerk

**In attendance: Cllr D Bell and Cllr K Allsopp.**

**Cllr Weaver welcomed Councillors, Members of the Public and opened the meeting.**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Barber due to ill health and Cllr Haque due to work commitment.

**2. Public Participation**

There were 2 members of the public in attendance and Chair invited any issues they may have to be raised.

- (i) Dust clouds and air borne debris continue to be evident from quarry operations. Concerns regarding toxic wood, resin and other substances evident in A & A operations that emit in fine wood dust with SW prevailing winds causing unpleasant dust and smell.

Cllr P Lee asked if there was an EA representative attending the Quarry Liaison meeting. Chair replied there is not and this has been requested. Cllr P Lee suggested that SMBC formally make the request for the EA to attend and carry out an assessment of air quality. He also requested a letter be sent to Caroline Spelman MP.

Chair replied that at this afternoon's quarry liaison meeting A & A confirmed that 20-30 metre bund, screening, netting, fencing and a planted tree line works had been completed. Residents however reiterated that their cars remain covered in dust particles.

Chair further stated that the Clerk had written to the Agent for an independent analysis of air quality to be undertaken and currently await a reply.

**Action: Cllr Bell to discuss concerns with SMBC officers and request SMBC do a laboratory analysis for air quality and dust monitoring.**

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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- (ii) Disturbance and annoyance due to the pylon drilling was raised. This has been widely raised with Beechwood and their contractor, Larch Group, undertaking the drilling works. Due to the instability of ground, prior to development commencing a number of pylons have been erected into the old landfill to stabilise. The Parish Council have liaised with the contractor and updated information has been provided on the PC website and to the Meriden Watch site. It is anticipated pylon works will be completed by 19<sup>th</sup> December. Additional concerns were raised regarding the operation burning wood pallets and later the composting of green/food waste.

Chair confirmed there has been public meetings when residents had the opportunity to question Beechwood and see the plans and scale of proposed below ground operation. As part of the licensing conditions all activity will be closely monitored.

- (iii) Morrison Park Homes has resurrected previous planning applications with the latest submission for another Park Home to be sited on the existing car park. This will decrease the number of parking spaces and reduce the openness of the visual design of the site. The PC was asked for their support in objecting to this latest application. Additionally there is concern regarding an area (Berkswell Road entrance) of “dangerous and untidy” storage. Currently this area is being used for “dumping” unwanted items including building materials and gas bottles.

**Action:** Cllr Kipling will respond to planning application objecting on grounds of greenbelt development. Cllr Allsopp will talk to SMBC environmental officers regarding gas bottles in a public area. Cllr Allsopp to discuss with SMBC planning officers responsibility to keep fire service access clear and also request a fire service visit regarding review of gas bottle storage.

### 3. Declarations of Interest

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
Nothing to declare.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature  
Nothing to declare.

### 4. Minutes

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016, circulated prior to meeting, were considered.

Cllr M Lee requested an amendment be made to item 12.1(i) Neighbourhood Planning Update first sentence as follows:-

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....



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*Cllr Weaver advised that the Neighbourhood Plan Survey and Straw Poll results from the open day, which our planning consultant helped us with, influenced SMBC's decision making process regarding Meriden's identified sites.*

Members approved the minutes for accuracy with the amendment as above.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling proposed acceptance of the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 21st November 2016, seconded by Cllr Nunn.

## **5. Finance**

### **5.1 Approve December Payments**

The clerk circulated December payments for consideration and approval.

- (i) Meriden Parish Council December payments £3,606.44.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Parish Council December payments of £3,606.44 seconded by Cllr Nunn.

- (ii) Chair advised that the cash flow issues surrounding Meriden Sports Park had now been resolved with the assistance of SMBC who have loaned funds to the Sports Park for the purposes of meeting contractor costs to end of this financial year. The guarantor for the loan is the Parish Council precept. Member were previously asked to consider this option and give their in principle approval to this arrangement if successful. Members are now asked for their formal acceptance of this short term loan arrangement to be repaid no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park loan arrangement with SMBC which was seconded by Cllr R Weaver.

- (iii) Meriden Sports Park December payments £3,988.92.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr P Lee proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park December payments of £3,988.92 seconded by Cllr Weaver.

### **5.2 Grant Thornton Audit/Annual Return 2015-16**

The technical issues continue to be worked through and solutions found with SMBC. SMBC are of the view that the transfer was made correctly and it is the audit trail that requires formalisation. In this instance SMBC are seeking Counsel Opinion to absolve the Parish Council of the issues raised regarding the transfer of funds to Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust. Discussion continues with the Trustees regarding their responsibilities and duties under Charity Commission guidance. SMBC is assisting with legal help to find a resolution. The Chair and Clerk will meet with Andrew Kinsey again tomorrow, 13<sup>th</sup> December at 3.30pm.

**Action: Cllrs Weaver, Nunn and the clerk will meet with Andrew Kinsey on 13<sup>th</sup> December who will update on Counsel Legal Opinion.**

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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Chair advised that the CEO of Edge Finance Systems is not responding to recent emails regarding the outstanding amount to be reconciled prior to sending letter to Grant Thornton. Exploration of an alternative system i.e. SAGE/Rialto is currently under review. Quarterly checks have also not been undertaken and there is outstanding items from October's meeting.

**Action: Clerk to write to Chris Edge; review of finance package to be undertaken with a view to alternative finance support.**

### 5.3 Freehold transfer of Sports Park and VAT

Chair reported that there is no VAT liability to the Parish Council. This has been resolved by SMBC and confirmed accordingly. An update will be provided once the above meetings have been concluded. Cllr Weaver reiterated no freehold transfer will be accepted until the matter of technical issues is concluded with SMBC.

**Action: Clerk and Cllr Weaver to work with SMBC to conclude the matter.**

### 5.4 New Financial Regulations/Audit/Transparency/Policies

The clerk advises this remains a work in progress.

**Action: Finance committee defer to next meeting.**

## 6. Progress Reports

### 6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Lynch Smith reported all is going well. The next film night is January showing Breakfast at Tiffany's at £5 per ticket.

### 6.2 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

### 6.3 Meriden Pool

Nothing to report.

### 6.4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

### 6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

### 6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Chair reported many complaints regarding the mud on Birmingham Road. This was raised with operators at today's meeting. Following discussion and in light of recent accidents on Cornets End Lane, Harworth Estate is organising an operators meeting for January to identify and find a solution to this ongoing problem. There is a rota for sweepers to cleanse highway; also wheel washers to be operational, currently the one at the entrance to A & A has a broken pipe. Both Paul Tovey and David Wigfield were present and party to the discussion.

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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A request was made for a central point to be established to receive resident complaints which will ease the burden of the Clerk.

**Action:** The clerk to continue monitoring and fielding complaints to operators.

## 6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report.

## 6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Cllr Lynch-Smith advised that the new tree warden will be attending monthly Tree Warden meetings starting after Christmas.

**Action:** Cllr Lynch-Smith to monitor, advice and update Members accordingly.

## 6.9 Community Surgeries

Community Surgery hosted by Clerk and Bruce Brant, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016, with Cllrs Weaver and Barber attending.

A general catch up of actions and outstanding items from previous surgeries included:-

- Update of SMBC proposed reorganisation of services.
- Priorities for 2017-18 as follows:-
  - (i) Vulnerable victims of crime
  - (ii) Domestic abuse – service improvements
  - (iii) Reduce public place violence particular around town centres
  - (iv) Reduce burglary – currently no priority for rural communities
- Meriden Watch to link into Community Neighbourhood team.
- PCs Harrison and Timmons now relocated to new base in Chelmsley Wood.
- Regular meetings with Bruce Brant, Police, Solihull Community Housing and Housing Associations.
- Vandalism or groups of youths – keep Neighbourhood team informed: prevention v. target setting.
- Explored shared costs of enforcement officer between local PCs; funding request.
- Explored parking permits for centre village parking and further restrictions to the Green.
- Reviewed highways evidence for February Cabinet meeting; unrealistic to meet 31 December deadline therefore extend time line.

Residents' concerns raised included:-

- Increased dust/air borne particles – sample provided for analysis. Quarry meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December and this will be raised.
- Increased dog fouling in Millison's Wood. Signs provided for lamp posts.

**Action:** The clerk to liaise with SMBC officers and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator. Consideration to be given to appointment only sessions at pre-arranged times to eliminate unnecessary time when there is no take up by residents.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....

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## 6.10 Community Speed Watch

The speed watch will be undertaken in January 2017.

## 6.11 HS2

Chair reported that Paul Tovey raised with Quarry Operators today, the need to have information on HGV movements for a 5, 10 and 15 year operational plan. There will be designated routing arrangements with HS2L contractors however existing routing agreements are being looked at by SMBC to ensure effective and efficient road movements along designated routes are maintained with the increase in HS2L traffic.

**Action:** All operators will provide relevant information on lorry movements to Paul Tovey.

## 6.12 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)

The next Directors meeting is 14/12/16 @ 7pm Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park. The next summary report will be provided for January's meeting.

## 7. Clerk's Report

The Clerk had circulated update prior to meeting advising of actions that are reflected in agenda items. Members had no questions.

## 8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

## 9. Correspondence & Communication

Chair advised the following:-

- Warwickshire County Council public consultation to 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2017 regarding Minerals Plan. Appraisal for wildlife habitat included.  
**Action:** Cllr Kipling to complete consultation on behalf of Members. Cllr Bell to find out if there is liaison between SMBC and WCC.
- Cllr Kipling reported that Cllr D Skinner, Coventry City Council, advises that the link road will go ahead linking the A46 and A45.  
**Action:** Cllr Bell to ensure SMBC's supplementary consultation response is circulated to the Parish Council.
- Darlaston Court resident regarding Manor Hotel parking thus reducing car parking on Main Road for Darlaston Court residents. The resident will be contacted regarding use of garage as all flats allocated with a garage; but it appears garages are too small. **Action:** Resident to be contacted.

## 10. Meriden Village Matters

### 10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

### 10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Nothing to report.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....

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10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report. Chair asked what is happening with this. SMBC have not adopted public open space or the housing site. There remain snagging issues with Barretts David Wilson Homes (BDWH) but street cleansing and other services are not being carried out. Cllr Bell stated that there is a clause in the agreement for a bond to be held by SMBC which would be paid upon completion.

**Action:** A meeting to be arranged with BDWH/SMBC/MPC.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

Nothing to report. Clerk reported she would chase up legal team regarding land and transfer of allotments.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Taylor Wimpey.

10.5 Highways

10.5(i) HGV weight restriction to 40 tonnes on rural highways

Chair reported a conversation with Paul Tovey regarding restrictions and given the use of the rural highways by farm machinery and public transport it is very unlikely a traffic restriction order could be attained.

10.5(ii) Berkswell Road weight and width restriction

Chair reported that a lengthy discussion with Paul Tovey regarding the use of Berkswell Road by HGV and Articulated vehicles and trailers. Mr Tovey was not moved by the experiences of road users when meeting such vehicles head on; or the breaking up of highway surface, trashing of verges and the continual rutting of the Pool verges where vehicles are turning from Main Road onto Berkswell Road. It was pointed out that planning have a responsibility to seek information from highways colleagues regarding access when there is a planning application for commercial premises; unfortunately this is taken account of but as there is no restriction due to public transport and farm machinery using the highway then there can be no restriction placed upon it. It would also be unenforceable to implement a routing agreement such as quarry operators have, and be the goodwill of local businesses to comply.

**Action:** This to be considered as part of neighbourhood planning task and finish group specific to use of rural highways.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported that the home owner of a property on Fillongley Road had enclosed a piece of land acquired from SCH for the purpose of garden extension. It was considered this land to be acquired on the basis that it would not be enclosed by fencing.

**Action:** Clerk to advise SMBC planning.

10.7 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2017

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....



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The clerk advised planning for 2017 Bloom will commence in the New Year. Volunteers are needed.

**Action: The clerk to arrange meeting.**

10.8 Litter

Nothing to report.

10.9 Mobile Mast Update

Nothing to report.

10.10 Local Council Award Scheme

Nothing to report.

10.11(i) 82 Bus Route & Failure of Service

Cllr Weaver read the following reply to Cllr Nunn:-

**Action: Cllr Nunn to continue to pursue TfWM for service improvements.**

10.11ii89 Replacement Service for Taxi-Bus

Please refer to item 2 and TfWM Pete Bond's overview.

**Action: The Parish Council awaits a formal response from TfWM regarding outcome of ongoing consultation, impact assessment, roaming zone timetabling amendments, ring & ride requests, and equalities challenge.**

10.12 Street Association Project

Nothing to report.

10.13 Solihull Constituency Boundary Commission Changes

Chair advised that she submitted comments on behalf of the Parish Council but was unable to print off a copy given the online process, however acknowledgement of submission has been received.

**Action: Remove item from January's agenda.**

## **11. Solihull Partnership Forum**

Nothing to report. Meetings are scheduled for twice a year.

## **12. Planning Matters**

12.1(i) Neighbourhood Planning Update

Cllr M Lee reported that the NP is at the stage of applying for more funding; also work has begun on the business survey template for local business community to participate in the NP process.

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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**Action:** Cllrs M Lee, P Lee and Weaver will start working on the business survey template content from information received from Stratford DC and Planning Consultant.

## 12.1(ii) Neighbourhoods Community Action Plan

Chair advised Members that she and the Clerk had met with Bruce Brant and it was unlikely that the evidence based data and report would be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> December for Cabinet in February. It was considered more effective to take time to complete the work fully rather than rush and have only half the evidence required in the time allowed. Therefore a request for an extension to end March 2017 was made. This work ties in with the questionnaire that Cllr Nunn and the Clerk were putting together for the shop owners. Photographic evidence is also required and this is being compiled.

**Action:** Cllrs Weaver, Nunn and the clerk to work with SMBC to compile evidence based data and report meeting deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

## 12.2 Solihull Local Plan Review & Meriden Sites

Chair advised that Cabinet approved the draft Local Plan Review on 10<sup>th</sup> November. The public consultation commences 5<sup>th</sup> December 2016 until 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017. A total of 245 sites were included in the “call for sites” with 38 chosen; 12 sites were identified in Meriden. Residents attended a public drop in session for the opportunity of putting a pin in their preferred option. This provided the straw poll that influenced SMBC’s decision of Meriden sites. 18 sites are featured in the draft LPR consultation document with only one site identified for Meriden. The Meriden site was previously identified in the Parish Plan and Visual Design Statement and is known as Site 10 which includes land occupied by the old garage, caravan storage and land north of The Firs. A further drop in session was arranged for Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December with 7 residents attending who discussed the draft plan consultation with positive feedback including suitable site; need for housing for older people; suitable properties to purchase for downsizing freeing up large family homes.

**Action:** Cllrs Weaver and M Lee will continue to monitor progress and host a further “open door” event for residents on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2017 between 12 noon – 2pm at the Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Cllr M Lee advised she and Cllr P Lee attended (as Observers) the public meeting, for residents regarding the call for Meriden sites at the Heart of England Club on 7<sup>th</sup> December; also attending were all 3 Ward Councillors. There were 70/80 residents in attendance. Cllr Bell reported a lack of understanding. Main concerns raised regarding school places, traffic, transport, infrastructure and HS2.

The consultation ends on 30<sup>th</sup> January and the consultation questions to be printed for the Council Development Day where Members can work through the consultation and conclude the submission to meet deadline.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....

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**Action:** The clerk to print off questions; Cllr Weaver will begin pulling together responses.

## 12.3 Planning Application Status Updates

### **PLANNING DECEMBER 2016**

There was no update available.

Cllr Kipling advised concerns over Morrison Homes planning application had already been addressed under item 2. Dean Biddle is checking the TPO's on recent tree applications. Several extensions to existing homes on Main Road are referred to Neighbour notifications. The Woodlands extension is massive and exceeds footprint however there is nothing to object to.

**Action:** Planning Committee to process applications using SMBC planning portal and update Members accordingly. Cllr Barber is requested to update template for January meeting. All summaries advised to clerk.

## 12.4 Update of Old Garage & Caravan Storage Site, Birmingham Road

This item to be removed for January as concluded.

## 12.5 Land for Burial – Cllr Lynch-Smith

This item to be removed for January and revisited at a future date.

## 12.6 Copse & Bridleway

This item to be removed for January as concluded.

## 12.7 Community Asset/Right to Bid

Cllr P Lee requested another 10/12 priority sites be identified and sent to Avon Planning.

**Action: Clerk to organise.**

## 12.8 Enforcement Notice Register

Chair stated that notices are on a 4 year cycle and all Parish enforcement notices should be circulated to the Parish Council to sites may be identified and Members can keep on top of the register.

**Action: Cllr Bell to request notices be sent by Dean Biddle, Enforcement Officer to the Parish Council; only notices within Parish boundary.**

## 13. Parish Council Development Day

The next Development Day is arranged for Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

## 14. New Website

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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Cllr M Lee circulated the latest logo for consideration and requested approval as the new logo.

**IT WAS RESOLVED:** Cllr Kipling proposed approval of new logo and letterhead, seconded by Cllr P Lee.

**Action:** Cllr M Lee to send Real Point new logo. Cllr M Lee will be the main point of contact for all new website development with a view to completing the new website and have up and running for the New Year.

**15. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda**

Nothing to report.

**16. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Meeting of Meriden Parish Council is to be held on Monday 23rd January 2017 at 7.30 pm venue Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The Chair closed the meeting at 21.25 hours.

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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