



Meriden Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 December 2014 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:	Cllr M Lee	Chair	ML
	Cllr R Weaver	Vice Chair	RW
	Cllr R Kipling		RK
	Cllr F Lynch-Smith		FLS
	Cllr J Barber		JB
	Mrs B Bland	Clerk	BB

There were 16 members of the public present, Cllr D Bell and Cllr E McDonald.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed guest speakers.

1. Guest Speakers

Maurice Barlow (MB), Principal Planning Officer, Policy and Spatial Planning, Places Directorate, Solihull MBC

To provide an update for Consultation on Proposed Local Area Plan for the HS2 Interchange & Adjoining Area

MB referred to the consultation document and the start of the process with much to be done. There will be an impact on Hs2 development, however with cross party support this will go ahead in due course. A task force is to be set up looking at strategic growth by April 2015; in particular the sustainable growth of the new station and catalyst of growth for social enterprise and local partnership for SMBC which forms part of the triangle including the M42 corridor, airport, NEC and proposed Hs2 interchange station which is taking land via greenbelt.

The Local Area Plan: the Government wants to see Local Authorities organised and bringing forward an area based approach. A business plan supports the interchange prospectus for the new "Garden City" with direct links on website highlighting "new" strategic priorities:-

- (a) Social benefits of Hs2;
- (b) More efficient use of land (Parkway Station will have a multi-storey 7,000 car car park);
- (c) Housing as well as business land; this will involve a significant amount of housing (additional to Coventry CC A45 proposals), with Holywell Brook running through giving opportunities for POS (public open space) for cycling/walking routes. All land is in greenbelt;
- (d) Transport infrastructure; cannot deliver an infrastructure to support development. There will be substantial works to M42 junction 6 with

Signed **Chair** **Dated**

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Highways looking at potential infrastructure for new homes access to Solihull Town Centre.

MB emphasised this is a draft plan only and we are at the start of the process for the plan to be delivered. SMBC proposal is for the public to have their say with their views shaping the area the plan covers however evidence is needed. This is the first of a number of opportunities for consultations as part of the 2015-16 draft plans that will be submitted to Government for observation and comment. The consultation has been extended to 16th January 2015 and opened on 9th November 2014. There is on line access to consultation documents or alternatively copies may be accessed at local Library.

RK asked how SMBC square the protection of Meriden Gap?

MB replied that within the consultation document referral is made to the protection of the Meriden Gap however there is to be business and housing development within and it appears to sit uneasily in the greenbelt.

Cllr Bell commented that he can see what the Government wants however for residents and local community it will mean increased traffic, more congestion and there needs to be mitigation qualification.

MB responded that landscape and mitigation cuts across the Parish for housing and business options with all focus being north of the Coventry Road. There are opportunities to provide better transport links with protection of green belt between the station and village. The Garden City principle will impact on Meriden Parish area with associated infrastructure requirements including proposed M42 motorway services.

Cllr Bell replied that with the proposed M42 services, Hs2 and Leisure World the existing infrastructure cannot cope with it and this urgently needs addressing. The current situation is not unsatisfactory and makes a need for housing.

FLS stated that in Birmingham there are many brown field sites with opportunity of development to meet housing needs; however the cheaper option is for greenbelt land to be used.

MB replied that there is insufficient land for SMBC to stand up to BCC with for the Planning Inspectorate to agree a level of housing needs; albeit to use as much available land as possible to meet the shortfall in Birmingham but mindful that SMBC have their own needs to provide for.

RW stated that the infrastructure needs to include health, schools, social care as the impact of 130 new homes in the village has been huge.

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MB replied that these issues will be considered in future infrastructure plans and will also include shops and green infrastructure.

RW stated that children, air and noise pollution are key considerations.

MB responded that there will be “buffers” to new motorway, road and rail links and this forms part of the planning exercise and early consultation that we are right at the beginning of the process with.

ML asked about the proposed A45 development plans put forward by Coventry CC for 2,000 new houses on the edge of Parish boundary?

MB replied that there has been joint work between SMBC and Coventry CC with some options proposed to handle development requirements with potential 2,000 each for SMBC and Coventry CC, and Warwickshire Districts.

ML stated that it would be useful for residents to participate in a public meeting outside of tonight’s discussion, that may be hosted by Maurice Barlow with opportunities for questions to be answered together with a display of proposed developments. The consultation closes on 16th January. A date of Saturday 10th January 2015 was agreed for a “public open drop in” event at the Pavilion between 10.00 and 13.00 hours, with Maurice Barlow and Meriden Parish Council.

A resident asked about an overview and scrutiny of consultation and suggested task and finish groups to provide and assess evidence for potential development(s).

MB replied that the use of scrutiny and/or task and finish groups to add to the consultation exercise is a little early; however this will be developed as the process moves along.

The Chair thanked Mr Barlow for his attendance and he left the meeting.

Wendy Khan (WK), Hospital Director, and Mike Bennett (MB), Partnerships in Care

To provide an update to the Arden Vale Site and its future.

MB introduced Partnerships in Care as a secure provider for mental health care, offering patients the right pathway for repatriation into the community.

MB stated that he had met with residents, direct neighbours, local MP and Parish Council (it is noted that the PC did not received an invitation and therefore had not been included in any discussion to date), and the biggest concern was the septic tank!

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MB explained that Partnerships in Care (PiC) is proposing to invest £2m in the Arden Vale site to transform it into a 2 unit 11 bedded rehabilitation service for an all male client group, with car parking for 41 vehicles.

CiP are working with Heart of England Trust, providing repatriation services for clinical commissioners in Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Warwick.

CiP is registered for mental health clients with a learning disability (with an IQ of 60), with a variation of diagnosis of residents using this facility.

MB stated that CiP are considered to be good neighbours with a flexible open door approach, who are investing heavily in the infrastructure in the West Midlands with the creation of 80 jobs.

A resident stated that mental illness and learning disabilities may include sex offenders?

MB replied that clients will have a mild learning disability, schizophrenia or paranoia.

A resident stated that the main walkway is not very good and the security fencing is inadequate.

RK stated that the last time Arden Vale had clients; staff were chasing them down the road.

MB stated that the rehabilitation service will be for clients returning to the Midlands who are preparing to be reintegrated into their homes and local communities and therefore it would be hoped to make use of the local facilities.

RW stated that in her experience the client group will be supported by Psychiatric social work and community Psychiatric nursing teams with support networks. The clients will not be coming to Arden Vale for treatment but for preparation to go home.

A resident raised the following concerns on behalf of neighbours and the local community:-

1. Local residents will have an increase in traffic to and from Arden Vale, with increased car parking (double the size of car park 20 to 41), and septic tank.
2. Pathway back into community; the definition is too narrow, who is supporting Arden Vale and what is the financial benefit?
3. Variation of condition; secure unit undertaking to accept a condition not to house sex offenders as this is a different catchment group. Prior diagnosis – section under Mental Health Act 2003. Condition for medium/high secure unit.

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MB replied that the planning variation will not be used for a medium/low secure unit; it is a rehabilitation unit that will not be providing treatment to anyone with a history of sexual offending. Clients may be detained under Section Act with the same clinical teams managing a structured individual pathway.

FLS stated that she works with pupils with Special Needs and cannot see a link for moderate learning disability between mental health and learning disabilities?

MB replied that more repatriation housing is required to make a small change to filling hospital beds.

RW asked who is buying PiC beds?

MB replied that Heart of England Trust clinical commissioners are spot purchasing bringing back patients/clients into their local communities. There are secure units in Birmingham with NHS provision.

A resident asked about the process of reporting missing patients/clients to the police and if the family is contacted?

MB replied that a very low number of clients go missing and if there is a reason to report a missing person, usually they are found back in the family home, or have been reported by the family as being safe and back home.

MB reiterated Arden Vale is the end of a patient/client's journey. The hospital is registered as a centre for learning disabilities and mental illness, which is trying to meet health needs of the client group.

A resident asked the variation of condition be framed as a condition for mental illness and learning disabilities in a secure unit and excludes sexual offenders.

MB reaffirmed that the condition cannot be changed and Arden Vale cannot be used as a secure unit.

A resident observed that a full clinical team consisting of physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, health care workers, poly tunnels and horticultural therapists/workers, will provide an activity of staff using the site daily.

A resident expressed concerns regarding other properties and referred to The Spinney, a 34 bedded children's home, with children being chased all over the estate; there are issues that need addressing not least the anxiety provoking of vulnerable residents living nearby.

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A resident expressed concerns over violent behaviours that may impact on the local community.

MB replied that there will be no violent behaviours; Arden Vale is a rehabilitation centre with managed access including using local colleges for placements to development skills and further qualifications as part of the reintegration programme.

RK stated that under the Mental Health Act some patients will have been sectioned and others will have been admitted voluntarily with community treatment orders.

MB reiterated that clients have been on a long journey in secure care sometimes for 5/6 years, and Arden Vale will provide rehabilitation for the last 3/6 months of their care.

A resident asked if the patients are released into the community on their own?

MB replied that each patient is graded and allocated staff support.

The Chair thanked Mrs Khan and Mr Bennett for their attendance and they left the meeting.

The Chair invited members of the public to conclude the public participation section of the meeting with any further questions?

Cllr Hitchcock, Berkswell PC, discussed the importance of tree preservation and asked what Meriden PC was doing regarding TPOs in the Parish. He also gave an update on the value of the work being undertaken to connect the disused railway line with the river and asked for help with this project. He further requested a Meriden representative to sit on the Solihull Tree Wardens Committee and attend a Select Committee meeting of Honorary Tree Wardens at the Civic Centre, Solihull, on 12th January 2015, attended by SMBC tree officers.

FLS confirmed her attendance at the above meeting; and that she is the nominated tree warden for Meriden and had undertaken a project in the summer compiling a list of TPOs in and around the Village and Parish of Meriden. She gave an overview of the work she had done with Charles Harrison earlier in the year where grid references were taken, trees examined along roads, woodland, and footpaths. She confirmed her passion on behalf of the local community, to look after Meriden's heritage, and the brochure of significant trees in Meriden Parish is available to the public. The heritage of Meriden's trees is being taken very seriously and the Parish Council is working with tree officers and arboriculturalists to safeguard for future generations.

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A resident asked about the car park on the site of Morrison Park Homes, Eaves Green Lane. Demolition of garages has been undertaken with a new foundation being laid for the siting of a new mobile home. No planning application has been submitted. There is also an impact on the residents ability to park on site and any visitors they may have.

The Clerk confirmed that this matter had been raised with planning officers and currently the situation was being monitored and existing planning permissions being investigated.

RW reaffirmed that an email had been sent to SMBC planning officers with photographic evidence of the work undertaken stating grave concerns over the situation.

Residents raised concerns over TPOs and the hedgerow and trees that have been removed.

A resident requested that an urgent temporary stop notice be placed on the owner until such time as a planning application is submitted and considered. There has been no consultation with neighbours or residents of Park Homes.

RW confirmed that the situation will be monitored by SMBC planning officers.

A resident made reference to a recent incident of an 80 year old resident being taken ill and the length of time take to receive help from medical services due to the park lighting issues; an organised group of residents had written to Bruce Brant for action.

Cllr Bell will take the matter up with SMBC officers regarding the grave concerns for residents safety on a private site due to inadequate street lighting.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and the issues, and extended an invitation to stay for full council business. All residents left the meeting. There was a break of 10 minutes before the meeting recommenced.

2. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting and accepted apologies from Cllr Haque, Cllr Nunn and Cllr P Lee.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

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

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4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2014 were considered and agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved the minutes of 24th November 2014 and the Chair signed.

Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

5. Standing Orders

The Clerk reported standing orders review remains a work in progress but will endeavour to have a the revised orders for Members approval for 26th January 2015 meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members acknowledged the Clerk's action.

6. Finance

6.1 Approve December Payments

Members received payments for approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved December payments.

6.2 Precept & Support Grant 2015-16

The Clerk had circulated to Members the indicative tax base and support grant received from SMBC finance officers. Members considered the recommendation for a 1% increase to households' precept to compensate for the support grant reduction and increased costs. After discussion regarding a 2% increase and the requirement for a referendum, Members agreed to for a 1.5% increase to be implemented, proposed by Cllr Lynch-Smith and seconded by Cllr Kipling.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a 1.5% increase to precept. The Clerk to complete the Precept Notice meeting SMBC's deadline of 30th January 2015 for all Parish Council returns.

6.3 Meriden Village Hall Committee

This request was deferred from November's meeting and circulated to Members for consideration. There had been an uplift to annual donation for 2013-14 to reflect the loss of income from Parish Council meetings now being held at the Pavillion. It was agreed to continue with the arrangement due to accessibility of WiFi, files and the Parish Council office. Therefore Members agreed that a donation of £1,000 be given to the Village Hall Management Committee for 2014-15 with a year on year review. Cllr Kipling proposed the recommendation and Cllr Lynch-Smith seconded.

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IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a donation to The Village Hall Management Committee of £1,000. The Clerk to organise a cheque and covering letter.

6.4 St Laurence Church 2015 Maintenance Request

This item is deferred to January's meeting. It is noted that an exercise is required for the purposes of comparison and best value.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members agreed deferment of item to next meeting.

7. **Progress Reports**

7.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

7.2 Community Governor for Meriden C of E School

Nothing to report.

7.3 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

7.4 Meriden Pool

Nothing to report.

7.5 Allotments – Cllr M Lee & Clerk

Nothing to report.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum

Cllr Lynch-Smith advised she is still walking the footpaths and collating information.

7.7 Quarries Liaison Group

The Group had met this afternoon with no apparent issues. Questions were raised regarding Area G operations and increase in dust and noise which NRS have in hand. The mud on the Birmingham Road was caused by ineffective wheelwash that has now been changed in accordance SMBC conditions. Monitoring continues with operators spot checks and a log is now in place with vehicles accessing Hampton Lane that are caught automatically receiving a 3-day ban.

Cllr Kipling raised the issues with Cornets End Lane, not least the mud and debris on the highway that is not being cleansed.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will monitor and report to Quarry Operators.

7.8 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report.

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7.9 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported that Charles Harrison had looked at the large Conifer tree on the Village Green with a TPO and confirms an Alder tree is growing through the middle that needs removing as it is damaging the Conifer. It was agreed to have the Alder removed however Cllr Weaver requested the Clerk speak to the Principal Planning Officer for Conservation prior to any work being undertaken. It was approved for the work to be carried out at a cost of £120 subject to Conservation agreement.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk to speak to Martin Saunders to seek guidance on process regarding the removal of Alder and damaged branches.

7.10 Community Surgeries

Residents attending the community surgery on 01 December were invited to come along and discuss their issues with the newly appointed CEO of SMBC, Mr Nick Page, on 08-12-14 with the Clerk and Bruce Brant, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and items discussed with actions follows:-

- Highways and proposed drainage programme of works
- Water leaks & other(s)
- Co-op & drainage
- Arden Close access
- Arden Close repairs
- Damage to private property
- Leys Lane Development
- Footpath & obstruction
- Maintenance of Leymere Close front
- TRO to Leys Lane re. traffic calming
- Reinstatement of hedgerow (Ms Hodgson)
- Concerns re. unlawful caravan storage H & S re. gas bottles
- Unlawful tipping of white goods fridges & freezers covered by tarpaulin & disguised
- The Firs residents vulnerable as unsecured site.

IT WAS RESOLVED (i) Nick Page made notes and emailed officers for updates; (ii) The Clerk will liaise with SMBC officers together with Bruce Brant, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator; (iii) Bruce Brant requested to arrange a meeting with Co-op managers to discuss the issues surrounding vehicle deliveries; (iv) Nick Page to visit all "hot spots"; (v) Nick Page to attend follow up Community Surgery in June to ensure actions and closure of issues raised.

7.11 Community Speed Watch

Nothing to report.

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7.12 HS2

Cllr Weaver advised Select Committee are still hearing petitions.

7.13 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)

The next summary report update will be January 2015.

8. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised Members that due to workload no Clerks's Actions are available; however the content of the agenda items and follow up actions can be measured against Clerk's hours.

9. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report as there were no District Councillors in attendance.

10. Correspondence & Communication

The Clerk had circulated information electronically to Members.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members acknowledged receipt of correspondence received.

11. Meriden Village Matters

11.1 Library Update

The Meriden library site is programmed to have some external and internal damp work undertaken in 2015 that will protect the external envelope of the building.

In addition to this work, funding has been secured from Meriden Parish Council to upgrade the ICT facilities for customers using the library and to look at extending the opportunity for local people and groups to use the site.

Both of these works will be combined into one programme resulting in only one period of closure for the library site, during late February and March 2015.

The new ICT facility will be modern, vibrant, and offer a range of an extended ICT offer to local residents:

- PC number will increase from 3 to 8.
- Tablet devices will be available for customers to use for short information searches
- A new area at the rear of the library has been re-configured to include a new ICT layout suitable for group meetings, small learning session with projection facilities
- A new adjustable height PC desk is now available for customers with disabilities

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Key dates	
9 February	External works to commence (weather permitting)
21 February	Library closes
23 – 27 February	ICT suite electrical works
18 March	Building work to be completed
18 – 24 March	ICT suite cabling and hardware installation
22 – 27 March	Repositioning of stock and intensive cleaning
30 March	Library reopens
23 April	Suggested launch date linked to World Book Day

11.2 Historic Panel of buildings of interest to display on wall by Library
Nothing to report.

11.3 Village Commemoration WW1
The next working group meeting will be held in January. There will be a picture show in the Village Hall on 24th January.

11.4 Meriden Gate
SMBC are processing the overage payment.

11.4(i) Freehold Transfer
SMBC and Parish Council Solicitors continue to work through the transfer of freehold of Meriden Sports Park. SMBC currently seek legal advice as to the formal “public notice” required prior to transfer being undertaken.

11.5 Taylor Wimpey & Associated S106 Works
The Clerk read the following email regarding S106 works:-

“Further to our recent conversations regarding the scheme, please find below scheme update;

1/ The works to carry out the bus stop improvements have been programmed to start on Monday 15th December

2/ Residents directly affected by the works have been notified of the works, I attach a copy of the letter.

3/ The new bus shelter that is to be provided at the location of the existing lay-by is to be a ‘Meriden’ by Littlethorpe’s to match the shelter that has been provided on the opposite side of the road next to the church. Instead of the normal laminated glass that comes with the shelter, the shelter has been specified with perforated steel glazing, which will reduce the risk of vandalism and future maintenance.

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The supplier of the shelter provides a 5 year guarantee against the shelter being burnt down or kicked in. A care and Graffiti pack is also supplied free with the shelter.

Although the installation of the new shelter will be funded from the S106 monies secured from the developer by the Council, the future maintenance of the shelter will lie with the Parish Council. Please can you confirm that the Parish Council is happy to accept the latter. (The installation date of the shelter is Monday 22nd December 2014)

4/ The works will include the relocation of the existing litter bin to the new location of the bus shelter.

5/ The dog waste bin will be relocated as previously agreed with yourself. Exact location to be agreed with our Streetcare team.

I attach for your information a drawing showing the works proposed at the existing lay-by. Should you have any queries regarding the works, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Taj Chaggar

Highway Services - Transport Highways and the Environment”

11.6 Highways Update

The Clerk had previously circulated and read the following update to Members, noting the blue italic Highways response to issues raised:-

“Dear Barbara and Cllr Allsopp, apologies for the inordinately long delay on this. Work has been going on many of the issues and I have touched base with Bruce to update the list below.

Taj tells me that works to the bus shelter and layby is underway and will be completed just before Christmas.

The hedge on Leys Lane has been weeded and replanted and a detailed reply will follow to Ms Hodgson which I will copy to you both.

1. Car parking Manor Hotel – 52 seater coaches parked on Main Road blocking carriageway for overnight and weekend parking. *I believe Cllr Allsopp approached the Hotel and has brokered some improvements. Please let me know if we need to consider further action.*
2. Overflow of Manor Hotel car parks to Main Road thus causing pavement obstruction and knock on effect to private drives opposite Manor, and

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Darlaston Court residents? Did anything happen with Ed Bradford's review of this section of Main Road? *Ed has moved on to Flood Risk management, no planned work emerged from the review. If pavement parking is still an issue then Bruce can raise with his contacts at the Police as they have powers to deal with obstruction.*

3. Bins – full to overflowing. The schedule of Amey emptying is not coping with the increased volumes of litter in waste bins sited on The Green, Meriden Pool and bus stops. *Bruce/ES have resolved.*
4. Walkways between Fillongley Road and Alspath Road, and at the side of the Butchers leading from the Service Road to Arden Close – neither walkway is being maintained. *Bruce is dealing and will report for maintenance assessment if required.*
5. Grass verges at entrance to Highfield all carved up due to 4x4 mummies using it to park and collect children from Meriden School. Highfield residents have recorded 19 parked vehicles in and around their entrance. *Bruce dealing with Police.*
6. Leys Lane new footpath – being used as car park for delivery drivers to have taco breaks thus blocking access and cross over to private driveways and obstructing footpath. I am assured those responsible are not Taylor Wimpey contractors. These vehicles are also impacting on visibility of drivers using Leys Lane. *Highways will inspect and consider seeing what action could usefully be taken.*
7. Verge maintenance throughout village. *Bruce/ES have resolved.*
8. Overgrowntrees/branches/hedges blocking signage on all routes into Meriden. Also branches have broken off after being hit by buses/lorries, and overhang pavements/footpaths. *Bruce/ES have resolved*
9. Cyclist was knocked off bike on Birmingham Road due to cyclists route obscured/non existent and lorry travelling too fast. (Lorry did not even stop as no idea what he had done!) *Bruce/ES have resolved as 8.*
10. Some patching in the middle of Fillongley Road was carried out earlier in the year outside no.56 Fillongley Road. The patching can be clearly seen with water leaking through the middle. This has been ongoing for months and reported into Highways too many times for action! Showell Lane and roundabout at top of Meriden Hill potholes and in need of repair. *Severn Trent Water have repaired the leak and major patching has been carried out.*

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- 11. 900 bus route using Showell Lane is dangerous even though a TRO for speed restriction is out for consultation – opinion is road width no wide enough!
Centro plan routes to be able to service as many customers as possible, and removing this route may reduce the service to them ; I will approach Centro to see if the route could be modified.
- 12. The dog bins are full – who should be emptying? *Bruce/ES have resolved.*
- 13. Encroaching verge on Birmingham Road at the top of the hill. *Verge being cut back and works programmed for early next year to protect gullies with concrete kerbs.*

Kind regards Ashley
Ashley Prior Head of Highway Services”

11.7 Land Registry & Ownership
Nothing to report.

11.8 Public Convenience Site Transfer
The Clerk reported that an email dated 2nd December 2014 from David Waterson, SMBC, confirmed the following “As it is the intention of MPC to maintain the site, it seems sensible that ownership of the land remain with yourselves.
I will ask our legal services team to consider whether a variation of the restrictive covenants in the previous transfer will be required in order to regularise the current use.”

The Clerk will liaise with SMBC and process accordingly.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will reply to David Waterson to bring the matter to conclusion.

12. Parish Council Newsletter Editorial Committee
Nothing to report.

13. Neighbourhood Planning
RW advised she and the Clerk met with Kirkwells on 3rd December. The public consultation is underway until 16th January 2015. There has been good interest from the launch at Meriden School Christmas Fayre with some residents volunteering to be part of a steering group/working party. The application for Parish Designation is with SMBC and after end of consultation period will go to cabinet for designation approval. Cllr McDonald from Balsall Common PC was present to learn more about the process and how far along Meriden are. Cllr Weaver reported that an application will be made to Community Locality (DCLG) for funding up to 7.5K for the purpose of a bridging grant to assist with public/stakeholder events to support the process.

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IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Lee, Cllr Weaver and the Clerk will continue to work through the process.

14. **Planning Matters**

14.1 To receive update and status on Planning Applications.

Cllr Weaver reported how much time the Clerk was spending on planning issues and suggested separate planning committee meetings are arranged for the purpose of planning application consideration in light of recent planning issues. The Clerk reported that not all Members are commenting on planning applications being emailed; the process is also time consuming when being conducted “at a distance”. Cllr Kipling reported that previously there had been a planning committee who met monthly. Members agreed that at the discretion of the Clerk a planning meeting may be called with public notices posted, when there are significant planning issues for discussion; it is anticipated this will relieve the time constraints on Council meetings when half the meeting time is made over to planning issues with invited guest speakers/developers present together with a public audience.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will call a planning committee meeting which will include ALL Members for the purpose of supporting or opposing planning applications or providing general comments.

Planning Application No.	Site	Proposal
2014/2026 NEW	Land at Becks Lane, Meriden	Remove condition no.14 on planning permission 2013/1624 to provide a hedgerow link from the site to the woodland area to the north.
2014/1971 NEW	Arden Vale, Showell Lane, Meriden	Variation of condition no.9 attached to planning permission 2004/1038.
2014/2025 NEW	Highfield House, Leys Lane, Meriden	Change of use of an agricultural building to one residential dwelling.
2014/1970 NEW	Arden Vale, Showell Lane, Meriden	Single storey single extension for new entrance & two storey rear extension to form additional day space on ground and first floor.
2014/2013 NEW	Couchmans Farm Harvest Hill Lane, Allesley	Erection of replacement dwelling.
2014/1559 Full Plans Approval	Hollyberry Cottage, Harvest Hill Lane	Change of use to land to keep horses and the permanent provision of stables.

Signed Chair Dated

Clerk: Barbara Bland

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2014/865 Waiting	The Wain House Main Road Meriden	Erect a glass room.
2014/1072 Waiting	The Wain House Main Road Meriden	Listed building consent for a glass room.
2013/994 Full Plans Refusal -dismissed 22-10-14	Pertemps Group Limited, Meriden Hall	New office building with basement parking on site of existing car park.

Please note “Listed Building” Planning Application has been given “Listed Building Extension Approval” for Pertemps Planning Application 2014/1117.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will receive Members comments for collation and forward to SMBC planning.

14.2 Proposed Development of Old Garage and Caravan Storage Site
Nothing to report and no Parish Notification has been received to date.

14.3 To receive update on Jephson Housing Association
There was nothing to report. However the Clerk advised that Jephson had amalgamated with another housing association. With effect from January this item will be removed from standing items.

14.4 Land behind Caravan Storage & Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road
The Clerk had circulated Members with the latest correspondence between landowner, land occupier, solicitors and SMBC. The enforcement notice remains in place for a period of 12 weeks. David Wigfield was visiting the site this afternoon.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members agreed the situation will be monitored but it is in the hands of SMBC planners and the landowners legal team.

14.5 Land for Burial – Cllr Lynch-Smith
Cllr Lynch-Smith advised that she was looking into available land in the Parish; however it was noted that at a recent meeting with St Laurence Church there was potentially 3 years left before the graveyard is full.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Lynch-Smith will continue to investigate future options.

14.6 Daw Mill & Proposed Container Distribution Centre
Nothing to report.

14.7 Proposed Development Coventry CC – A45/Pickford Green Lane
Members discussed the proposal and acknowledged there had been no direct communication. Cllr Bell suggested SMBC would be aware of this. After discussion Members agreed a letter be sent to Coventry CC stating Meriden Parish Council’s opposition to this proposal.

Signed **Chair** **Dated**

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The letter should outline increased vehicular movement, congestion, loss of Meriden Gap and Green Belt, impact on Parish infrastructure, over populated local school provision with increased pupil cohorts, added pressure to GP surgeries and local community nursing teams due to increased population in rural communities. The Parish of Meriden is already struggling with Hs2 mitigation; airport runway expansion re-routing of flight paths over the Parish impacting Millisons Wood and Pickford Green, potential M42 services, the proposed new Garden City development at Stonebridge and Hs2 station, car parking and increased traffic.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will write a letter on behalf of Meriden Parish Council to Coventry City Council.

14.8 Fillongley PC

14.8(i) Removal of greenbelt from Coventry Core Strategy

14.8(ii) Solihull Core Strategy & Impact of proposed Garden City development to Meriden

Members considered this item but due to length of agenda requested a deferment and instructed the Clerk to invite Fillongley Parish Council to the public event on Saturday 10th January 2015 with Maurice Barlow who will be hosting a consultation for the Solihull Plan on Hs2, the proposed Garden City, proposed M42 Services and airport expansion all of which impacts on the items Fillongley PC have raised above.

Cllr Weaver further suggested an invitation to Solihull Area Committee and to become Members of WALC.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will send emails to Fillongley PC with an invitation and draft a response with Cllr Weaver.

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

There were no items raised and the Chair requested Members email the Clerk with future agenda items they wish included.

16. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 26th January 2015 at 19.30 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 22.50 hours.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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17. Confidential Matters : 2014-2016 NATIONAL SALARY AWARD

NALC & SLCC joint recommendation for pay award as follows:-

17.1 A non-consolidated (one off) payment for employees on scps 5-49 in December 2014.

Cllr Weaver reported a PDR had been undertaken with the Clerk and all performance targets had been achieved. Cllr Weaver proposed the above payment be made in accordance with NALC and SLCC guidelines as a one off payment in lieu of pay increase for 2014. The one off amount will be pro-rated to number of contracted hours worked and amounts to 1%.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a non consolidated payment of 1% prorated.

17.2 Pay award for all full time and part time clerks to be applied from 01 January 2015.

Cllr Weaver proposed the recommended 1.8% increase be applied to the Clerks salary in accordance with NALC and SLCC pay award for 2015-16.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved a 1 8% pay award for 2015-16.

Signed Chair Dated

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