

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16th December 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Bob Kipling (vice chair), Marilyn Hamilton, Melanie Lee and one member of the public. Graeme and Shirley Goodsir arrived after agenda item 4.2. Ward Councillor David Bell arrived after agenda item 6.6.

1. Apologies

Rosie Weaver – ill health.
Apology accepted.

Absent

Will Markham and Sarah Markham.

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 23rd November 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 Drain to the rear of the Co-op – Neighbourhood Co-ordinator is arranging for somebody to go out with a metal detector to find the location of the drain.

4.2 Joint surgeries - can they be held at Meriden Library? Clerk has discussed this with the librarians. The surgeries can be held there but they would have to be during the usual opening hours. It is not possible to have the library opened at any other time.

Graeme and Shirley Goodsir arrived.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Cars parked on the hill in Albert Road. Resident concerned over safety for vehicles entering Albert Road. Police are unable to act as not deemed as an obstruction. No double yellow lines on that part of the road. Clerk will liaise with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

5.2 New streetlights. Resident commented that the new streetlights in the village are very nice. What about the rest of the parish? Clerk to liaise with SMBC to see if there are any plans to extend the scheme to other parts of the parish.

5.3 Trees on Meriden hill are still overshadowing the street lights.

5.3 Illuminated bollards on Main Road/Meriden Hill not working. Mr Goodsir has already reported them.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 Sustain – Solihull Partnership Assembly 2010

Invitation to attend the Solihull Partnership Assembly on Wednesday 20th January 2010 at the Renewal Conference Centre, Lode Lane, Solihull, B91 2JR from 5pm to 8.30pm.

6.2 Manpads Neighbourhood Policing Team

Email update of their work circulated to councillors by email/post prior to the meeting for information.

6.3 New Play Facilities – Hampton Lane

Letter requesting:

- Benches all the way round the patch so that older people could stop, rest and walk all the way round instead of having to return the same way.
- Some outdoor exercise equipment for elderly people in the park – like in Knowle park and as shown on television recently.

Clerk will incorporate this letter with the consultation with the children.

6.4 **Coventry City Council – City Centre Area Action Plan – Emerging Strategy**

Letter inviting comments on their City Centre Action Plan. Document is available at www.coventry.gov.uk/ccaaap as well as at Libraries/Council House and Civic Centre 4. Responses due by 14th January.

AGREED

Mrs Goodsir would respond.

6.5 **Meriden School – donation for Raised Vegetable Bed Project**

Thank you letter from head teacher for the parish council's donation towards this project.

6.6 **Ministry of Justice – War Memorials – Maintenance, Repair and Protection – Penalties for Vandalism.**

Letter sent via WALC and circulated with agenda. Clerk suggests that this issue goes on the agenda for the next SAC meeting to liaise with SMBC on behalf of all councils.

Discussion took place around the condition of the cyclists memorial which, it is considered, needs treating with acid. Mr Kipling to liaise with Ralph Ledbrook who carried out the last treatment.

Ward Councillor David Bell arrived.

6.6.1 **Annual Donation to War Memorial Committee**

RESOLVED

Retain donation at £120. Clerk to send cheque which was written and signed at the last meeting.

7. **Receive Reports**

The Chair, Mr Kipling invited Ward Councillor David Bell to report any issues. Mr Bell fed back from the recent SMBC Planning Sub-Committee Meeting at which the application for the development at Maxstoke Lane was approved.

7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – no report.

7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – no report.

7.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – no report.

7.4 **Pool** – email received from Stuart Nelmes in answer to our questions on the cost estimate. In summary:

- In answer to our query as to whether the headwalls need replacing – they have only estimated for replacing the headwalls where a new section of pipe was proposed toward the downstream end. It may be feasible to use a cheaper form of headwall in both locations but the cost estimated is not significant so the savings would unlikely be significant either. The aesthetics may not be preferable.
- Possible alternatives to the open culvert.
 - Extend the ditch all the way through to the pond which would also remove the need for a headwall at the pond inlet – saving approx £2500.
 - Replacement pipe instead of a ditch would cost approx £70-£80per metre (approx £13,000 in total).

They suggest another approach would be to identify the maximum fund available and re-engage with a contractor (they suggest one) to identify what could be achieved within the budgets available. They feel the person they have suggested would be able to do the work for the initial estimate of £14,000 and not require their suggested contingency of £19,000. All costs subject to VAT.

It was felt that the pond levels at the moment are ok. Clerk to liaise with SMBC to find out the cleaning schedule.

RESOLVED

That the parish council go ahead with a bid to obtaining match funding for the necessary repairs to the pool.

7.5 **Allotment Representative** – letter received from resident regarding log piles on plot 1. Clerk to write to Mr Jones to advise that the Parish Council support his views and will assist if required.

7.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – Footpath down from St Laurence Church to the Queens. Steps built in out of the mud. Farmer now has cows in the field which have made a mess by the gate.

7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – Clerk to chase Clive Jones for information.

7.8 **Conservation Committee** – agenda and notes on circulation.

7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report.

7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – minutes of last meeting on circulation. Last meeting 10th December.

7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – next meeting January 14th.

7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.

- 7.13 **Parish Plan** – Next meeting 12th January. The Steering Group has renamed itself the Meriden Parish Action Group and their objective is to ensure all the actions which have come out of the Parish Plan go ahead. They will re-contact all of the original volunteers face to face to see if / how they can be involved.
- 7.14 **Community Surgery** – Clerk attended along with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, PCSO and ASB Officer. Domehawk camera – police/ASB have seen an improvement in ASB in the Alspath Road / Fairfield Rise area. ASB team receive weekly reports. Discussion took place over potential for a project to convert the public conveniences into a police office. This would be a partnership project between the Parish council, SMBC and Police. This came about as the new PCSO has made enquiries with the clerk if there is anywhere to put his bike over the summer months in Meriden. Police and SMBC may assist with funding.
- 7.15 **Community Speed Watch** – need more volunteers to look into this in the new year.
- 8. Village Matters**
- 8.1 **Development**
- a) Review meeting of new play facility – Thursday 14th January 2009 1pm at the Civic Suite, SMBC. Mike Swallow and Mark O’Mullane from SMBC, John Shaw from DTZ, Rosie and Clerk – anybody else is welcome.
AGREED
Clerk to ask SMBC to rearrange meeting to after 6pm in order that councillors who work can also attend.
- 8.2 **Claim for Uninsured Losses – RTA 22/11/09 Damage sustained to The Green**
Third party’s insurance company has been identified and liability should not be an issue. Clerk is awaiting the invoice from Brian for the work to reinstate the turf which should be carried out shortly.
- 8.3 **Bus Shelters – Service Information.**
AGREED
If Centro will supply the new cases (at no cost to the parish council) then the parish council will arrange for fitting themselves. Quotes to be obtained once agreement is received from Centro.
- 8.4 **Contract Tenders 2010/2011**
Two tenders were received. Brian Ball for contract 1 and Advanced Maintenance Services for contracts 2 – 6.
RESOLVED
That Brian Ball be awarded contract 1 and Advanced Maintenance Services be awarded contracts 2-6. (proposed by Mr Goodsir and seconded by Mrs Lee).
- 8.5 **Communications – Website/Twitter/Blog**
Put on the agenda for the meeting in January.
- 8.6 **Draft Complaints Procedure**
RESOLVED
That the draft complaints procedure is adopted as drafted.
- 8.7 **Draft Grant Awarding Policy**
RESOLVED
That the draft Grant Awarding Policy is agreed as drafted.
- 8.8 **Macmillan Tree of Thought in Meriden**
Clerk has asked Brian who maintains the Green to reinstate the sunken tyre marks left by the lorry which delivered the tree to ensure nobody trips or fall injuring themselves.
AGREED
Clerk to write to Mr Lole to request that in future boards are put on the turf to avoid this happening again.

9 Planning Matters

- 9.1 **2009/1701 – 23 Strawberry Fields, Meriden** – Change of use of land to residential curtilage. Concerns that the land may belong to the parish. Clerk to request more time to look into this further.
- 9.2 **2009/1880 – 9 Grace Road, Millison’s Wood** – Amendment to approval 2009/255 two storey side and ground floor rear extensions to increase projection of the proposed kitchen by 1 metre.
RESOLVED
Neighbour notification, concerns over percentage increase.
- 9.3 **2009/1513 – Land at Maxstoke Lane, Meriden** – Amended plans and additional transport statement have been submitted and additional comments obtained via email forwarded to planning officer.
- 9.4 **2009/1724 – 45 Strawberry Fields, Meriden** – Change of use of strip of land adjacent to no 45 Strawberry Fields to private garden land
Concerns that the land may belong to the parish. Clerk to request more time to look into this further.
10. **Accounts**
- a) Monthly Direct Debit to Eon for Changing Rooms – has increased. Clerk arranging for the meter to be reread.
- b) Village Hall Management Committee has agreed to keep the booking fees at the current rate for 2010.

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday 13th January 2010 the Finance Meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.34 pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

- a) SMBC Neighbourhood Area 3 Newsletter – Nov 09 – (circulated by email cc Cllrs Goodsir).
- b) SMBC – Conservation Committee – meeting notes 1/12/09.
- c) Warwickshire Rural Housing Association – Annual Report
- d) Sustain – Autumn/Winter Newsletter and Colebridge Trust’s Annual Report 2008/2009.
- e) CPRE – Fieldwork Magazine – December 2009 issue.
- f) West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting 10/9/09