

# Meriden Parish Council

*The Centre of England*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr P Lee PL		Cllr F Lynch-Smith FLS	
Cllr R Kipling RK			
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllr Nunn (extended leave of absence due to ill health), Cllr M Haque due to work commitments and Cllr M Lee due to ill health. Additional apologies from Cllrs Bell and Allsopp.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members accepted apologies from Cllrs Nunn, Haque and Lee.

**2. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

**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 of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed. All matters arising are included in agenda items.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 were approved; proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

**5. Finance**

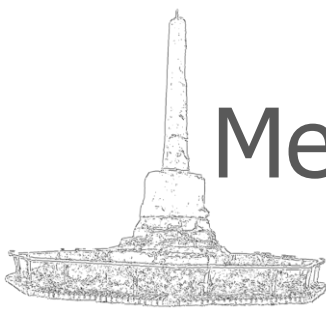
5.1 Members received Parish Council payment approvals for December. The clerk advised increased Bloom costs due to winter planting, renewal of Edge Finance Management Licence and repayment of underspend of Locality Grant. Members agreed December payments of £3,972.91.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr P Lee proposed approval for Meriden Parish Council December payments of £3,972.91 seconded by Cllr Kipling.

Members received Sports Park payments approval for December. Members approved Meriden Sports Park November payments of £4,872.71.

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

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**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr P Lee proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park December payments of £3,158.14 seconded by Cllr Kipling.

## 5.2 St Laurence Church Request

RW advised receipt of NALC Legal Services, Solicitor and Head of Legal, reply to correspondence challenge received from Mr Douglas on behalf of the PCC. There is no conclusive ruling on the 1894 Act “the powers in the 1894 Act prohibit councils’ involvement in property relating to the affairs of the church e.g. the maintenance or improvement of buildings or land or contributing to the costs”.

The complexity of fully understanding the impact of any legal challenge without supporting case law is difficult to ascertain. Further advice is requested from Andrew Kinsey, SMBC Solicitor. Members agreed this item be referred to January’s meeting.

**Action: Clerk to chase SMBC Solicitor, Andrew Kinsey, for legal opinion.**

## 5.3 Finance Committee Recommendations

5.3(i) RW reported finance committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> December and recommend Member’s approval for a precept increase of 4%. Justification for this increase includes (i) new enforcement officer initiative; (ii) Brexit uncertainty with potential devolution of services to parish and town councils; and (iii) other unknown costs such as legal/professional/staff. RW further advised that currently there is no cap on precept increase but this may be introduced by the Government in the future; therefore it would be prudent to consider this uplift to meet proposed budget increases.

Members considered and approved the finance committee recommendation for a 4% increase to precept for financial year 2019-2020.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved Finance recommendation to approve a 4% increase to precept for financial year 2019-2020. Proposed by Cllr Kipling and seconded by Cllr P Lee.

5.3(ii) Bank Audit – Clerk advised that Barclays are undertaking security checks to meet latest regulatory standards. After taking advice from Barclays Business Team all current Members irrespective or not if they have access to bank accounts or are current signatories on bank mandate, are required to complete the Owners, Controllers and related parties documentation. The required paperwork was circulated during the meeting for all attendees to complete.

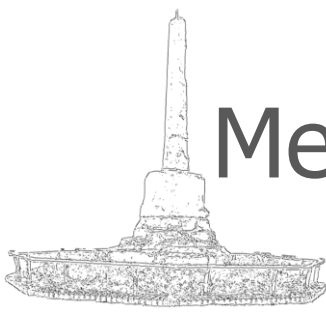
**Action: Clerk to forward completed documentation to Barclays Business Team.**

## 6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee  
Nothing to report.

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

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## 6.2 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

### 6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Nothing to report.

## 6.3 Meriden Pool

Clerk advised the Friends Group had planted 500 English Bluebells on the rear bank of pool. The trees and hedge secured from Arden Tree Scheme are being delivered on 10<sup>th</sup> January with planting scheduled for 11<sup>th</sup> January supported by SMBC Rangers.

**Action: Clerk to liaise with SMBC, Meriden School and Friends to maximise MBC support for planting.**

Cllr P Lee was vociferous in raising his concerns over the issues relating to seagull presence and feeding frenzy over Fairfield Rise properties and the emptying of carrier bags full of stale bread and out of date produce from the Co-Op Balsall Common to the wildfowl. Much debate continued with requests to (i) write a letter to the Co-Op; (ii) write a letter to public health; (iii) engage with the police in terms of neighbour nuisance and public order.

**Action: Clerk to write to Co-Op, Public Health and engage Rural Police Team. Also take advice from Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and SMBC.**

### 6.3(i) Red Kite Management Plan & Suez Funding

Nothing to report.

## 6.4 Allotments

Nothing to report.

## 6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

## 6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

RW advised the group met on 10<sup>th</sup> December and it was an interesting meeting. Paul Tovey, SMBC Highways and David Wigfield, SMBC Planning were in attendance. Various planning applications are in process and decision is awaited. The PC made available the Pavilion for two public drop in sessions to raise public awareness on the redesign and proposed application content for Biomass Plant which will provide open composting of food waste. The PC has until the New Year to respond and RW, Clerk and Mrs Park will meet early January to formally draft a response. A resident who attended a drop in session is assisting with the technical element to the response from an EA perspective.

**Action: RW, clerk and Mrs Parker to draft response to Biomass Plant Application for SMBC planning portal.**

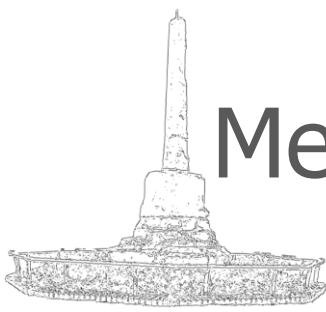
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RW wish to formally record thanks on behalf of the parish Council to Mrs Lynn Parker who has been invaluable with her research, understanding, contribution and time she has committed to assisting the parish council with their response to the very technical planning applications that have had to be evaluated and processed. All Members endorsed Mrs Parker's valuable contribution and commitment on behalf of Meriden residents.

RW also mentioned that Tarmac will be pulling out of Meriden Quarry and there was discussion as to who would take over the administration of the liaison group; it should also be noted that Cllr Bell will not be standing again in the forthcoming elections and therefore will no longer be the SMBC Sands Representative or Chair of the Quarry Liaison Group.

## 6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report. Next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at Hampton.

## 6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Nothing to report. The TPO list is to be included in the NDP.

**Action: Tree Warden to liaise with clerk and NDP Group.**

## 6.9 Community Surgeries

**Community Surgery 3rd December 2018 – Hosted by clerk and Bruce Brant.**

- Street lighting issues at top of Leys Lane/Fillongley Road with lighting shielded by tree growth. Vulnerable adults trying to see during hours of darkness from SCH bungalows and Alspath Road.

**Action: email sent to Bruce Brant outlining issues under health, safety and wellbeing agenda. Matter escalated to Highways and Tree Officer.**

- Gullies dropping, drains are broken after Fillongley Bridge down to Merriroyles. Two have been reported twice before as defect repairs without action. Now considered high risk and a hazard – risk assessment requested by Highways.

**Action: Bruce Brant to liaise with Highways and Drainage for repairs and risk assessment.**

- Hampton Lane 3-2-1 sign has been removed after only 2 weeks trials? Was this long enough and what did the evidence show regarding speeding traffic.

**Action: Bruce Brant to liaise with Dav Chohan, Highways Officer responsible for trials.**

- Residents living on Highfield complain of bright spot light shining into their bedroom window. This light is a spot light mounted above the beacon on new Fillongley Road school crossing.

**Action: Bruce Brant to liaise with David Keaney for adjustment and lighting shield/diffuser to eliminate nuisance.**

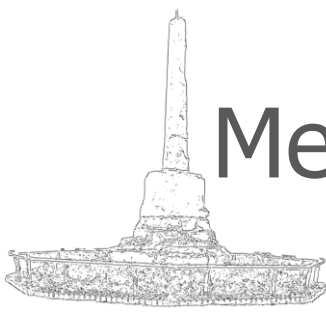
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## 6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB advised nothing to report. Joint training with Hampton is awaited.

**Action:** JB to chase up WPC Grant and set up speed watch schedule to commence and joint training for Meriden and Hampton volunteers.

## 6.11 HS2

RW advised closure of Bickenhill Lane. There will be big issues with haulage routes and number of HS2 lorry movements. The A452 is to be used for all loads and building of HS2. All briefings are being undertaken and information is required to be put onto website and social media.

**Action:** BB to forward to ML all information received to date so this may be put into correct format and posted onto website.

## 6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update

RW advised no update due until January meeting; however she reported:-

- AGM and Directors draft minutes completed;
- Defibrillator for Sports Park and Millison’s Wood – funding to be applied for;
- Young Person to become Ambassador of Sports Park;
- Velo scheduled to come through Meriden with potential all day road closures;
- Ambassador to interview residents as to what they think?

## 6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Nothing to report.

## 7. Clerk’s Report

Report circulated to Members. Paul Tovey to be invited to attend January’s meeting to provide Members and Resident updates to traffic calming measures re. crossing and Fillongley Road priority/give way chicane.

## 8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

## 9. Correspondence & Communication

- NALC Briefing on Salary Evaluation and new pay structure and grading;
- Memorial Bench – a letter of thanks and appreciation for parish council support and assistance in Memorial Bench installation for Millison’s Wood;
- Emergency Road closure of Back Lane 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018;
- Mayor’s Christmas Card to parish council;
- Health at Heart email for Members and their families to take up discounted service for 1:1 sessions together with Season’s Greetings.

## 10. Meriden Village Matters

### 10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

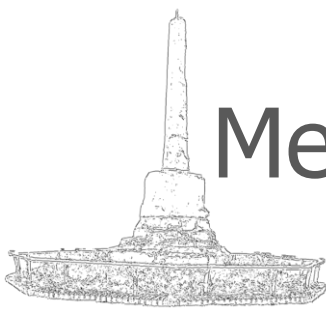
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**Action: Clerk to chase Kate Bunting and Emma Mayhew.**

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1  
Nothing to report.

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site  
Cllr P Lee reported that the information clerk received from SMBC has been forwarded to builder of Poppy site.

10.3 Meriden Gate  
Nothing to report; awaiting meeting date with Andrew Kinsey, Solicitor, to resolve.  
**Action: Clerk to chase Andrew Kinsey.**

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)  
Clerk reported she met with Richard Beech, Taylor Wimpey Adoption Manager; it was a good meeting with outstanding issues relevant to the Mulberry Gardens development, Leys Lane, discussed. This included a site walk and discussion regarding the land transfer of the allotment gardens to Meriden Parish Council. I await a summary of the items discussed and how we are to move forward to conclude the business of land transfer and ownership of allotments to include car parking spaces and secure storage alternative, together with the highways/developer commitment to provide safety barrier and handrail to the steps leading onto Leys Lane; this once he had revisited the Secretary of State decision documentation and S106 conditions therein. Mr Beech was also going to speak to Trinity regarding their boundary maintenance of hedgerows and/or Debbie Schneider should this fall onto Highways.  
**Action: Clerk to follow up with Mr Beech and receive update for Members for January's meeting.**

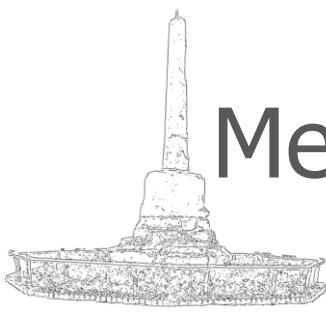
10.5 Highways  
RW advised that the trialled traffic calming measures on Fillongley Road continue and installation of the chicane is complete. Issues with the crossing continues. David Keaney and Paul Tovey are invited to January's meeting to update members and field public questions on all issues associated with Fillongley Road. 20mph signage outside school is complete. Gateway signage is to be installed and meeting with Davinder Chohan is arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 3pm with Cllrs Weaver, Barber and clerk attending.  
**Action: Clerk to monitor trials with residents and SMBC; and copied into all email communications.**

10.5(i) Grit Bins  
Clerk advised confirmation from SMBC that all grit bins had been cleared of rubbish and refilled as per Meriden's audit. Thanks are recorded to Cllr Lynch-Smith for her diligence in putting together a thorough report and undertaking the audit of all Meriden's grit bins.

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

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10.6 Land Registry & Ownership  
Nothing to report.

10.7 Litter  
Nothing to report and this item to be removed for next meeting.

10.8 Mobile Mast Update  
Nothing to report.  
Cllr P Lee stated fibre optic is very poor; RW concluded discussions be reopened with Manor Hotel for mobile mast to be installed.

**Action: Clerk to re-open discussion with new management at Manor Hotel.**

10.9 Local Council Award Scheme  
Nothing to report.

10.9(i) Website  
Clerk and JB had undertaken review with Real Point and minor revisions to website are currently in process. A meeting to be arranged with Real Point for early January regarding content management and population.

**Action: Clerk to arrange a meeting with Real Point for early January.**

Members were shown the new colour design and logo; all Members agreed sharper colour and font for visual impact. Also the revised structure of the website was agreed.  
**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved revision to colour use on web pages, logo and structure.

10.10 Meriden Public Transport  
RW asked if any feedback had been received regarding recent consultation for 82 and 89 services. The clerk confirmed nothing had been received to date and said she would contact Jon Hayes and TfWM Team.

**Action: Clerk to write to Jon Hayes and TfWM Team for update and outcome of transport consultation.**

## **11. Planning Matters**

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update  
Nothing to report. NP Group meets tomorrow night 18<sup>th</sup> December.

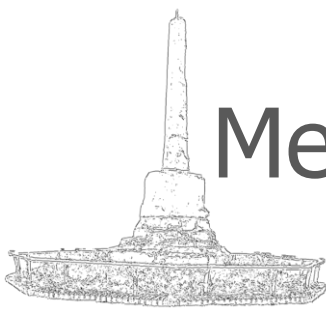
11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid  
RW reported the grant underspend has been paid back.

11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan  
Nothing to report.

11.2(i) Highways Evidence  
Nothing to report.

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

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11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review  
Nothing to report.

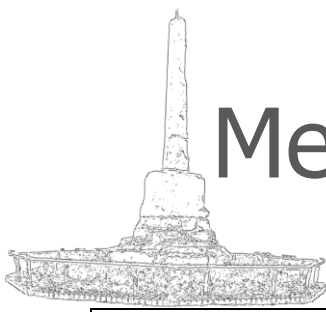
11.4 Planning Application Status Updates  
Clerk reported current planning applications in process are:-

<b>STATUS OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED DECEMBER 2018</b>		
<b>Address</b>	<b>Planning Application</b>	<b>Status</b>
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02008/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Marlbrook Hall Farm	PL/2018/02233/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02743/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02745/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02744/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Fordson Farm	PL/2018/02746/PPFL	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Land SW Meriden Quarry Cornets End Lane	PL/2018/02524/MWMAJ	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Biomass Plant Meriden	PL/2018/01671/EISCOP due to revision of build & plant use – new design due to non-construction of in-vessel composting.	<b>Parish Notification – January 2019 response</b>
Cemex	PL/2018/02477/PPFL New Recycling Plant Berkswell Quarry	<b>Approved</b>
A & A Recycling	NEW Hours of Opening 6-10 Mon-Fri 6-4 Sat & Sun	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
NRS c/o OS Holdings	NEW for transport workshop & offices ex Coleman Site	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
155A Main Road	PL/2018/01997/PPFL resubmission due to land ownership of PL/2018/00531/PPFL.	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Bull's Head	PL/2018/02648/ADV Replace wall mounted sign and post mounted sign	<b>Approved</b>

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

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The Cottage Eaves Green Lane	PL/2018/029656/PPFL Demolition of existing workshop and replacement building of dormer bungalow	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
145 Fillongley Road	PL/2018/03065/MINFHO Single Storey front & side extension	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Shirley's Garage	PL/2018/03237/PPFL Demolition of Garage and erection of 8 new dwellings	<b>Awaiting decision</b>
Ivy House Farm Harvest Hill	Removal of steel buildings and conversion of brick building into 2 bed and 3 bed residential dwellings	<b>Parish Notification – January 2019 response</b>

**Action:** Clerk and Planning Committee (RW/RK) to monitor and process.

## 12. Parish Council Development Day

RW proposed the next meeting be held in February and would email some dates for Members consideration.

**Action:** RW to circulate proposed February dates.

## 13. Annual Parish Assembly

RW suggested this be picked up at February's Development Day; ideas for content and how this is to be delivered.

**Action:** RW to look at content of Annual Assembly format.

## 14. Contested Election 2019

RW advised that the date of the briefing event for interested parish councillors is 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at the Council House, Solihull. Information to be added to new website.

**Action:** BB to ensure event is advertised in on new website.

## 15. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

## 16. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019 at 7.30 pm Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 20.48 hours.

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

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