

# Meriden Parish Council

*The Centre of England*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017  
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:**

Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr Lynch-Smith FLS	Vice Chair
Cllr M Lee ML		Cllr J Barber JB	
Cllr R Kipling RK		Cllr M Haque MH	Late Arrival
Mrs B Bland	Clerk		

**Chair welcomed Members, Ashley Prior, Head of Highways and Members of the public to the meeting.**

**1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllrs Nunn due to ill health and P Lee.  
Cllr Haque advised late arrival due to car puncture.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members accepted apologies from Cllrs M Nunn, P Lee and noted Cllr Haque's late arrival.

**2. Public Participation**

There were 8 Members of the Public in attendance. There were no District Councillors in attendance.

Chair introduced Ashley Prior (AP), Head of Highways, who gave a presentation on the concept of Shared Space and how this may be adapted for Meriden to assist traffic management and calming strategies. Mr Prior's presentation is attached.

A Q & A session followed:-

AP advised that funding may be applied for through the HS2 Community Fund for traffic management improvements.

RK asked about installing 30mph repeater signs?

AP replied that it depends on street lighting, electrical supply and permission is needed as could be illegal if put in but there could be a relaxation of restrictions.

Resident stated that Meriden is not classed as a rural village; Pettifors HGVs and container articulated vehicles using Berkswell Road need to be slowed down to 20mph?

AP replied that traffic is running a controlled way.

Resident stated that he was terrified by the concept of shared space where there are no signs or enforcement? Signage is currently covered by overgrown trees and needs cleaning; there is no content of what is being proposed and enforcement/speed cameras can work?

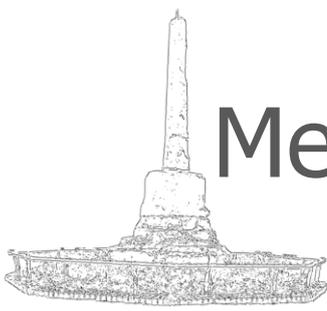
**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

**Clerk:** Barbara Bland

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AP replied that it is human behaviour; cars do not do the right thing with the psychology of drivers being more alert to no barriers/guards where thought is needed to negotiate new road layout, reduced width carriageway reclaiming for cyclists/pedestrians.

FLS reported that there is so much traffic through the village that there are now jams and we all sit in jams. Any shared space concept needs to be seen in action and nothing seen tonight convinces it works.

AP replied that there are good examples of before and after with qualitative data of traffic movement surveys.

AP further stated that an example would be Monkspath Hall Road where there is a reduction roundabout size.

RK commented that pinch points appear to work in Bicester.

Resident reported that Berkswell Road at Berryfields entrance and 2<sup>nd</sup> bend by Broadwell Guest House – there is only 30 yards to spot traffic and recently a serious accident involving said resident due to exiting private drive and speeding vehicle off 2<sup>nd</sup> bend. There is one in/out entrance serving 8 properties from a private drive opposite Heart of England Club; this entrance also serves Pertemps. A request for speed bumps at this point, mirrors to observe oncoming traffic.

**Action: AP to come out and meet residents to review Berkswell Road. Contact details to be given to AP at end of meeting.**

AP reported that accidents and accident sites are reviewed annually; fatalities will be prioritised including serious injury.

AP advised that he had previously met with the parish council and a drive around hot spots was conducted which included Berkswell Road. A request had been made for a footpath from Heart of England Club to Berryfields Farm entrance for safety of pedestrians. This may be applied for through the Community Liveability Fund which Highways can support and prioritise to.

RK stated that there has been an increase in HGV/AV traffic since Home Farm expanded into container storage.

AP stated there is a presumption in favour of development into rural communities with a 2% increase and above in volumes of traffic.

AP further commented that there are many cross boarder developments affecting Meriden.

Resident raised concerns over the impact of Fillongley Bridge repairs and Main Road being the main diversion route for all additional traffic?

AP reported that this work had been delayed due to funding and Combined Authority priorities.

Resident advised that he had not received any notification and requested new time scales, communication plans and revised repair programme of works.

AP confirmed that this news had only just been released and David Hanger will formally notify all residents on his communications list of revised dates; however it will be likely that the first phase of repair will be diverting utilities and this can be done using a two-way traffic light system without road closure and diversion.

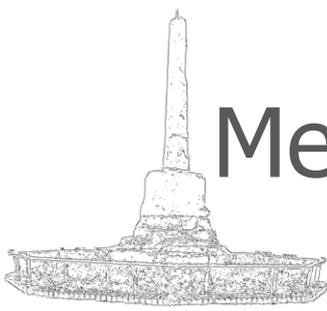
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AP further commented that the Fillongley Road crossing, whilst previously unsuccessful may be reviewed in light of the centre refuge not meeting mobility needs due to issues of dropped curbs.

AP stated that Police are carrying out patrols Main Road.

RW reported that there is an active Community Speed Watch in place and volunteers are needed. Names and contact details to be left at end of meeting of those interested. Recent speed watch caught 12 vehicles in a one hour period speeding on Hampton Lane.

JB stated that Berkswell Road can be prioritised but will need to be risk assessed.

AP stated weight restrictions of HGVs may be reviewed; there is highways presentation at quarterly quarry liaison meetings; it could be that future development schemes being considered in Meriden will measure traffic flows and counters may be put down on HGV movements.

RW thanked AP for attending, taking public questions and sharing his ideas that may be adapted for Meriden, summing up there are to be no quick fixes.

AP advised his pleasure and in the longer term there is a road safety fund of 4.2M that SMBC may risk assess support for highways works such as yellow line reinstatement, parking restrictions, removal of hatching and existing parking restrictions.

**Action:** AP/Highways Team to arrange site visit in the New Year via Clerk.

**AP left the meeting.**

**Chair invited members of the public to stay if they wished as the meeting moves to formal business. 5 members of the public left the meeting.**

### **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

3c Chair reminded the meeting that Cllr Lynch-Smith's Declaration of Interest form is now urgent for her to complete.

**Action:** Cllr Lynch-Smith to complete form and forward to clerk so all updated forms may be sent to Deborah Merry, Head of Democratic Services, SMBC, for website update.

### **4. Minutes of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017, circulated prior to meeting, were considered for accuracy and agreed.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr R Kipling proposed approval of the minutes of Parish Council meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2017, seconded by Cllr M Lee.

### **5. Finance**

5.1 Approve November Payments

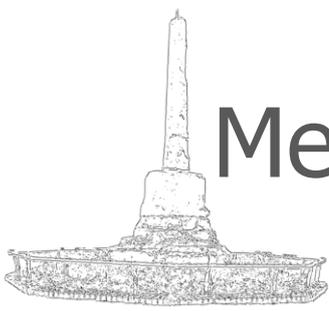
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The clerk circulated December payments for consideration and approval.

(i) Meriden Parish Council December payments £5,827.70.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr R Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Parish Council December payments of £5,827.70 seconded by Cllr M Lee.

(ii) Meriden Sports Park December payments £3,652.75.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr R Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park December payments of £3,652.75 seconded by Cllr J Barber.

## 5.2 Edge Finance Management System Renewal

The quotation and renewal documentation was circulated to Members for their consideration prior to meeting. The clerk is happy to continue working with Edge with the additional accountancy support available from DKB. Members agreed to the contract renewal as per quotation.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved renewal of Edge Finance Management System; proposed by Cllr R Kipling and seconded by Cllr M Lee.

## 5.3 Indicative Precept Tax Base & Proposed Precept Increase

Chair reported that finance committee had not met on 11<sup>th</sup> December due to snow. The clerk had prepared indicative precept increases of 3% and 3.5% for Members consideration in line with November meeting action and discussion outlining household increase to compensate decrease in SMBC support grant. After due consideration Members agreed to a 3.5% increase to precept for 2018-19 budget.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members recommended approval of 3.5% precept increase; proposed by Cllr R Kipling with a unanimous second by Members.

## 6. Progress Reports

### 6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

FLS reported all is going well but there will be a need for maintenance of boiler in 2018.

### 6.2 War Memorials

Cllr M Lee read the attached summary Appendix 1 of recent meeting with St Laurence PCC.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members considered the content of the meeting and agreed in principle to the transfer of land and Memorial to the parish council subject to legal advice from Andrew Kinsey, SMBC Solicitor.

**Action:** Clerk to follow up with Andrew Kinsey re Deed of Transfer, any covenants and easement for access of services on land. To provide update at January's meeting.

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

Nothing to report.

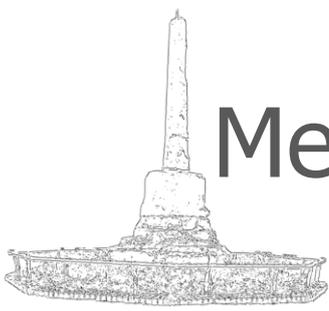
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## 6.3 Meriden Pool

RW advised that MPC is not happy with the progress of this project. FLS advised that Coleshill Sea Scouts were interested in helping with maintenance and a tidy up of the pool area. RW advised that until samples of water have been analysed it is unsafe to allow access due to potential contamination.

**Action: Clerk to chase 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

December's meeting was postponed due to number of apologies received due to snow. The rescheduled date is proposed for 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018.

## 6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Chair reported the next meeting is 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Marston Green. She also advised the sad news of Cllr Margret Wilden's sudden death and her funeral to be held on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

## 6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

The volunteer tree warden is doing a fantastic job with lots of ideas moving forward. A further meeting to be arranged in the New Year including Bloom.

**Action:** Chair, clerk and Tree Warden.

## 6.9 Community Surgeries

There were no attendees and the surgery was used for catch up with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and outlining the many hotspots that generate complaints.

**Action: The next surgery is scheduled for 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

## 6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB reported that the last speed watch was carried out on Hampton Lane with 12 vehicles logged as speeding above limit, with a PCSO officer present. Further training will be delivered to new volunteers during the first quarter of 2018.

## 6.11 HS2

Nothing to report. The parish council is aware of the Community Fund and is co-ordinating with neighbouring parishes to optimise available funding for traffic management.

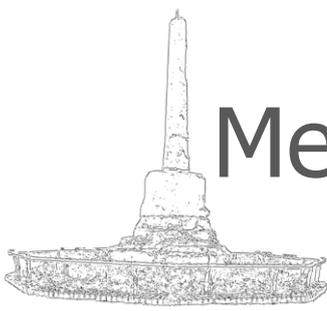
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6.12 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

The next quarterly summary is due in January 2018.

## 7. Clerk's Report

Not available however clerk's actions are reflected in agenda content.

## 8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

No Councillors in attendance.

## 9. Correspondence & Communication

RW advised the following:-

- Pensions Regulator advised immediate increase of er's @ 2% and ee's @ 3% with a further increase of er's 3% and ee's 5% from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018. This is a statutory requirement.
- Secretary of State Appeal for Little Meadow; planning committee to respond.
- Public consultation at Arden Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2018 for M42 Junction 6 improvement proposals. RW requested this be posted on Facebook and website.

## 10. Meriden Village Matters

### 10.1 Library Update

A meeting is arranged with Kate Bunting and Emma Mayhew for 19<sup>th</sup> December to open preliminary discussion regarding first floor strengthening, extending the library offer to residents and the library future.

**Action: RW and BB to attend and report at January's meeting.**

### 10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Nothing to report.

#### 10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

Nothing to report.

### 10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

### 10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

Nothing to report.

### 10.5 Highways

This item has been covered in Guest Speaker, Ashley Prior's presentation under item 2.

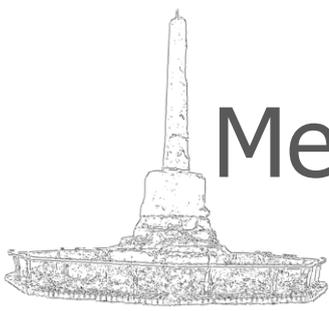
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10.6 Land Registry & Ownership  
Nothing to report.

10.7 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2018  
Nothing to report. Scouts to take half a sack of daffodil bulbs and plant around Village Hall and Scout Hut.

**Action:** Clerk to arrange for bulbs to be delivered to Scout Leader.

10.8 Litter  
Nothing to report. A suggestion was made for the Scouts to organise a litter pick of park, roundabout and verges.

**Action:** Clerk to follow up with Scout Leader.

10.9 Mobile Mast Update  
Cllr M Lee to contact Manor Hotel for meeting offering dates of 27<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> December.

**Action:** Cllr M Lee and Chair to attend.

10.10 Local Council Award Scheme  
Chair advised this remains a work in progress.

**Action:** ALL.

10.11 Meriden Public Transport  
Nothing to report.

## 11. Solihull Partnership Forum

The next meeting is scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> February 2018 at The Renewal Centre, Solihull.

## 12. Planning Matters

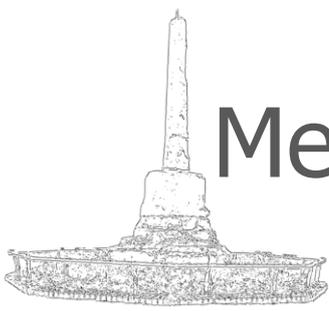
### 12.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Cllr M Lee advised the pre-submission draft is currently with Planning Consultant who is going to work on it. The senior hedgehog officer for Warwickshire Wildlife Trust attended the last meeting which was interesting and he will be putting together the necessary wording for biodiversity policy. The meeting was also attended by our tree warden who advised of the potential butterfly colony on the banking opposite the Queens Head.

RW advised that letters have been written to previous parish councillors requesting their assistance in the retrieval and/or information of the whereabouts of title deeds of land owned by the parish council not found in Wright Hassall archive storage, specifically for The Green as part of Right to Bid/Fields in Trust applications.

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

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ML stated that there is a need to complete a Housing Needs Survey which has put back the working timelines of Neighbourhood Plan completion. RW advised that she had written to SMBC's Mark Collyer requesting assistance.

The next meeting will be Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

**Action: Housing Needs Survey to be undertaken; SMBC to provide assistance; Local Green Spaces Assessment to be undertaken. ML and Neighbourhood Planning Group.**

## 12.1(i) Locality Funding Bid

Cllr M Lee advised that due to the need to carry out a housing needs survey a further application to fund this work will be made to Locality.

**Action: Cllr M Lee and Neighbourhood planning group.**

## 12.1(ii) NALC consultation response on Planning for the right homes in the right places

## 12.1(iii) NALC consultation response on Broadband Universal Service Obligation

RW urged Members to complete these surveys so NALC is getting the right information and can influence the decision making process at National level.

**Action: ALL**

## 12.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Chair reported that a meeting with Sangeeta Leahy, Head of Wellbeing, Kath Hemmings and Bruce Brant, was held with herself and the clerk outlining key priorities for 2018-19 ad follows:-

- Library
- Pool
- Highways and HS2 funding for traffic improvements
- Dust monitoring
- Ward Action Planning 2018-19 budget application for funding
- Woodland View and general mental health issues affecting the Community.

**Action: RW and clerk to meet with Head of Health & Wellbeing and Public Health regarding air quality.**

## 12.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

Nothing to report.

## 12.4 Planning Application Status Updates

- M42 Junction 6 – respond as parish council with a co-ordinated response. Use wording from submission to SLPR (2016 response). Write to Hampton to see how Meriden can support them with their response.

**Action: Clerk to contact Hampton's clerk.**

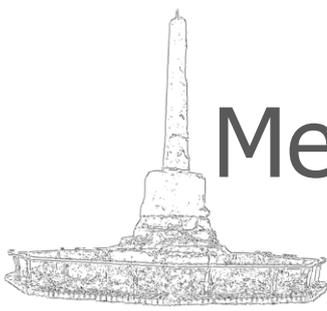
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- Grain Store – Brailles Farm (working farm support)
- Fairview – retrospective for retention of caravan (not support)
- Footpath diversion for Meriden Quarry (not support; restoration of pasture land and temporary footpath diversions; see Cllr Lloyd's comments)

**Action:** Cllr Kipling will co-ordinate parish council response and speak to David Keaney regarding footpath permanent diversion.

### **13. Parish Council Development Day**

The next Development Day is arranged for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

**Action:** All.

**Apologies received from Cllrs Kipling and P Lee regarding work commitments.**

### **14. New Website**

ML advised that website content management training took place on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 with the site now up and running. Real Point are preparing a crib/prompt sheet to follow.

RK reported server error when logging into 365 mail account.

**Action:** Cllr M Lee to monitor and report server error to Real Point.

### **15. Annual Parish Assembly**

RW requested clerk email meeting notes.

**Action:** Clerk to email 2017 meeting notes.

### **16. Contested Election 2019**

Chair advised this item is on the website with information on how to become a Parish Councillor; RW further reported that a request to Deborah Merry has been made to see if SMBC are doing anything by way of training and whether there could be joint training for potential parish councillors from SMBC/WALC.

**Action:** RW.

### **17. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda**

Nothing to report.

### **18. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of Meriden Parish Council is to be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 at 7.30 pm venue Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Chair wished all attendees a Happy Christmas and New Year and closed the meeting at 21.35 hours.

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

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