



Meriden Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
23 February 2015 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

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

There were 8 members of the public present and Cllr D Bell.

1. Public Participation (half hour)

The Chair welcomed members of the public and introduced Mr Robert Williams, Alder Mill, agent for A & A Recycling and NRS Wastecare operations, who provided an overview of the recent planning application, submitted for an extension to A & A operations and licence. He also gave an update of the quarry operations as a whole and invited a Q & A session.

Residents addressed Council regarding the proposed planning application for Morrison Park Homes, Meriden Hall, requesting their support opposing the loss of the Walled Gardens, which is curtilage listed.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and the issues raised, and extended an invitation to stay for full council business. The Chair stated that with elections in May nominations are invited from interested members of the public for new candidates enabling the Parish to receive Quality Status subject to Clerk’s qualification.

2. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting. Apologies received from Cllrs Haque, Nunn, Barber and Allsopp.

IT WAS RESOLVED Apologies were formally recorded and accepted from Cllrs Haque, Nunn, Barber and Allsopp.

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
Cllr Kipling advised his prejudicial interest in the Pertemps Planning application due to his committee membership of the Heart of England Social Club; currently the club is renting car parking space to Pertemps for financial gain.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted Cllr Kipling’s declaration which is duly noted and formally recorded. Pertemps application has been refused; however any future appeal or re-submission will be considered with the exclusion of Cllr Kipling.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 2015 were considered and agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved the minutes as a true record of 26th January 2015 and the Chair signed.

Matters/actions arising: All as per agenda and standing items.

5. Policy Review

The Clerk had circulated:-

- Complaints Policy

Members considered the policy document and agreed content.

- Grant Awarding Policy

Members considered the policy document and requested amendment to item 1 bullet point 6 stating “In particular projects will be considered that achieve one or more of the following”, should be changed to “In particular projects will be considered that address one or more of the following”.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Kipling proposed acceptance and adoption of Complaints Policy and Grant Awarding Policy subject to above amendment being made. Cllr P Lee seconded proposal. Members unanimously agreed.

6. Finance

6.1 Approve February Payments

Members received payments for approval. Cllr P Lee proposed approval, seconded by Cllr R Kipling.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved February payments.

6.2 St Laurence Church – Maintenance Request

This item requires cost comparison exercise using Parish Council contractors and therefore is deferred to next meeting.

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

7. Progress Reports

7.1 Village Hall Management Committee

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Cllr Lynch-Smith advised that the next film night will be 28th January with the Best Exotic Marigold Hotel being shown; tickets £5 with light refreshments. All other dates are listed in the Meriden Mag.

7.2 Community Governor for Meriden C of E School

Cllr Weaver reported that the new school Governance structure will go to cabinet in March for approval. Cllr Weaver has been co-opted due to her finance/buildings knowledge and as such will not be the Community Governor under the auspices of the Parish Council. School has returned after half term and is looking for external capital funding for urgent repairs and maintenance work; it was reiterated again that the local authority made no provision for s106 from Taylor Wimpey Homes development. Action planning linked to Ofsted continues

7.3 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

7.4 Meriden Pool

Nothing to report.

7.5 Allotments

Nothing to report.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum

Cllr Lynch-Smith advised that due to weather no further work had been undertaken, however as weather improves she will be out and about again.

7.7 Quarries Liaison Group

The next meeting will be held on 9th March 2015. There is ongoing communication with NRS regarding Area G wheelwash and sweepers operating on Birmingham Road due to build up of mud and debris on highway. It was also noted that Cornets End Lane is not being swept and cleaned.

Action: The Clerk will follow up Cornets End Lane concerns with Robert Williams and Highways.

7.8 Solihull Area Committee

Cllr Weaver advised that the CEO of SMBC, Nick Page, attended the recent meeting. There were lots of questions but the bottom line is for an improvement to working relationships; empowering local councils enabling them to do things differently; economic growth of Solihull Borough, loss of greenbelt is unavoidable however he wants to keep as much as possible without affecting the economic growth and investment.

Signed Chair Dated

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7.9 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported that the next meeting is tonight and she has sent apologies with a request to change the meeting date to avoid clashes.

7.10 Community Surgeries

The clerk reported Community Surgery was held on Monday 2nd February 2015:-

- Leys Lane on-going issues with allotments, speeding traffic, crossing point, hedge reinstatement, secure fencing to allotment gardens. Residents have formed a steering group working with SMBC and Taylor Wimpey to achieve conditions of planning permission.
- Neighbourhoods in Bloom – planning with resident volunteers re sponsorship, hanging baskets, resident poly tunnels.
- Quarry – Area G complaints re mud and debris on road leading onto A45.
- Funday Sunday – looking into insurance and risk assessment.
- Lights on tree in middle of roundabout request for removal.
- Highways issues with parking obstructions to footpaths and walkways.

7.11 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Barber had sent a message via the clerk to record he was still waiting for PC Smith to get back to him. Cllr Lynch-Smith asked if there was any follow up to her suggestion of different colour speeding warning lights?

Action: The Clerk will follow up with Highways colleagues.

7.12 HS2

Cllr Bell reported that the working party had met last week. Berkswell and Balsall Common PCs are in conversations to mitigate against construction traffic, the construction village and tunnel.

7.13 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)

Cllr Weaver advised that the Charities Commission made suggestions for the application and proposed structure for Sports Park management. As Chair of the Sports Park she sought advice from a local retired solicitor, who accompanied her to meet with Mander Hadley senior partner for some pro-bono advice. There is a need to amend the Articles of Association and appoint a solicitor that is independent of the Parish Council. A legal agreement will be set up as the Parish Council will own the asset and rent it to Meriden Sports Park Limited. Cllr Weaver advised that she had done some financial modelling and the funds currently invested with CCLA will last 27 years however the long term goal is for charity registration and then funding to be secured from external sources. There is also the need for there to be more Trustees on the Board of Meriden Sports Park Limited from the local community which is anticipated to be in place by May.

Signed **Chair** **Dated**

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Cllr Lynch-Smith asked if representatives from the village will be part of the operational team running the Sports Park. Cllr Weaver confirmed that a new organisational structure will include user group representation and added a user's group meeting is arranged quarterly and a Director's meeting is arranged bi-monthly.

Cllr Weaver reiterated that Mander Hadley's credentials include similar set ups for Coventry Cathedral, Belgrade Theatre and Coventry Charities. She therefore recommends the appointment of Mander Hadley as Meriden Sports Park Solicitors moving forward.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members considered the recommendation to appoint Mander Hadley as Meriden Sports Park Solicitors; Cllr Kipling proposed approval and this was seconded by Cllr P Lee.

8. Clerk's Report

The Clerk circulated Clerks's Actions; there were no questions raised.

9. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Cllr Bell advised:-

- Roy Eaton, SMBC had requested topics for scrutiny for 3rd March 2015 from Berkswell PC, and asked if Meriden had received notice of this? Such scrutiny could include planning applications. The Clerk confirmed Meriden had not been contacted.
- Local Development Plan - the housing numbers stipulated are in dispute and this is referred to on SMBC website news updates. Cllr Kipling asked if Parishes such as Meriden have already had two new housing developments will be targeted in the future? Cllr Bell suggested the proposed Garden City is a good idea and may take the hit of future housing developments.

10. Correspondence & Communication

The Clerk had circulated information electronically to Members.

11. Meriden Village Matters

11.1 Library Update

The Library refurbishment is underway with a book drop off arrangements in place with Clerk and mobile Library visiting weekly in the Sports Park car park. Cllr Lynch-Smith asked about contractor parking and the difficulty of vehicles parked on the service road blocking access to Spar. The Clerk responded that a sensitive situation has arisen with access to the rear of the property and any concerns should be directed to SMBC.

11.2 Village Commemoration WW1

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Cllr M Lee reported that the Royal Corps of Signals wish to make the football/cricket matches annual events and the proposed date for 2015 is 10th or 17th October.

11.3 Meriden Gate

11.3(i) Freehold Transfer

Nothing to report as the matter remains in the hands of SMBC Corporate Legal Team.

11.3(ii) Overage

Nothing to report as the matter remains with David Wilson Homes and SMBC.

11.4 Taylor Wimpey & Associated S106 Works

The following email was read to Members from Mr Tejinder Chagger, SMBC Highways Engineer; "Things have slipped with regard to opening up the new bus stop. I have been chasing the Contractor for a scheme update and when we are likely to complete the remedial works to resolve the ponding issue we have in the lay-by. I believe the electrical works for the light to the new shelter is also outstanding. The works however to the other bus stop adjacent to the church have been completed. I will update you as soon as I have more details."

Action: The Clerk will monitor and liaise with Highways to draw this programme of works to conclusion.

11.6 Highways Update

- Ashley Prior continues to chase Centro regarding their response to 900 bus service using Showell Lane.
- Bruce Brant reports "I have been approached by the longer standing residents of Maxstoke Lane who are concerned about a noticeable increase in litter along Maxstoke Lane now the new Meriden Gate estate is occupied and established. They are asking if the Streetcare cleansing on The Green can be expanded to doing Maxstoke Lane as well. I have explained that areas like The Green are core sites and attract a different cleansing schedule but will speak to Tammy Rowley about the increase in litter and if there is any assessment measure we can apply to verify the residents' concerns or otherwise?"
- Ed Bradford reports "as we have previously explained on numerous occasions, we will look at how we can resolve the situation with regards drainage in the longer term on Eaves Green Lane from April (when our new financial year starts). We have offered to meet representatives on site once we have a preliminary design in order that we can use knowledge and understanding of the local area but in the meantime we have asked that, if possible, photographs are provided to help us fully understand the issue and its causes.

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In the meantime our Tanker Services team will do what they can to help but we would stress that this situation is not to be unexpected given the rural nature of the location; silt, mud and debris etc will naturally be present after a rainfall period, and particularly where vehicles are moving on and off surrounding land.

Please bear with us; we are doing our very best to maintain the whole of the highway drainage network across the Borough but we are constrained by the resources available to us. We only have £130,000 to maintain the whole of the highway drainage network for the Borough each year, which doesn't go far and which was committed and spent for 2014/15 some time ago. In addition I only have one Officer who deals with such matters amongst his other duties.

Please note that I have asked a Tanker Services crew and my Officer to take a look to see what we can do to help today and they should be on site early this afternoon."

Action: The Clerk will thank all officers for their prompt response and actions.

11.7 Land Registry & Ownership
Nothing to report.

11.8 Public Convenience Site Transfer
The Clerk advised that this remains in the hands of Legal Teams.

Action: The Clerk will liaise with legal parties to bring the matter to conclusion.

11.9 Dog Fouling
Cllr P Lee reported that this is now in the Meriden Mag and he will chase up what has been reported. Notices for "no dog fouling" on village green to be explored. New signs for parking and fouling to be advised.

11.10 Refuse Collections and Bins
Cllr Lynch-Smith has seen a marked improvement in the sight line of bins after being emptied and put back on drives by refuse operatives on Fillongley Road.

11.11 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2015
The Clerk reported that volunteers have come forward with polytunnels and baskets purchased. Contractors giving their labour pro-bono are also confirmed.

Action: The Clerk to organise a meeting of all interested parties.

12. Parish Council Newsletter

Members requested this standing item be removed for future meetings.

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IT WAS RESOLVED Members agreed the removal of this standing item.

13. Solihull Partnership Group

Nothing to report.

14. Planning Matters

14.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update

Cllr Weaver reported that she has a list of people interested in taking this forward; it will take approximately 18 months to complete. Meriden's application for Parish designation will go before Cabinet in March.

Action: Cllr Weaver and the Clerk to continue working through the process.

14.2 To receive update and status on Planning Applications

Planning Application No.	Site	Proposal
2015/141 NEW	133 Fillongley Road Meriden	Two storey side extension and rear extension.
2015/88 NEW	The Wain House, Meriden Hall	Retrospective listed building consent for replacement windows and doors plus new handrails and gates and rear porch.
2015/123 NEW	Meriden Hall Home Park (Morrison Park Homes)	Variation of condition nos.4 (parking spaces to be marked out) and 10 (stationing of mobile homes limited to area specified) on planning application 1993/73 to allow for one additional mobile home and reallocation of car parking spaces.
2015/44 Waiting	Land at Becks Lane Meriden	Erect 3 garages.
2014/2263 Waiting	A & A Meriden Quarry Meriden	Change of use from minerals extraction land to waste management, to allow for expanded waste wood treatment operation and associated operational

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		development at Meriden Quarry recycling facility.
2014/2233 Listed Building Approval	Pertemps Group Limited Meriden Hall Road Meriden	Listed building consent for two storey glazed link to hall an escape stair to rear.
2014/2232 Full Plans Refusal	Pertemps Group Limited Meriden Hall Road Meriden	Two storey office extension to the rear single storey glazed link.
2014/2186 Full Plans Approval	94 Main Road, Meriden	Resubmission of 2014/1331 demolition of existing 1960s lean to kitchen extension and erection of new kitchen/dining room extension.
2014/2096 Waiting	The Woodlands, Lodge Green Lane, Meriden	Remove condition No. 2 on planning application 2007/1782 (use of the development restricted to short term holiday purposes only and not occupied at any time as permanent residential accommodation).
2014/1898 Full Plans Refusal APPEAL Ref. APP/Q4625/C/14/3000640 to Planning Inspectorate Bristol	Birmingham Road, Meriden	Change of use from agriculture for the use of a caravan storage compound and operational development on land at Birmingham Road, Meriden.
2014/2025 Full Plans Refusal APPEAL	Highfield House, Leys Lane, Meriden	Change of use of an agricultural building to one residential dwelling.
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.

Action: The Clerk will receive Members comments for collation and forward to SMBC.

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14.3 Pertemps Resubmission

This planning application was refused at planning committee meeting.

14.4 Proposed Development of Old Garage and Caravan Storage Site

Nothing to report.

14.5 Land behind Caravan Storage & Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road

The Clerk advised this has now gone to appeal. The Parish Council has submitted their letter of opposition to the Planning Inspectorate.

14.6 Land for Burial – Cllr Lynch-Smith

Cllr Lynch-Smith requested the Clerk forward the publication regarding graveyards and burial sites featured in The Clerk magazine.

Action: The Clerk to forward publication to Cllr Lynch-Smith.

14.7 Daw Mill & Proposed Container Distribution Centre

Nothing to report.

14.8 Proposed Development Coventry CC – A45/Pickford Green Lane

Nothing to report.

15. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda

Councillors raised the following items:-

- An invitation to attend the next meeting to be extended to the local Police Sergeant regarding update on co-op break-ins and actions.
- Elections – applications to be received by 9th April 2015.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 23rd March 2015 at 19.30 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.50 hours.

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