



# Meriden Parish Council

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Minutes of Meriden Parish Council Meeting held on 24 February 2014  
at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park, at 7.30 p.m.

**Present:** Cllr M Lee - Chair  
Cllr R Kipling  
Cllr P Lee  
Cllr R Weaver  
Cllr M Nunn  
Cllr J Barber  
Cllr F Lynch-Smith  
Cllr M Haque  
Mrs B Bland - Clerk

In attendance: Councillor Bell

There was one member of the public in attendance who requested an update on Eaves Green Lane reinstatement works.

The Chair welcomed Kirstin Kane, Environment Manager at Birmingham Airport and Airspace Change Process Focus Group who presented an update on proposed changes to the Runway 15 Standard Instrument Departure routes. Please see the following overview:-





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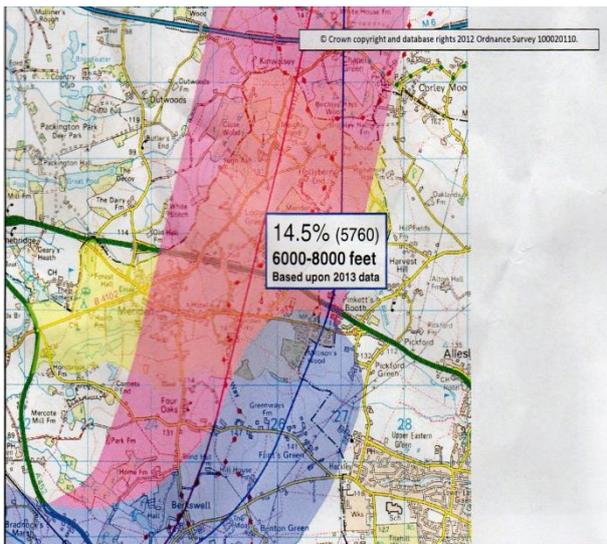
## Runway Extension and A45 diversion



- Planning Approval Granted in Dec 09
- Board decision to progress Feb 2012
- 405m runway extension
- Longer runway aircraft can carry more fuel and fly further
- Change the game for long-haul travel

## Why do we need to change the flight paths?

- The Runway is being extended 405m to the south east and will be operational by Spring 2014.
- We are undertaking two airspace change processes
  1. As aircraft will be touching down on the runway earlier, we are required to revise the arrival procedures to the runway 33 **COMPLETE**
  2. As the position where aircraft take off will be further south, we are required to revise the departure procedures from runway 15





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Ms Kane advised a 40M investment had been committed to airport planning and extension. The design of the flight paths was due to new navigation and tracking devices that no longer supported the Hampton Turn. Public consultation was undertaken in 2013 with Meriden residents in the Village Hall. Currently there are a number of trials on-going at different airports nationally transitioning from ground based navigation to satellite navigation or RVAV (area navigation), with Birmingham Airport as an early adopter. There is only one route affecting Meriden and this can be seen on the map above showing the existing routing highlighted pink and new routing highlighted purple; trials will commence in April 2014. There are currently 6,000 flights of which 15% will adopt the purple route flying at 6-8,000 feet.

Ms Kane further stated the importance of communicating with residents and this can be via E-newsletters; dedicated community Twitter account [BHX\\_community](#); website; a community impact programme providing feedback subscribing to community impact alerts at [community@birminghamairport.co.uk](mailto:community@birminghamairport.co.uk); and helpline 0121-767-7433.

Resident Q: Aircraft performance will make planes fly lower as they are bigger to take off and will not necessarily fly quicker?

A: Dependent of type of aircraft and if commercial flight – all aircraft technology will change.

RK Q: There will be impact on roads and getting into the airport?

A: There should be no change as there are obligations to operation of the airport where there is a volume increase of traffic to use public transport.

RK Q: There is one entrance and exit?

A: There may be some “tweaks” to Surface Access Strategy and this will be refreshed in accordance with Airports Commission and the Strategy for Aviation will change.

MH stated currently the airport serves 9M passengers; it is going to be a real challenge to get operators to commit and increase passenger numbers to 27M by 2030. There is much competition from Manchester and East Midlands and Birmingham are late in their runway extension programme losing operators to Manchester and East Midlands, the master plan will be identifying Birmingham’s unique selling point including good railway and road networks.

KK summarised the benefit to the region and the competitive market to attract operators currently using other airports to use Birmingham.

The Chair thanked Ms Kane for attending and bringing Members up to date; information will be posted onto Parish Council website with links above. Ms Kane thanked Members and agreed to attend a future meeting, bringing an interactive presentation of updated flight paths after April’s trials.



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The Chair invited the resident to address Members regarding Eaves Green Lane and its reinstatement of ground and whether this should be directed to Parish Council or Solihull MBC.

The Chair replied that she had emailed Anne Brereton and received an reply from David Wigfield as follows dated 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013:-

“Dear Ms Lee,

Apologies for the delay in response – I was out of the office last week. There is really no update on the situation as explained in December – I understand Mr Burton continues to be out of the country, and attempts to pursue this matter through his solicitors and/or planning agent have met with no success. However, whilst we will continue to attempt to pursue the matter as and when any opportunity arises, these were relatively minor matters of detail and I would hope and expect that, with the passage of time and arrival of spring, natural regeneration will have addressed most outstanding concerns in any event. I hope this is of some assistance. ”

Cllr P Lee had circulated to Members Mr Doug Bacon’s email to SMBC regarding resident concerns of the lack of reinstatement to the site and recorded the length of time to address the conditions of injunction to return this site to agricultural land was unacceptable and proposed the Parish Council pursue this further.

The Chair advised of feedback from Solihull MBC and the official response from the Secretary of State and agreed to the PC writing to Anne Brereton acknowledging receiving Mr Bacon’s email and endorsing the content.

## **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Cllr M Lee opened the meeting. The Chair accepted apologies from Cllr Diccio.

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. Minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

Members had been circulated minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 for consideration prior to meeting. Cllr Kipling proposed approval of minutes, seconded by Cllr P Lee.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members accepted minutes of 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014 as read.

## **4. Standing Order/Financial Regulation Review**

The review of Standing Orders remains in process. WALC have notified the future Discontinuation of Cheque Payments in briefing FO1-14 Cheques Payment Legislative Reform Order and provided updates on the next steps to allow legal internet banking. This new legislation will need to be reflected in Standing Orders including Financial Regulations.



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**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Weaver and the Clerk will continue the review process.

## 5. **FINANCE**

### 5.1 February Payments

Members received February payments for approval. The Clerk drew Members attention to a shortfall in business account to fully meet payments and advised a transfer from base rate track account.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously approved payments list and transfer request. The Chair signed payments notice and acknowledged transfer request.

### 5.2 Budget Process 2014-15

The Clerk is to arrange a meeting for the Finance Committee for budget setting and year end.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk to arrange Finance Committee meeting.

### 5.3 Land Investments

Cllr Kipling proposed that the sale proceeds of Maxstoke Lane playing fields, in part, be used to fund the purchase of land identified for sale within Meriden Parish which will provide long term investment portfolio for future sale, the protection of development of greenbelt and potential future expansion of sports park pitches.

Members discussed the proposal and Cllr Lynch-Smith stated that landowners have moved out of Meriden with some land already being identified as development sites with retainers for landowners for developers to have first refusal on any sale.

The brown field site on Birmingham Road has planning permission expired and Cllr Kipling was requested to find out who owns this. Cllr Lynch-Smith stated that SMBC had brought in external people to provide licences and it has proven an expensive exercise to identify who owns what?

Cllr Bell advised that Balsall Common PC have been involved with land sale and purchase with SMBC's support and help to do it. Cllr Lynch-Smith to investigate.

Cllr Kipling stated that the purchase and asset of land is a better return and would be keen to identify plots of land around the village.

Cllr Weaver stated there must be a cost appraisal for agricultural land and fields along with identification of plots of land available, suitability and ownership; and asked who would undertake this? Cllr Kipling agreed to investigate and report back at next meeting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling to investigate and report at next meeting.



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## **6. Progress Reports**

### 6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

### 6.2 Community Governor for Meriden C of E School

Cllr Weaver reported Governor training had been delivered; school had reopened after half term; and a request has been received for use of tennis courts at Sports Park.

### 6.3 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

### 6.4 Pool Tidy

Nothing to report.

### 6.5 Allotment Representative

The Clerk reported that an enquiry had been received for an allotment from recent advertisement placed in Meriden Mag. Alan Gabbitas has been notified and he is to show interested resident plots available.

### 6.6 Footpaths/Forum

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported that the Heart of England walk had been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.

### 6.7 Quarries Liaison Group

The Clerk advised increased vehicle movements using Hampton Lane and reported a "muck shift" from Leys Lane development site with materials being imported for quarry restoration. After numerous emails to operators, there has been no response and she has contacted David Wigfield and David Lechmere.

The Clerk further reported meeting with resident representatives and asked Members for their approval to investigate Traffic Regulation Orders for Hampton Lane and Berkswell Road to restrict HGV movements through the village.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved the Clerk's actions above.

### 6.8 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report.

### 6.9 Tree Warden

Nothing to report.

### 6.10 Community Surgeries

The Clerk reported that a Community Surgery held on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2014 with Bruce Brant received three members of the public who raised the following issues:-



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- Leys Lane – damage to verges, curbs and resurface works – Bruce Brant site inspection with site supervisor of recent works. There is also a Method Statement between Danny Gouveia SMBC and TWH to signpost all complaints and enquires to TWH site office.
- No PCSO's turned up for Beat Surgery with concerns over unlit skips in Alspath and Arden – emailed without response. Bruce Brant following up.
- Potholes – Alspath referred to Bruce Brant.
- Pedestrian Walkway between shops and Arden disgraceful and no street cleaning being carried out referred to Wendy Henry SMBC street cleaning.
- 900 bus route along Showell Lane dangerous referred to Dave Lechmere and Paul Tovey for Highways comments.
- Meriden Gate site plan layout giving residents concerns regarding “shared space”. Drivers not observing low speeds, pedestrians in no-mans land when walking as no clear demarkation of highway, cycle, pedestrian pathways.

Update of outstanding items regarding roundabout repairs, trees, ordering Yew tree, bulb planting, Pool tidy with Rangers, new gateway signage, lay-by and parking, Fillongley crossing all of which are identified for Ward Action Plan.

Deferred Ashley Prior meeting to be rearranged.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk to raise resident concerns with appropriate SMBC officers including vulnerability disabled, senior and child residents living on Meriden Gate and request calming measures.

6.11 Community Speed Watch  
Nothing to report.

6.12 HS2

Cllr Weaver advised completion and submission of response on behalf of Meriden PC and Area Committee for Parish and Town Councils. A safe receipt has been acknowledged for both submissions.

## **7. Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting**

The Clerk circulated by email to Members her actions since last meeting. There were no questions and the Chair expressed Members thanks and acknowledged content.

## **8. District and County Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Bell reported that HS2 is at petitioning stage with Parliamentary Agents appointed for increased mitigation; and advised Berkswell PC has appointed its own Parliamentary Agent.



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## **9. Meriden Village Matters**

### 9.1(i) Library Update

Cllr M Lee reported that a meeting is arranged for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March for 9 am for the purpose of Wayne Plant's Property Services team explaining the Conditions Survey recently undertaken and what it means for the Library. It is a complicated report with a lot of technical detail within.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Chair, Cllr P Lee and the Clerk will be attending together with Cllr Bell.

### 9.1 (ii) Historic Panels

Nothing to report.

### 9.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Cllr M Lee reported the website is now live with the calendar to be updated. Events to date confirmed are 30 Signals Regiment Football Match on Sat 18 Oct with Triumph Meriden FC; British Army Cricket Match in August; Cyclists Memorial Service and weekend in May, Remembrance Sunday in November; Chris Copper and Ron Potter organising a Cinema Night at the Village Hall; Imperial War Museum – Village trip to London.

The Chair and Cllr Weaver will be applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for sustainability of this five year project and thanked the Working Group for their commitment and very positive good ideas. The facebook page that Cllr Nunn has developed will be populated by Cllr M Lee and it is noted that any new additions to website need to be with web designer by 21<sup>st</sup> March as he is taking extended leave to end of April.

Cllr Weaver advised she has spoken with Meriden School Head Teacher and the centenary commemorations are to be included in school curriculum.

Cllr Barber stated he had received a message from Lt. Slade of the Air Cadets who will volunteer for events from Balsall Common and Kenilworth Corps. Cllr Barber is also tasked with finding a "bugler" for the many events arranged.

Cllr P Lee advised of road closure on service road for Cyclist Memorial Service and he would organise.

The Chair advised promotional leaflets had been printed and some had been distributed at the London Bike Show. Cllr Weaver asked how these are to be distributed through the Parish. Cllr Lynch-Smith is to circulate amongst local businesses; she will be attending the Rotary Club Megaride planning meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February; Cllr Haque is to take to local cycling shops and Neville Riley from Meriden Rotary Club will distribute at Wellesbourne Aerodrome cafe; Alan Lole to Meriden Tea Rooms, Lis Willis to primary school and CTC Heart of England were distributing



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as well and a full page will be featured in Meriden Mag supplied by CTC Heart of England.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously supported and approved arrangements to date.

### 9.3 Memorial Plaque

The Chair advised invitations to attend the unveiling of the restored Memorial Plaque on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 12 noon had been sent out to the Mayor of Solihull, Cllrs Bell, Diccico and Allsopp and parish councillors as well as local historian Doreen Agutter. Neville Hunt whose father's estate paid for the renovation has confirmed that 5/6 family members will be present. Light refreshments will be served at the Pavilion for those attending.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members acknowledged arrangements and will confirm their attendance. Refreshments to be arranged by the Chair and Clerk as approved by members.

### 9.4 Meriden Gate

#### 9.4(i) Alternative use of 10K playground funding

Cllr M Lee asked Members for their ideas of a "Wish List of community projects" for the 10K to be considered as follows:-

- (i) Contributing to new Library computers
- (ii) Pedestrian Crossing Fillongley Road
- (iii) Creation of car parking bays on Birmingham Road

The Clerk is requested to follow up with David Waterson and Members asked if there are any further projects to notify Clerk.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members to forward any other ideas for community projects to the Clerk. The Clerk will liaise with David Waterson regarding funding and overage conclusion.

#### 9.4(ii) Tree Planting, hedge reinstatement and pedestrian walkways

Please refer to item 7 Clerks Actions. The Clerk read the following to Members received from David Wigfield:-

"Dear Mrs Bland,

I'm still waiting to hear from the developer about the hedgerow planting (I assume this is a reference to a section of hedge on the northern site boundary with the public open space ?), but I have been informed by the Council's Clerk of Works that the emergency access is part and parcel of a package of ongoing highway works and is expected to be complete in approximately 3-4 weeks.



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Also, that work has now started on the various 'public realm' planting which is programmed for this month, and that seeding of areas will follow after that. I hope this is of some assistance. "

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will monitor and update Members accordingly.

## 9.5 Taylor Wimpey Development & Associated Works

Residents continue to report damage to highway, lighting, verges and curbs by construction traffic. A site visit was undertaken by inspector of works to sign off recent Leys Lane sewer works and we await outcome. Issues have been raised with Neighbourhood and Highways teams regarding standard of work including reinstatement of land used as materials store at lay-by site.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will raise with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and update Members accordingly.

## 9.6 Rural Ward Action Plan 2014-15

The Clerk circulated to Members the draft Ward Action Plan for approval; Kath Hemmings, Neighbourhood Manager has extended deadline for comments to 25<sup>th</sup> February to accommodate Members approval at PC meeting.

## 9.7 Ashley Prior Postponement

Due to prior commitment for Cabinet Members, Mr Prior sent last minute apologies for his non attendance at meeting scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The Clerk will liaise with officers to rearrange.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will arrange further meeting with Mr Prior regarding highways issues.

## 9.8 Impact Survey

Cllr Kipling requested update.

The Clerk advised she had contacted Hampton PC and spoken with Clerk regarding shared costs of impact survey, and received email from Hampton's Chair, Cllr Lewis as follows:-

"Thank you for your prompt reply with the info...certainly as far as we are concerned with the persistent road works (due to continue until September!) don't think there is much to be gained by a survey at present."

The Clerk advised a recently appointed Clerk is in post at Berkswell PC who she will contact in due course.

Cllr Kipling requested the Clerk to investigate the cost of an impact survey and report at next meeting.



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**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will report back to Members at next meeting.

## 9.9 Horse Chestnut Tree

The Clerk reported the instruction for Mr P Barton, Arboriculturalist, to examine, advise and report findings on health and future well-being of tree and avoidance of damage during resurfacing works. Letters have been sent to Mr Barlow, Packington Estate, and it is noted that planning permission approved in 2011 is now out of the 2 year period for work to begin; therefore a further letter has been written reminding the Estate of re-application for TPO607. The Clerk is meeting Mr Barton on site tomorrow, 25<sup>th</sup> February 2014.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will report back to Members at next meeting and circulate report when received.

## 9.10 Recycling Site

The Clerk stated a letter had been received from Sue Kentish, Waste and Recycling Service Delivery Officer, Environmental Services, regarding the re-siting of the recycling centre currently on the Queens Head car park. The site has been moved from Heart of England Club and Bulls Head previously. There is no available funding for damage to car park surfacing which is of impact to site management. Members had previously offered the site of the old public conveniences for this purpose but the site was not considered suitable by Environmental Services. The Clerk was instructed to contact Sue Kentish and confirm no suitable alternative site in Meriden.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will notify Sue Kentish of no suitable site identified.

## 9.11 Eaves Green Update

Please note this item has been covered under public participation with outcome endorsing Mr D Bacon's email letter to Anne Brereton.

## **10. Meriden Sports Park**

### 10.1 Directors Update

A user's group meeting is being arranged. Paul Jayes has complete half term sports camp activity days. There have been problems with fault alarm panel which has required replacement burner thermostats and burners 1 and 2, together with override of wiring to prevent motors running when heating switched off. Currently motors are running continuously due to wire configuration. All work completed by Dodd Mechanical and will be charged for by Property Services. A suggestion has been made for full service before end March.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will monitor and update at next meeting.

### 10.2 Patrol Alarms CCTV

Cllr P Lee advised nothing to report and the Clerk confirmed reminders to David Waterson confirms he is waiting on David Wilson Homes to comment.



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**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr P Lee will continue to monitor the situation. The Clerk will chase David Waterson for reply and solution to conclude this item.

## 10.3 Packington Estate

The Clerk had received a letter from Mr Barlow, circulated to Members, answering questions raised during January's meeting. The letter concludes that Lord Aylesford is currently away from the Estate and Mr Barlow will seek a definitive answer from his Lordship upon his return.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will acknowledge Mr Barlow's letter and request a definitive answer from Lord Aylesford.

## 11. Planning Matters

### 11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Applications update for Members.

2014/112*new The current application shows alterations to the door and two windows of the house, and changes to the shopfront to create two doors and block up one. Jon Hallam, named officer, has asked that the shopfront element be deleted from the proposal and has advised that this would require a separate planning application. This is because the shopfront was not part of the application 13/ 1874 and so cannot now be submitted as a variation to that scheme. Please also see email from Martin Saunders regarding shop front colour circulated 11 Feb.	News Express	Variation of Condition 1 on 2013/1874 for fenestration alterations
2014/299*new	6a Meriden Park Homes	Reduce height of hedge and trim away from property
2014/240*new	23 Strawberry Fields	Change of Use to residential curtiledge
2014/168*new	Meriden Hall	Fell Yew, Ash, Pine. Remove damaged limbs from Oak & Ash
2014/192*new	Brailes Farm	Portal Frame Agricultural Building
2014/30*new	Meriden Mobile Home Park	Removal of conditions 3 & 4 and variation conditions 1 on 2013/508



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2014/167*new	Meriden Mobile Home Park	Retain 2 ancillary storage sheds to 2 residential mobile homes
2013/2109 Waiting Please note email circulated to Members from Mr Addleton 20/2. Email sent to Becky Stevens, named Officer, for history and overview of previous planning application.	Peastocking, Showell Lane	Retrospective roof extension and dormer window
2014/10 Waiting Please note email circulated 24/2 from Mr Marshall.	The Grange, Main Road	UPVC Doors Grade II bldg
2014/18 Approved	16 Grace Road	Single storey extension
2013/2028 Approved	Cornets End Quarry Jack Moody Ltd	Concrete Platform new composting plant
2013/2041 Withdrawn	6c Meriden Hall, Park Homes	Holly Bush removal
2013/1859 Waiting	Windmill Lane, Balsall	Games Room

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will continue notifying Members of Parish Notifications for and recording comments on planning portal.

## 11.2 Conservation – Senior Planner’s update

The Clerk had previously circulated to Members the email response from Martin Saunders, senior planner, conservation, as follows:-

“I have discussed the recent application at News Express. The condition to ask for alterations to the shopfront colour was not imposed on the recent consent as it was not considered reasonable and relevant. This is not to say that the colour could not be altered to one better suited to the conservation area to the foreground. It is simply that the planning application did not constitute an opportunity to impose such a condition. Having said this, I think that the current blue is not particularly incongruous here. The greater visual impact is perhaps a result of the four blue and white panels with text that block the view through the two right hand windows. I find this at odds with the domestic and village scale and character of the green as it prevents the view of activity and life within the shop in quite an urban manner.

Consulting records reveals the shopfront in its current form in 1980 when the Stars fascia sign was applied for. The colour of the framing may have been changed but to use the dark blue currently used would not have constituted development requiring planning consent.

The current application shows alterations to the door and two windows of the house, and changes to the shopfront to create two doors and block up one.



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Planners have asked that the shopfront element be deleted from the proposal and has advised that this would require a separate planning application. This is because the shopfront was not part of the application 13/1874 and so cannot now be submitted as a variation to that scheme.”

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk will continue notifying Members by email for consideration and comment of Parish Notifications.

## 11.3 Jephson Housing

Cllr Weaver advised that the Clerk had received telephone and email requests for a meeting with Parish Councillors and to share an indicative plan layout for development of senior resident homes on identified land in Jephson ownership. Members considered the proposal linked to Meriden gap, inappropriate development in green belt and potential Rural Exceptions Policy. Members agreed the need for housing to meet the need of senior residents identified in the Parish Plan and Visual Design Statement; however concluded inappropriate development site.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The Clerk was requested to contact Jephson Housing and arrange a private meeting with Councillors to understand fully the proposal and impact prior to any further decision and public consultation.

## 12. **Parish Council Newsletter** Editorial Committee

Cllr Lee advised Members the deadline had been reached for news to be published in Meriden Mag.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr M Lee liaising with Meriden Mag editors.

## 13. **Oil Painting & Kittermaster Collection**

Cllr Kipling advised the Heart of England Social Club Committee agreed for the oil painting to reside in the lounge area.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Kipling will organise display.

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

- Cllr P Lee reminded Members of David Waterson's email requesting instruction regarding the transfer of freehold of Meriden Sports Park from SMBC and for this to be placed on the agenda for March.

## 15. **Correspondence & Communication** for information share only

The Clerk electronically circulates information to Members.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members acknowledged receipt of emailed correspondence and the Clerk will continue to circulate via email all updates.



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**16. Date and time of next meeting**

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at 19.30 hours at Pavilion.

The meeting closed at 21.47

Signed .....Cllr M Lee – Chair

Dated .....