

**Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present**

Ms Weaver (Chair), Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, Mr Kipling, Mrs Lee, Mrs Markham and two members of the public.

**1. Apologies**

Mr 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 meeting.

No declarations made.

**3. Minutes**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Sub-Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

None.

**5. Public Participation**

**1) Pharmacy 4U**

Concern raised over future of Chemist in view of this new service. Clerk to seek clarification from Surgery Practice Manager.

**2) Parking**

Remains an issue up Fillongley Road. Traffic wardens have been to school one afternoon. More required. Resident advised that the neighbourhood co-ordinator and police are aware.

**3) Dog fouling outside school**

Problem worsening. Clerk to report to Solihull MBC.

**4) Hampton Lane**

Footpath overgrown and rubbish under hedges where contractors are unable to access. Clerk to report to Solihull MBC.

**5) Vermin**

Increased infestation at houses adjacent to Meriden Garage since site clearance. Clerk to notify Solihull MBC.

**6. Correspondence and Communication**

**0) Allotments**

Taylor Woodrow have advised that scrubbing will be taking place throughout the week at the allotments.

**1) Solihull MBC – public consultation, proposed local validation criteria for planning applications to Solihull MBC.** In addition to standard national requirements there will be a list of local requirements specified by each local planning authority. Consultation on the draft list of local requirements. Comments to be submitted before 14<sup>th</sup> March 2008. Local Validation Criteria document on circulation. Also accessible by the SMBC website through planning services/latest news.

**AGREED**

Document circulated and Councillors to forward comments to Clerk. Clerk and Chair to formulate a response.

**2) Berkswell Association for the Prosecution of Felons**

Invitation for Meriden Parish to take part in the annual "Best –Kept Village" Competition 2008 on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Name of representative please.

**RESOLVED**

To take part and Clerk and Mrs Goodsir to act as representative.

**3) West Midlands Travel**

Confirmation that Mark Kipling, the Area Manager of Acocks Green Garage from where the 192 service to Solihull is operated will attend our open meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Still awaiting confirmation of attendance for representative for 900 service.

**4) Blue Chip Motorcycle Group**

They are planning a motorcycle ride to come through Meriden on St Georges Day 20<sup>th</sup> April 2008. There will be 25-30 motorcycle riders (all police officers). They will be arriving at approximately 9.45am for photographs on The Green and also at the site of the old Triumph Factory leaving at approximately 10.20am. Clerk has advised that parking in the Village Centre is very limited and would not cater for 25 plus bikes, even on a Sunday. Suggested they contact The Bulls Head where other groups meet on the car park.

**5) Email from Mr Michael Blamire-Brown**

**Standards Committee** – Solihull MBC are seeking an additional parish representative. Solihull Area Committee advised. Chair has been nominated in view of her being on the Solihull Area Committee.

Additional independent members (who cannot be councillors or officers) also required. If you know anyone who may be interested please draw to their attention. More details on SMBC website.

**Local Council Charter** - The Council's Governance Committee has recommended the full council to approve it at the next full Council Meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Local Assessment** – As from 1<sup>st</sup> April (subject to regulations being introduced) complaints that members have breached the Code of Conduct will need to be directed to the Borough Council for local assessment by the Standards Committee and not the Standards Board for England. Further information to be received shortly. Clerk to circulate once received.

**6) Solihull MBC - Britain in Bloom – Regional and National competitions**

Invite Meriden, The Green to be nominated in both the Regional and National competitions this year. It is the first year the Solihull have been nominated for the National competition. This will involve The Green being included in unannounced judging list for April/May which means the RHS judges may choose to visit the site as part of the national judging. The second part will be the national judging in August where judges are taken around the borough visiting different spots. Regional judging will be in July.

**RESOLVED**

That we take part planting to be arranged for April and seek assistance with funding.

**7. Receive Reports**

**1) Solihull Partnership Forum Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

Further discussion and analysis of the draft Sustainable Community Strategy. Attended by Chair and Clerk. Draft Sustainable Community Strategy already on circulation for comments.

**2) Meeting with Solihull MBC Planning Department**

Clerk has copied to all Councillors a useful document Solihull MBC's Supplementary Planning Guidance sheet on House Extension Guidelines.

**3) WALC "The Next Step – Making the most of your role as Parish and Town Councillors" Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

February. Attended by Mrs Lee. Raised requirement for risk assessment on Council's employee, the Clerk. The Chair advised has been carried out.

**8. Village Matters**

**1) Entertainments Licence for Village Hall**

A Premises Licence application has been made by Meriden Village Hall. Licensable Activities are for the provision of regulated entertainment ie. live music, recorded music, performance of dance and anything of a similar description to these. Including facilities for making music and dancing. Premises to open Monday – Saturday 09.00 – 00.00 with these facilities the same hours.

Deadline for comments/representations – 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008.

**RATIFIED**

Sound proofing in the hall would not be sufficient for loud music. Concerns over noise levels for local residents.

**2) Transport User Forum Meetings (Centro/WMT)**

Anyone can attend these meetings to discuss, bus or rail links. Next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> March 2008 at 5.30pm in room 4 at the Civic Suite, Solihull.

**3) Tennis Courts**

Under financial regulation 3.4 the Clerk has had the tennis courts swept of glass and had the fence repaired by local contractor at a cost of £30. The tennis courts are now padlocked and a notice asking anyone wishing to use the courts to contact the Clerk. Clerk has had two requests for them to be opened in three weeks. Council to decide whether to open them and upkeep maintenance or keep them closed.

**RESOLVED**

To keep the tennis courts locked. Clerk to ask the Spar Shop if they will hold a key.

**4) Village Appraisal – Progress Report**

A leaflet has been sent to SMBC for distribution with the Council Tax Bills. The open meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February was attended by 40 plus public. Some very interesting ideas and observations were raised and volunteers put their names forward to assist further. The next meeting is to be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at the Heart of England Social Club, Berkswell Road at 7.30pm. Chair talking to the Rotary Club on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

**5) Sports Pavilion Electrical Charges**

Further to discussions at the finance meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January when it was agreed to reduce electrical costs at the Sports Pavilion. Clerk has reduced the charges by 50% by changing onto a fixed price electricity plan at £12 per annum plus any units used. This is calculated with a standing charge of 26.25p per day and a fixed rate unit of 8.23p per kWh. Alternatively, the electricity supply can be de-energised at no cost. No standing charges will be incurred or any other charges whilst system is de-energised. However, it can take up to 3 weeks for the supply to be reactivated should the facilities need to be used. Council to agree whether to remain on the electricity plan at £12 per year plus any units used or de-energise system where no costs are incurred at all.

**RESOLVED**

To stay on the fixed price electricity plan.

**ADDITIONAL (added to minutes due to timescale)**

**6) Lord Aylesford**

A funeral restricted to family members is to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March. A memorial service for public will be held in May.

**RESOLVED**

That the flag be lowered on the date of Lord Aylesford funeral being 5<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**7) Maxstoke Lane Development**

Notification received from Solihull of preferred developer being selected as Bryant Homes West Midlands (Part of Taylor Wimpey Group). Clerk read our letter from Solihull MBC dated 25<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Council to provide dates for access to the site for investigations.

**RESOLVED**

Suitable dates are school days from 8.00am to 10.00am and 5.00pm to 7.00pm.

**RESOLVED**

To formally request costs spent to date.

**RESOLVED**

To request valuation from Land Agent.

**8) Litter**

Bins on playing field overflowing. Litter under the tree on The Green needs clearing. Both issues will be resolved as of 1<sup>st</sup> April as they have been added to the service contracts for 2008/2009.

**AGREED**

Mrs Goodsir to empty bins at the playing fields until new contracts start on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## **AGREED**

To ask Mr Ball who maintains The Green currently to clear the litter under the fir tree on The Green as a one off.

## **9. Planning Matters**

### **1) P/A2008/110 – 7 Glovers Close, Meriden**

Construct bedroom at first floor level. Extension of garage and internal alternations. (Resubmission of 2007/962 - left to neighbour notification. Permission was granted subject to conditions).

#### **RATIFIED**

Object – over intensification and obstruction to the light of the adjacent properties due to them being on a hill.

### **2) P/A2007/87 – Heathfield, Cornets End Lane, Meriden**

First floor extension with dormers to front and rear to create 3 bedrooms and 2 ensembles. (Resubmission of 2007/2573 – over intensification of green belt land. Application refused.)

#### **RATIFIED**

Concerns over future change of use applications.

### **3) P/A2008/121 – Berryfields Farm, Berkswell Road, Meriden**

Change of use. Conversion of 2 farm buildings into farmshop and car parking.

#### **RATIFIED**

Concerns as there is no footpath leading from Meriden up Berkswell Road which would be dangerous, especially if there is an increase of traffic.

### **4) P/A2007/2808 – Land Adjacent to The Cottage Fillongley Road, Meriden**

Solihull MBC planning permission refused – area where Green Belt policies apply.

### **5) P/A2008/322 – Swallowfield, Hampton Lane, Meriden**

Two storey rear living room, dining and kitchen extension with two bedrooms and ensembles over.

#### **RESOLVED**

Object – over intensification. Business application not residential as it is a bed and breakfast. Neighbour notification. Increase to traffic. Residential provision should have been included in previous applications.

#### **ADDITIONAL**

### **6) P/A2008/5 – 33 Strawberry Fields, Meriden**

Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to include garage conversion to study. Solihull MBC full plans approval.

### **7) P/A2007/2787 – Traffic Island No 30 at Hampton Lane/Kenilworth Road**

Added onto minutes due to timescale - notification of planning sub-committee meeting at 6pm in the Civic Suite at Solihull MBC on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Anyone want to attend?

## **10. Accounts**

### **01) Audit Commission**

Notification that the Audit Commission wish to extend the appointment of Clement Keys as auditor to Meriden Parish Council for five year period commencing with the 2007/08 accounts.

### **02) Village Appraisal Printing Costs**

Due to a short deadline given by Solihull MBC, printing costs of £90 (TBC) for a leaflet to be included for distribution with the Council Tax Bills were incurred prior to resolution at this Parish Council Meeting. This is in breach of the financial agreement between the Parish Council and the Village Appraisal Steering Group. Under the Parish Council's financial regulations 3.4 payments of extreme urgency up to a value of £200 can be made by the Clerk. However, printing costs are not deemed to be of extreme urgency and therefore do not qualify for payment under this financial regulation. In the circumstances, the Chair of the Parish Council has agreed to pay the printing costs unless, they are agreed by the Council. The invoice has not yet been received as Norwood Press do their

invoicing at the end of the month.

**RESOLVED**

Printing costs to be paid out of Parish Council funds.

**03) Modification of Financial Agreement between Meriden Parish Council and Village Appraisal Steering Group**

To be amended to include paragraph 3.4 of the financial regulations adopted on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007.

**RESOLVED**

Modified Financial Agreement approved and to be adopted from 1<sup>st</sup> March.

**04) Internal Auditor**

Verbal notification received that Mr Griffiths no longer wishes to be Internal Auditor for the Council. Clerk seeking advice on appointing new Auditor in view of the short timescale until year end.

**RESOLVED**

To use an internal auditor appointed by another local Parish Council for this financial year. Advertise in the Meriden Mag and on notice boards for new auditor thereon.

**Accounts**

**RESOLVED**

That the accounts are approved for payment.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is preceded by a joint meeting between the Village Appraisal Steering Group and Parish Council with the preferred developers of Maxstoke Lane. The next Parish Council Meeting is on 31<sup>st</sup> March which is also an open meeting to discuss transport issues both starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

**Chair :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date :** \_\_\_\_\_