

Meriden Parish Council

The Centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd January 2018
Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr P Lee	
Cllr M Lee ML		Cllr M Nunn	Left at 8pm
Cllr R Kipling RK			
Mrs B Bland	Clerk		

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

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllrs Nunn due to childcare he will be leaving the meeting at 8pm, Cllr J Barber, Cllr Haque and Cllr Allsopp. Late apologies from Cllr Lynch-Smith whose text had not been opened prior to the meeting commencing.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted apologies from Cllrs M Nunn, Haque and Barber. (It is noted that late apologies received from Cllr Lynch-Smith).

2. Public Participation

There were 9 Members of the Public in attendance.

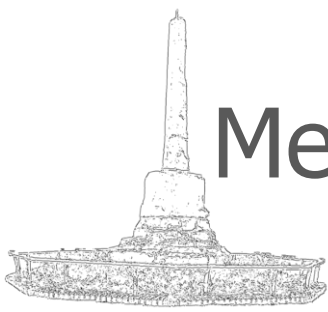
Chair invited Mr & Mrs Cooper to address Council re Fairview planning application which is referred to planning committee for decision on 31st January 2018. Mrs Cooper read a prepared statement giving an overview of the history and current situation of the site.

Cllr Nunn replied that an enforcement notice had been placed upon the land in 1992-93 for the removal a static caravan that had been used as a dwelling. An appeal by previous owners failed in 1993. The land was purchased in 1997 by Mr & Mrs Cooper with the caravan in situ, unaware of any enforcement notice. Having approached Solihull planning to enter into legal processes by applying for a CLEUD (Certificate of Lawfulness of Existing Use or Development), it was recommended this be the pathway; this was not given permission and a retrospective planning application was submitted which goes to planning committee for decision on 31st January 2018.

Cllr Bell stated he accepts we cannot approve of caravans etc., but this a rather exceptional circumstance. The caravan has been in situ for so many years. He suggested consideration be given to the exceptional circumstance of number of years and also that no harm has been done to greenbelt and there is no intent to future harm or change the greenbelt landscape. A response is required as papers are being prepared for planning committee meeting.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Cllr P Lee stated that Meriden has gone through two public enquiries regarding unlawful caravan sites and the parish council cannot be seen to support this application and not others.

Cllr Kipling stated that Solihull cherry pick enforcement notices and this site has sat for more than 20 years without any disagreement in 20 plus years. He considered the photographic evidence supplied and confirmed on site living accommodation is required to care for livestock and security of land; he proposed supporting this application for the caravan to remain on site.

Chair summarised and requested Cllr Nunn to write to Solihull Case Officer requesting reconsideration of enforcement given need to on-site manage the smallholding and livestock.

Action: Cllr Nunn and clerk to draft response to Ms R Stevens, Case Officer.

Grit Bins

Chair introduced Ashley Prior (AP), Head of Highways.

AP gave an overview of the Borough gritting programme informing that there are 560 routes of which 56% are networked highways being A and B roads, and bus routes. If there is a 2 week continuation of snow then all highways operatives get moved onto snow clearance.

AP is undertaking a review of grit bin policy; there are 250 grit bins across the Borough, 34 of which are in Meriden Ward, 17 in Meriden Parish. Each bin costs £135 to purchase and £15 per bin filled 3 times per year plus replacement grit/sand and plant. It is apparent the grit/sand mix is abused with rubbish/dog waste being disposed of in bins. There are inconsistent requests for bin removal, replenishment and the grit is being used for personal use on private land and driveways. The review will take a few months to complete and all comments received will be included.

Cllr P Lee stated that he started the debate as trying to help in recent icy conditions brought to light empty bin sited at Fairfield Rise, with no instructions to replenish, no contact details, the amount of rubbish/dog waste disposed of in bins and basically how “unfit for purpose” Meriden grit bins are. Emails received from Adrian Matthews and Cllr Ted Richards proved unhelpful and inaccurate. Cllr Richards made reference to their being no obligation to check and replenish grit bins. Cllr P Lee stated that checks have been carried out and photographs have been taken of empty bins; there are no instructions upon which to call for bins to be replenished, repaired (some have missing lids) or remove rubbish within. A litter picker was observed collect. Some grit bins have Highways warning signs saying “for use of highways only” which indicates only a highways officer can access.

AP stated he had taken on board all comments and these would be included in his Borough Review. Cllr P Lee confirmed he would undertake an audit around the Parish

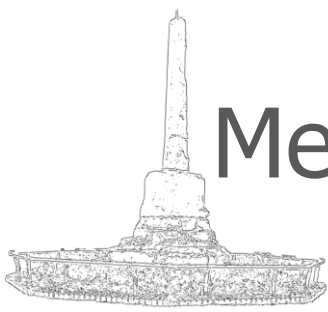
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and forward. AP was interested in ideas as to who would police, carry out checks, ensure all bins were full, adding sand to the grit is a deterrent for use on private land and driveways. AP asked for consideration to be given to hand spreaders that may be supplied by Solihull. This would give greater coverage rather than a shovel full at a time.

Cllr Bell added that at the local MP surgery recently residents were represented by Mr Lynch who advised Eaves Green Park Homes were marooned in recent snow/ice conditions due to no gritters being deployed to Eaves Green Lane.

AP recorded all comments and looked forward to hearing from Cllrs P and M Lee with audit and comments including if grit boxes needed removing or putting to a more effective site.

Chair asked AP for an update on Fillongley Road Bridge Repairs; AP advised that the appointed contractor Balfour Beatty had been requested to undertaken a design review to reduce closure time and also road diversions. There are also budget constraints different solutions are being considered. A meeting with Balfour Beatty is to be held on 23rd January and AP will notify outcome and proposed start date.

Chair advised that Quarry Operators had reported the poor surface with large potholes on Cornets End Lane. A cement mixer had ended up on its side. This part of highway including Horn Brook Bridge, floods regularly, surface water does not soak away and the surface is breaking up. AP requested an email with all detail.

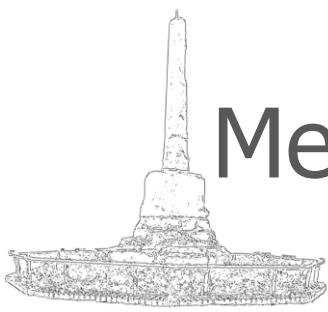
Chair thanked Head of Highways and Ashley Prior left the meeting.

Zoe Hogdson (ZH), Woodland View, updated Members and residents with actions taken in light of the many complaints received and parish council meetings. Patients have been directed to not use the bus stops at the top of the hill as smoking shelters, including the disposal of litter/energy bottles thrown into verges. Staff are working with patients to ensure clear boundaries; staff and patients want to work with the local community, engage socially and provide a service to the community which has commenced with a 90 minute real work opportunity picking litter. This will be increased in time and provides minimum wage work based therapy and reflected employment. The feedback received to date is much improved; work continues on patient social skills and appropriate behaviours whilst in the community and engaging with residents. Woodland View want to be part of Bloom and offer their polytunnels for use in growing seeds and filling sports park baskets and planters.

Chair replied saying that there is a willingness to work with the local community, to date Woodland View have been responsive and considerate of the complaints received with immediate action taken. Regular meetings will continue with the Director and the clerk. Chair thanked ZH and she left the meeting.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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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 Cllr Lynch-Smith's Declaration of Interest form remains outstanding.

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 18th December 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 18th December 2017, seconded by Cllr M Lee.

5. Finance

5.1 Approve January Payments

The clerk circulated January payments for consideration and approval.

(i) Meriden Parish Council January payments £3,533.62 plus £36.00 BT clerk's mobile received after payments approval list was completed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr R Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Parish Council January payments of £3,533.62 plus £36.00 seconded by Cllr M Lee.

(ii) Meriden Sports Park January payments £3,268.37 plus £173.88 EON received after payments approval list was completed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr R Kipling proposed approval of Meriden Sports Park January payments of £3,268.37 plus EON seconded by Cllr M Lee.

RW reported that a contractor review had been undertaken and existing contracts tweaked to ensure full service delivery. A further review will be carried out before year end regarding 2 year extension to existing contracts. Two credit notes agreed for non-delivery of contracts.

5.2 Precept Tax Base & Indicative Budget

The precept notice sent to Solihull had been circulated to Members together with Solihull's emails of acknowledgement. This was accepted as previous approval and resolution agreed at 18th December 2017 full council meeting item 5.3 Indicative Precept Tax Base & Proposed Precept Increase.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Nothing to report.

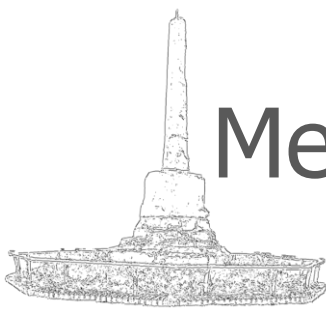
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6.2 War Memorials

Cllr M Lee asked if there had been any update from Andrew Kinsey regarding legal advice on the transfer of War Memorial and Lane from Coventry Diocese, St Laurence Church PCC to the Parish Council.

Action: Clerk to chase up Andrew Kinsey, Solihull Solicitor.

Cllr P Lee reported that a new WW1 Historian had moved into the Village and after reading the WW1 publication on Meriden's fallen, he found an error with Lance Corporal Stanley Waterton Cooke who died during the Great Storm on Gallipoli, 28 November 1915 but was commemorated on the Basra Memorial. Contact was made with the CWGC (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) and they took up the matter. This concluded with an email from CWGC confirming that in fact 21 men from the 9th Royal Warwick's had been miss-commemorated. These men are now listed on the Helles Memorial online Debt of Honour register and eventually their names will be inscribed on the Helles Memorial on Gallipoli.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Nothing to report.

6.3 Meriden Pool

A meeting to be arranged with Chris Edgehill.

Action: Clerk to provide dates for SMBC meeting.

6.3(i) Red Kite Management Plan & Suez Funding

Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Clerk reported that one occupant has given notice to quit 31st March 2018. A resident is interested in taking over the plot and a site visit is to be arranged.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

Chair advised that the rescheduled December meeting was held today and gave a brief summary update:-

- Beechwood recycling biomass plant is 6-12 months delayed in completion with mechanical and manufacturing problems. Food/green waste will be 18 months from disposal operation.
- Nick Parry, Berkswell Estate, reported that a footpath has been diverted away from quarry operations onto restored land.
- Tarmac have a new Quarry Manager.
- NRS have new wheel wash and street cleaner.

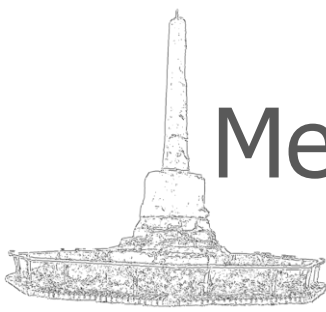
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- Street cleansing is a shared cost between operators with a good schedule of shared use and responsibility to maintain Cornets End Lane and Birmingham Road.
- A & A stock inputs are low which is seasonal and expected.
- Tarmac DSM (Dry Silo Mortar) Plant has been approved for 10 years. Tarmac/Breedon Concrete are disposing of assets and undertaking an asset swap with Tarmac managing all.
- All operators complained of the highway damage on Cornets End Lane and requested highways be notified of immediate attention required; pot holes have previously been patched but do not last. The parish council have referred to Ashley Prior.
- There have been some enforcement reports of operations working outside core licence hours.
- The Lagoon is complete and the Sandmartins will have 50 nesting boxes made and placed around site. NRS will notify residents of actions in Meriden Mag and also will do a piece about work completed on slinket.

Dust Quality

With complaints about air quality/dust monitoring, Harworth Estate commissioned Wardell Armstrong to undertake a Dust Audit. There was much discussion from EA representative interested in what is going on and number of complaints. A follow up meeting with Public Health will be attended by Chair, Clerk and Resident Representative on 31st January 2018. Complaints must be called in to EA for recording purposes. The report makes recommendations for each operator to implement.

Action: An update to be provided at February’s meeting.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

Chair reported the next meeting is 25th January 2018 at Marston Green.

6.8 Tree Wardens & TPO List

The tree warden has attended Neighbourhood Planning meeting and met Avon Planning and will be integral to pre-submission document content.

Action: Chair, clerk and Tree Warden.

6.9 Community Surgeries

Chair reported that she attended the Police meeting with Dame Caroline Spelman MP, Bas Javid, Solihull Chief Superintendent and Cllr Tony Diccico, Cabinet Portfolio Holder. The main issues was lack of police response and visibility for residents. All residents urged to call 101 and report incidents. Many residents reported house burglary when in bed. Residents urged to sign up to NOW WM Police Alert Website and a representative is be sought to sit on Police Committee.

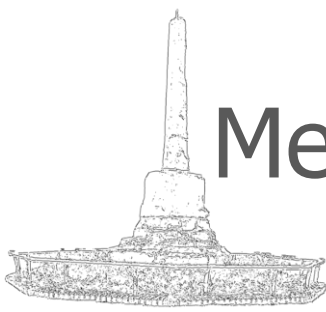
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Clerk reported that 4 members of the public attended and gave the following update of surgery content and discussion:-

- Recent burglaries & car thefts – targeted?
- Police Initiatives: support for Neighbourhood Watch & improved communications
- Improved parish council communication using social media networks
- Footpaths to A45 being used to connect to layby
- Heart of England Club car park being used by suspect vehicles
- Drinking outside Heart of England Club in parked vehicles with music/language
- Knowle Police meeting on 18th January – request for Councillor representation
- Safety and security of homes
- Feeling unsafe in own home
- Hot Spots to be patrolled
- Meeting to be arranged with Jayne Turner Community Engagement Officer and Sgt Lloyd WM Police (Rural Team) for residents.

Action: The next surgery is scheduled for 5th February 2018.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

Nothing to report.

6.11 HS2

The parish council will be exploring an application from HS2 Community Fund for road improvements.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park Quarterly Update

Chair advised the following summary:-

- Published accounts approved and sent to Companies House together with Annual Return and Corporation Tax return.
- Work has progressed on budget/cash flow/business planning for 2018-19.
- Directors continue to look at VAT registration and will contact a specialist advisor to provide an evaluation and expertise with set up and registration.
- The User's Groups are happy; confirmed bookings for this season from cricket teams. Additional interest from Health at Heart who will provide a GP referral system concentrating on fitness, nutrition and psychology of sport. Boot camps and weekend sessions will be offered.
- Discussion with FA for girl's football continues.
- Discussion with ex Coventry footballer to explore options of setting up football academy.
- Contract reviews have been carried out and contractors under no illusion that they must deliver services.
- Cricket Wicket replacement is being explored and quotations obtained.

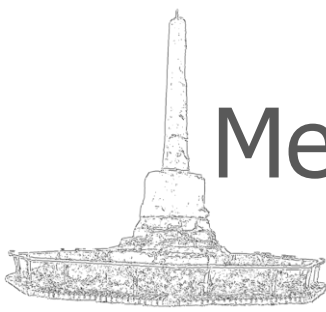
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- Looking at redundant water harvesting unit and underground storage tank possible contamination. A report has been received from John Shaw, DTZ, with recommendations. A letter to be written to David Waterson.

Action: Clerk to write to David Waterson with copy to Andrew Kinsey requesting more support.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust Update

Published accounts, cash flow and business plan to be sent to Chair of Trustees ahead of their meeting on 30th January 2018.

7. Clerk's Report

Clerk's report circulated to Members with no questions received or updates requested.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

9. Correspondence & Communication

RW advised the following:-

- Barclays Bank advising Balsall Common Branch closure from 4th May 2018. Cllr Bell stated that this is as a result of a review with only 88 people using the bank for day to day banking. Chair advised that the Post Office will accept cheque deposits.
- HM Revenue & Customs advising new system for VAT126 refund and a new reference number will be issued.
- M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme consultation event – last two dates 27/1/18 The Clubhouse, Catherine De Barnes and The Core, Solihull, 31st January 2018. Cllr M Lee confirmed this information is on website.
- Solihull MBC advising of Business Rates for Small Business Rates Relief Review.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library Update

Nothing to report.

10.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Cllr M Lee reported that the committee met on 20th January and plans are underway for the Historical Talk on Meriden in the Great War Part 2 by Doreen Agutter on 18th April 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall with cheese and wine included in £5 ticket price. It is a popular event with maximum attendance. All proceeds to Letitia Banks grave restoration. 1918 will continue the Candlelight Vigils for Meriden's fallen.

10.2(i) WW1 Poppy Memorial Site

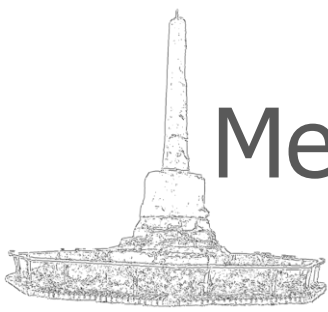
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Cllr M Lee reported that plans continue for Memorial Approach and a permanent Poppy Memorial.

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 by Ashley Prior under item 2.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership
The clerk advised that the requested documents and information from Avon Planning had not been returned.

Action: The clerk to write to Avon Planning requesting immediate return of documents for meeting with historian on 30th January 2018.

10.7 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2018
Chair reported that Solihull in Bloom is no longer running. The only Bloom competition is RHS Britain in Bloom, Heart of England Region. After consideration with the clerk, it is too bigger project to undertake without volunteer support and therefore the decision has been made not to pursue. The usual floral planters and baskets will be maintained around the Parish with the theme being red, white and blue.

Action: Clerk, Contractors and Woodland View.

10.8 Litter
The clerk advised that the following had been received from Sarah Jones, Solihull Public Realm Officer, promoting the **Great British Spring Clean**. This year the national campaign is focused on the weekend of **2nd-4th March**.

For anybody who isn't aware of this campaign its focused on bringing people together from across the country to clear up the litter that blights our towns, villages, countryside and coastline. For more information please visit <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/home>

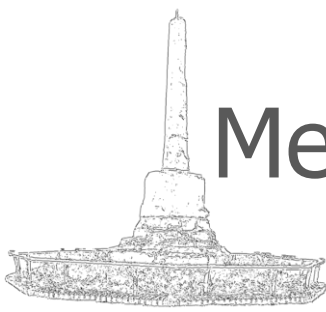
The email was forwarded to Scout Leader as there was interest for Meriden Scouts to be involved in a community clean up.

Action: Clerk to follow up with Scout Leader.

10.9 Mobile Mast Update
The suggested December meeting dates did not go ahead. Cllr M Lee to contact Manor to arrange meeting.

Action: Cllr M Lee and Chair.

Signed Chair Dated



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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 13th February 2018 at The Renewal Centre, Solihull.

Action: Clerk to contact Partnership to confirm meeting is going ahead.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update

Cllr M Lee advised that the group met last week and went through the Pre-Submission V7 draft with Avon Planning.

Actions as follows:-

- Maps – clerk to apply and register for OS Licence and free registration to access Ordnance Survey maps for the NP inclusion.
- Housing Needs Survey – Avon Planning has given a contact of Sarah Brooke-Taylor to find out much it would cost and when it could be carried out. A Locality application for funding bid will then have to be completed. Chair advised that a local business has offered to sponsor this piece of work and is waiting for parish council response. Finally Cllr M Lee added that the tree warden has agreed to be part of the NP working group and will be including the tree survey. The next meeting will be Thursday 15th February 2018.

Action: Housing Needs Survey to be undertaken with local business sponsorship; ML and Neighbourhood Planning Group. Clerk to register for OS Licence for NP mapping.

The clerk added that she had completed the application for Arden Cottage under Community Right to Bid; also she has received proof of ownership from Land Registry regarding Fields in Trust application for the Green and has applied for 1951 Conveyance and Title Deed. She is meeting the local historian on 30th January to continue the Asset Register and look into unregistered land in the Parish.

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; however a local business sponsor is keen to fund this survey work and this to be followed up.

Action: Cllr M Lee and Neighbourhood planning group.

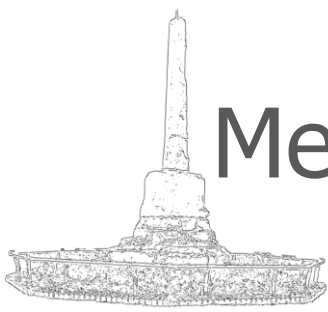
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12.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan

Chair reported that highways actions discussed at December's meeting with Ashley Prior are to be included in WAP so these may be tracked outlining key priorities for 2018-19 and 2019-20.

Action: RW and clerk to continue working with Neighbourhood Team, Kath Hemmings and Bruce Brant.

12.3 Solihull Local Plan Review

- Chair advised that part of the LPR consists of the Brownfield Register of which there is a current consultation to 14th February 2018. Emails have been circulated to Members with the link. Cllr Bell stated that he thought that the LPR Publication of Submission Draft (for consultation) would now be put back to Autumn 2018.

Action: All

12.4 Planning Application Status Updates

- Change use of an existing building at Back Lane Farm to a domestic dwelling with 2 No bedrooms. Back Lane Farm Back Lane Meriden Solihull CV7 7LD

Ref. No: PL/2017/02966/PPFL |Received: Mon 06 Nov 2017 |Validated: Mon 06 Nov 2017 |Status: Awaiting decision

- Listed building consent for amendments to planning approval PL/2015/50074/LBC. Walsh Hall Walsh Lane Meriden Solihull CV7 7JY

Ref. No: PL/2017/03060/LBC| Received: Tue 14 Nov 2017 |Validated: Thu 04 Jan 2018 |Status: Awaiting decision

- Retrospective application for a change of use of the land to allow the retention of the caravan and its use for habitation. Fairview Harvest Hill Lane Meriden Solihull CV5 9DE

Ref. No: PL/2017/03217/PPFL |Received: Sat 02 Dec 2017 |Validated: Thu 07 Dec 2017 |Status: Awaiting decision

- Erect grain store. Brailes Farm Fillongley Road Meriden Solihull CV7 7JX

Ref. No: PL/2017/03235/PPFL |Received: Mon 04 Dec 2017 |Validated: Mon 04 Dec 2017 |Status: Awaiting decision

- Single storey front extension. 3 Maxstoke Lane Meriden Solihull CV7 7ND

Ref. No: PL/2018/00056/MINFHO |Received: Mon 08 Jan 2018 |Validated: Mon 08 Jan 2018 |Status: Awaiting decision

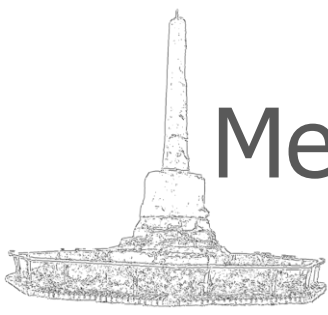
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Action: Cllr Kipling to forward comments to Cllr Nunn. Cllr Nunn and clerk to write to SMBC planning re Fairview with letter requesting reconsideration.

12.4(i) Proposed diversion of public footpath M229 and M232 at Meriden Quarry, Hampton Road.

Clerk reported that this was not discussed at Quarry meeting as Nick Barlow was not in attendance. An email request has been made to David Keaney to arrange a meeting with Rambler’s Association, Cllr Richard Lloyd, Berkswell PC and Meriden PC to understand the effect of permanent diversion, long term loss of original footpath and amenity value. Cllr Kipling stated that he would like to attend and request late in the afternoon. Mr Keaney had stated an extension to consultation date to allow for meeting.

Action: Clerk to chase Mr Keaney.

13. Parish Council Development Day

The next Development Day is arranged for Saturday 3rd March 2018. This clashes with WALC Annual Briefing Day and will need to be rearranged as indeed will the scheduled 30th June date. Cllr P Lee requested meetings be held on a Sunday to allow for attendance due to Saturday work commitments.

Action: All.

14. New Website

ML advised that website is complete and it would be useful to be able to analyse statistics of how many people are accessing site.

Action: Cllr M Lee to monitor with Real Point.

15. Annual Parish Assembly

RW advised the date for Annual Assembly is 23rd April 2018. It was noted Cllr P Lee’s apologies for non-attendance due to clash with St George’s Day.

16. Contested Election 2019

Chair advised this item is on the website with information on how to become a Parish Councillor; this subject will also be a workshop at WALC Briefing Day on 3rd March.

Action: Chair.

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 19th February 2018 at 7.30 pm venue Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.07 hours.

Signed Chair Dated

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