

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th January 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Melanie Lee, Rosie Weaver, Paul Lee, Marilyn Hamilton, and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Bob Kipling, Councillor David Bell

Absent

William Markham, Graham Goodsir, Shirley Goodsir

2. Declaration of Interest

The Chair invited members to make declaration of personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda of the meeting.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 15th December 2010 and the Finance/Planning Meeting on 12th January 2011, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None

5. Presentation - Action Against Poverty Strategy – SMBC

Attendance by Bernadette Abbot who gave a presentation of Solihull's strategy for action against poverty. This has arisen in response to the Child Poverty Act and the governments strategy to eradicate child poverty by 2022. Bernadette advised that the strategy was not limited to children but also looks at different sections of the community that may also be affected by poverty.

6. Public Participation

Member of the public raised the issue of lighting on Meriden Hill and pot holes appearing in the highway caused by the recent bad weather. The matter of lighting has been put to SMBC and the issue of pot holes will be notified.

7. Correspondence and Communication

7.1 Letter from E-On confirming Electricity Renewal at Playing Fields, Maxstoke Lane

7.2 Letter from The National Lottery acknowledging application and confirming that they will begin assessment shortly

7.3 Letter from Royal British Legion sending thanks for the contribution to the Poppy Appeal and informing of Great Poppy Weekend

7.4 Letter from SMBC requesting parish precept notice by 4th February 2011

7.5 Letter from E-On to confirm that they will be simplifying the VAT process

- 7.6 Letter from Barclays
- 7.7 Letter from Conservation Advisory Committee advising of future meetings
- 7.8 Letter from Conservation Advisory Committee setting out basic principles underlying role of CAC
- 7.9 E-mail from Iain Roxburgh commenting on Flood Risk areas
- 7.10 Amended Client Care letter from Wright Hassall Solicitors – *The original letter was resolved to be signed at the previous Parish Council Meeting. There have been minor changes to the terms and conditions.*

Resolved

That the amended letter is signed

- 7.11 E-mail from Tarmac regarding Meriden Quarry – *A representative from Tarmac will be attending the next meeting on 28th February*
- 7.12 Letter from E-On confirming change of terms and conditions
- 7.13 Letter from Warwickshire Rural Housing Association enclosing Annual Report

8. Receive Reports

- 8.1 Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee - no rep
- 8.2 School Governors for Parish Council – no rep
- 8.3 Committee Member for War Memorial – no rep
- 8.4 Pool – discussed below
- 8.5 Allotment Representative – no report
- 8.6 Footpaths/Forum – no report
- 8.7 Meriden Sands Working Group – no report
- 8.8 Conservation Committee – meeting held but nothing relating to Meriden
- 8.9 Local Strategic Partnership – Workshop tomorrow night
- 8.10 Police Rural Assembly – no rep
- 8.11 Solihull Area Committee – next meeting 3rd February
- 8.12 Tree Wardens – no report – Rep to seek to meet with tree wardens for other local parishes
- 8.13 Parish Plan – meeting 3rd February
- 8.14 Community Surgery - *Attended by Clerk, West Midlands Police and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator. Good attendance – Issue raised regarding vacant patch of land behind*

The Bulls Head – Neighbourhood co-ordinator will see what can be done to clear the area and make it easier to clean/maintain. Issue raised regarding parking on the service road and that people were not observing the parking restrictions. Draft letter prepared by clerk and to be agreed before sending to local businesses. Also resident complained about bus service and that this was still not good enough. He was worried that Parish Council had forgotten about matters. Advised him that a forum had been set up and we were keen to ensure that the bus service was restored or improved.

- 8.15 Joint Councillor Surgery – moved to quarterly- rota to be agreed with Councillors to attend. Marilyn Hamilton and Melanie Lee will attend the next surgery on Wednesday 16th March 2011
- 8.16 Community Speed Watch – Change to future Saturdays and bank holidays as volunteer numbers are low and no-one came forward to train at the last training session
- 8.17 Fusion Football Sessions – Wednesday evenings – due to weather and lack of electricity and the recent flood, the training has been cancelled.
- 8.18 Paul Jayes Football Academy – Meriden Rovers – Saturday Mornings – Started again due to bad weather

9. Village Matters

9.1 **Precept** – Clerk provided an updated budget and spreadsheet. Precept agreed at £40,000. The Band D equivalent is £33. This is an increase of 22.19% from the previous year. This still reflects a significant reduction from 2009 when the precept was approx £53,000.

Reason for increase is due to Parish Plan having been completed within which there is an action plan agreed by the Parishioners. The increase in cost allows us to cover some of the identified areas including working with children, improving Meriden Pool and demolition of the public conveniences.

9.2 **Pool** – Meeting with Bruce Brant and drainage engineers –Draft report has been prepared and submitted to Bruce Brant – Clerk is waiting to hear from Bruce Brant – Draft report is available to Councillors but Clerk was waiting for estimated cost for carrying out the works which could be ascertained from Solihull as they have the expertise.

9.3 **Meriden Tree of Thought** – Donation – Alan Lole has asked us to consider a donation –Work has also been carried out details of which are know by Shirley Goodsir.

RESOLVED

The Parish Council has already made a donation of £78.75, the cost of the public liability insurance for the tree and will meet any cost of electrical testing.

9.4 **Maxstoke Lane/Hampton Lane development – Update** – Design for Hoardings and Fencing around playing facilities to be agreed –

- *Warranties submitted to Wright Hassall – report not yet received –*

Resolved

That collateral warranties can be signed if approved by Solicitors

- *To approve the change to the height of fencing*

Resolved

The Parish Council supports DWH's proposal due to the proximity to the main road

- *It was confirmed that the design for the hoardings was no longer proceeding*
- *We have received plans from DWH*

9.5 **Road Hump and new zebra crossing in Meriden** – Outcome – Clerk contacted English Heritage who advised that they are unable to assist regarding protective measures around the Green as it is not a scheduled Monument. English Heritage recommends consulting with conservation officer. Clerk consulting with Conservation Officer and Neighbourhood Co-ordinator. Meeting to be arranged.

9.6 **Eaves Green Lane** – Update – *Notice of Hearing received and scheduled for 22nd March 2011*

9.7 **Public Conveniences** – Update – *Clerk to obtain clarification of quotes to ensure asbestos risk has been taken into account*

9.8 **Roundabout** – Planting update – SMBC confirmed that planting began on week commencing 10th January 2011.

9.9 **Community Transport** - Funding Application - This was considered by the Parish Council and the additional information requested was also considered.

RESOLVED

The application is not approved as there is no evidence that this will directly benefit the community of Meriden.

9.10 **Meriden Village Hall** – Donation – *E-mail received from Alan Copper providing details of expenditure and donation request to be considered*

RESOLVED

A donation of £750 is approved on the understanding that there will be no increase in rent until the setting of the precept for the next financial year.

9.11 **Poster Policy** – A discussion took place due to the high demand for Notices to be placed in the Notice Boards. This is causing some vital notices not being able to be displayed.

Resolved

It was agreed that there will be an order of priority as follows:-

- Parish Council
- Charitable Organisations
- Local and community groups
- It must be ensured that in displaying notices all legislation is adhered to
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9.12 **Meriden Heath Painting – Update** – *Clerk to contact Coventry Museum and is arranging to get the painting delivered to Heart of England Social Club*

9.13 **Clerks Holidays** - Clerk left meeting whilst discussion took place of her holiday terms and conditions. *Clerk would like to take the majority of the school summer holidays off*

RESOLVED

Agreed in principle but as we will have new Councillors in July, Clerk to find another Parish Clerk to cover August.

9.14 **Bus Issues** –*Update provided– further communication to take place with Centro – Transport Forum meeting to be held in Birmingham*

9.15 **Elections** - Advert to go in Parish magazine to inform parishioners of opportunity to stand as councillor

RESOLVED

Advert/Feature to be placed in Meriden Mag

9.16 **Meeting dates** – April meeting falls on Bank Holiday. To agree an alternative date – *Also to agree that Annual Meeting is held in April due to elections and accounts/expenditure to be approved by present members who are familiar with expenses. Currently scheduled to take place in May.*

RESOLVED

27th April – Annual Parish Council Meeting

9.17 **Parking on The Green** –Clerk to e-mail draft letter

9.18 **Royal Wedding**

It was agreed that there were no plans at present for this event

9.19 **Feedback of HS2**

RW provided feedback of the exhibition. This was very successful and more than 170 people attended the exhibition.

9. **Planning Matters**

None

10. Accounts & Governance

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is Monday 28th February 2011 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.32pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____