

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.
Present

1. Apologies

David Bell, Graeme Goodsir will be late.

Absent

Marilyn Hamilton, Will Markham, Sarah 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 the meeting.

None declared.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 16th December 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record – page 55, 7.13 to be amended to Meriden Parish Action Group.

3.2 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Planning/Finance meeting on 13th January 2010, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 Clerk to send copies of the thank you letters to be sent to Melanie Lee for “tweeting”.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Street lighting – inadequate in some areas still. Clerk to review past minutes to find areas previously highlighted which are specific to people’s needs.

5.2 Lack of police presence at parish council meetings - Chair advised of recent parish council meetings which the police had attended. The police hold a monthly surgery at the library. The parish council also now hold joint surgeries with the Ward Councillors.

5.3 Litter in Sheppards Lane. Clerk to report.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 SMBC – Chairs Training 28th January. Chair attending

6.2 Meriden War Memorial Committee – Letter thanking the parish council for the cheque for £120.00 towards maintenance of the War Memorial.

6.3 Initiation to the Chair from Mayor of Solihull to attend a Commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day Service on 27th January 2010 at 10.30am in Library Square – chair unable to attend due to other commitments.

6.4 Letter from SMBC Monitoring Officer offering his attendance at a parish council meeting.

AGREED

Clerk to invite Philip Lloyd Williams to either the June or July parish council meeting.

6.5 Letter from tenant on allotment number 15 requesting permission to erect a 6ft by 4ft metal shed.

AGREED

Shed as described can be erected. No conditions.

6.6 Meriden Village Hall Management Committee – thank you letter for the donation of £750 towards the running costs of the Village Hall.

6.7 CPRE – letter promoting “Stop the Drop”.

AGREED

Clerk to obtain information of when and where litter picks are carried out in Meriden.

- 6.8 WALC – Annual Briefing Day – March 6th 2010 – Warwick - £35 per delegate. Details circulated with agenda. Chair and Graeme Goodsir would like to attend.
- 6.9 Email from SMBC re streetlights - The funds to improve the lighting in Meriden came from a capital bid street lighting successfully made at the beginning of last year, but unfortunately this funding only covered the works completed. Unfortunately Street Lighting no longer have a budget to improve lighting or to upgrade lanterns , the budget only covers street lighting columns being structurally tested and replaced if they fail due to safety, so for any additional work SMBC have to rely on being able to fund from elsewhere.

Additional

- 6.10 Rotary Club – Megaride June 2010 – request to use the playing fields.
AGREED

7. Receive Reports

- 7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – no report.
- 7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – no report.
- 7.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – Bob Kipling to speak to Mr Ledbrook about acid treatment on the cyclist’s memorial.
- 7.4 **Pool** – current condition is fine. Resident in attendance at the meeting to review the BWB report.
- 7.5 **Allotment Representative** – no report.
- 7.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – no report.
- 7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – no report.
- 7.8 **Conservation Committee** – last meeting cancelled due to snow. No issues relating to Meriden.
- 7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report.
- 7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – no report.
- 7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – meeting 14th January cancelled due to the weather.
- 7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.
- 7.13 **Meriden Parish Action Group / Village Design Statement -**
- The Village Appraisal Steering Group has renamed itself the Meriden Parish Action Group. They are currently updating the list of volunteers. Rosie Weaver is finding out what other parish council’s are doing to tackle climate change. Rosie/Shirley Goodsir are reviewing the preferred locations for benches. Rosie/Shirley and Tessa Roxburgh are working with Age Concern and the Community Centre on the Linking People Project which involves volunteers linking with older people.
 - A spin off group from the MPAG is the Village Design Statement Group, set up to produce a Village Design Statement with a view to it becoming Supplementary Planning Guidance – SMBC have agreed to this provided that it is a good document. Advice sought by the Clerk is that this group should stay informal and separate to the parish council but that they use the parish council as an umbrella group to deal with finance. Transparency will be maintained
- 7.14 **Community Surgery** – 11th January 2010 attended by clerk/chair.
Cars parked in Albert Road
- Neighbourhood Co-ordinator suggests that residents (who have firsthand experience of dealing with this issue) make an application via Solihull Connect for the double yellow lines to be extended.
 - Application has to go through the Cabinet Process and can take up to two years.
- Pond levels
The Neighbourhood Co-ordinator is looking into the current cleaning schedule and funds available for this.
- Trees along Meriden Hill – SMBC liaising with Severn Trent Water to cut back the trees adjacent to their property. Progress on this is ongoing.
- Resurfacing at Church Lane (bottom of Meriden Hill) – works scheduled for January have had to be put back to March in view of the adverse weather. In the meantime, to make the area safe potholes have been filled as a temporary measure.
- 7.15 **Community Speed Watch** – Need more volunteers. Details to be put in the next edition of the Meriden Mag.

- 7.16 **SLCC – Branch Meeting** – 14th January 2010, Bidford on Avon – attended by clerk. Neil Pearce, from Avon Planning Services gave a presentation on how to respond to planning applications and understanding plans and design principles. He is providing the WALC training on 13th February which will be in more detail.
- 7.17 **WALC Finance Training - end of year accounts, financial clinic and audit** – 19th January 2010, Studley – attended by clerk. Training with Peter Lacy who is National Association of Local Council's financial advisor. Discussions around Audit, PAYE, future of internet banking, VAT. Changes to our financial regulations which we will address at the March meeting.
- 8. Village Matters**
- 8.1 Development – Maxstoke Lane and New Play Facilities Hampton Lane.
- a) **Option Appraisal** – the Option Appraisal produced at the request of the parish council by Ark Consultancy was circulated prior to all councillors prior to the meeting.
- **RESOLVED** that the two following options be “crossed off”:
 - 1 Parish Council Ownership and Management - due to lack of resources, uncertainty whether the interest on the endowment monies would be sufficient to maintain the facility. Uncertainty as to how much assistance they would receive from volunteers.
 - 2 Shared management with Meriden Primary School – because of the limitations on people's time.
 - **RESOLVED** that the following information is required to enable the parish council to make an informed decision. Clerk to liaise with SMBC/WALC/NALC/Balsall Common and Berkswell Sport Association.
 - 1 Clarification of whether the endowment monies are conditional upon the parish taking over management of the facility.
 - 2 What level of support and assistance a new “trust” would receive from SMBC, ie would there be a transition period.
 - 3 Would the decision the parish council make have a bearing on the standard of equipment installed in the playing fields.
 - 4 Likely interest on the minimum endowment figure.
 - 5 Any advice which the Balsall Common and Berkswell Sport Association can provide.
- b) Meeting with SMBC/DTZ/MPC 20th January 2010 re new play facilities Hampton Lane – Rosie Weaver, Melanie Lee and Clerk attended a meeting at SMBC offices. Mike Swallow and Mark O'Mullane from SMBC Strategic Services and John Shaw of DTZ (land agent) were also in attendance.
- Programme for completion of the new play facility has been brought forward to the end of 2010. They will achieve this by using turf instead of seed. This will increase costs but developer is willing to cover the cost. This will not reduce the cost estimate for the play equipment. Wish list of play equipment to be provided to developer at quarterly meeting. Clerk to arrange.
 - Non specialist works tender to go out in the next couple of weeks.
 - DTZ who are land agents for both Solihull MBC and Parish Council to provide advice on the proposed new location of pump station and the other consequential changes. Any changes will require planning consent.
 - Quarterly Review meeting set for 2nd February at 1pm DWH offices. Rosie Weaver/ Julie Hall attending. Melanie Lee and Bob Kipling also agreed to attend Shirley and Graeme Goodsir would also attend if required.
- 8.2 Communications -Deferred to next meeting.
- 8.3 Roses on roundabout – meeting on 12th February 11.00 meeting at the Bulls Head. Lorna Teager Streetcare, David Tipping, Sue East and myself. Anybody else who wants to come and join us.
- 8.4 Public conveniences – police have been in contact with their architect who will be contacting the Clerk shortly.
- 9 Planning Matters**
No new applications received.

10. Accounts

- a) Direct debit for electricity for changing rooms. Metre was read on 15th December and there has been no usage therefore the monthly direct debit has been reduced back down to £9 per month. When telephoning on 7th January there was £46.91 credit on the account. £30 has been direct debited back into our account leaving £16.91 on the account to cover the bill due in March. Awaiting bank statement to confirm receipt.

- b) Purchase of Office Equipment.
Items needed: fax, phone, printer/copier/scanner with double sided printing capacity.
Viking catalogue : has a variety of 4in1 machines which copy, print, scan double sided and are also have built in faxes. Prices range from £199.99, £229.99 (expensive toner!), £359.99 to £599.99. Clerk considers machine for £199.99 would suffice, will not have to purchase fax machine which is approx £60. Will have BT engineer move my current phone and answerphone to her office upstairs.

- b) Precept 2010/2011.
Clerk produced Draft Precept in accordance with decisions made at the finance meeting in January.
AGREED – £750 for the Quality Parish Status application.
RESOLVED
Precept for 2010/2011 in the sum of £32,736 being an approximate payment of £27 per Band D property which is an approximate reduction of 39% on last year. This is mainly due to the unspent funds previously allocated for professional fees in respect of the development. Additionally, the parish now has sufficient funds for the public conveniences project.

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is 22nd February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. On 10th February we have the Joint Surgery with Cllr Ken Allsopp.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION – via email.