

**Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present**

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

**1. Apologies**

Mrs Markham – health reasons

Mrs Lee - holiday

District Councillor David Bell

District Councillor Peter Lea

**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**

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the Parish Council Financial Sub Committee meeting on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes.**

4.1 The Freedom of Information model publication scheme is now on the website. Any queries to be directed to the Clerk.

**5. Public Participation.**

5.1 An advertisement sign has been put on the roundabout which needs removing.

5.2 Request that enquiries are made with Solihull MBC to have Leys Lane put on the gritting route.

5.3 New bus timetable – Ms Weaver spoke with the Strategic Manager of Centro only today. He will arrange for a box of timetables to be made available at the library.

5.4 Rubbish – Ms Weaver raised this with Solihull MBC Neighbourhood Manager today. Will be meeting with her in February to discuss some of the issues.

5.5 Poor state of footpaths – there are health and safety issues for wheelchair users/pushchairs on the many footpaths which are sloped.

**6. Correspondence and Communication.**

**6.1 Communities and Local Government – Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity – a consultation**

This is the next in a series of Communities in Control consultation documents following the publication of the Local Government Empowerment White Paper, *Communities in Control: Real people, real power* in July and building on work still in progress from the 2006 White Paper, *Strong and Prosperous Communities*.

This paper invites views on the content of the Code of recommended practice on local authority publicity. Particular questions on which comments are welcomed are summarised in Annex A to the paper.

**AGREED**

That the Parish Council wishes to comment on the consultation. Comments to be forwarded to the clerk by 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**6.2 Sustain – Invitation to Third Sector Assembly on 9<sup>th</sup> February at Ramada Hotel, Solihull.** Details of this event were emailed to all councillors. Ms Weaver, Clerk attending.

**6.3 West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meetings**

Minutes for meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> December on circulation.

Dates for 2009 are : 12<sup>th</sup> March, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 10<sup>th</sup> September and 10<sup>th</sup> December (these dates are subject to change).

#### **6.4 SMBC – “Challenges and Choices” : Solihull Development Framework Core Strategy Issues and Options Consultation.**

This consultation is an important stage in producing Solihull’s Core Strategy which will set out how and where Solihull will develop in the future. “Challenges and Choices” document available at [www.solihull.gov.uk/LDF](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/LDF). Copies are also available for inspection at the Council Offices and Libraries around the borough. Responses no later than 30<sup>th</sup> January. Ms Weaver has put a copy of the document on circulation.

#### **AGREED**

Councillors to email Clerk with their comments.

#### **6.5 NALC – Stepping Stones – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009**

Nobody wanting to attend.

#### **6.6 Burglaries in Millison’s Wood**

Resident is concerned at the amount of burglaries in Millison’s Wood. Clerk has liaised with police who have advised the number of reported incidents do not lead them to believe there is a group working in the area. Resident will be conducting his own house to house survey for resident’s opinions.

#### **6.7 SMBC – Ward Action Plan**

An invitation to submit our three main priorities for the Ward Action Plan including any projects we would like Solihull MBC to consider for the next financial year.

#### **AGREED**

Clerk to look at the long list of issues in the Appraisal Report. Ideas are:

Litter – possibility of a project with the School.

Play equipment project – Maxstoke Lane and Millison’s Wood.

Public conveniences project.

#### **6.8 Meriden Village Hall Management Committee**

Letter of thanks for the generous donation of £750. The committee are most appreciative of the ongoing financial and moral support it receives from the Parish Council.

#### **6.9 Letter from resident – re litter**

Letter asking the Parish Council whether there is any more that can be done about the appalling litter problem along the pavement of the Main Road and up to the Community Centre area. Resident present at the meeting. Response was that it is the responsibility of Solihull MBC who contracts out the litter picking. Ms Weaver raised the issue with the Neighbourhood Manager today and also with the Head of Meriden School as this is a problem the children have also raised. There is the possibility of a joint project there.

#### **6.10 Copy letter to SMBC from resident re maintenance in Millison’s Wood**

Resident copied to the Parish Council at letter he wrote to Cabinet Member for resources stating that the level/lack of maintenance work carried out in Millison’s Wood is not satisfactory and does not compare to the centre of Solihull.

### **7. Receive Reports**

7.1 Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee – next meeting tomorrow night.

7.2 School Governors for Parish Council – 11<sup>th</sup> February Governors Sub Committee.

7.3 Committee Member for War Memorial – no report.

7.4 Pool – Fee proposal between BWB and SMBC on circulation. The investigation works will be carried out shortly.

7.5 Allotment Representative – resident raised concerns about a tenant who has started to build a poly tunnel. It is in blue plastic and very large. Clerk to make further enquiries.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum - no report.

7.7 Meriden Sands Working Group – no report.

7.8 Conservation Committee – Ms Weaver has attended two meetings. Redevelopment of the old police house rejected. Application for Hampton Manor passed.

7.9 Local Strategic Partnership – no report.

7.10 Police Rural Assembly – no report.

7.11 Solihull Area Committee – no report.

- 7.12 Tree Wardens – now report.  
7.13 Village Appraisal – see later on the agenda.  
7.14 Police Priority Setting Meeting – next meeting will be end of February.

## **8. Village Matters**

### **8.1 Development**

- a) Solihull MBC Cabinet Member for Resources has approved that our solicitors charges be paid by Solihull MBC and for them to be deducted from the gross proceeds of sale. Wright Hassall have sent to Mike Swallow a note of their charges which are currently in the sum of £6,663.66.
- b) Wright Hassall Solicitors have now completed the registration of title of the land at Maxstoke Lane.
- c) Clerks additional hours costs relating to the development have been agreed by Cabinet.
- d) Further to the resolution passed on 24<sup>th</sup> November a letter has been sent to Ray Walker of DWH granting access to Maxstoke Lane site for ground investigations.
- e) DWH have arranged three meetings to advise and discuss progress of the various issues relating to the project. They are required to do this under the Development Agreement. The meetings will be held in the board room at their Meriden Offices. The dates are 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm, 21<sup>st</sup> July at 2pm, 20<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm. Rosie and Julie are unable to attend the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July. Shirley or Graeme will attend with Bob.

### **8.2 Contracts 2009/2010**

#### **RATIFIED**

- Contract 1 – Mr B Ball
- Contract 2 – SMG Services
- Contract 3 – SMG Services
- Contract 4 – SMG Services
- Contract 5 – SMG Services

### **8.3 Village Appraisal**

Next meeting is next Monday at 7.30pm in the Heart of England Social Club.

Seminar hosted by the Mayor was held today at Solihull MBC Civic Suite. Representatives from various companies/departments attended and some good feedback was received.

### **8.4 Community Speed Watch**

We now have 12 volunteers. Awaiting further information from Sharon Williams regarding training.

### **8.5 Alcohol Free Zone**

#### **AGREED**

To ask Gillian McGee to attend another meeting to advise the Parish Council further.

### **8.6 Project playbuilder**

No update.

### **8.7 Dumping of Industrial Waste, Lodge Green Lane – Reported to SMBC**

No update.

### **8.8 Unwanted road signs.**

Reminder that a list of the signs the Parish Council would like Solihull MBC to consider removing to be forwarded to the Clerk.

### **8.9 Youth Provision – Bus on the Green**

There was a good turnout of children at this first session. There is the possibility that a new youth club will be set up at the Methodist Church. The children can apply for a grant of £3000 which will go towards the setting up of the youthclub. A more suitable parking place for the bus was discussed. Suggestions included the School and the Village Hall/Doctors Surgery car park.

### **8.10 1<sup>st</sup> Meriden Scouts – donation for 2009/2010**

Mrs Hamilton declared an interest in this agenda item. To decide annual donation amount.

#### **RESOLVED**

A donation of £250 (which is additional to the flag raising duties) to be paid to the Scouts at the same time as the flag raising duty monies.

**8.11 Remembrance Day Service – one off donation for 2009/2010 for the purchase of equipment.**

Discussion took place. Decided to discuss at the next meeting once it is known what equipment is required.

**ADDITIONAL ITEM**

**8.12 Meriden Festival**

It was agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 to make a donation of £150 towards this years Meriden Festival. They would like to receive this cheque as soon as possible. A cheque will be drawn at this meeting.

**9. Planning Matters**

**9.1 2008/2200** – 37 Strawberry Fields, Meriden – two store side extension, single storey side and front porch extensions.

**RESOLVED**

Leave to neighbour notification.

**9.2 2008/689** – Pertemps Investments Limited, Meriden Hall, Meriden – Construction of a building to accommodate a communication and response centre.

SMBC refused the above planning application and the applicant has appealed to the Planning Inspectorate against that decision. The Planning Inspectorate has appointed an Inspector to hold an inquiry into the appeal and this will open on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 10.00am at the Civic Suite, Council Offices Church Hill Road, Solihull, B91 9QS. The Inquiry is expected to last a day. Interested parties may attend or be represented at the Inquiry and, at the Inspector's discretion, give their views orally. Alternatively anyone interested may attend to listen.

**9.3 2009/13&14** – Wad Barn Farm, Berkswell Road, Meriden – Retrospective planning application for a barn conversion (amendments to planning application 2000/744)

**RESOLVED**

No comment.

**9.4 2009/16** – Grange Farm, Fillongley Road, Meriden – Conversion of existing piggeries and B&B to dwelling (resubmission of application 2007/2013)

**RESOLVED**

Leave to Solihull MBC.

**9.5 2009/42** – Bolberry Cottage, Back Lane, Meriden – 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension to rear of building to provide two new bedrooms and internal alterations to provide a new store room to first floor.

**RESOLVED**

Neighbour notification.

**9.6 2009/47** – The Bakersfield, Hollyberry End, Meriden – Retention of steel framed agricultural building.

**RESOLVED**

Leave to Solihull MBC.

**10. Accounts**

**a) Precept for 2009/2010**

Solihull MBC Council Tax Base 2009/2010 has been determined at 79,203 in accordance with the Authority (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulation 1992, with the Council Tax Base for the Parish of Meriden being 1,198. Proposed dates for instalments 15<sup>th</sup> April 2009 and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009.

**b) 2008/09 an Interim National Salary Award for Clerks**

This has now been agreed (subject to arbitration) at 2.475%. All increases should be backdated from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

**RESOLVED**

That the increase be awarded to the Clerk and for it to be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

**c) Budget/Precept 2009/2010**

It was agreed at the finance sub committee meeting as follows:

For the precept to have a cost of living increase of 3%

For donations to 1<sup>st</sup> Meriden Scouts and Remembrance Sunday Service to be set at a future parish council meeting.

**RESOLVED**

Mr Kipling proposed that the above be resolved. His proposal was agreed.

**Accounts for Payment**

1)	J Hall – Salary plus expenses (microphone/speakers £37.98) salary Includes salary award back dated to April 2009	£ 950.76
2)	HM Revenue & Customs – NI & Income Tax	£ 247.73
3)	West Midlands Pension Fund – Superannuation	£ 257.82
4)	Mr B Ball – Grass cutting, green and playing field, litter picking Under the fir trees on Fillongley Road + p/s, fertilize green, winter planting	£ 99.00
5)	AMS – C Dean – Clear litter, inspection of playing field	£111.00
6)	SMG Services – Bus Shelters	£108.00
7)	Norwood Press – Appraisal Report and Community SW Newsletter	£840.00
8)	Edge Designs Limited – Accounting systems	£201.25
9)	R Weaver – Chair Allowance (plus expenses postage £6.96 for Invitations to Appraisal Presentation at SMBC and for recorded Posting of Awards for All End of Award Report.)	£246.96
10)	Severn Trent Water – public conveniences	£165.16
11)	Viking Direct – stationary (ink and paper)	£ 35.33

**RESOLVED**

That the above accounts are approved for payment.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.23pm.

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

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

**DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION**

- a) Solihull MBC – Conservation Advisory Committee – meeting papers 5/1/08
- b) West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> December, minutes
- c) NALC – Local Council Review – January 2009 edition
- d) Warwickshire Rural Housing Association – Annual Report 2007/2008
- e) Fee proposal between SMBC and BWB Contacting re the pool.