



Meriden Parish Council

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Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on
26 January 2015 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:	Cllr M Lee	Chair
	Cllr R Weaver	Vice Chair
	Cllr R Kipling	
	Cllr P Lee	
	Cllr F Lynch-Smith	
	Cllr J Barber	
	Cllr M Haque	
	Cllr M Nunn	
	Mrs B Bland	Clerk

There were 6 members of the public present, Cllr D Bell and Cllr K Allsopp.

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed guest speakers.

1. Public Participation (half hour)

The Chair welcomed members of the public and invited questions/issues they wished to raise.

A resident raised concerns regarding potholes in the road between Eaves Green and Showell Lane carriageway; describing attempts to avoid and mounting the grass verge to do so. The resident continued to draw attention to the continual flooding and water on the carriageway at Eaves Green Lane. PL agreed and confirmed that he had driven through flooded carriageway and potholes.

The resident continued to express his exasperation that this issue has never been resolved in 15 years and it is disgraceful that SMBC Highways has not done more to find solutions to the problem. At the top of Meriden Hill and Showell Lane, a continuous stream of water continues to flow from the drain/gulley and it is suggested this has something to do with discharge flows from STWA. Should there a big freeze, then this area will be highly dangerous. On numerous occasions this matter has been reported to the Clerk who in turn has notified Highways and STWA officers but without any solution.

The resident continued to draw attention to the drain on the carriageway outside Andorra Cottage that is full of gravel and unable to take any surface water due to being blocked. Once again this matter has been reported on numerous occasions without any action.

Signed **Chair** **Dated**

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Cllrs Bell and Allsopp stated their intention to investigate and report back; however it should be noted that SMBC have reduced funding for their ongoing maintenance programmes.

Lastly there is a Paynes Estate Agent sign that has been discarded behind the bus shelter in at the bottom of Albert Road. The Clerk was asked to organise collection and removal.

Residents expressed their concern regarding the proposed Pertemps planning application. Cllr Weaver reported that the planning application had been unanimously opposed by the Conservation Committee and this recommendation will be included at Planning Committee. Cllr Weaver also confirmed that the Parish Council had engaged Avon Planning Consultancy to work on behalf of the council and draft an opposition document for inclusion at planning committee meeting on 11th February 2015. Cllr Weaver will be attending the planning committee meeting and speaking on behalf of the Parish and residents.

The Chair thanked all attendees for their participation and the issues, and extended an invitation to stay for full council business.

2. Welcome & Apologies

The Chair opened the meeting. There were no apologies recorded.

Declarations of Interest

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
There was nothing to declare.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature
There was nothing to declare.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2014 were considered and agreed.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved the minutes of 15th December 2014 and the Chair signed.

Matters Arising:

As per agenda.

5. Standing Orders

The Clerk had circulated revised standing orders for Member comment and consideration prior to the meeting. Cllr Weaver explained all changes in accordance with WALC updates and new legislation regarding finance standards and invited comments; the only comment being the replacement of chairman to chair.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Members recorded their agreement to adopt. Cllr Weaver reported that all Members will be issued with a copy; this will be integral to the Clerks CiLCA qualification portfolio, Neighbourhood Plan and the award of Quality Status as a competent local council. Cllr Weaver recommended approval and formal adoption. A reading system for Councillors is to be implemented.

Cllr Weaver stated she was the elected representative for Area and County Committee of WALC and it will be beneficial to have a quality mark showing the local electorate Meriden Parish Council operates as a competent body with qualified clerk and certificate of competence. This of course will be subject to having two thirds elected Members.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members unanimously approved adoption of the Standing Orders and acknowledged the revisions and work of Cllr Weaver and the Clerk.

6. Finance

6.1 Approve January Payments

Members received payments for approval. Cllr Weaver proposed approval, seconded by Cllr P Lee.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved January payments.

6.2 St Laurence Church – Maintenance Request

This item requires cost comparison exercise using Parish Council contractors and therefore is deferred to next meeting.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members agreed deferment of item to next meeting.

7. Progress Reports

7.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Lynch-Smith asked about the donation approved at last meeting. The Clerk replied that the cheque is in the payments process for signature this evening and would be hand delivered to the Treasurer. Cllr Lynch-Smith further reported the WW1 group choices for the subsidised big picture show from Lottery funding. The next film “What did we do on holiday?” with Billy Connolly will be screened on 28th February 2015. It has been widely publicised with ticket sales, Meriden Mag and posters.

7.2 Community Governor for Meriden C of E School

Cllr Weaver reported school has return after Christmas break with continued Governor training being health and safety, and finance. The school continues setting and implementing its action plan for the next year.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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7.3 War Memorials

Cllr P Lee reported that he had attended a workshop in Birmingham regarding potential funding of Memorials and links to English Heritage and the War Memorial Trust. A condition survey is required for the Cyclists' Memorial so funding for cleaning and maintenance may possibly be secured. English Heritage is keen for all status of Memorials to be listed. Currently the Cyclists' Memorial is grade II listed but the War Memorial is not. The War Memorial Trust defines a War Memorial as "any physical object created, erected or installed to commemorate those involved in or affected by a conflict of war."

Cllr Lee went on to say that the Chestnut Tree should also be listed as a War Memorial due to its history as a Memorial planted by the pupils in memory of the fallen of Meriden in the Great War, however custodianship needs to be ascertained as it is on Packington Estate land. Church Memorials should also receive Memorial status along with the Board in the Village Hall commemorating those who took part (survivors and the fallen).

Cllr Lynch-Smith added that the board has been taken down and a better quality one has been made marking the "100th anniversary commemoration in Meriden". The future siting of the original board is still to be decided by the Village Hall Committee.

7.4 Meriden Pool

An email received by the Clerk was read to the meeting by the Chair:-

I noticed the Duck Pond is on the agenda for the meeting tonight. I have not received a reply to this mail as yet, but it refers to Parish Council, so thought it might be of interest. Please read 'last Aug/Sept' instead of this.

Hello Wendy,

This relates to the pond at the junction of Berkswell Road and Main Road. few years ago a contractor employed to clean out pig sheds at a farm located on a nearby ridge, associated with Berryfields Farm Shop, was fined in excess of £20K by SMBC for allowing pollutants to leach into the pond.

I think, but do not know, that something similar, on a lesser scale, might have happened in Aug/Sept this year. There was a blackening of the water and the birds were staying out of it. It is only after the appalling stench a day or two later that made me think that there might be a connection. On my next visit the water was clearer and ducks happiery question is this:

Do SMBC have any powers to request the owners of such enterprises to notify the local Parish Council of planned cleansing, so that the Parish Council can issue notices in advance?

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it is a lovely haven to escape to and for all ages to enjoy. The notices are interesting and informative. The advice on correct feeding is sound - the build up of algae and oxygen depletion can badly affect the eco balance.

A member of the public reported that the flow is too slow and the pipework keeps getting blocked up. Cllr Kipling replied that the pipes need cleaning out every 6 weeks due to silt residues and blockages which causes stagnant water and build up of debris in the water.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members requested the Clerk to follow up with Ed Bradford, SMBC raising concerns and asking for a report for next meeting of actions taken including STWA.

7.5 Allotments

Allotment holders have raised with the Clerk issues regarding secure fencing to the boundary of allotments with Mulberry Gardens development; the erection of secure storage and new water stand pipes share between every two allotments. This issue is long standing and has been raised with Taylor Wimpey Homes and SMBC. Currently there is no provision from Taylor Wimpey regarding secure boundary fencing. The Clerk has recently met with the CEO of SMBC together with Mr Gabbitas, Allotments Association Chair, raising concerns as the site nears completion. There is also a Leys Lane working group chaired by Mr Iain Roxburgh, on behalf of residents to ensure all conditions are met prior to site conclusion.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will continue to work with all parties for a satisfactory conclusion to be reached.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report. However a resident volunteer has come forward to assist with this work.

7.7 Quarries Liaison Group

Cllr Weaver updated Members from December's liaison group meeting. Issues continue with speed of HGV traffic with assurances from operators that spot checks and monitoring is carried out and recorded; 3 day bans are issued to any offending haulier caught exceeding the 30mph limit and using Hampton Lane.

The Clerk drew attention to A & A Recycling's planning application to extend operations with a variation of condition for a term of 10 years. A meeting is arranged with Alder Mill for early discussions.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will monitor with Quarry Operators and update at next meeting.

7.8 Solihull Area Committee

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Cllr Weaver advised that the next meeting will be on 29th January at Arden Hall, Castle Bromwich. The CEO of SMBC will be attending and taking a Q & A session. SAC meets on a quarterly basis and all Councillors are welcome.

7.9 Tree Wardens & TPO List

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported that she had attended the local meeting of Tree Officers/Wardens at Solihull's Civic Suite. It is a full agenda with much enthusiasm for protection of trees in and around the Parish; and local Wardens are very interested in what Meriden are doing cataloguing TPOs. The group is interested in meeting Charles Harrison.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Lynch-Smith to update at next meeting.

7.10 Community Surgeries

Unfortunately the January surgery was cancelled due to Clerk's sickness. The next surgery will be 2nd February with Bruce Brant, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.

7.11 Community Speed Watch

Cllr Barber reported that there are 5 registered volunteers; more volunteers are required. There will be a training course arranged for 7th February 2015 between 10am and 12 noon at Solihull Fire Station. Kits will be issued to all volunteers.

A resident asked about speed watch areas. Cllr P Lee replied that the Police will allocate area for speed watch. The resident responded that the Birmingham Road junction with Albert Road has 40mph restrictions half way to roundabout with motorist consistently speeding over limits, with some vehicles overtaking on the wrong side of carriageway particularly on Meriden Hill. Five areas around the Parish have been tested and can be used.

Cllr Lynch-Smith asked how the Police intend putting speed watch in process? Cllr Barber replied that a notice will be placed in Meriden Mag. Cllr Lynch-Smith said more volunteers were required.

7.12 HS2

The Garden City Interchange consultation is underway with Meriden hosting a drop in session on Saturday 10th January 2015 for residents to meet with SMBC Principal Planning Officer, Policy and Spatial Engineering. Maps and plans were displayed showing the greenbelt triangle at Stonebridge as the designated area for development. There will be approximately 2,000 houses built together with road and Hs2 scheme proposals. Additionally residents were able to view the impact of the proposed M42 motorway services proposal at Catherine De Barnes. A very good attendance was recorded of 70 with District and Parish Councillor representation.

7.13 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)

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The next summary report update will be February 2015 following Director's meeting.

8. Clerk's Report

The Clerk advised Members that due to workload no Clerks's Actions are available; however the content of the agenda items and follow up actions can be measured against Clerk's hours.

9. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report as there were no District Councillors in attendance.

10. Correspondence & Communication

The Clerk had circulated information electronically to Members, but brought to their attention the invitation to attend WALC Annual Briefing Day 2015 7th March 2015 at Myton School (Warwick) "SKILLS TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF 2015 AND BEYOND". This seminar is aimed at Councillors and Clerks both new and experienced.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members to notify the Clerk of their attendance.

11. Meriden Village Matters

11.1 Library Update

Cllr M Lee updated Members with arrangements and read the following from Kate Bunting, SMBC Libraries.

"Meriden library – works commence on Monday 9 February

Solihull Council would like to inform residents that Meriden library will be closed for a short period, commencing on Saturday 21 February.

The site is undergoing both external and internal works, comprising repairs to the chimneys, the roof covering, brickwork repairs, window repairs, damp-proofing works and decoration externally and internally.

In addition to this work, funding has been secured from Meriden Parish Council to upgrade the ICT facilities for customers using the library.

The works have been combined into one programme resulting in only one period of closure for the library site.

External works will commence on Monday 9 February. The Meriden Library site will close on Saturday 21 February so that the internal works and the ICT facility works can begin. The library will re-open on Monday 30 March 2015 with a new offer for customers, which includes 6 new computers and tablets."

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During the closure period access to library services for local residents will be via a re-routed mobile service, book drop off points in the local community and an extended loan period of 6 weeks.

For further information please contact Kate Bunting, Operations and Community Engagement Manager, Library and Information Service, Tel: 0121 704 6958 , Email: kate.bunting@solihull.gov.uk

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will liaise with Library Services regarding closure dates, drop off points and mobile service prior to library closure. All notice of mobile service and access will be placed in Meriden Mag.

11.2 Historic Panel of buildings of interest to display on wall by Library
Due to Library refurbishment Members agreed for this item to be removed from standing items for the foreseeable future.

11.3 Village Commemoration WW1
Cllr M Lee reported that the working group had met and the agreed dates for certain events. The next coach trip will be on Saturday 18th April 2015 to the National Memorial Arboretum, Alrewas, tickets £5. Other dates to be observed will include a candlelit lantern on the site of Memorial Poppy to commemorate the fallen of 1915 being Captain Bankes, Lance Corporal Cook and Trooper Bowen.

26 April 2015	Special Church Service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Captain Bankes date of death. St Laurence Church to advise.
07 June 2015	Funday Sunday organised by Alan Lole.
28 June 2015	Meriden Rotary Club & Triumph Motorbike Club's Megaride.
To be advised	Football/Cricket matches: Meriden Spartans v Army's Cricket team, Meriden football team vs Royal Corps of Signallers.
12 July 2015	Picnic in the Park.
23 Sep 2015	Doreen Agutter Talk with cheese & wine on Meriden in the First World War at the Village Hall.
07 Nov 2015	Remembrance Sunday Service.

Signed Chair Dated

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11.4 Meriden Gate

The Clerk confirmed that an email had been received from David Waterson, SMBC, regarding confirmation that SMBC has invoiced DWH for payment and is currently awaiting receipt of the monies. He has asked SMBC finance to keep him informed of payment received so that MPC's share can be paid over as soon as funds are available.

11.4(i) Freehold Transfer

In regard to the freehold transfer, David Waterson confirms that solicitors are instructed to progress the matter and he will check up on progress as soon as possible and get back to the Clerk.

IT IS RESOLVED The Clerk will liaise with David Waterson to bring both matters of overage and freehold transfer to conclusion.

11.5 Taylor Wimpey & Associated S106 Works

The Clerk advised on update from Taj Chagger, SMBC Highways regarding work to layby and shelter. "Due to cold weather the contractor, Balfour Beatty, has been moved onto gritting activities which has caused a delay and loss of resources to complete the work on Main Road. The Contractor will be back on site on 28th January to complete works subject to weather conditions. The concerns residents have raised regarding puddles in layby have been noted and logged with Highways; Mr Chagger is to make contact with concerned residents directly. There is a problem with the dismantling of the old bus shelter due to bank erosion and potential collapse into the ditch; there is also a problem with the shelter base and health and safety issues surrounding the platform that will remain in situ. Mr Chagger will update once he has taken advice from Littlethorpe, Centro and Highways colleagues.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will monitor and liaise with Highways to draw this programme of works to conclusion.

11.6 Highways Update

The Clerk refers Members to update above relative to Highways improvements via S106 funding from Taylor Wimpey. However the following is an update received from Ed Bradford regarding drainage programme of works *"At the public exhibition you raised a query regarding the Leys Lane development and Section 106 monies. We have finally managed to obtain a copy of the agreement but we can only find reference to £50k for future maintenance of the on-site balancing pond. There is no reference to any other contribution for drainage or flood risk."*

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will liaise with Highways officers and Bruce Brant to resolve outstanding issues.

11.7 Land Registry & Ownership

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Cllr Lynch-Smith reported this was a work in progress. The Clerk advised she had not had any further opportunity of resolving the ownership of the copse. Cllr P Lee stated that SMBC had promised to transfer the bridleway to Meriden Parish Council and this should be taken back to Mike Swallow. The Clerk has been put into contact with a Solicitor who specialises in land issues and will make an appointment to explore options available.

11.8 Public Convenience Site Transfer

The Clerk advised that she had received from Wright Hassall a customer care letter and terms of business regarding the transfer of this site to the Parish Council. Cllr Weaver explained that upon demolition of the convenience site there was an agreement for the transfer of the site from Meriden Parish Council ownership to and SMBC. This site has been maintained by the Parish Council and last year funding was secured for a makeover of a grot spot into a Memorial Garden. On this basis the land remains in Parish Council ownership and therefore the legal agreement for transfer between solicitors is brought into question. The matter will be raised with SMBC by the Clerk.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will discuss the situation with David Waterson to bring the matter to conclusion.

12. Parish Council Newsletter

The newsletter is being compiled. Members were asked for any inclusions. A spring photograph is needed to be sent to Margaret Argyle. It was that a photograph of daffodils and the St Laurence Church be sent.

13. Solihull Partnership Group

Cllr Weaver explained that this group used to meet and included Parish Councils and Residents Associations across four locations with three meetings per year. There is a dwindling number of attendees. Representation is now required and Cllr Weaver asked for volunteers. Cllr P Lee suggested that a rota should be used with all Councillors taking a turn to attend.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Weaver and Cllr Lynch-Smith will start the rota off.

14. Planning Matters

14.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Clerk reported that the consultation for Parish designation concluded on 16th January 2015. Confirmation has been received that Meriden Neighbourhood Plan Area is on the forward plan for the Economic Development & Land Decision Session on 25 March 2015. It is understood that SMBC has received only one representation in support. Following the Decision Session, the Council will publish its decision.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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Cllr Weaver advised that the Clerk sent a letter on behalf of the Parish Council giving notice to Kirkwells of its intention not to use them for the Neighbourhood Planning process on the basis that they do not have local knowledge and it has been a disappointing start with the Parish Council taking the lead and doing all the work. Kirkwells have been asked for their invoice for work undertaken to date. Cllr Weaver further stated that a conversation has taken place with Neil Pearce of Avon Planning who has worked for us previously who has stated his interest in supporting the Parish Council with their Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Weaver suggested that Meriden was not the only Parish Council to have given notice to Kirkwells. No response has been received to date.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members supported and approved this arrangement.

14.2 To receive update and status on Planning Applications

Planning Application No.	Site	Proposal
2015/44 NEW	Land at Becks Lane Meriden	Erect 3 garages.
2014/2263 NEW	A & A Meriden Quarry Meriden	Change of use from minerals extraction land to waste management, to allow for expanded waste wood treatment operation and associated operational development at Meriden Quarry recycling facility.
2014/2233 NEW	Pertemps Group Limited Meriden Hall Road Meriden	Listed building consent for two storey glazed link to hall an escape stair to rear.
2014/2232 NEW	Pertemps Group Limited Meriden Hall Road Meriden	Two storey office extension to the rear single storey glazed link.
2014/2187 Full Plans Approval	94 Main Road, Meriden	Listed building consent for resubmission of 2014/1332 demolition of existing 1960s lean to kitchen extension and erection of new kitchen/dining room extension.
2014/2186 Waiting	94 Main Road, Meriden	Resubmission of 2014/1331 demolition of existing 1960s lean to kitchen extension and erection of new kitchen/dining room extension.
2014/2096 Waiting	The Woodlands, Lodge Green Lane, Meriden	Remove condition No. 2 on planning application 2007/1782 (use of the development restricted to short term holiday purposes only and not occupied at any time as permanent residential accommodation).

Signed Chair Dated

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2014/1898 Full Plans Refusal	Birmingham Road, Meriden	Change of use from agriculture for the use of a caravan storage compound and operational development on land at Birmingham Road, Meriden.
2014/2026 Full Plans Approval	Land at Becks Lane, Meriden	Remove condition no.14 on planning permission 2013/1624 to provide a hedgerow link from the site to the woodland area to the north.
2014/2025 Full Plans Refusal	Highfield House, Leys Lane, Meriden	Change of use of an agricultural building to one residential dwelling.
2014/1971 Full Plans Approval	Arden Vale, Showell Lane, Meriden	Variation of condition no.9 attached to planning permission 2004/1038.
2014/1970 Full Plans Approval	Arden Vale, Showell Lane, Meriden	Single storey single extension for new entrance & two storey rear extension to form additional day space on ground and first floor.
2014/2013 Full Plans Approval	Couchmans Farm Harvest Hill Lane, Allesley	Erection of replacement dwelling.
2014/865 Waiting	The Wain House Main Road Meriden	Erect a glass room.
2014/1072 Waiting	The Wain House Main Road Meriden	Listed building consent for a glass room.

Cllr M Lee advised full plans approval for Arden Vale site and the deletion of the words acute and severe to read “the development hereby approved shall be used as a hospital for the treatment of persons with learning disabilities and mental disorders (defined as mental illness, personality disorder and/or learning/intellectual disability) and for no other purpose (including any other purpose within Class C2 of the schedule to the Town & Country Planning Order 1987.....”.

The Clerk referred to A & A Recycling and potential expansion of operations at Meriden Quarry. Members requested the Clerk write a letter of opposition listing concerns to David Wigfield.

Cllr Kipling was requested to visit Becks Lane develop to check out the erection of 3 garages.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will receive Members comments for collation and forward to SMBC planning and draft a letter to David Wigfield regarding A & A.

14.3 Pertemps Resubmission

Cllr Weaver advised that the Parish Council had appointed Avon Planning to prepare a brief opposing this latest application and confirmed she would be attending planning committee meeting to speak on behalf of the Parish.

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14.4 Proposed Development of Old Garage and Caravan Storage Site
Nothing to report.

14.5 Land behind Caravan Storage & Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road
The Clerk advised that the enforcement notice remains in place.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members agreed the situation is being monitored by SMBC planning officers.

14.6 Land for Burial – Cllr Lynch-Smith
Cllr Lynch-Smith advised no meeting has been arranged with St Laurence Church.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Lynch-Smith will continue to investigate future options.

14.7 Daw Mill & Proposed Container Distribution Centre
Nothing to report but this is being covered by Fillongley Parish Council.

14.8 Proposed Development Coventry CC – A45/Pickford Green Lane
Nothing to report other than Meriden PC is now included in circulation list.

15. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda

Councillors raised the following items:-

- Dog Fouling and enforcement – Cllr P Lee
- Refuse collection leaving bins in dangerous positions – Cllr F Lynch-Smith
- Request for copy of workers conditions and instructions for bin emptying
- Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2015 and Britain in Bloom

16. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Monday 23rd February 2015 at 19.30 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.20 hours.

Signed Chair Dated

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