

## Minutes for Parish Council Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

### Present

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

### 1. Apologies

None.

### 2. Declaration of Interest

None.

### 3. Minutes

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Sub Committee Meeting and Finance Committee Meeting dated 16<sup>th</sup> January having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

### 4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

### 5. Public Participation

1 There have been a large number of burglaries in the parish including aggravated burglaries. The Chair attended a priority setting meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007 which all the local parishes attended together with the police where it was acknowledged that more police are needed. Community support officer was seen today ticketing cars.

2 Resident disappointed at the lack of attendance of Ward Councillors at Meriden Parish Council Meetings. Chair advised of meeting with Councillor Bell to improve relations between Meriden Parish Council and the Ward Councillors. The Ward Councillors have agreed themselves to share all the Parish Council Meetings in the area and Councillor Allsopp was allocated to Meriden. It was suggested that the resident contact the Ward Councillors themselves.

3 Footpaths on Fillongley Road between the shops and the school were marked out some time ago but have not been repaired.

4 The footpath from the new island down to the Archery Club very narrow, insufficient for a pushchair.

5 Suspicious car parked along Birmingham Road. Details given to the Clerk to be reported to police.

6 Meriden Garage – site cleared but put in field behind which is Green belt.

7 Footpath between Bonneville Close and James Dawson Drive floods. Has been reported previously but although storm drains have been put in the problem still exists. Clerk to liaise with Coventry City Council.

### 6. Correspondence and Communication

#### **1) Age Concern**

Thank you for donation of £100 towards the Computer Taster Courses in Solihull. They are extremely grateful.

#### **2) Solihull MBC – Fouling of Land by Dogs (Solihull) Order 2007**

The Order came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008. Copy on circulation and put in Meriden Mag.

#### **3) Solihull MBC – Rough Sleepers in Solihull**

Leaflets advising of how to support people sleeping rough to access services are on circulation.

#### **4) Email from resident**

Thanking us for having the overgrown hedge by the Chemist Shop cut back which they had pointed out to us.

**5) Letter from Village Hall Management Committee**

Thanking Meriden Parish Council for the donation of £750 towards the running of the Village Hall. During 2007 they have improved ventilation in the kitchen and toilets in line with Health and Safety Regulations. A new pump to keep the boiler cellar clear of water and they have started replacing the old windows.

**6) Email from tenant of allotment number 3**

Requesting transfer to allotment number 13. Allotment 13 was vacated in August 2007 and remains unoccupied.

**AGREED**

For tenant at allotment number 3 to transfer to allotment number 13.

**7) SMG Services**

Letter thanking for accepting their tender for contracts 3,4 and 5 with contact details.

**8) Meriden Village War Memorial Joint Committee.**

Thanking the Parish Council for the flower boxes that surround the plinth of the memorial.

**9) Barclays Bank plc**

Letter confirming that the new mandate is complete.

**10) Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils – Briefing Event**

Annual Briefing Event “Working for Communities” 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 from 9.15am to 3.30pm. At Lower School Hall, Myton School, Warwick. £35 per delegate. Programme is aimed to be of interest to both clerks and councillors. Closing date 29<sup>th</sup> February.

**AGREED**

Mrs Markham, Mr Goodsir and Clerk to attend.

**11) Warwickshire and West Midlands Association of Local Councils – Petition Power**

Under the proposals councils would be required to respond to petitions submitted by local people on any issue for which the local council has a responsibility. There is currently no requirement for councils to respond to petitions no matter how many people sign. Comments required by 31<sup>st</sup> January. Copy email from WALC circulated with agenda for this meeting - No comments.

**12) Matthew Taylor Review – Rural Economy and Affordable Housing**

An independent review on Rural Economy and Affordable Housing – call for evidence. Submissions by 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008.

**AGREED**

Chair to respond liaising with Iain Roxburgh Steering Group in view of links with Village Appraisal.

**13) Solihull Partnership Forum Meeting – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2008 Knowle Village Hall**

The current draft Solihull Draft Sustainable Community Strategy is on circulation.

**AGREED**

Chair and Clerk to attend meeting.

**14) Letter from resident**

Copy of a letter sent to Solihull MBC Planning Department and Meriden C. of E. School regarding the clearing of trees and shrubs for additional parking at the school for information.

**15) Department for Communities and Local Government – Consultation on orders and regulations relating to the conduct of local authority members in England.**

The consultation document is on circulation. Comments are to be forwarded to the Clerk by 8<sup>th</sup> February.

**16) Solihull MBC – Traffic Survey**

Response has now been received from a Principal Road Safety Engineer. Estimated cost of full survey is £5,000. They consider it difficult to anticipate what options would be available after completion of the survey without data as to the scale of the problem. They would be surprised if traffic is leaving the A45 to travel through Meriden bearing

in mind the lower speed limits, the roundabouts to negotiate and the alignment to rejoin the A45. Automated traffic surveys carried out showing data traffic flows on the B4102 Main Road in February 2003 and October 2005 do not seem to show excessive use for a road of this type.

#### **AGREED**

Clerk to obtain results of survey last year in which HGV's were distinguished from normal vehicles.

### **7. Receive Reports**

#### **1) Village Appraisal**

There have been two meetings, 13<sup>th</sup> December and 3<sup>rd</sup> January. The next meeting is on 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.30pm at the Heart of England Social Club and there is an open meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The first newsletter has been agreed which will be delivered throughout the Parish shortly. Copies have also been posted on the parish notice boards. Any volunteers to assist with distribution should email Melanie Lee.

The children at Meriden School have provided useful information as to the three things they like and dislike in Meriden. A letter has been sent from the Parish Council and the Steering Group thanking the school for their involvement. A presentation was made at the Methodist Church Hall Coffee Morning on 6<sup>th</sup> January which was a success.

A letter has been sent to Paul Watson and Dave Simpson of Solihull MBC planning department suggesting a follow up meeting with the proposed developer for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 7.30pm at the Village Hall. This would be a joint meeting with the Parish Council and the Appraisal Steering Group. The issue of traffic management and road safety implications were addressed and it was suggested that the Solihull MBC look to devising a solution to the potential problems sooner rather than later.

#### **2) Pond meeting**

A meeting was held on 17<sup>th</sup> December present were representatives from Meriden Parish Council, Solihull MBC and BWB Consulting. Insufficient financial detail was available to apply for a grant at this stage. It was agreed that Solihull MBC put forward £5,000 to carry out preliminary works in April to obtain a more detailed assessment of the necessary repairs. Copy of the minutes circulated.

#### **3) Meeting with erosion expert from Solihull MBC re bus shelter adjacent to public conveniences**

On 13<sup>th</sup> December a meeting was held with Meriden Parish Council and Solihull MBC. The advice from Solihull MBC is that either the bus shelter should be moved or the ditch be reinforced. Discussion took place as to whether the public conveniences site is suitable for a bus stop. It was suggested that Meriden Parish Council contact WMT/Centro to carry out a site visit to assess the suitability of the proposed site. Possible issues could relate to it being by a junction and the lay-by not being directly adjacent to where the shelter would be sited. The Clerk is arranging a site visit with WMT/Centro to assess the suitability of the public conveniences site for a bus shelter. Clerk to chase dates from Centro for site visit.

#### **4) West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting, 17<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

No members attended meeting. Await minutes and put on circulation.

### **8. Village Matters**

#### **1) Community Surgeries**

Dates for 2008 now received for the West Midlands Police and Solihull Council surgeries held at 10am to 12 noon in Meriden Library as follows: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February, Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April, Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June. Clerk has put the new dates on the parish notice boards and will also put them on the website and Meriden Mag.

#### **2) Meriden Mag deadline**

Deadline is 4<sup>th</sup> February. Current items are update on the meeting dates, councillors photos, ID cards, distraction burglaries, new bus shelter, allotments, Fouling of Land by Dogs Order, use of The Green, Meriden Tree of Thought, pond update, community surgeries, precept 2008/2009, website, village appraisal. Other suggestions were – Woodland

Trust Trees donated by Scout group to ask residents for planting sites.

**3) Electricity box on The Green**

This box is broken and is no longer able to be securely locked.

**AGREED**

Clerk to obtain estimate for repairs.

**4) Bus Shelter – James Dawson Drive**

The new bus shelter is now in place. Centro have been contacted to install the real time system.

**5) Playing fields**

Plans are now on display in the library.

**AGREED**

Clerk to put a poster in the library window advising of the plans presence and detailing the contact details at SMBC for comments.

**6) Future sub-committee meetings and meeting dates for 2008**

Discussions for future sub-committee meetings and the form they should take. Sub committee meetings for February and March have been changed to Village Appraisal Open Meetings. Will review again in April. Clerk to contact local police to see if they may be able to attend our meetings.

**7) Local Council Charter**

Copy circulated with agenda for comments.

**RESOLVED**

That the Local Council Charter is acceptable in the current form.

**8) Public Conveniences**

**RESOLVED**

That the public conveniences be demolished. The cost to be budgeted over financial years 08/09 and 09/10 but for demolition to be carried out in May 09. Estimates to be obtained by Clerk from local builders nearer the time. Proposed by Mr Kipling and Seconded by Mrs Hamilton.

**9. Planning Applications**

**1) P/A 2007/2816 – Deers Leep, Hampton Lane, Meriden**

Single storey and two storey extensions to front rear and sides with detached double garage.

**RESOLVED**

Over intensification of property.

**2) P/A 2008/5 – 33 Strawberry Fields, Meriden**

Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension to include garage conversion to study.

**RESOLVED**

Leave to neighbour notification.

**3) P/A 2007/2799 – Meriden Hotel, 155 Main Road, Meriden**

Change of use to a hot food takeaway to part of the property.

Objection received from resident. Response from Turmeric Gold circulated with agenda for further discussion. Application is being referred to SMBC planning committed on 5<sup>th</sup> February, our response required before then.

**RESOLVED**

Unanimous vote in favour of the planning application but for time restriction to be put on takeaway hours.

Application to be reviewed after three years.

**4) P/A 2007/2787 – Traffic Island No 30 @ Hampton Lane/Kenilworth Road, Meriden**

4 no. Non-illuminated free standing sponsor signs (1000mm long and 500mm overall height).

**RESOLVED**

Object as rural location.

**5) P/A 2007/2808 – Land adjacent to The Cottage, Fillongley Road, Meriden**

Amendment to site boundary and repositioning of garage at land adjacent to The Cottage, Fillongley Road, Meriden (change of use to residential approved 2005/224).

**RESOLVED**

Object as garage already in existence.

**6) P/A 2007/2882 – Lodge Green Farmhouse, Lodge Green Lane, Meriden**

Erection of purpose built replacement kennel building in connection with the existing kennel use.

**RESOLVED**

Object as kennel already in existence, over intensification.

**7) P/A 2007/2223 – 155A Main Road, Meriden**

Change of use from B1 to A2 use – Full plans approval subject to conditions.

**8) P/A 2007/2450 – Berkswell Quarry, Cornets End Lane, Meriden**

Open Windrow Composting of Organic Material

Copy letter from Wardell Armstrong dated 11<sup>th</sup> January circulated at sub-committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January for comments at this meeting. No further comments.

**9) P/A 2008/22 – Birmingham International Airport**

Extension of main runway and associated infrastructure, including the realignment and tunnelling of a section of the A45 Coventry Road; A new air traffic control tower; Revisions to the existing fuel farm; A new exit taxiway; The treatment of obstacles; and the diversion of services and watercourses. Plans and documentation circulated to Councillors on CD at meeting on 16th January.

**AGREED**

For the application to be discussed in the open meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Clerk to put notice in Meriden Mag asking for residents comments on a date specified prior to that meeting. Copy CD to be put in the library for residents use.

**10) P/A2007/2573 – Heathfield, Cornets End Lane, Meriden**

Planning permission refused as Green Belt policies apply.

**10. Accounts**

**a) Precept for 2008/2009**

Solihull MBC Council Tax Base 2008/2009 has been determined at 78,456 in accordance with the Authority (calculation of Council Tax Base) Regulation 1992, with the Council Tax Base for the Parish of Meriden being 1,194.

After discussion of spreadsheet 16/1/08 Budget 2008/2009 a) at the finance meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January further allocations, reductions and removals were made. It was agreed that allocations be made to cover the cost of demolishing the toilets but for this to be spread over two financial years; £1000 be allocated for improving the existing playing fields; a contingency of £20,000 which is an advised three months spending. Reductions were made in the allocation for Meriden's Heritage to £1500; election fees to £200; playing fields electricity to £100. It was agreed to remove line items duck food and professional charges for lottery of £1500 which has never been utilised since its first allocation in 03/04.

**RESOLVED**

For the Precept in the sum of £51,750. This creates a charge of £43 for Band D, a 19% increase. (An annual increase of £7 per household which equates to an additional 13p per week per household) .

**RESOLVED**

Precept to be received by BACS payment as opposed to cheque. Clerk to fax Solihull MBC bank details. Letter to be signed by cheque signatories.

**RESOLVED**

That the precept be received by two instalments in April and September.

**b) AdvantEDGE Finance**

Clerk has confirmed 5 year contract at £135 per year. Training on 20<sup>th</sup> February at £250. Meriden PC will be invoiced for one years contract and training costs after the training is completed.

**c) Purchase of software**

The trial period of Microsoft Word on Clerks laptop expires on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008.

**RESOLVED**

Clerk to purchase software licensed for business use.

**d) Village Appraisal**

It was agreed to proceed with an estimate from Norwood Press for printing the January Newsletter at a cost of £90 for 1500 copies pre folded at the last sub committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> January.

**RESOLVED**

To pay invoice from Norwood Press in the sum of £90.

The accounts are approved for payment.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February starting at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair to thank everyone for attending and declare the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

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

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