

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22nd June 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver, Shirley Goodsir, Marilyn Hamilton, Will Markham, Melanie Lee and one member of the public.

1. Apologies

Sarah Markham and District Councillor David Bell.

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.

Melanie Lee - agenda item 8.5 allotments.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 13th May 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

3.2 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the sub committee meeting on 10th June 2009 having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

4.1 SMBC Waste and Recycling Services were invited to attend our sub committee on 8th July but they are already attending another parish council's meeting that evening. They are available to attend on 27th July.

5. Public Participation

5.1 **The trees are still overshadowing some of the trees up Meriden Hill which is a health and safety issue. This has been reported numerous times but the problem has not been resolved.**

The parish council has reported this to SMBC many times. The clerk discussed the issue with the neighbourhood co-ordinator only recently. Many of the trees are privately owned and therefore it is not up to SMBC to cut them back. The clerk had queried whether SMBC would be partially liable if somebody tripped and fell on a pavement which was not lit properly but they did not consider this to be an issue.

AGREED

Clerk to set up a site visit with the SMBC Health and Safety Manager and resident to identify the owners of the relevant trees. The Parish Council to then write to the owners of the trees.

5.2 **The lack of public attendance at the meetings.**

The Parish Council would like more residents to attend the meetings to which anybody is welcome to come along. However, much of the agenda comprises procedural items which are not interesting to the public. When the parish council hold an open meeting around specific items ie the bus service, appraisal then we have a good turnout.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 **West Midlands Police – Yellow pages/telephone directories deliveries.**

Email advising deliveries are due to commence on 25th June. Request that neighbours support one another by not leaving directories on view.

6.2 **Hackney Carriage Drivers Association**

Email requesting support. After many decades of service (since 1951) of providing licensed Hackney Carriage Vehicles for the passengers at Birmingham International Airport they have been unsuccessful in securing a new contract after a retender process in 2008 that came into force in March 2009.

AGREED

Not to comment.

6.3 **SMBC – Shopmobility**

Letter enclosing details of the Shopmobility service. Copy for each councillor.

AGREED

To invite them to attend the September sub committee meeting.

6.4 **Association of the Prosecution of Felons**

Letter confirming that Meriden were awarded 2nd Place in the Best Kept Village Competition. Judges remarks on circulation.

6.5 **West Midlands Police**

Letter from new Chief Constable, Mr Chris Sims introducing himself. Letter read out and is on circulation.

6.6 **Centro – updated passenger information at bus stops.**

Letter requesting consent to be given to them to enable the provision of updated passenger information at certain bus stops.

AGREED

Suggest resize timetables. Second option is for them to fit a timetable case in the relevant shelters but to clarify that Centro will be responsible for cleaning/maintenance of the case and how quickly and necessary repairs are likely to be carried out.

6.7 **Letter from PCC of St Laurence Church – Arrangements during incumbent vacancy read out and also on circulation .**

7. **Receive Reports**

7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – the management committee are concerned over the safety of the village hall/scout hut after the recent incident in the car park. They are also considering purchasing a PA system.

7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – A dental bus offering services to any child and related family was visiting school last week. The school will be contacting the Clerk to assist with advertising this service. Ms Weaver has been assisting the head teacher with some bids.

7.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – No report.

7.4 **Pool** – see later on the agenda.

7.5 **Allotment Representative** – both representatives, Mrs Lee and Mr Goodsir attended the allotment association meeting on the 17th June. Mrs Lee passed on the answers to the questions raised at the last meeting which the parish council have addressed. New issues were raised as follows:

- With regard to joining the National Allotments Association, the tenants ask whether the parish council could join and then invoice the tenants for the funds. The clerk commented that the parish council would not be able to pass on the benefits of being members to the association. The advice from SMBC was that the tenants join for £2 each.
- They are doing another clean up on the 19th July.
- Would the parish council agree to a one off bonfire to burn wood and non compostable goods. The Clerk is to look into hiring a shredder and will liaise with Taylor Wimpey to see if they can assist.
- Can they have 2-3 green wheelie bins.
- Boundaries are unclear.

7.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – All nicely cut back. Clerk to write to footpaths officer and thank them.

7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – no report.

7.8 **Conservation Committee** – meeting notes are on circulation.

7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report.

7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** –

- Deb McGrath from the West Midlands Police Counter Terrorism Unit gave a talk. They work in the community to combat terrorism. Their objective is to raise peoples awareness of the threat of terrorism and ask people to vigilant. Their department differs from Manpads who deal with sites in the borough where it is possible to use surface to air missiles.
- Week commencing 11th June was Drug Action Week. – teams visiting schools.
- Next week is Neighbourhood Watch Week with a range of activities through the week.

- “Boy Racers” have been displaced from areas and are now using new sites. WMP are aware of this and working with it.
 - New Chief Constable – he wants to develop the policing pledge so it is more relevant to each area in the borough. This is work in progress.
 - Shoplifting/theft is on the up. Residents need to take responsibility and not leave ground floor windows and doors open. (they went up one street in Shirley early one morning and found 15 unsecure houses).
 - Cannabis factories on the up nationally. They are asking communities to be aware of rented houses with blacked out windows and foil ducts. Residents should not approach them themselves as often the premises are booby trapped – they should call the police to investigate.
 - Police helicopter based at BIA was torched by two youths. It was only insured for public liability and will cost some £4 million to replace .
 - 19th September – Open day at Shirley police station. More info to follow.
 - Inspector Sarling will email the new police priority dates to me.
- 7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** - next meeting 2nd July in Meriden Village Hall. All Councillors and Clerks are welcome to attend. The new Monitoring Officer from SMBC will be attending along with the Neighbourhood Projects Manager.
- 7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.
- 7.13 **Village Appraisal** – see agenda item 8.2
- 7.14 **West Midlands Police** – no report.
- 7.15 **Community Surgery** – two police and neighbourhood co-ordinator, chair and clerk of the parish council were present. One resident attended. Police have had a few incidents reported around The Green recently and will be contacting SMBC ASB Team about Domehawk Cameras (to be put on next agenda).

A general discussion then took place around anti social behaviour with the following suggestions:

- Mr Markham promoted Young Farmers and the clerk will contact the local clubs chair to see how the young people of Meriden could become involved in activities.
- A competition to design a mural for the four walls of the changing rooms at the playing fields in Maxstoke Lane. The graffiti which is currently covering the walls would be very difficult to remove and will probably just appear again. Best way to get rid of it would be to paint over it but by doing this it may be more respected. Graeme and Shirley agreed to take on this project and to produce a plan.

8. **Village Matters**

8.1 **Development**

Clerk has received confirmation from SMBC that it is intended that both the perimeter track and football pitches will be provided at the new facility at Maxstoke Lane.

8.2 **Village Appraisal**

- a) Parish Plan – Production costs.
- i) Layout – rather than the excessive costs of a graphic designer, Iain knows somebody who could assist with the layout and is familiar with the relevant software.
RESOLVED
Cost to be capped at £200
- ii) Printing costs – quote obtained from Norwood Press for a 28 page full colour document 1400 copies = £1280. Look Local Printing - £1605 and Hannah Print £1295.
RESOLVED
Printing to be given to Norwood Press in the sum of £1280.
- b) On the 9th July, Rosie, Iain and Mel will be presenting a lunchtime seminar to the agencies about issues raised in the parish plan. The aim is to get agreement from those agencies of a date when projects will be completed by.

8.3 **Community Speed Watch**

Three sites have been risk assessed – Hampton Lane, Main Road two places and Fillongley Road two places. The Codes of Practice forms need to be signed and then we can commence, Sarah will be chasing these. Once these are all in then Sarah will draw up a schedule.

8.4 **Alcohol Free Zone**

No report.

8.5.1 **Allotments**

Tenant has asked to keep bees on the allotments. Number 11 of the Allotment Tenancy Agreement states “not to keep any animals or livestock (including bees) of any kind upon the Allotment except to the extent permitted by Section 12 of the Allotments Act 1950”. (ie hens and rabbits).

AGREED

Not to amend point 11 of the tenancy agreement to allow the keeping of bees and to decline the request.

8.6 **Remembrance Day Service purchase of equipment.**

Cheaper quotes have been obtained but a site meeting with the police is required to clarify the exact number of signs required.

8.7 **New play equipment at Maxstoke Lane playing fields.**

Now installed. SMBC informed and thanked for their assistance in this project.

8.8 **Pond**

Levels are low. Concerns over the welfare of the fish. SMBC have been informed.

8.9 **Notice Board at the Library**

Needs new Perspex as it is scratched and making the notices difficult to read. Quote received from SMG Services for the purchase and installation of new Perspex is £105. Just to install the Perspex would be £40.

RESOLVED

For the sum of £105 to be agreed, the clerk to try and source the Perspex cheaper first.

8.10 **Quality Parish Status.**

A review of where we are with the qualifying for Quality Parish Status.

a) Annual Report 2008/2009

AGREED

That the draft annual report circulated with the agenda is approved by the Parish Council.

b) “Surgeries”

The District Councillors would like to hold joint community surgeries with Meriden Parish Council. This item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

c) Other outstanding requirements.

Qualified clerk, parish plan, completion of the portfolio (approx 20-30 hours work).

8.11 **Moles at Playing Fields.**

Mole hills are on the increase in the playing fields. Concern over damage to mowers. Quote received in the sum of £180 plus VAT for trapping. It was felt that trapping would not solve the issue long term. One suggestion was for a wildlife area as with Lavender Hall Park.

AGREED

Clerk to meet with Brian Ball at the playing fields to discuss a wildlife area where the moles are. Ie at the far side of the tennis courts along the hedge.

9 Planning Matters

9.1 2009/780 – Spar Stores, 1 The Green – Replacement signate. 1x non illuminated commodity board.

RATIFIED

Agreed, provided the front one is not illuminated.

9.2 2009/792 – Appletrees, Fillongley Road, Meriden – Two storey front and rear extensions.

RATIFIED

Over intensification, concerns over light restriction to Arden Close. Neighbour notification.

9.3 2009/804 – Spar Stores, 1 The Green – Listed building consent for replacement signage. 1x illuminated commodity board to the side elevation.

RATIFIED

Objected as long as the front one is not illuminated.

9.4 2009/826 – Roden, Back Lane, Meriden – Single storey rear extension, replacement front porch and demolition of garage and a revised gravelled car parking hardstanding.

RATIFIED

Neighbour notification.

9.5 2009/857 – 1 Wayside Cottage, Meriden – two storey side extension over existing single storey side extension.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.6 2009/908 – 21 Bonneville Close, Millison's Wood – 2 storey side utility and garage extension with 2 new bedrooms over.

RESOLVED

Object – impact on neighbours and surrounding area. Neighbour notification.

10. Accounts

10.01 Public Liability Insurance Renewal

- Renewal notice received in the sum of £1318.00
- The play equipment has historically been insured for public liability cover only and not loss or damage. The cost of insuring the new piece of equipment for loss and damage is £252 per annum.

RESOLVED

That the new piece of equipment is insured for loss and damage as per the quote above.

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is sub committee meeting on Wednesday 8th July 2009 and the next Parish Council Meeting is on Monday 27th July 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

- a) Neighbourhood Management Area 3 – May Report.
- b) Solihull Shopmobility Circulation – Issue 27
- c) Solihull MBC – Conservation Advisory Committee meeting notes 26th May 2009.
- d) Fieldwork – June 2009
- e) Best Kept Village Judges comments
- f) West Midlands Police – letter from new chief constable.