

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd June 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

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

1. Apologies

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.

None declared.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 14th May 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Sub Committee Meeting on 11th June 2008, be amended to refer to Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance. To be resolved at the next Parish Council Meeting.

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

5. Public Participation

- 5.1 Trees up Meriden Hill both sides are overgrown and hit passing busses. Also obstruct light from the street lighting columns.
- 5.2 Obstructive parking – Clerk to clarify what constitutes a parking obstruction at the Police Priority Setting Meeting.
- 5.3 Trees by High Firs – privately owned but SMBC can request that they are cut back.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 CPRE Regional Housing Campaign Meeting 16th April 2008

Minutes have been received and are on circulation. Next meeting 2nd July 7pm-9pm at The Main Hall, Allesley Village Hall.

6.2 The Centre – Application for use of the Village Green

For the Meriden Festival Fair (and Centre Celebrations) on The Green, Saturday 14th June 2008 between 10.30pm and 3pm. Discussed at the sub-committee meeting on 11th June.

RATIFIED

No objections to the application for use of the Village Green.

6.3 1st Meriden Scouts – Flag Raising Duties/Donation

Letter confirming that they are in agreement to the Parish Council's suggestion that the flag raising duties are raised to £150 and brought forward in the financial year to June for 2008/2009 and thereafter. They will make a detailed donation request by 1st December in order that this can be considered by the Parish Council when preparing the budget for 2009/2010. A cheque for £150 will be raised at this meeting.

6.4 CPRE Warwickshire Branch – Meeting with Solihull Organisations 6th May 2008

Minutes on circulation.

6.5 Solihull MBC – Safer Communities Plan

Draft plan and feedback form emailed to Councillors. No comments.

6.6 Zurich Insurance – Employers and Public Liability Insurance

Renewal received in the sum of £1228.36 to be paid. Advice from Zurich in relation to the public liability insurance is that we are currently insured for £2,000,000 in respect of any one claim. Court awards to individuals are currently

exceeding £3,000,000 and the Parish Council need to ensure they are adequately covered for awards made to more than one person arising from the single accident. To increase this to £5,000,000 it will cost an additional £60.38 (inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax).

RESOLVED

After discussion at the sub-committee, resolved that the Public Liability Insurance be raised to £5,000,000 at the additional premium of £60.38 (inclusive of Insurance Premium Tax).

6.7 AGREED

At the request of Mrs Markham that the sub-committee groups be listed on the agenda for the Parish Council meetings in order that reports can be given as necessary.

6.8 West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting

Notification of next meeting date 2nd July 7.30pm at the Civic Suite at the Council House. Mr Markham attending. Minutes of meeting on 10th April on circulation.

6.9 Best Kept Village Competition 2008

Letter enclosing David Howell's judging sheet which is on circulation. Notification of results; Meriden 4th 77 points, Hampton in Arden 3rd 79 points, Bartson 2nd 84 points, Berkswell 1st 86 points. Thank you to Shirley Goodsir for accompanying judge on his tour of the Village.

6.10 Solihull MBC – Application for a modification order to add a public footpath Birmingham Road to Maxstoke Lane, Meriden

Request for additional information from SMBC for the Parish Council to proceed with the application. Information required:

- Details of the obstruction on the footpath? – Originally overgrown. 18 months to 2 years ago the garage owner erected a fence.
- Additional witness evidence covering 1971-1991.– Mr Goodsir to look at old village map in the Queens Head for evidence of the footpath.

7. Receive Reports

None.

8. Village Matters

8.1 Land adjacent to Meriden Garage

The matter did not go to planning committee on 21st May but will definitely go on 2nd July.

8.2 Village Appraisal Update / Finance / Purchase of Equipment

57% return on questionnaires has been achieved.

Newsletter has been printed and distributed thanking residents for completing questionnaire and requesting volunteers to become involved in theme groups to produce Appraisal Report.

The Prize Draw evening is on 1st July at 7.30pm Heart of England Social Club. The Mayor/Mayoress will be attending to carry out the draw. All welcome.

The next Steering Group meeting is on Thursday 17th July at 7.39pm, Heart of England Social Club.

Clerk is required to purchase the £50 prize draw vouchers from Marks and Spencer and John Lewis. £50 has been donated by the Meriden Rotary Club towards the John Lewis Vouchers and has been paid into the Parish Council Bank. Cheques will need to be raised at this meeting.

AGREED

Two cheques for £50 to be raised at this meeting.

The Grants from both Awards for All and Solihull MBC covered the purchase of equipment ie a laptop, screen and projector. Clerk will be purchasing this equipment. Awards for All bid budgeted £600 for projector and screen. Other equipment suggested was flip chart/whiteboard/whiteboard pens/flipchart paper.

8.3 Maxstoke Lane Development Update

Minutes of meeting between Acting Chief Executive, Three Ward Councillors, Iain Hillis (Cabinet Members for Resources), Mike Swallow, Rosie Weaver, Bob Kipling, Julie Hall, on 19th May circulated. Follow up meeting will be 11th September at 4pm in Civic Suite.

Ms Weaver met with new Cabinet Member for resources, Ken Hawkins at the playing fields to show him the site.

Due to poor responses being received from our land agent and solicitors, Ms Weaver went to see a contact with knowledge in this area. He advised that Wright Hassall are a good firm. DTZ who are land agents used by Solihull MBC are notably recognised as expensive but always deliver best value. Suggested that the Parish Council use DTZ as well as Solihull MBC as this would save costs.

Meeting with Wright Hassall Solicitors which Chair and Clerk attended on 11th June. Notes read out at the sub committee meeting on 11th June. Clerk has now written to Mark Rogers, Acting Chief Executive of Solihull MBC re the issues highlighted with Wright Hassall. Awaiting response.

Letter received from Wright Hassall advising that from 19th May to date fees incurred amount to £710. (Charge out rate of £190 per hour.) Where the input of an experienced commercial property solicitor is not required, assistants in the team will be used whose charge out rate is less than Mr Millar. A provisional estimate of fees in the region of £1,000 for the next 12 months. Terms of Engagement and Terms of Business copied to each Councillor. Parish Council is required to sign a copy of the Terms of Engagement and return it to the Solicitors for their file. Please review both documents and pass any comments to Clerk by next Monday 30th June. If no comments received, Clerk will sign Terms of Engagement and return to Wright Hassall.

8.4 Changing Rooms Repairs

The changing rooms are in a poor state internally. Photographs taken by the Clerk available for Councillors. Children/youths have been climbing on roof causing damage. Plasterboard has fallen down internally and has left a large hole in the ceiling. Quote being obtained from Ralph Ledbrook (who carried out original roof repairs) to repair roof externally and patch roof inside. Tidy up fascia boards in the sum of £1500 plus VAT.

RATIFIED

To instruct builder in respect of repairs in the sum of £1500 plus VAT.

8.5 Antisocial behaviour on the playing fields.

Reports of antisocial behaviour leading up to the Mega Ride have been reported to Inspector Nigel Sarling and we have requested police presence in the area. Local resident is logging incidents and these will be taken to the Police Priority Setting Meeting on 27th June at Balsall Common Village Hall. Clerk and Mrs Markham attending.

8.6 Safety improvements at playing fields update.

Quotation received from Wicksteed Leisure for safety surfacing and swing seat replacements in accordance with safety inspection approx £2,000 plus VAT. Sent to Mike Swallow at Solihull MBC as they requested. Response received stating that improvements can be paid for by Solihull MBC but they are to be deducted from gross proceeds of sale.

RATIFIED

Clerk to instruct Wicksteed to carry out the improvements in view of the Health and Safety issue.

To write to Solihull MBC and continue negotiating for improvement costs not to be deducted from gross proceeds of sale. Response awaited from SMBC

Wicksteed cannot commence works for 6-8 weeks. Clerk has therefore instructed Advanced Maintenance Services to remove the swing seats to avoid the Parish Council incurring any liability in case of an accident. Swings have now been removed.

8.7 Heart of England Football Alliance, Summer Academy - update.

Chair and Clerk have meeting with representatives of Heart of England Football Alliance on Wednesday to assist them in making a bid to the Football Foundation for equipment/goal posts. A flyer will be going in the book bags at the junior school. There is a very soggy patch on the playing field which is within the pitch boundaries. They have requested that the pitch is moved to run along the far hedge (apparently this is where it was some time ago).

AGREED

That the pitch can be moved.

8.8 Additional – Tennis Courts

Weekly glass sweeping has not been carried out as previously agreed. New volunteers, Mr and Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Markham and Mrs Hall. To alternate weeks. Mrs Markham to produce a rota.

8.9 Rubbish/Dog fouling bins

Mrs Goodsir has liaised with the School who do not want a dog fouling bin to be placed outside the school. They consider this to be unhygienic.

AGREED

This item to be removed from the agenda.

8.10 Christmas lights

Previous problems raised with Christmas lights are daily switching on and off, installation, running costs, storage. Clerk has therefore obtained a quote for rented solar powered Christmas trees ranging from £160 plus VAT to £290 plus VAT. Delivery costs are dependent on final quantities ordered. The cost covers installation.

The provision of Christmas lights has not been budgeted for this financial year and we are already incurring expenditure which, although is necessary, is not in the budget. The Clerk therefore considers this should be reviewed again at the finance meeting in December/January for the following financial year.

AGREED

Costs to be reviewed in December for next financial year.

8.11 Allotments

Verbal thank you to the Parish Council for the interest they have shown in the Allotments recently. Also request that plot 1 is cut back and is used as parking facility in the summer months when ground is hard.

AGREED

To clarify whether planning permission is required to use plot 1 as a car park.

Tenant of allotment number 11 has requested permission to erect a 6x4 shed with a pitched roof. It would be erected at the furthest point from the road. It will be new and kept in good order. Tenancy agreement states:

“not without the prior consent in writing of the Council to erect any new building on the allotment garden AND in regard to any building for which consent has been granted to erect the same in accordance with the plans or specifications (and of materials specified) therein submitted to the Council by the Tenant.”

RESOLVED

To write to tenant and confirm shed can be erected as stated.

8.12 Pond Improvements – update

The Ward Action Plans are going through the cabinet approvals process this month which includes the £5,000 required for initial investigations. Solihull MBC hope to commence work in July subject to cabinet approvals.

8.12 Risk Assessment Course for Clerk – 1st July at City College Coventry £95

RESOLVED

Clerk to attend Course in the sum of £95.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 P/A2008/927 – 129 Fillongley Road, Meriden – 2 storey side extension

RATIFIED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.2 P/A 2008/880 – 107 Alspath Road, Meriden – 2 storey rear extension and front porch extension

RATIFIED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.3 P/A2008/959 – Old School House Car Park 200 Main Road, Meriden – erection of 2 three metre high light columns with 2 lamps to each column

RATIFIED

Leave to neighbour notification. Also, please confirm who is to pay for the electricity supply; what time the lights will be turned on and off; are they eco lights, whether the matter will be referred to conservation committee.

9.4 P/A2008/705 – 117 Alspath Road, Meriden – proposed 2 storey side extension

Solihull MBC has granted full plans approval.

9.5 P/A2008/460 – Rosslyn Old Road, Meriden – two storey side extension to form lounge with master

bedroom and en suite to first floor.
Solihull MBC has granted full plans approval.

9.6 P/A2008/708 – 7 Bonneville Close, Millisons Wood – single storey side and rear extension.
Solihull MBC has granted full plans approval.

9.7 P/A2008/1069 – Land opposite Ivy House Farm Harvest Hill Lane, Holly Berry End, Meriden – Prior notification application for agricultural implement barn.

RESOLVED

No observations.

10. Accounts

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment

11. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is 16th July (presentations from Mrs Markham on Reducing Your Carbon Footprint and Ms Weaver and Mrs Hall on Quality Parish Status) and the next Parish Council Meeting is on 28th July both starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

AGREED

Sub Committee on 6th August is cancelled as this only falls only nine days after Parish Council Meeting on 28th July.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.06pm

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION.

Doc. If required please ask for the following to be added to Agenda for the next meeting.

- a) Solihull MBC – Public Rights of Way – Practical Works, on circulation
- b) CPRE–Minutes of the regional housing campaign meeting 16th April 2008, on circulation
- c) CPRE – Report on a meeting with Solihull Organisations held on 6th May at Old Silhillians Sports Ground on circulation.
- d) Solihull MBC – Conservation Advisory Committee – Minutes of Meeting on 15th April 2008 etc on circulation.
- e) Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust – Heartbeat Magazine June 2008 on circulation.
- f) CPRE Warwickshire Branch – Annual Review 2007/2008 on circulation.
- g) CPRE Warwickshire Branch – Outlook magazine Summer 2008 on circulation.
- h) Solihull MBC - Local Development Framework Conference – notes of meeting held on 10th April – on circulation.
- i) CPRE – Fieldwork June 2008 – on circulation
- j) West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting 10th April Minutes – on circulation.
- k) Best Kept Village Competition 2008 judging sheet – on circulation.