



Meriden Parish Council

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting and Parish Council Meeting held on 23 June 2014 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present: Cllr M Lee Chair
Cllr R Weaver
Cllr P Lee
Cllr F Lynch-Smith
Mrs B Bland Clerk

There was one member of the public present.

1. Democratic Half-Hour/Public Question Time/Invited Guest Speakers

Cllr Lee welcomed the resident and invited questions. The resident requested clarification of the recent fire at Meriden Quarry; and raised concerns regarding the various operators that appear to be resident on the quarry site, stockpiling of materials and the range of activities being observed by residents. The resident further reported as a dog walker and user of footpaths around the quarry, there was a noticeable increase of windblown litter in fields, increased stockpiling height levels, noise and increased activity.

Cllr Weaver explained the set up of the Quarry Liaison Group and membership of quarry operators and landowners including the Packington and Harworth Estates; she also recorded Parish Council representatives include herself, the Clerk and Lynn Parker who is the resident representative of the group. Cllr Weaver read from the minutes of the Quarry Liaison Group meeting held on 9th June, attached for ease of reference, where Mr Green, General Manager of A & A Recycling, reported on the incident. She further stated that Mr Green had called the Clerk the morning after the fire to update her and provide reassurance to residents that the fire was contained.

The Clerk advised that the smoke had been caused by different out of area fire crews being drafted in and not having a consistent approach due to the volume of water being used to suppress the fire and not allowing the fire to burning itself out. She further reported officers from the Environment Agency and Health & Safety Executive were investigating cause. A full report detailing outcome and recommendations will be made available to the Parish Council when the investigation is concluded.

A request was made for the Quarry Liaison minutes to be included on the Parish Council website for public access. The Clerk was requested to check with the Liaison Group Secretary that this would be in order. A request was also made for the General Manager of A & A Recycling to write a Statement so this may also be posted on website for resident update.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

Dated

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Cllr Lynch-Smith stated the increase in quarry and HGV traffic through the village with the closure of A452 from Cornets End Lane to Stonebridge. The diversion for ALL traffic to use Hampton Lane for access to the A45 via Birmingham Road caused significant traffic build up and also caused considerable anxiety to potential damage caused to pavements, curb and newly planted roundabouts due to HGV and Artic traffic being too large to manoeuvre trailers, mounting pavements and curbs. The Clerk confirmed no prior notice had been received for this diversion route; Members requested a letter be sent to Highways with a copy to Cllr Bell.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (i) The Clerk will seek approval from Quarry Liaison Group for minutes to be posted on website for public access.
- (ii) The Clerk will contact Mr Green, General Manager, A & A Recycling, for a Statement regarding fire incident.
- (iii) The Clerk will write a letter to Highways regarding recent diversion route with no prior notification.
- (iv) The Clerk will ensure all information is updated to website.

2. Welcome & Apologies

Cllr M Lee opened meeting and received apologies from Cllr Bell, Cllr Haque, Cllr Nunn, Cllr Barber and Cllr Kipling all due to work and personal commitments.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Chair and Members accepted apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest recorded.

4. Minutes of 28th April and 19th May 2014

The Clerk circulated to Members by email minutes of the meetings held on 28th April previously approved subject to amendments; and 19th May 2014.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members unanimously approved minutes.

5. Standing Order Review

This item is a work in progress and is deferred to next meeting.

6. Finance

6.1 Internal Audit Recommendations

The Clerk circulated the internal auditor recommendations. Members acknowledged auditor's comments to improve practice for new financial year and introduce a risk register. Members recorded their thanks to the Clerk.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved the internal audit and requested the Clerk implement recommendations.

6.2 Approve 2013-14 Accounts for Grant Thornton External Audit
The Clerk circulated accounts for Members approval.

Cllr Lynch-Smith queried the sale of the playing field monies and what this may be used for i.e. small grant funding. Cllr Weaver replied that there is a legal agreement detailing the monies may only be used for the Sports Park maintenance and sustainability due to loss of public amenity. Cllr Weaver further reiterated the reason a limited company had been set up to manage the asset and capital investment; Meriden Sports Park Limited will then register as a Charity to maximise investment return and enable draw down of grant/trust funding for Sports Park activities.

IT WAS RESOLVED

- (i) Members unanimously approved 2013-14 Accounts for external audit.
- (ii) Members acknowledged the legal agreement for sale of playing field monies to be restricted to capital investment and Sports Park only draw down. Members formally recognised this money may not be used as small grant funding.

6.3 Annual Governance Statement (Annual Return)
The Chair read to Members the Governance Statement recording compliance at each stage.

IT WAS RESOVLED Members approved Governance Statement. The Chair and Clerk signed Governance Statement in the presence of full Council.

6.4 June Payments
Members considered and approved payments.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members unanimously approved payments list.

6.5 Meriden Library Request
The Clerk circulated letter clarifying funding for Summer Reading Challenge. Members approved donation of £50.00 towards this event.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members unanimously approved donation of £50 to Meriden Library for Summer Reading Challenge.

7. Progress Reports

7.1 Village Hall Management Committee
Nothing to report.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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7.2 Community Governor for Meriden C of E School

Cllr Weaver reported Ofsted is imminent; a full Governors meeting will be held on Wednesday; School received 1st prize in Gardener's World hanging basket competition; a planning application has been submitted for minor changes to frontage, addition of a classroom and improvement to corridor configuration. Consultation has been carried out with staff, residents and parents.

7.3 War Memorials

Nothing to report.

7.4 Pool Tidy

The Clerk advised she had met with David Tipping and Bruce Brant regarding the current level of maintenance. The Pool is not included back into SMBC's 10 day mowing schedule of works. Further consultation was requested to be undertaken by Parish Council for residents to express what they really want from the Pool. The clerk suggested a questionnaire be included in autumn edition of Meriden Mag. Cllr Lynch-Smith requested improved signage regarding the feeding of wildfowl and would contact RSPB.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will continue to monitor and work with David Tipping. Cllr Lynch-Smith to contact RSPB for wildlife feeding signage.

7.5 Allotment Representative

The Clerk reported there remains one vacant plot with potential interest referred to Alan Gabbittas.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum

Cllr Lynch-Smith continues walking the footpaths. The resident in attendance offered his assistance as he is a keen footpath walker and wishes to get involved.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Lynch-Smith to liaise with resident and agree meeting.

7.7 Quarries Liaison Group

This item is covered under public participation and refer to Quarry Liaison meeting minutes dated 9th June 2014 attached for ease of reference.

7.8 Solihull Area Committee

Nothing to report.

7.9 (i) Tree Warden

Nothing to report.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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7.9(ii) TPO List

Cllr Lynch-Smith advised that she had received nothing from Lawrence Osborne or Cllr Bell regarding TPO list. Cllr Lynch-Smith reported that the Arboriculturist recommended to undertake the photographic recording work will cost £120 per day. Members agreed a maximum of 2 days for this purpose.

IT WAS RESOLVED Cllr Lynch-Smith to organise photographic recording. The Clerks was requested to follow up with Lawrence Osborne and Cllr Bell to obtain TPO identification list.

7.10 Combined Community & Beat Surgery

No residents attended. One telephone call was received from Meriden Gate resident regarding recent incident, disturbance and outstanding issues.

7.11 Community Speed Watch

Nothing to report but training will be offered for July or September.

7.12 Hs2

Nothing to report.

7.13 Meriden Sports Park Limited

Cllr Weaver reported the next Director's meeting will be held on 14th July 2014.

8. Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting

The Clerk circulated by email to Members her actions since last meeting. There were no questions and the Chair expressed Members thanks and acknowledged content.

9. District Councillors' Reports

Nothing to report.

10. Correspondence & Communication

The Chair advised Family Picnic in the Park posters and also an invitation from the Mayor's Parlour.

11. Meriden Village Matters

11.1 Library Update

The Chair advised we met Libraries on 3rd June and advised:-

- (i) Meriden PC secured 10K funding for new computer suite. Work is scheduled to commence in October avoiding half term and will result in closure of service.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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- (ii) Basic maintenance is programmed for the outside of the Library scheduled for August but will not necessitate closure of service.
- (iii) A further meeting is scheduled for July/August including a site visit prior to commencement of works.

The Chair confirmed Cllr Wylde’s comment regarding the funding situation and only work programmed against SMBC budget will be undertaken. Any further exterior/interior refurbishment will require external funding to be secured for this purpose.

IT WAS RESOLVED the Chair and Clerk will attend meetings and continue to work with Library Services for best outcome to improve resource.

11.2 Historic Panels

Due to capacity issues no further work has been undertaken. Cllr Lynch-Smith asked about English Heritage Funding advising that the Old School House is not listed. The Cllr Weaver commented that she had observed a chunk of garden dug up and raised the question of planning permission and knowledge of Packington Estate.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will follow up with Martin Saunders, Conservation Planning Officer. Cllr Lynch-Smith will follow up with local Historian.

11.3 Village Commemoration WW1

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported a successful film night of War Horse which covered its cost with refreshments supplied and she has received excellent feedback from residents. There is a plan to show two WW1 films per year and hopefully another film night will be organised.

The Chair reported the Megaride organised by Rotary Club was well attended. Doreen Agutter generated a lot of interest with her local history talks. The next event will be Family Picnic in the Park with a 1914 theme. The next meeting of the committee will be 5th July.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members unanimously acknowledged and supported the working group and “The Big Picture Show”.

11.4 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2014

The Clerk advised all was in place and she continued to work with Contractors. Cllr Lynch-Smith asked if anything was being done about the parking of TC Rental vehicle obliterating the enjoyment of residents being able to see the newly created Poppy flower bed. The Clerk confirmed this has brought to the attention of highways and she is working with officers to find a solution to overnight and all day parking in the lay-by.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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Cllr Lynch-Smith further commented that a Memorial Bench is now needed so residents may sit and enjoy the new Memorial Approach. The Clerk added that she and Cllr P Lee had discussed this and she was looking into it but funding currently will not provide for the purchase of a bench this year. Cllr Lynch-Smith asked about the removal of the dog bin and cleaning of it? The Clerk confirmed this was in hand with Contractor and she was sourcing a litter bin to replace the dog bin.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk to liaise with Highways Officers to find a solution to lay-by parking, removal of dog bin and source funding for a Centenary WW1 Bench.

11.5 Meriden Gate

The Clerk advised that she was still waiting for updates from Mike Swallow, David Waterson, David Wilson Homes, Danny Gouveia and Dick Woodward regarding the completion of site, highways, landscaping, and overage; however advised that an email from David Waterson requested David Wilson Homes to directly respond to Parish Council. Members discussed the lack of action and requested the Clerk to write a formal complaint to the new CEO of Solihull MBC copying in Caroline Spelman MP for immediate action to resolve all the outstanding issues on Meriden Gate.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk to write a formal complaint to CEO of Solihull MBC and Caroline Spelman MP.

11.6 Taylor Wimpey & Associated Works

The Clerk advised Members an email had been received from Mike Swallow attaching the outcome of the appeal and conditions therein regarding the s106 330K investment to Meriden Community; comprising woodland walks, public open space, and improved highways to include curbs, bus shelters and disabled access for bus stops.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk would continue to monitor and work with Taylor Wimpey and Highways/Centro.

11.7 Highways

The Clerk advised she and Cllr Weaver had met with Ashley Prior and Bruce Brant on 16th June; she prepared an agenda listing all items for discussion and conducted a tour of the village identifying outstanding issues. Mr Prior acknowledged issues and would advise once he had investigated action/non action of officers.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will continue to liaise with Mr Prior and Highways Officers to resolve issues and receive recommendations.

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11.8 Land Registry & Ownership

The Clerk advised due to capacity issues this project had not moved forward. Planning officers have provided a web link but this has not proved helpful due to not understanding what Land Registry required.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will arrange a meeting with planning officers with notify Councillor Bell.

12. Planning Matters

12.1 Neighbourhood Planning

The Clerk is awaiting Kirkwells availability to process Neighbourhood Planning and will advise Members.

Updated of Planning Applications in process:-

2014/1038 New	Fillongley Road, Meriden	Single storey extension to front of school to form reception area and enlarged staff room. Internal alterations, new roof over existing void area and single storey extension of existing corridor/new porch to front of school adjacent to classroom A.
2014/1072 New	The Wain House Main Road Meriden	Listed building consent for a glass room.
2014/865 New	The Wain House Main Road Meriden	Erect a glass room.
2014/826 New	Hillwood Cottage Kinwalsey Lane Meriden	Listed building consent to demolish cartilage-listed large timber framed workshop approximately 5.5mx5.5m.
2014/825 New	Hillwood Cottage Kinwalsey Lane Meriden	Adjacent to listed building demolish large timber framed workshop approximately 5.5mx5.5m and erect the two bay garage on that site.
2014/942 New	Appletrees Fillongley Road Meriden	Two storey front extension single storey side and rear extensions.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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2014/925 New	ARQIVA Meriden Transmitting Station Kilwalsey Lane, Meriden	Install a replacement collinear antenna and three transmission dishes on the existing 51m high communications mast.
2014/878 New	Meriden Fish & Chips	Relocation of Chip Shop Extractor Vent.
2014/879 New	Meriden Park Homes	Change of use of land site to use to site 4 mobile homes.
2014/738 Full Plans Approval	17 Birmingham Road	Two storey side extension, ground floor rear extension and boundary.
2014/590 Full Plans Approval. Nothing setting out condition to restore shop front in keeping with conservation area and façade of existing shop fronts. Colours and materials to be approval by planning!	News Express The Green Meriden	Installation of shop fronts to replace existing and to provide disabled level access.
2014/649 Waiting	Berryfields Farm, Berkswell	Erection of one primary/permanent agricultural workers dwelling with a detached double garage.
2014/578 Waiting	High Ash Farm, Lodge Green Lane	Erect a livestock building.
2014/574 Waiting	High Ash Farm, Lodge Green Lane	Erect an agricultural workers dwelling house.
2014/476 Waiting	Meriden Quarry Area G Birmingham Road Meriden	Vary condition No 7 of review of mineral permission ref. 97/535 to allow infilling of quarry void with inert materials (construction and demolition waste) rather than colliery spoil.

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2014/474 Waiting	Meriden Quarry Area G Birmingham Road Meriden	Change of use of part of the Area G quarry landfill site to a recycling centre/facility for the storage, crushing, screening and re-use of selected construction and demolition waste materials.
2014/431 Waiting	Fordson Farm Harvest Hill	Erect agricultural storage barn with associated access and driveway, new gates and flanking fencing (refused last year but smaller scale application).
2013/994 Awaiting Appeal Secretary of State	Pertemps Group Limited, Meriden Hall	New office building with basement parking on site of existing car park.
2014/10 Full Plans Approval	The Grange, Main Road	UPVC Doors Grade II bldg

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will continue notifying Members of Parish Notifications for and recording comments on planning portal.

12.2 Jephson Housing

The Clerk advised no reply had been received from Jephson regarding solicitors outcome regarding footpath and right of way or for potential use of old caravan storage and garage site.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk and Cllr Weaver will continue to monitor.

13. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

14. Parish Council Newsletter Editorial Committee

Nothing to report.

15. Correspondence and Communication

Cllr Lynch-Smith reported the continued issues with refuse collection operatives not observing the safety of households and car drivers as they are leaving wheelie bins in the middle of drives, on roadsides and in middle of pedestrian walkways causing obstruction. Photographic evidence of properties along Fillongley Road was shared.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Clerk will speak with Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and process with amenity officers and report back.

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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It should also be noted that a review of Meriden's amenity contracts has been requested to resolve issues with litter bin emptying; dog waste collection; weeding; walkway sweeping/cleaning; service road sweeping and cleaning; drains and gutter cleaning.

19. Date and time of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 28th July 2014 at 19.30 hours. Venue: Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.35

SignedCllr M Lee – Chair

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