

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on 25th June 2007 in the Village Hall at approximately 8pm.

Present

Ms Weaver (Chair), Mr Kipling, Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, , Mrs Lee, Mrs Markham, Mr Markham(8.30), PSgt M King, PC A Nixon and 6 members of the public.

1. Apologies

District Councillor Allsopp, District Councillor Bell and Mr Markham (late attendance).

2. Declaration of Interest

The Chair invited members to make declaration of personal and prejudicial interest in respect of items on the agenda of meeting.

Although unnecessary, Clerk notified of interest in P/A 2007/1089, next door property.

3. Minutes of Last Meeting.

RESOLVED

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

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

Election of Sub – Committees and Representatives.

1) Committee Member for Meriden United Charities

Not requested (Mrs Copper, Mr Hurton, Mrs Tuckey)

The Trustees of the Charities are still very active. A copy of accounts for year ending December 2006 has been forwarded, benefits given during that year compared with the previous year and probably this year. Confirms the Parish Council is represented by Mrs Tuckey, Mr Hurton and Mrs Copper along with five other Trustees and Mr Barker as Clerk to the Trustees.

No action.

2) Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee

The articles state that all users of the Hall are entitled to representation on the board of Trustees. Mr Grundy may continue to represent the Parish Council and suggest an additional delegate. No minutes are issued but all public have a right to attend AGM. Accounts for 2006 have previously been supplied and circulated.

Mrs Goodsir to be Parish Council Representative.

3) Committee Member for School Governors

Governor Services at Solihull respond that Mr Grundy became a Community Governor on reconstitution September 2006 with his term of office until 2010. He was originally appointed as a Minor Authority Governor, that category no longer existing.

To await any requests from School Governors.

4) Committee Member for War Memorial

Any future involvement by Mr Grundy would have to be as an individual interested 'community' person. Feedback is normally conveyed by the representative and it is believed that the Parish Council should still wish to retain a formal Council member.

Mr Markham to be Parish Council representative.

5. Correspondence / Communication

01) Mr Markham had requested police to attend prior to meeting to report on Public Conveniences in Meriden in relation to anti social behaviour.

In the last 3 years only 4 cases have been logged regarding toilets, including two recent calls by Mr Markham, another regarding homophobic graffiti. It is thought at least 100 police hours have been recorded against the toilets. There is insufficient evidence for police to request CCTV coverage.

Police will attend if possible and they will continue to patrol regularly. Local residents must report suspicious behaviour and vehicles spending time in the vicinity to the police and obtain a log number. Local persons are not to take law into own hands, but can keep their own logs of car registrations which the police may follow up.

1) Solihull MBC

Does the Parish Council wish to enter Solihull in Bloom 2007? The project for this year involves cleaning, painting and

improving the planted area around the Centre Cross. Clearing Cross of moss, replacing soil and summer planting to be started mid May by Mr Ball. The outer rail to be painted by Mr Hick after planting completed. Match Funding up to £250 has been agreed by Solihull for this project. Entry by 22nd June.

RATIFIED

To enter Solihull in Bloom competition.

2) Warwickshire, Solihull, Birmingham Training Partnership.

Induction Courses for new Clerks & Councillors at various locations, nearest at Castle Bromwich 20th October. Form received for course 15th September, Town Hall. Royal Leamington Spa, £30 per delegate. Any names? Dates Councillors are likely to attend.

Also Code of Conduct Training.

NAMES & DATES

Leamington Spa, 15th September, Ms Weaver, Mr Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Lee, Mrs Markham and Mr Markham. Castle Bromwich, 20th October, Mrs Goodsir.

Code of Conduct training has been attended by Clerk and Mrs Hamilton. Mrs Lee and Ms Weaver have booked.

3) Solihull MBC

Report from Rural Footpaths Ranger showing summary of work within Meriden over last quarter, on circulation.

4) Solihull MBC

As requested the Tree Officer was asked to attend site meeting to discuss two TPOs on planning applications. The Tree Officer himself has gone on long term sick and his senior does not recommend site visits as this can be misunderstood and pressure can be exerted on Officer. Parish Councillors are consulted and therefore have an opportunity to make a response.

Information sheet on Tree Preservation Orders and latest available list of trees in Meriden for each Councillor.

5) Solihull MBC

The Council has redrafted 'Notice of Intention' and 'the Order' relating to Dog Control Order 2007. Copy of Draft Order, notice of intent and map to be circulated. All representations to be received by 29th June. Copy for each Councillor.

Previous response: To request consultation if it is intended to erect many signs around village.

6) Solihull MBC

Application for a modification order to add a public footpath Birmingham Road to Maxstoke Lane, Meriden. Submissions have been made, a request for users of the footpath between 1971 and 1991 was placed in the 'Mag,' numerous contacts made with Solihull and further evidence is still required.

Councillors to chase any other known residents who may have used footpath during period 1971-1991.

7) Solihull MBC

Four tenders were received in connection with the appointment of Agents for the sale of Meriden Playing Fields. Donaldsons tender scored the highest and it is thought this is the most economically advantageous offer and it is proposed to appoint Donaldsons to arrange the marketing and disposal of the land at Maxstoke Lane and would be grateful for the Parish Council's approval. The Council will look to market the land in late summer and aim for completion by April 2008.

Copy of Development Agreement for each Councillor.

RESOLVED

To approve Donaldsons as Agents. (For: MH, ML, SM, RW; Against: GG, SG; Abstention: RK).

8) Berkswell Association for the Prosecution of Felons

Result and report of Best Kept Village competition held 14th May. Barston won and Meriden came fourth. Copy is on circulation with copies for Mrs Goodsir and Mr Grundy.

9) Meriden Cricket Club

Members advise the existing playing fields are not in a condition for safe cricket to be played. They will now be using Barkers Butts ground but still need the roll up pitch and therefore financial help and enclose a copy of the invoice.

RESOLVED

To ask why the Playing Fields are now longer suitable for cricket.

6. Receive Reports.

Meriden Village Hall Management Committee – Mrs Goodsir reported that Caroline Spelman MP will be holding surgeries in the Village Hall.

W&WMALC Solihull Area Committee – Ms Weaver, indicated that all members are welcome to attend meetings but only named representatives are able to vote. Also provide representatives to W&WMALC and Standards Board. Topics included security at BIA and the Charter.

7. Village Matters.

1) Letter from resident.

Open letter to newly elected parish councillors to start dialogue on various topics such as village environment, amenities, communication and sustainability.

Resident attended Sub-Committee meeting suggesting that Meriden should be looking to the future for the village, finding a way forward and that an event / workshop should be held and perhaps work towards a Village Appraisal / Plan. He and his wife are prepared to be involved.

2) Application to use The Green.

Ist Meriden Scout Group has applied to use The Green to mark the Centenary of the Scouting Movement by holding a Sunrise Ceremony on 1st August 2007. The event to take place from 7.45 – 8.30 hours involving all Scouts renewing their promise, hopefully a prayer and also request to have the Union Flag raised.

RESOLVED

Approval for event.

Approval for Union Flag to be hoisted for the day.

3) Allotments

Clerk would like Councillors to look at allotments and assess whether the Parish Council should look to improve the facilities. Earlier this year it was found cover was missing from meter which is a couple of feet below ground level. A request was made to Severn Trent to install cover. There was so much growth unable to locate the meter, therefore this is dangerous. Suggest also the top allotment which is an odd shape is used for parking.

AGREED

That the top area is used for parking.

4) Meters.

The Parish Council has a number of meters and readings need to be checked as found to our cost with the water meter on the allotments. This has been done in the past by Clerk with a lot of assistance from Mr Jones.

Recommend that the meters are read quarterly by Mr Dean as he already attends the Public Conveniences and the Playing Field.

At the Playing Fields, there are 3 electric meters in the dressing rooms and one water meter outside.

Public Conveniences, two electric meters in the back room and one water meter outside.

Allotments, one water meter.

Suggest £10 per quarter.

There is also locked access to electricity supply for those using The Green, this has again been done by Mr Jones. Suggest this is again done by Mr Dean with a call out fee of £10 as there is a requirement for two visits.

5) Public Conveniences

Anti social behaviour and the toilets and impact on surround were discussed and it was decided that there has to be future discussion, considering all available options, including:

Local residents reporting incidents; Demolition; CCTV; Artificial camera.

6) Bus shelters.

For information: Work on the approved maintenance contract with Littlethorpe on 5 newer shelters is likely to be happening this week. That is to bring back to new condition with just one open aperture at leading edge.

Clerk also meeting a representative of Centro regarding assistance with the process of replacing bus shelter at James Dawson Drive. (This shelter is located in Coventry CC area).

8. Planning Matters

1) P/A 2007/1089 - 2 Thebes Close, Millison's Wood.

Proposed first floor bedroom and en-suite extension.

RATIFIED

Leave to 'Neighbour Notification'.

- 2) P/A 2007/1096 - Highbury House, Berkswell Road.
First floor bedroom over the existing indoor swimming pool.
RATIFIED
Question percentage increase.
- 3) P/A 2007/1151 - 59 Strawberry Fields.
Ground floor rear extension to form a conservatory.
RATIFIED
Leave to 'Neighbour Notification'.
- 4) P/A 2007/1167 - Berryfields Farm, Berkswell Road.
Prior notification for a barn to store hay / straw.
RATIFIED
No observations
- 5) P/A 2007/656 Decision – 9 Grace Road, Millison's Wood.
Conditional permission for single storey side extension to create extended kitchen and relocated garage.
- 6) P/A 2006/2256 Withdrawn - Traffic Roundabout (No.37) at Hampton Lane / Fillongley Road.
4 No. non-illuminated free standing sponsorship signs (1000mm long and 880mm overall height).
- 7) P/A 2006/2269 Withdrawn - Traffic Island (No.30) at Hampton Lane / Kenilworth Road.
4 No. non-illuminated free standing sponsorship signs (1000mm long and 500mm overall height).
- 8) P/A 2007/962 Decision - 7 Glovers Close.
Full plans approval for construction of bedrooms at first floor level extension of garage and internal alterations.
- 9) P/A 2007/812 Decision - Brooklyn, Main Road.
Listed Building approval for new balustrades to side of existing main entrance steps.
- 10) P/A 2007/1231 - 8 Whichcote Avenue.
Ground floor rear extension to form a porch.
RESOLVED
Object: Over intensive; Detracts from original design concept and street scene.
- 11) P/A 2007/1251 - Land adjacent to 21 Grace Road, Millison's Wood.
Fell two birch trees and reduce height of eight birch trees from 3 – 7.5 metres.
RESOLVED
To allow only essential maintenance.
- 12) P/A 2007/1308 - 53 Strawberry Fields.
Ground floor rear extension to form a conservatory.
RESOLVED
Leave to Neighbour Notification.
- 13) P/A 2007/1332 - 158 Main Road.
First floor extension over garage to form bedroom and bedroom with en suite and creation of a pitch roof over existing porch.
RESOLVED
No observations.
- 14) P/A 2007/899 Decision – Meriden Fields Recreation Ground adjacent to 1 Hampton Lane.
TPO approval to fell 1 No. oak tree and pollard 1 No. oak tree to 6-7 metres leaving secondary growth.
Councillor to approach tree specialist for observations.
- 15) P/A2007/990 Decision - 17 Glovers Close.
TPO approval for removal of dead wood and a 15% crown reduction.

16) P/A 2007/1167 Decision - Berryfields Farm, Berkswell Road.
Prior notification agriculture approval not required for a barn to store hay / straw.

17) P/A 2007/1002 Decision - Old School House car park 200 Main Road.
TPO approval for crown reduction by 1 metre off height and 2 metres off the lateral spread, 10% crown thinning and crown lifting to 4 metres in height.

9. Accounts

Accounts approved.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next Sub-Committee Meeting is Wednesday 11th July and Parish Council Meeting is Monday 23rd July both starting at 7.30pm, in the Village Hall.

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

Chair RW

Date 23.07.07