

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28th June 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Melanie Lee, Bob Kipling, Rosie Weaver, Will Markham, Graeme Goodsir, Shirley Goodsir 53 members of the public and District Councillor David Bell.

1. Apologies

Marilyn Hamilton

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 Annual Parish Council Meeting on 12th May 2010 and the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting on 24th May 2010, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

Mr Markham commented that he is not down as "present" in the minutes for the meeting on 14th May. The minutes were amended by hand and signed by the Chair.

5. Visitors, Simon Mathieson, Area Manager Birmingham Central, National Express and Dawn Harris-Roper from Centro to advise of the – Imminent changes to the 900 bus service and new 82 service.

The Chair welcomed the visitors and moved on to the public participation section in order that residents could raise their concerns on the issue.

6. Public Participation

Mr Mathieson clarified the changes:

- 900 route from Birmingham to Coventry will leave Main Road at Showell Lane thus not travelling to Millisons Wood.
- 900 evening service will be reduced to an hourly service. This is due to falling demand.
- Centro will be providing a service from Showell Lane to Millisons Wood with their new 82 Service. Ms Roper will report on that.

Mr Mathieson explained that National Express need to provide a bus service that makes money. They work in a commercial manner. They need to make the best use of their resources. Centro Fund what National Express can't. National Express will be using the time saved to improve the reliability of the service.

Ms Roper advised that she was asked to come along at the last minute. She will not have all the answers as she has not had time to prepare, anything she cannot answer she will find out. There will be a letter drop on 19th July detailing the 82 service. The 82 will be run by Centro Connect and will be subsidised by Centro. Ms Roper read out the times on the leaflet. It will cover the route from Showell Lane – Millisons Wood and then the 900 route to Birmingham. It will finish at approx 19.00 hrs.

6.1 Resident commented that Balsall Common and Hampton have railway stations but Meriden only has a bus service. Promises were made to improve the 900 service when it was reduced from a 20 minute to 30 minute service but those promises have not been met. National Express are constantly chipping away at the service. What is next, a 2.5hour bus service.

6.2 A representative from Bablake House, Residential Care Home situated at the far end of Millisons Wood commented that they are concerned for their staff, 30 of whom use the buses. They finish work at 10pm and won't be able to get a bus to Coventry to get their connecting services.

6.3 A residents son will be able to get home from work but he will be unable to get to work.

- 6.4 Will the Travel West Midlands pass which is accepted on the 900 be accepted on the 82. Ms Roper to clarify.
- 6.5 Why haven't the changes been advertised.
- 6.6 Suggestion that the Brick Hill Lane stop is moved to Oak Lane. This will mean residents will have to cross the A45 but it is where the stop was originally. Mr Mathieson commented that this will have to go through the Highways Authority but can be looked into with Centro.
- 6.7 There will now be two buses doing the job of one. Surely this cannot be more cost efficient. Why can't Centro fund the 900 service rather than providing another service.
- 6.8 Residents who are making a concerted effort to reduce their carbon footprint whilst travelling to and from work are finding that they are being forced into using a car.
- 6.9 Resident pointed out that the journey to Millisons Wood from Showell Lane is only 1.7 miles and 4 minutes of time. Are National Express trying to save time or money as the cost of running this short service is negligible. Mr Mathieson explained that they are saving time in the daytime and money in the evening when the service isn't used.
- 6.10 Surely National Express will lose more customers over these changes. Mr Mathieson commented that the time saved will be used to improve the service which will attract new customers.
- 6.11 The 82 will not stop at Balsall Common which residents of Meriden need to get to for a whole host of reasons, school at exam time, doctors surgery, social groups etc. Taxi Bus is not a viable alternative. How will it cope with the additional demand.
- 6.12 Are the new AM/PM Travel buses a contributory factor to the decision? Mr Mathieson confirmed this was not the case as the decision was made in October.
- 6.13 How much will National Express save? In the daytime it is not cost saving it is time for reliability. In the evening it is a 50% saving as it is half the service.
- 6.14 Would using single decker buses be a bigger saving? There is not much cost difference.
- 6.15 Will the 900 still go to Allesley? Mr Mathieson to clarify.
- 6.16 How much will the fare be on the 82? Ms Roper to clarify.
- 6.17 Are Centro/National Express going to take these comments away and consider them? No, the decision is made and the comments are what were expected.
- 6.18 Will Centro/National Express postpone the changes until they carry out a review / public consultation? No, they didn't hear anything they didn't expect.
- 6.19 Has the 900 timetable gone off to printers? Yes.
- 6.20 Statement read out from Caroline Spelman.

Councillors were then invited to comment :

- No consultation of the people of Millisons Wood. No risk assessment has been carried out on the possible damage to business or people.
- Not enough notice given to people who need to change their plans.
- Taxi bus service is not adequate as needs booking in advance.
- Need to take the word "service" out and just call it Bus as they are no longer providing a service.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Council consolidates all the comments and write to both National Express and Centro.
The visitors left along with the majority of residents. 4 residents remained.

7. **Correspondence and Communication**

7.1 **Coventry City Council – Area Action Plan.**

Letter enclosing a CD which contains the AAP which has now been submitted. Cllrs to contact the Clerk if they want to have a look at it.

7.2 **Solihull MBC – Public Rights of Way – Practical Works from last quarter.**

Copy to be given to Footpaths Representative. Copy also on Parish Council file if anybody wants to have a look.

7.3 **Safeguarding – Children and Vulnerable adults : notification of changes to CRB service and ISA registration.**

Copy letter from ISA circulated to each councillor. Clerk has made enquiries and has clarified that the Parish Council do not need to become registered in light of the new football academy on Saturday mornings. It is the individual carrying out the activity which needs to be registered / checked.

7.4 **Solihull Partnership Forum**

Invitation for a representative from the Parish Council to attend the first Partnership Forum meeting which will be held on Tuesday 20th July at 7-9pm in Knowle Guild House, Knowle Parish Church 1717 High Street, Knowle. To share information about what the Solihull Partnership has achieved to date and get views about the key issues facing our area over the next few years.

AGREED

Mrs Lee and Ms Weaver to attend.

8. **Receive Reports**

8.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – no report.

8.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – Good Ofsted. Governors made inspectors aware of the school being involved in community projects which went down very well. Service of welcome for new head at St Laurence at 9.00am Sept 10th. End of Year Service is 15th July 9.00am. Sports day 19th July.

8.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – no report.

8.4 **Pool** – Clerk fed back BWW's comments on proposals raised at the meeting in May. In summary they recommend that the original proposal in their report dated February 2009 is the preferred option.

8.5 **Allotment Representative** – Mr Goodsir was asked by tenant what position was with building on the current allotments. Clerk commented that Taylor Wimpey were asked what the present position was in March/April and they confirmed that they are currently promoting the site to SMBC for the new LDF.

8.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – no report.

8.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** - no report.

8.8 **Conservation Committee** – Ms Weaver attended last meeting and reiterated Parish Council's comments in respect of Marlbrook Farm. Application not yet determined.

8.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – Sarah Barnes is attending the next Solihull Area Committee meeting to discuss the new Forum meetings (7.4 above).

8.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – Mr Goodsir was unwell and unable to attend.

8.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – Now need x3 representatives. **AGREED** Melanie Lee, Bob Kipling and Rosie Weaver. Clerk to confirm to SAC.

8.12 **Tree Wardens** – Mr Kipling raised concerns over the removal of the oak tree on the new playing fields which has a tree preservation order upon it. The Clerk clarified that an initial report on the condition of the tree stated that it needed attention due to its poor condition. This was questioned by Ms Weaver at a quarterly meeting and therefore a further report was requested. SMBC are now putting in a planning application for the tree to be removed. The Parish Council will be a statutory consultee on the planning application and will be able to comment within the planning process as usual.

8.13 **Parish Plan** – The Village Design Statement is moving forwards.

- 8.14 **Community Surgery** – Clerk, Community Police Officer, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and Mrs Goodsir attended. No residents.
- 8.15 **Community Speed Watch** – In 2010 there have been 8 sessions so far which have been successful. Next session outside School on 8th July – Clerk to contact headteacher to advise her.
- 8.16 **Fusion Football Sessions – Wednesday evenings** – consistent attendance of 8-16 young people are using the service. Clerk has provided a key for the gate in order that Youth Services can attend with the Community Bus as they arrive before the football coaches and leave after the football has finished.
- 8.17 **Paul Jayes Football Academy – Meriden Rovers** – Saturday Mornings – continuing to be successful. Clerk read out email from Paul requesting assistance with funding. Ms Weaver will pass to the Clerk FA start up grants. The Chip Shop owner may help.

9. **Village Matters**

9.1 **Development Hampton Lane/Maxstoke Lane**

9.1.1 **Feedback from quarterly meeting 17th June 2010 9.30am** – minutes (*private and confidential*) circulated with agenda.

9.1.2 **Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) Surface** – Decision on whether to alter the priced/agreed Tennis Court surface/markings within the planned Meriden Recreation Facility with a MUGA surface/markings and associated financial implications. *Private and Confidential Reports from SMBC/ DTZ circulated with agenda.*

Clerk reminded Councillors of the confidential nature of the reports from SMBC and DTZ in that they contain figures of a contract yet to be let. During discussions no detailed information is to be read out. If for the sake of the discussion specific costs do need to be referred to then the meeting will have to be closed temporarily.

RESOLVED (proposed by Mr Kiping and seconded by Mr Markham)

That the parish council agree to alter the planned Tennis Courts surface within the planned Meriden Recreation Facility with a MUGA surface/markings and associated financial implications.

9.2 **Donation for Balsall and Berkswell Sports and Community Association.**

To resolve the amount of the donation previously agreed to be given to B&BS&CA for their advice and ongoing assistance with the management of the new play facilities at Hampton Lane.

RESOLVED (proposed by Ms Weaver and seconded by Mr Kipling)

£100 (three people gave up three hours of their time). They have also agreed to help us again.

9.3 **Emergency Policy**

Standard Emergency Policy obtained from WALC circulated with agenda.

RESOLVED

That the Emergency Policy be adopted. Clerk to amend new Standing Orders (not yet adopted) to incorporate the Emergency Policy – to be adopted at the July meeting.

9.4 **Withdrawal of bus service between Balsall Common, Berkswell and Meriden.**

Dealt with under 6 above.

9.5 **Red Telephone Kiosk – Albert Road, Meriden**

BT have reviewed the adoption process regarding the power supply:

Option 1 : BT Payphones continue to be responsible for the electricity supply with a view to disconnecting this in the short term at their expense. BT will contact the kiosk owner should this become necessary. At the point of transfer BT will ensure that the light will be working but from then on BT will only be responsible for the supply in the kiosk to the point of the R.E.C. fuse box. Any future faults beyond this point will be the responsibility of the kiosk owner.

Option 2 : The customer can choose to take over responsibility for the electricity supply, where customers choosing this option will have to apply for an MPAN number from their electricity company.

RESOLVED

Option 1 is the preferred option.

- 9.6 **Public Conveniences – Project**
Despite reduction/reshuffling of police resources this project may still go ahead. Clerk has a meeting on Wednesday with Police, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator and Mr Markham who has agreed to take this project forwards.
- 9.7 **Berkswell Association for the Prosecution of Felons – Best-Kept Village Competition 2010. Meriden achieved 3rd place. Barston came 1st.** Mrs Lee attended the presentation dinner. We need to consider this as a Community Project for next year.
- 9.8 **Cleaning of Standing Cross and Cyclists Memorial**
Clerk is still trying to contact Ancient Monument Inspector.
- 9.9 **Solihull in Bloom**
AGREED
To go ahead and enter the competition this year despite agreeing not to at the previous meeting. Clerk to leaflet houses/businesses on The Green to see if they would sponsor a hanging basket. Would residents agree to them being put up on their houses by the Parish Council and then they water and care for them?
- 9.10 **Johnson Controls – Care and Share in the community.**
The suggested project of litter picking weekly at the playing fields is not suitable. They are thinking of a one off project. Suggestion that they are involved in 9.9 above. Could they sponsor the project / help put the baskets up.
- 9.11 **Joint Surgery Dates / Rota**
Circulated to each councillor with the agenda. Next surgery 14th July. David Bell attending. Rosie and Graeme on the list as Parish Council reps.
- 10 **Planning Matters**
- 10.1 **2010/683 – Hampton Grange, Meriden – demolish existing detached garage and erect two storey side extension.**
RESOLVED
Object – breach greenbelt policy in the UDP. Landscaping. Design and character of the area.
- 10.2 **2010/694 – Eaves Green Lane, Meriden; Amended Neighbour Notification – change of use of land to a gypsy site for 10 pitches to site 10 mobile homes, 10 touring caravans and ancilliary development including a day room building and vehicle parking on each pitch.**
Representations already made will be taken into account. Any further comments?
RESOLVED
To resend letter to reiterate comments.
11. **Accounts**
- a) **Barclays – Community Account – Change of Cheque Signatories**
Currently Clerk, Chair and Mr Goodsir.
RESOLVED
To change the signatories to be Melanie Lee, Ms Weaver and Mr Goodsir.
- b) **Zurich – Insurance – inclusion of red telephone box**
Phone box is currently insured under our public liability insurance at no extra cost. Do we want to include it for damage also. For this we will need to provide a replacement value (which will be difficult to obtain) and an additional cost will be charged.
RESOLVED
Clerk to find out what other parish council's are doing.

c) 1st Meriden Scouts – donation and flag raising duties.

To confirm that the same donation/flag raising duty is paid this year. Last year £250 donation put to the upkeep of the Scout Hut and £150 flag raising duties.

RESOLVED

To be retained at £400.

Accounts received

01) Allotment Rent

£ 25.00

Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is the Parish Council Meeting on July 26th 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.55pm.

Chair: _____

Date: _____