



# Meriden Parish Council

*the centre of england*

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
23 March 2015 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr M Lee	Chair
	Cllr R Weaver	Vice Chair
	Cllr R Kipling	
	Cllr P Lee	
	Cllr F Lynch-Smith	
	Cllr M Nunn	
	Mrs B Bland	Clerk

There were 5 members of the public present and Cllr D Bell.

## 1. Public Participation (half hour)

The Chair welcomed members of the public and as there were no guest speakers, invited public questions.

Concerns were shared with Councillors regarding the following:-

- Berkswell Road – who is responsible for making good the hedge and removing car parts that remain in situ from recent car crash?
- Berkswell Road – there is water rising out of the ground and running down Berkswell Road with no ditch for the water to flow into. A cyclist was recently observed skidding on this section of road due to slippery surface.
- Hampton Lane – at side of North Warwickshire Golf Club where there has been an accident; ditch requires repair and removal of uprooted tree.
- Meriden Hill at Showell Lane junction – water continues to pour from property down Birmingham Road towards Millisons Wood causing surface hazard.
- All drains are blocked again along Birmingham Road towards Millisons Wood with build up of deposits/debris at bottom of Albert Road.
- Meriden Hill – potholes are evident all along this stretch of Birmingham Road which need filling before road breaks up.

Cllr Weaver stated that there is a dedicated telephone line to call in these issues for Highways response.

The resident replied that he has already brought all issues to their attention without any action.

Cllr Bell reported that this is not unusual for rural areas and suggested he will speak with Bruce Brant and arrange to walk the 'hot spots'.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....

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The Chair advised that accidents caused by SMBC lack of action are reportable to HSE as potential dangers and accidents waiting to happen; failure to take action to carry out remedial works may result in prosecution from injured parties.

Cllr Lynch-Smith asked who is responsible for the clearing up after damage to countryside i.e. local authority or insurance company. Cllr Bell will look into the process and action accordingly with the Clerk.

Cllr Weaver stated that STWA adopted sewers in shared properties and older properties. Therefore any photographic evidence taken water leaks should be sent to Bruce Brant so he may process with relevant officers.

Concerns were raised that the latest Broadband publicity will not benefit Meriden Parish. Cllr Weaver responded that indeed Meriden will be receiving superfast broadband; having attended a recent meeting with BT in the present of Cllr Bell, she confirmed that Meriden's connection has been brought forward by 6 months and the 5 of the 6 fibre optic boxes are now installed.

The Chair thanked members of the public for their attendance and issues raised and closed public participation with an invitation to stay for full council meeting.

***The Chair opened the meeting and prior to receiving apologies reported the following IT incident to Councillors and the wider meeting. The Parish Council laptop has been subjected to a vicious hacking incident with the loss of files. The matter has been reported to National Fraud Intelligence Service as a 'fraud internet crime'. The crime reference number is NFRC 150300984663. The Clerk has been supported by Realpoint (technical support) who have run security checks to remove offending virus that has encrypted files, folders and documents. Zurich insurance has been informed and the laptop is covered for such an incident and will be replaced in due course. The Clerk backs up using an external hard drive so not all documents have been lost but it will be a tedious and laborious task to copy and retrieve.***

***On behalf of Councillors, the Chair acknowledged the Clerk's swift and diligent actions, and her work with Realpoint in achieving damage limitation.***

## **2. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllrs Haque, Barber and Allsopp.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Apologies were formally recorded and accepted from Cllrs Haque, Barber and Allsopp.

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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## Declarations of Interest

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
There was nothing to declare.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature  
There was nothing to declare.

## **4. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 were considered and agreed.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved the minutes as a true record of 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 and the Chair signed.

Matters/actions arising: All as per agenda and standing items.

## **5. Elections**

The Chair outlined the information received to date and circulated hard copies of nominee applications to Members. It was reiterated that it is hoped that residents will stand so an election may be held so we may have the required two thirds of elected Members. Statutory Notices received from the Head of Democratic Services have been posted in notice boards from today. The deadline for applications to be received is 4pm on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

Cllr P Lee suggested an open day event; Councillors debated the merits of this and agreed that a leaflet drop would be the most practical way forward. Therefore Chair agreed to put an election leaflet together for printing and asked for volunteers to assist with its circulation to households.

**Action** Members acknowledged the submission deadline of 9<sup>th</sup> April 2015 for their applications. Cllr P Lee proposed the printing and circulation of leaflet and this was seconded by Cllr Nunn.

## **6. Finance**

6.1 Approve March Payments

Members received payments for approval. Cllr Kipling proposed approval, seconded by Cllr P Lee.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved March payments.

6.2 Budget 2015-2016

Cllr Weaver reported that due to IT incident, it had not been possible for the Clerk/RFO to retrieve prepared budget sheets and justifications for Members approval this evening.

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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Cllr Weaver advised that the Finance Committee had met on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2015 for the purpose of Clerk/RFO presentation and recommendations for full council approval this evening. An EGM was debated for the purpose of Member's approval; however Cllr Kipling suggested delegated powers back to the Finance Committee. The Chair asked Members for their consideration of delegated powers to Finance Committee for their approval of 2015-2016 budget.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members agreed delegated powers to Finance Committee for budget approval.

## 7. **Progress Reports**

### 7.1 Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr Lynch-Smith advised that the hall is well booked. Yoga has finished and rural cinema continues with the next showing being 25<sup>th</sup> April The Imitation Game.

Cllr P Lee asked about the original War Memorial plaque inside the hall and how it will be kept safe when the replacement arrives. Cllr Lynch-Smith assured Members that the original plaque will be kept safe and this will be put on agenda for the forthcoming meeting.

### 7.2 Community Governor for Meriden C of E School

Cllr Weaver reported that due to national changes on structure of school governing bodies , the community governor role has been removed. This standing item will be removed with immediate effect.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** This item will be removed from standing items.

### 7.3 War Memorials

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council Public Liability Insurance includes for any accident/injury to members of the public. However a formal valuation is required for inclusion to insuring against damage and all remedial works undertaken for restoration.

**Action** Cllr P Lee to contact the War Memorial Trust to request assistance with valuation. The Clerk to contact Robertson's Memorials for a quotation regarding valuation.

### 7.4 Meriden Pool

The Chair reported that emails had been sent to SMBC regarding the decimation of the tree/hedge line between Meriden Pool and 150 Main Road. The Parish Council have recorded their abhorrence at recent actions and acknowledge the support received from SMBC officers who attended site. Members have requested their desire for a full prosecution and bewilderment that a private resident can savagely

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**



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remove an historical hedge/tree line that has been in situ for many years. Complaints from Councillors and members of the public have been received. The Chair will formally write to Head of Parks and Open Spaces seeking a prosecution, recompense for removal and costs for replanting.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously approved the Chair writing to SMBC Head of Parks and Open Spaces seeking a prosecution and costs.

## 7.5 Allotments

The Chair reported that a meeting with Taylor Wimpey, Allotmenters and Parish Council representatives; discussion surrounded:-

- 4 to 5 weeks and the site will be finished.
- Reinstatement of hedgerow.
- Security of allotments.
- The temporary fencing that currently secures boundary should be kept in place to avoid exposing allotments.
- Email comprehensive list of issues to Lawrence Osborne.
- Letter to be sent to Andrew Taylor, Taylor Wimpey, regarding outline plans for 5<sup>th</sup> schedule of unilateral undertaking for secure storage, water supply and security fencing.
- Allotmenters have emailed the Clerk regarding their concerns that need attention.

The Chair brought Members attention to the 5<sup>th</sup> schedule options as follows:-

Following implementation of the scheme pursuant to paragraph 1:1 the owner (Bryant Homes) shall offer to transfer the Allotments together with the land on which the dedicated parking spaces and the secure storage facility have been provided to the following transferees in order of preference

- 1.3.1 to a co-operative formed by the holders of the allotment plots at the time of the proposed transfer; and in the event that no such co-operative is formed or in the event that such co-operative rejects the offer or has failed to respond to an offer to transfer the Allotments within 30 days of such offer
- 1.3.2 to the Meriden Parish Council; and in the event that they reject the offer or have failed to respond to an offer to transfer the Allotments within 30 days of such offer
- 1.3.3 to the Council; and in the event that they reject the offer or have failed to respond to an offer to transfer the Allotments within 30 days of such offer
- 1.3.4 to a Management Company.

The Chair outlined that the allotment holders do not wish to form a co-operative and SMBC have indicated they do not wish to adopt. Therefore Members are requested to consider their in principle agreement to transfer to the Parish Council.

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

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Cllr Bell stated his desire to find out more from SMBC regarding their non adoption of the allotments giving the precedent set by the Borough in providing allotments and it is the rural communities that are left to their own devices and effectively double taxed.

Cllr P Lee advised the historical importance of retaining this WW2 allotment garden.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously gave their 'in principle' agreement to taking back the allotment gardens subject to condition of transfer and for the Clerk to continue negotiations.

**Actions** (i)Cllr Bell to contact SMBC regarding adopting the allotment gardens (ii) Clerk to liaise with Taylor Wimpey (iii) Clerk to meet with Lawrence Osborne.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum  
Nothing to report.

7.7 Quarries Liaison Group

Cllr Weaver reported that the group had met on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 with good representation from all Operators. Discussion picked the increased use of HGVs using Hampton Lane with one month bans being given to hauliers breaching the routing agreement. A new road sweeper is in operation together with a wheel wash servicing NRS operations on Area G entrance/exit. Operators using Cornets End Lane have organised themselves to enable twice weekly sweeps.

Cllr Weaver read a statement of apology received from Pete Perryman, NRS Wastecare Limited as follows:-

***We would like to apologise to all residents of Meriden for any inconvenience that may have taken place in November/December 2014. As you already may be aware we have an entrance to our Site on the Birmingham Road. Throughout November and part of December the Birmingham Road was in a very poor state, staining brick ends and mud was visible at times, thus causing danger to residents and other road users. We had a wheel wash onsite however it was not working correctly. Engineers working on the wheel wash did manage to sort out the issues eventually.***

***On behalf of NRS we are sorry for any inconvenience.***

***Kind Regards  
Pete Perryman - NRS Operation Manager'***

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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Cllr Weaver reported that the NRS/MPC Legal Agreement has been received and signed on behalf of the Parish Council effecting payment of £2,000 p.a. for the duration of the site life (estimated to be 15 years). This is to be used for the maintenance of Coronation Island and Meriden roundabout. There is ongoing communication with NRS regarding Area G wheelwash and sweepers operating on Birmingham Road due to build up of mud and debris on highway. It was also noted that Cornets End Lane is not being swept and cleaned.

Cllr Kipling stated that a wood burner is now operating at Tyseley and how is this effecting the A & A operation; moreover questions are unanswered regarding their current planning application for site extension on the basis on taking all wood waste from Birmingham, Solihull, Coventry and Warwickshire.

**Action:** The Clerk will follow up David Wigfield.

7.8 Solihull Area Committee  
Nothing to report.

7.9 Tree Wardens & TPO List  
Cllr Lynch-Smith reported there is nothing to report other than the group meet the same night as the Parish Council. Cllr Lynch-Smith was asked to check out the Willows at the back of Meriden Pool to see if they are covered by TPOs given the recent 'unlawful' work undertaken.

7.10 Community Surgeries  
The Clerk provided Members with a verbal report as follows:-

Residents raised concerns regarding

- Significant tree/foliage removal from Meriden Pool boundary
- New bus stop and remedial works unfinished and puddling
- Litter in and around Parish
- Ditching works to Cornets End Lane and flooding/puddling caused
- Traffic speeding and HGV traffic using Hampton Lane

**Action** The Clerk to follow up with relevant SMBC officers.

7.11 Community Speed Watch  
Cllr Barber had sent a message via the clerk to record he was still waiting for PC Smith, who is on extended leave due to family ill health, to get back to him.

**Action:** Cllr Barber to follow up.

7.12 HS2  
Cllr Weaver reported that this issue was being debated on Wednesday in Westminster.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....

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Caroline Spelman MP for Meriden will be attending and Cllr Weaver has emailed her issues that should be included.

7.13 Meriden Sports Park (quarterly summary only)  
Nothing to report.

## 8. Clerk's Report

No Clerk's actions available but Clerk refers Members to contents of Agenda.

## 9. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

## 10. Correspondence & Communication

The Clerk had circulated information electronically to Members but draws attention to (i) Letter of acknowledgement from Soldier's Charity regarding donation from rural cinema (ii) Grant Thornton external audit papers and Annual Return (iii) Edge internal audit procedure and year end process (vi) the Pensions Regulator.

## 11. Meriden Village Matters

### 11.1 Library Update

The Chair reported the following delay in the library refurbishment works as advised by Kate Bunting, Operations and Community Engagement Manager as follows:-

#### ***'Meriden Library new reopening date – 9 April***

*Due to unforeseen essential works uncovered during the internal refurbishment programme at Meriden Library, the library will now reopen at 10am on Thursday 9 April, slightly later than originally advertised.*

*The due date for book returns has been extended to 20 April to accommodate this change. In addition, the mobile library will visit Meriden Pavilion on Monday 30th March between 2pm and 4pm and residents will be able to take advantage of a book drop point at the Pavilion on Monday 30 March and Thursday 2 April, between 10am and 6pm.*

*For more information please contact Kate Bunting, Operations and Community Engagement Manager, Library and Information Service on x6958 or email: [kate.bunting@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:kate.bunting@solihull.gov.uk)*

The reason for the delay in re-opening is due to external damp proof inspection.

**Action** The Clerk to continue to liaise with Library Services providing book drop off and updates.

### 11.2 Village Commemoration WW1

Cllr M Lee reported that the next meeting will be held on 28<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr P Lee advised that there are remaining spaces on the WW1 trip to the National Memorial Arboretum on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2015.

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## 11.3 Meriden Gate

### 11.3(i) Freehold Transfer

Nothing to report as matter remains with SMBC Legal Team.

### 11.3(ii) Overage

Nothing to report as the matter remains with David Wilson Homes and SMBC.

**Action** The Clerk to follow up with David Waterson, SMBC.

## 11.4 Taylor Wimpey & Associated S106 Works

Nothing to report.

## 11.6 Highways Update

The Chair read the following received from Harvey Speed, Highways Services:-

*'Solihull MBC will be undertaking flood preventative works on two culvert inlets over the next month, commencing on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The two culverts, one located between 171 & 175 Main Road and the other adjacent to the entrance to Pertemps will be have new trash screens installed to help intercept debris which may otherwise block the pipes. These trash screens will be maintained by Solihull MBC and will be assisted by two new monitoring stations which will trigger alarms with our operatives if water levels and debris on the trash screens reach a pre-defined threshold. The information and data gathered by the monitoring stations will be publically available online. A web-link will be provided for the Parish Council for onward distribution once available.'*

The Chair also reported the following from David Lechmere, Principal Officer, Safe and Active Travel Team

*'At the meeting on Monday there were three actions for me to progress: -*

1. *Prohibition of HGV's through Hampton in Arden - Provide a copy of the link to the Cabinet Report on the Traffic Regulation Prioritisation for 2015/16. <http://eservices.solihull.gov.uk/mqInternet/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=249&MIId=3567&Ver=4> scroll down to Item 5 where there are PDF copies of the Report and Appendices.*
2. *The ponding of water on the carriageway on Cornets End Lane just along from the site entrance. The location has been examined and works to deal with the situation will take place shortly.*
3. *Blocked piped culvert on B4101 'Meriden Mile' – again the location has been examined and works to deal with the situation will take place shortly.*

**Action:** The Clerk will monitor.

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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11.7 Land Registry & Ownership  
Nothing to report.

11.8 Public Convenience Site Transfer  
Nothing to report and the matter in the hands of Legal Teams.

**Action** The Clerk will liaise with legal parties to bring the matter to conclusion.

11.9 Solihull Neighbourhoods in Bloom 2015  
The Clerk reported the first meeting is to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> March. Sponsorship has been received from NRS and Taylor Wimpey.

**Action** The Clerk to organise, delegate lead and handover.

11.10 St Laurence Church  
Cllr Weaver reported she, Cllr Lynch-Smith and the Clerk met with Church representatives for the purpose of progressing contractor savings; it is left that representatives will evaluate information provided and let the Parish Council know if they wish to take forward recommendation of using existing contactors.

11.11 Community Clear Up Day  
The Clerk reported that JoAnne Williams, Community Engagement Officer, is arranging a community clear up day on 21<sup>st</sup> April for Meriden. Volunteers are requested to come forward linked to the excellent work already undertaken by a volunteer resident group.

**Action:** The Clerk to display posters in notice boards.

11.12 Co-Op Update  
The Clerk reported that the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator is pursuing this and once a date is agreed she will advise.

**12. Solihull Partnership Forum**  
Cllr Weaver advised nothing to report, however no papers have been received.

**13. Planning Matters**  
13.1 Neighbourhood Plan Update  
Cllr Weaver reported that the application has been processed and designation granted by Cabinet Member on 16<sup>th</sup> March. There is a period of 7 days from this date before formal notification is advised. The inaugural meeting will take place on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 7pm facilitated by Avon Planning who will provide the brief to move forward.

**Action:** Cllr Weaver and the Clerk to send letters to all interested parties.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....



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13.2 To receive update and status on Planning Applications  
No update due to IT issues. However all Members have been electronically notified of new applications for their consideration and comments.

13.3 Proposed Development of Old Garage and Caravan Storage Site  
The Clerk reported application submitted was not valid and awaiting re-submission.

13.4 Land behind Caravan Storage & Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road  
The Clerk advised this remains in appeal process.

13.5 Land for Burial  
Cllr Lynch-Smith reported she is reading up of this matter.

13.6 Daw Mill & Proposed Container Distribution Centre  
Nothing to report.

13.7 Proposed Development Coventry CC – A45/Pickford Green Lane  
Nothing to report.

**14. Councillor’s reports and items for future agenda**  
Any items for inclusion at April’s meeting to be sent to Clerk.

**15. Date of Next Meeting**  
The date of the next meeting being the **Annual Parish Meeting** will be Monday 27th April 2015 at 19.30 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

The meeting closed at 21.20 hours.

Signed ..... Chair Dated .....

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