

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29th March 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver, Will Markham, Shirley Goodsir, Graeme Goodsir, Marilyn Hamilton, Melanie Lee.

1. Apologies

Sarah Markham, Bob Kipling.

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.

Melanie Lee declared a personal interest in the Allotments.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 22nd February 2010, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Public Participation

5.1 Timing of Public Participation section in the Agenda.

Chair advised that it was decided to put public participation at the beginning so that residents could come and make their comments without having to sit through the whole meeting.

5.2 A45 old Little Chef building adjacent to Shephards Lane – open cesspit and rubbish.

Chair advised that the rubbish has been dealt with now by the relevant council. With regard to the open cesspit, the Clerk has contacted North Warwickshire County Council and as it is on private property the council will not be taking any action.

5.3 Streetlights on Meriden Hill are overshadowed by trees.

Clerk handed out photographs of each streetlight up Meriden Hill. Resident offered to take photographs in the dark to show which ones there is issue with.

5.4 Planning notices left on lampposts

Chair advised these should be taken down by SMBC.

5.5 Speed of traffic through Meriden – resident would like to see a blanket reduction of all 30mph roads to 20mph.

Resident had met with Iain Roxburgh, Chair of Meriden Parish Action Group but the resident is not happy with the scope and timescale of the MPAG. The Chair acknowledged and thanked the resident for his enthusiasm. Chair gave background to Village Design Statement Group and advised that the VDS would become supplementary planning guidance. On the 23rd April there is a Parish Plan review meeting at SMBC with all partners and she will pass on the issue about improving enforcement of the current 30mph limit. The Parish Plan is our business plan and we must try and stick to it rather than being ad hoc. Chair advised that she is aware of application for 20mph being approved outside schools and we could push for that to get put through. The speed of the application will depend on the number of volunteers. It is hoped more volunteers will be registered and the forthcoming displays outside the library.

5.6 Thank you to the Parish Council for the reduction in the Parish Precept.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 Letter from Berkswell Association for the Prosecution of Felons – Best Kept Village Competition 2010 – 12th May.

RESOLVED

To enter this years' competition and for Shirley Goodsir and the Clerk to show the judges around. Clerk to contact Berryfields, Church and School regarding visits on route.

6.2 Children and Young Peoples Plan 2010-2013

Sarah Markham has agreed to respond.

6.3 Meriden Hill – Fallen Trees. Letter from resident together with update from SMBC Tree Officer, circulated to all Councillors with agenda. Update from Tree Officer read out.

RESOLVED

Clerk to write to the resident summarising points made by the Tree Officer. Clerk also to contact the Tree Officer with a request that the Parish Council are kept updated on this issue.

6.4 Thank you letter from the Treasurer of St Laurence Church PCC for the donations towards the upkeep of the churchyard for 2008/2009 and 2009/2010.

6.5 Solihull MBC – Library Managers – notification of temporary library closure

- for essential damp proof works. Proposed closure dates are 10th April to 1st July 2010.
- Clerk has liaised with the library/Parish Council insurers regarding the temporary re-housing of the paintings insured by the Parish Council which are held at the library.

6.6 Letter from a non Meriden Resident asking to be put on the waiting list at the allotments.

RESOLVED

Priority is given to Meriden residents on any available allotments.

7. Receive Reports

7.1 Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee – They thank the Parish Council for the annual donation. Could the Clerk provide them some information on Notice Boards.

AGREED – to write to the Village Hall Management Committee to thank them for their hard work in keeping the Village Hall going.

7.2 School Governors for Parish Council – last meeting clashed with Joint Surgery.

7.3 Committee Member for War Memorial – no report.

7.4 Pool – an alternative solution was suggested in that rather than the water be diverted to behind the houses, the water to proceed straight down a pipe running adjacent to the road (under the ground) and to enter the pool from the front. An interesting fountain feature could be made of this. Clerk to refer this to BWB/SMBC.

7.5 Allotment Representative – Renewal notices to be issued shortly.

7.6 Footpaths/Forum – no report.

7.7 Meriden Sands Working Group – no report.

7.8 Conservation Committee – no report.

7.9 Local Strategic Partnership – The Stronger Communities Strategic Group which is part of the Solihull Partnership has now recognised that it needs representation from Parish and Town Councils. The Chair will take this to Solihull Area Committee which she also chairs.

7.10 Police Rural Assembly – Meeting 11th March. Clive Jones attended. Issues raised included:

- Removal of grit bin in Maxstoke Lane – decision to remove needs reconsidering bearing in mind its proximity to old peoples housing.
- Temporary sign on Main Road saying “new traffic island” which has been there for 7 years needs removing. Neighbourhood co-ordinator looking into this.
- Variable Message Signs on Fillongley Road. One shows “patrol” at 3am. SMBC engineers are aware that there is a fault and it will be adjusted shortly.

7.11 Solihull Area Committee – next meeting is 15th April 2010 – any Clerk, Councillor can attend.

7.12 Tree Wardens – no report.

7.13 Community Surgery – Clerk and PC Steve Jones attended. No residents.

7.14 **Joint Surgery with Ward Councillors**

Three residents attended. Issues reported were:

- 1 Recycling/20mps on access roads into Meriden Village (Fillongley Road, Main Road, Birmingham Road, Hampton Lane and Maxstoke Lane).
- 2 Horses being ridden on footpath without helmets and correct tack – Clerk has referred to the police.
- 3 Poor state of the playing fields – Clerk has referred to the contractor who attended urgently and cleaned/swept the play area.

Next surgery will be 9th June, 14th July, 11th August- Clerk to produce a rota.

8. **Village Matters**

8.1 **Development Maxstoke Lane and Hampton Lane.**

- Parish Newsletter – Chair and Clerk have liaised with SMBC around a press release before commencement of works on the playing fields. This is difficult due to forthcoming elections and purdah rules which apply. Therefore it would be best if the Parish Council had a newsletter in May after the displays outside the library have finished. MPAG will be continuing with their Newsletter which should be delivered during Easter weekend.
- The developer is shortly going out to tender the recreation site. Our land agent will provide a report/recommendation on outcome of the tender process.
- Developer is costing out having a MUGA surface on one of the tennis courts so that it can be a multi use court. Parish council to consider this at their meeting on 26th April.
- Chair raised with SMBC the possibility of a partnership arrangement for approximately 2 years whilst a trust is set up. The vibes are that they will consider this. We need to grow the sports clubs in order that they can have representatives on the trust.
- Meeting with Berkswell and Balsall Common Sports and Community Association

RESOLVED

To meet with the representatives on 26th April 11am-12 at the Lant Community Centre to receive advice on the setting up of a trust.

That a charitable donation can be made to the BBCSCA for their assistance.

8.2 **Meriden Parish Appraisal Group/Village Design Statement Group.**

The Village Design Statement Group is a working group which consists of Councillors and members of the MPAG group to talk with SMBC and other agents in order to produce a Village Design Statement. The VDS will hopefully become supplementary planning guidance.

Minutes from meeting on 1st March have been circulated to all Cllrs.

RESOLVED

That the following costs can be incurred by the MPAG

- 1) £125 for refreshments at the Parish Plan Review Meeting on 23rd April at SMBC.
- 2) Approximately £90 for a newsletter updating residents on MPAG – (final copy provided to each councillor. Chair formally thanked Paul and Melanie Lee for formatting the newsletter)

8.3 **Floral Display on Meriden Roundabout, Village Centre.**

Plant guide and plan circulated to each councillor with agenda.

Comments : no to grasses as they look messy; would like more colour all year round and bulbs on the roundabout which are spring flowering.

RESOLVED

That the Chair and Melanie Lee are delegated the responsibility on commenting/approving any further plans provided by SMBC and that they take into account all comments made at this meeting.

8.4 **Refuse Collection Service**

A number of residents have complained to Councillors. The comments to be referred to SMBC are:

- The speed of glass/plastic and paper collection vehicles.
- The possible increase in rat problems due to unwashed food cans being left for x2 weeks.
- No sweep up after all collections. Bottle tops/tin tops left on verges.
- Bins/boxes not being put back where they are left. Left in middle of drives and pavements.

8.5 **Football - Fusion Project / Saturday Academy .**

Clerk and Marilyn Hamilton have met with SMBC Fusion Project Manager Justyn Price and Coach Paul Jayes. Fusion will provide a free session on Wednesday evenings from 21st April for ages 8-15. They will also run a summer camp from 10am to 3pm on Monday 23rd August to Monday 27th August for 8-15 year olds. Their Coach Paul Jayes will also set up his own football academy on Saturday mornings similar to that of before.

RESOLVED

- That Fusion/Paul Jayes can use the playing fields free of charge.
- That two small 7 a side pitches can be marked out.
- That access keys can be provided to the Fusion coach and that the cost of cutting the keys will be paid by Meriden Parish Council.
- That the Saturday academy will have access to the changing rooms and that the PC will pay the electricity & water charges.
- To arrange for a clean up at the changing rooms at the cost of the parish council.
- That the Saturday Academy be named Meriden Rovers.

9 Planning Matters

9.1 **2010/98** – Wad Barn Farm, Berkswell Road, Meriden – Conversion and use of buildings 4 buildings for 2 residential dwellings with hardstandings, walls, 1 garage, 1 store and car port ancillary to that use. – Cllrs are referred to the detailed Design and Access Statement circulated with agenda due to its size.

RESOLVED

To reiterate comments on previous applications.

9.2 **2010/182** – Meriden C of E School, Fillongley Road, Meriden – erection of two polycarbonate canopies at front of school to provide dry play areas.

RESOLVED

No comment.

9.3 **2010/219** – Harvest Hill Cottage, Harvest Hill Lane, Allesley – retrospective application for a lean-to and agricultural shed.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.4 **2010/295 – Jesmond, Fillongley Road, Meriden** – single storey side extensions and second storey rear extension/loft conversion with dormer window on front elevation (resubmission of 2010/714).

RESOLVED

The parish council would like as much hedge as possible to be retained; b) Relationship/affect on neighbouring properties ie will the extension be overbearing on its neighbours. The parish council understand the planning officer will be measuring the height difference and gap between the two properties in order to assess this.

9.5 **2010/285 – Tarmac Construction Limited, Cornets End Lane, Meriden** – removal of variation of condition number 7 on planning application 1987/2730 to allow the importation of inert construction soil for restoration purposes.

RESOLVED

The parish council are concerned at the additional lorries coming through the village. They request proper wheel washing is provided on site. It is unclear from the application what the inert soil comprises of and what measures are put in place to ensure it is not contaminated. It is also not clear what the intentions for the site are once the works are completed. The site is adjacent to the site for the proposed new playing fields in Meriden and the parish council are concerned at the amount of air pollution ie dust will be created adjacent to the new facility.

- 9.6 **2010/288 – North Warwickshire Golf Club, Hampton Lane, Meriden** – The erection of four pent style sheds for the use of storing members single use motorised buggys.

RESOLVED

No comment.

10. Governance and Accounts

- a) VAT claim for £867.33 sent.
- b) Local Government Pension Scheme – notification received that the employer rate for 2010/2011 is 17.70%
- c) Annual Review of Standing Orders/Financial Regulations/Risk Assessment.
- d) Clerks annual mileage/home working allowance for 1st April 2009 to 31st March 2010 to be agreed and signed by cheque signatories. Copy circulated with agenda to cheque signatories.
- e) Internal auditor – is happy to carry out internal audit free of charge again this year. However, he is going into hospital for a hip replacement. It is hoped that he will carry out the audit in the first week of May with a view to the accounts being signed off at the meeting in May.

Accounts received

01)	SMBC grant for Parish Plan.	£3600.00
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Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is Wednesday 14th April 2010 being the Annual Parish Meeting. The next Parish Council meeting is Monday 26th April 2010. Both meetings commence at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

None.