

# Meriden Parish Council

*The Centre of England*

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of the Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>			
Cllr R Weaver	Chair	Cllr M Nunn	
Cllr J Barber		Cllr R Kipling	
		Mrs B Bland	Clerk

**Chair welcomed Members and opened the meeting. There were no district councillors or members of the public in attendance.**

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies received from Cllrs Bell, M. Lee and P. Lee.

Members acknowledged the absence of Cllrs Lynch-Smith and Haque. Chair declared the meeting quorate.

### **2. Minutes of Annual Meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017**

The minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 had previously been circulated to Members. Members accepted the minutes as a true record.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Barber proposed approval of the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017; seconded by Cllr Nunn.

### **3. Chair's Report 2017-18**

Cllr Weaver advised the Chair's report had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting and asked if any Member present had not read it? All Members attending confirmed reading the report and on that basis, Chair asked for Member resolution. The following is the Chair's report which can be found on the website.

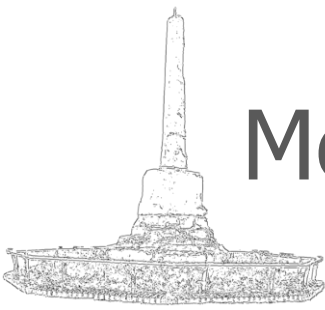
"This year has been another full year for the Parish Council. We have attempted to move forward several initiatives, again some of which have been more successful than others. Most things we undertake as a Parish Council involve people volunteering their time, so I thank all Parish Councillors who have given their time. We have had several community volunteers especially Sarah Sharland as Tree Warden and Lynn Parker resident rep on the Quarry Liaison Group, and regular attendees Sue and John Edwards, Gerry Russell, Lew Edwards, Sarah Sharland at the Neighbourhood planning group. None of the things we could achieve as a Parish Council would be possible without our parish clerk. A special thank you goes to Barbara Bland for her exemplary hard work, constant support to me and other Councillors, as well as community members.

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

**Clerk:** Barbara Bland, 55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ

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We have continued to hold Parish Council surgeries with SMBC officers and joint Police surgeries. Unfortunately, these are poorly attended by the community. We will continue to hold them to ensure communication and information sharing continues. This year our external auditors Grant Thornton gave us a clean bill of health and all recommendations from 16/17 audit have been completed.

The PC has had several open exhibitions at local events on the draft Solihull Local Development Plan. Solihull MBC are still working on their draft and should be out in the autumn. The PC are still working towards accreditation to achieve a quality standard in the Local Council Award. Parish Councillors have undertaken individual training on a range of topics and have met twice as a group on Saturday mornings to ensure we can demonstrate that we are a competent parish council. We have upgraded the PC website to meet the improved standard expected of websites and all parish councillors now have a PC email address to comply with the new GDPR legislation.

The parish council are continuing to make good progress with the Neighbourhood Plan. The survey to all households in Meriden proved a good result. We have completed the survey to all local businesses and a summary report has been completed. We were successful again in a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 3<sup>rd</sup> Localities Bid to pay for this and future work for a local survey on housing needs for Meriden residents.

The management plan for Meriden Pool Phase 1 started in March. Phase 2 will be the landscaping works and representatives of all relevant parties will be starting the process of putting together a bid to Suez, formerly SITA Trust. Copies of SMBC's briefing on this is on the PC website.

Meriden's First World War group continues to meet and a big thank you to local historian Doreen Agutter who continues to collect information about Meriden's history and its servicemen during the 1914-18 world war.

The servicemen who lost their lives have been commemorated throughout the year on their anniversary with candlelit vigils. The group has moved a long way in the development of ideas for a lasting poppy memorial on the dedicated Memorial Approach site.

Meriden Sports Park continues to be popular with residents and visitors alike. The play area has had phase two of the playground resurfacing completed in late summer 2017. The demands for usage of the facilities has increased and new holiday sports activity camps have been introduced for children. Meriden Sports and Recreation Trust has strong partnership working with the sports park directors and the parish council.

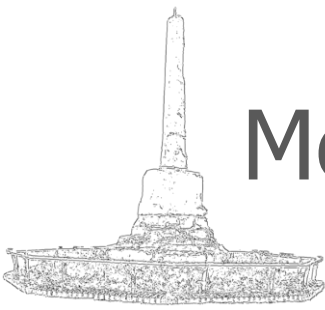
The Quarry Liaison Group continues to meet quarterly and attendance by quarry operators has been high. SMBC and Environment Agency officers also attend. Issues

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

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raised by both Hampton and Meriden PC are taken seriously and actioned. These meetings have improved communications and information sharing, reduced lorry movements through Meriden Parish and makes better the nuisance, noise, litter, dirt and dust within our local environment.

You will recall in 2016 an issue that affected many residents' especially older people and those with disabilities was the removal of the taxi bus by TfWM (Transport for West Midlands). The PC hosted numerous public meetings and jointly with Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes formally challenged the premise that its removal had taken place. Community residents took up the hard slog of informing people and keeping the pressure on. The outcome was that TfWM decision was to continue with the taxi bus for Meriden and Hampton residents including a weekly service to the Coventry Mobility Centre. A new bus stop will be installed at the surgery in Balsall Common and hopefully at Solihull Hospital.

Cllr Rosie Weaver continues to be Deputy Chair of SAC and is Deputy Chair of WALC. These groups enable all parish and town councils to share their experiences and good practice and raise issues as a collective. In Solihull, following the Charter guidelines, the Chair and Deputy Chair of SAC meet quarterly with SMBC Chief Executive Nick Page.

Community events were once again successfully organised. Alan Lole continues to raise much needed funds for Macmillan Cancer Support and Marie Curie Hospice Solihull through the Tree of Thought and Funday Sunday. The 6<sup>th</sup> Santa Fun Run organised by The Rotary Club in December was well attended by many ages and sizes of Santas! The Family Picnic in the Park was a success in July.

Meriden Watch website has increased its followers and provides up to date Neighbourhood Watch information and is supported by the police. There is good information sharing between them and the PC. Following a spate of burglaries in Meriden, a group chaired by Annie Dingley is exploring more Neighbourhood Watch options and other initiatives in Meriden.

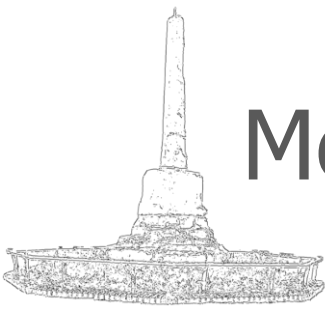
Cllr Barber has coordinated several Speed Watch sessions. We were limited as to the number of sessions we have been able to do as we need some more volunteers to undergo training. We have asked the police to provide this and are still waiting for some dates. However, we have had to stop doing them as the Police have advised that Speed Watch volunteers nationally are no longer covered by insurance.

So, what have we done from the list we compiled from last year's annual assembly? Quite a lot! Some things of note are:

- the PC met several times with SMBC's Head of Highways to look at the issues of parking, speeding and our views are being incorporated into his review of what can be done in Meriden in the future.

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

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- Exercise for the over 40s -we will hear tonight of plans that have started in the Sports Park
- Forest of Arden Leisure have offered a boot camp in the Sports Park when the weather improves
- Astro-wicket – has been replaced and should last another 7 to 10 years
- Footpaths and overgrowth throughout Meriden – there has been a major cutting back thanks to SMBC Neighbourhood Coordinator.

Plans for 2018-19 are to include:

- To hold the second Annual Parish Assembly as part of our Engagement Strategy
- Achieve accreditation with the Local Council Award Scheme
- Continue to secure funds and complete the Pool Project
- Continue to update the website and meet the new regulatory codes
- To develop the poppy site for a fitting sustainable memorial
- Conduct a Housing Needs Survey for Meriden to include results in our Pre-Submission Draft Neighbourhood Plan
- To publish our Neighbourhood Plan and put it forward to a community referendum after pre-submission and submission plans have been examined and approved by SMBC Local Planning Authority
- To continue working with Head of Highways to improve traffic management throughout the Parish

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr M Nunn proposed approval of the Chair’s Report, seconded by Cllr J Barber.

#### **4. Election of Chair**

Chair invited nominations for Chair, none received.

Cllr R Kipling nominated Cllr Weaver. Cllr Weaver acknowledged the nomination and advised she would be happy to stand again and thanked Members for their vote of confidence. Cllr R Kipling proposed Cllr Weaver as Chair seconded by Cllr Barber.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr R Weaver be elected as Chair for period ending with Annual Meeting May 2019.

**Cllr Weaver, elected Chair, invited nominations for Vice Chair.**

#### **5. Election of Vice-Chair**

No nominations had been received; Chair nominated Cllr Nunn. Cllr Nunn acknowledged the nomination and confirmed his willingness to stand as nominee. Cllr Kipling proposed Cllr Nunn as Vice Chair seconded by Cllr Barber.

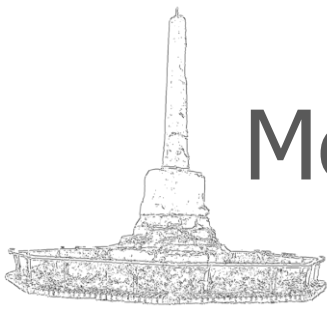
**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Nunn is elected as Vice Chair for period ending with Annual Meeting May 2019.

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

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## **6. Election of Sub Committees and Representatives**

Cllr Weaver asked if Members were happy with their sub groups or if anyone wished to change in order to extend their knowledge.

Sub-committee membership follows:-

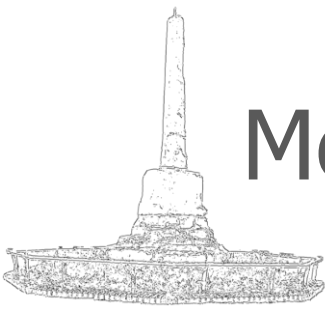
A	Village Hall Management Committee	Cllr F Lynch-Smith
B	Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group	Cllr M Lee - Chair Cllr R Weaver Cllr P Lee Cllr J Barber Cllr M Haque (task & finish groups only) Clerk
C	PCC Committee Member War Memorial & Cyclists Memorial	Cllr P Lee Cllr M Lee Clerk
D	Meriden Pool	Cllr R Weaver Cllr R Kipling Clerk
E	Allotment Representative	Cllr J Barber Clerk
F	Solihull MBC Footpaths Forum and Representative	Cllr F Lynch-Smith
G	Quarry Liaison Group Representatives	Cllr R Weaver Cllr J Barber Cllr R Kipling Mrs L Parker – Co-optee & Resident Representative Clerk
H	Solihull MBC Conservation Committee	Cllr R Weaver (when invited)
I	Local Council Award (Quality & Self-Assessment)	Full Council Clerk
J	Association of Parish and Town Councils Solihull Area Committee	Cllr R Weaver Cllr M Nunn
K	Solihull MBC Tree Wardens	Cllr F Lynch-Smith Mrs S Sharland – Co-Optee
L	Planning Committee	Cllr M Nunn - Chair Cllr F Lynch-Smith Cllr R kipling Clerk Full Council (as & when required)
M	Community Surgeries	Chair Clerk Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
N	Community Speed Watch	Cllr J Barber
O	Airspace Change Consultation & Birmingham Airport Extension	Cllr R Weaver Clerk
P	Meriden Sports Park (Management)	Cllr R Weaver – Director/Chair Cllr P Lee – Director/Vice Chair Cllr J Barber - Director Mrs B Bland – Company Secretary
Q	Meriden Sports & Recreation Trust	Cllr F Lynch-Smith

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

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R	Finance Committee	Cllr R Weaver Chair Cllr M Lee Cllr J Barber Cllr M Nunn Cllr F Lynch-Smith Clerk
	Quarterly Internal Controls Bi-Annual Internal Audit/Quality Checks	Cllr R Kipling Mr M Spencer – MS Audit & Consultancy
S	Personnel Committee	Cllr M Lee Cllr R Weaver Cllr M Nunn Cllr F Lynch-Smith
T	Clerk's Supervising Officer	Cllr R Weaver

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved sub-committee representation as detailed above.

## **7. Bank**

To approve bank signatories, currently Clerk, Cllr M Lee, Cllr R Kipling, Cllr R Weaver. The recommendation is for the signatories to remain unchanged. Members approved this recommendation.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr R Kipling proposed the bank signatories remain unchanged seconded by Cllr J Barber.

## **8. Local Council Award Scheme**

Chair advised that Members meet quarterly to progress this project to achieve Parish Council Quality Status. The next meeting will be 18<sup>th</sup> June at 6.30 p.m. The group will concentrate on self-assessment/evaluation.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members unanimously approved that All Members are included in meeting the criteria for eligibility to achieve Parish Council Quality Status.

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Annual Meeting of the Parish council will be held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

***Chair closed the Annual Meeting of Meriden Parish Council thanking Members for their support and continued commitment.***

*The meeting closed at 20.05*

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

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