

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 24th November 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver, Shirley Goodsir, Graeme Goodsir, Marilyn Hamilton, Melanie Lee (arrived 7.45pm), two members of the public, Ward Councillor David Bell, Sergeant Dalton and PCSO Reidy.

1. Apologies

Melanie Lee would be late.

Absent

Bob Kipling, Sarah Markham, Will Markham.

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

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 26th October 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

No matters arising.

Chair welcomed and introduced to the parish council/public the new PCSO for Meriden Ross Reidy.

5. Public Participation –

Resident wanted to discuss the allotments. Chair proposed that the public participation section was moved to after agenda item 6 to wait for Mrs Lee the Allotment Representative, who would be arriving late – agreed.

6. Correspondence and Communication

6.1 SMBC – Solihull Walking and Cycling Strategies, Consultation

Pre-circulated by email. Mr Kipling has agreed to submit a response.

6.2 Age Concern – Grants for Christmas Lunches

Shirley to pass details on to the Community Centre.

6.3 West Midlands Police

Leaflets advertising window companies should be sent to Solihull police. Also residents are asked to be vigilant and keep for a white Peugeot van that may be driving around in the Balsall Common area. It may be seen parked on a drive and know that the owner does not have van, any sightings please contact PS Andy O’Keeffe on 08451135000 at Chelmsley Wood Police station or in an emergency please dial 999.

6.4 WALC Finance/Planning Training

Details emailed/posted to Councillors prior to meeting, £30 per delegate. Clerk to attend finance training. Ms Weaver, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Markham and Clerk to attend planning training. Cheque to be requested next meeting.

6.5 SMBC – Public Rights of Way in Meriden – how are we doing?

Questionnaire received about past works and future requirements. Passed to Footpaths representative to complete.

Mrs Lee arrived.

5. Public Participation.

5.1 Allotments – Mrs Lee read out an email she had just received from the resident in attendance at the meeting (part of reason for being late). In summary, they would like the parish council to agree to a bonfire to clear items collected from a clear up last summer. Also for the parish council to tidy up the site cutting back the hedges/pathways.

Discussion took place – site is owned by Taylor Wimpey who attend every year to cut back tops and of hedges. Clerk to request that Taylor Wimpey cut back the inside edge of the hedges. Tenants responsibility to cut pathways. Parish Council did pay for contractor to cut back the main pathway and SMBC spent in excess of £400 on a tidy up project. Parish Council have agreed at previous meetings not to have any bonfires and they maintain that decision. However, they will assist the allotment association in applying for a grant to have another clear up.

7. Receive Reports

7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – next meeting is 30/11/09.

7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – meeting next Wednesday.

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

7.4 **Pool** – clerk to find out who owns the land at the back of the pool. Mr Goodsir knows somebody who can assist in repairing the pool. He is to ask them to contact the Clerk.

7.5 **Allotment Representative** – see above.

7.6 **Footpaths/Forum** – no issues to report.

7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** - meeting not set up yet.

7.8 **Conservation Committee** – meeting notes on circulation.

7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report.

7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – next meeting 10/12/09. Minutes will be put on circulation once received.

7.11 **Solihull Area Committee** – next meeting is in January.

7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.

7.13 **Parish Plan** – see below.

7.14 **Community Surgery** – last surgery was well attended. Domehawk camera is now up and there has been a reduction in ASB in that area. Youth Service are involved in a project where they are attending once a week to meet with young people.

7.15 **Joint Surgery** – nobody booked in for the last surgery. Feedback from Cllr Bell is not to be discouraged by this as he had the same reaction when he started his surgeries some years back. New dates are 10th February and 10th March. Suggested that we ask the library whether the joint surgeries can be held there in future, once the library has been repaired. One surgery per year with Caroline Spelman.

7.16 **WALC AGM** - 29th October 2009. Attended by Ms Weaver.

7.17 **Remembrance Day Service – Meriden** – very well attended. Record for poppy collection. Thank you letters from the parish council to Mel, Paul and the team have been done and handed out on the day. Next year the service will be held at Methodist Church.

7.18 **Remembrance Day Service – Solihull** – attended by Mr Goodsir, again well attended and a lovely service.

8. Village Matters

8.1 Development Maxstoke Lane/Hampton Lane

- a) Option Appraisal – a draft written report has been received. Will put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b) New Play Equipment Consultations – School/Scouts – Chair and Clerk have attended at Meriden School and Scouts to find out what equipment the children wanted. Very positive responses from the children. They liked the idea of a natural landscape instead of flat tarmac, the Matrix still popular, zip wire, shelter for parents for when they are watching the football matches/clubs, youth shelter, graffiti wall etc.

8.2 Parish Plan

- Has now been printed and distributed. Spare copies are at the library and Blitz. Thank you to Mel and Paul for the fast distribution.
- 1st review of the Parish Plan will be March 2010
- Next Steering Group Meeting is next Tuesday 24th November at the Heart of England Social Club. The main item is a discussion about the future of the Steering Group and how it is organised to get behind the Parish Plan and make it happen. Julie has put a copy of the agenda out for everybody.
- Informal celebration / party 7pm-10pm Friday 11th December at Hill Rise for All volunteers who have helped, however much or little please come along. Please let Iain Roxburgh know if you are going on 01676 522496 or by email.

8.3 Project Playbuilder – facility at Millison’s Wood

Independent report by Urban Play Solutions has now been received which confirms that the piece of land identified is not suitable as a play space.

8.4 Community Speed Watch

Next training dates for volunteers are:

Wednesday 2nd December between 6 pm and 8 pm

Thursday 3rd December between 10 am and 12 noon

Venue : Balsall Common Primary School, Balsall Street East, Balsall Common.

8.5 Allotments – see public participation section.

8.6 Pool

Clerk and Ms Weaver met with Mr Kipling to look at the cost estimates which were finally sent through from BWB. Further enquiries are being made with BWB about alternatives to the open culvert and their comments on whether the headwalls really do need replacing.

8.7 Application to use the Village Green – First Light Theatre Company

An initial enquiry was received. Clerk sent them the application form to use the Village Green but no further correspondence has been received.

8.8 Website/Communications

Mrs Lee reported that the Blog has been updated and we need to put a comment on that once a week. We are also now signed into Twitter. We are being followed by NALC and Walsall Council. Mrs Lee thinks that we are the first parish council to be using Twitter.

8.9 Update on cutting back of trees on Meriden Hill

Works have started to remove some of the dead elms in the section near to the Queens Head. However there is a power cable which crosses the highway verge, and the Tree Officer is waiting for E-on to respond as to when the power can be turned off for the works to be continued. Seven Trent have been contacted regarding their tree cut back, unfortunately no respond heard, so they have been contacted again. In addition to this I will also get in contact with them.

8.10 **Adoption of Red Telephone Kiosk – Millison’s Wood**

The application to adopt the red phone kiosk in Millison’s Wood has been sent..

- A standard sale/purchase agreement needed to be signed to complete the application. This signed by Mrs Weaver/Clerk on behalf of the parish council. If anybody would like to see it please ask the Clerk.
- Electricity Supply – Clerk obtained quotes from a number of electricity companies. Eon was the cheapest at 8.24p per kwh with no additional charges (ie admin Npower £75). To allow electricity to be taken from the network without a meter an agreement needs to be made between the Customer and Central Networks.

8.11 **Donation to Meriden CofE School**

RESOLVED

The sum of £50 be paid to Meriden CofE School towards the Raised Vegetable Bed Project.

9 Planning Matters

9.1 2009/1607 – 1 The Green, Meriden – Listed building consent to remove existing roof tiles and replace with reclaimed roof tiles. Plus a replacement roof light and 3 new roof lights.

RESOLVED

Leave to Conservation Committee.

9.2 2009/1703 – Whitsend 21 Grace Road, Millison’s Wood – fell 2 birch trees in rear garden/woodlands.

RESOLVED

We will support the Tree Officers comments.

9.3 2009/1759 – 4 Armarna Drive, Millison’s Wood – proposed ground floor side extension for a bedroom, shower room and utility room.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.4 2009/1790 – Meriden Hall Mobile Home Park, Main Road, Meriden – variation of condition 1 of permission 96/1577 to redefine area M on approved plans so that existing mobile home known as plot 1B can be retained landscape existing plot 15.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.5 2009/1792 – Meriden Hall Mobile Home Park, Main Road, Meriden – formation of seven car parking spaces.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification and appropriate landscaping.

9.6 2009/1794 – Meriden Hall Mobile Home Park, Main Road, Meriden – variation of condition 1 on planning approval 96/1577 to enable the area defined as M to be redrawn so that an existing mobile home can be repositioned on the amended area and landscape existing plot 15.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.7 2009/1584 – 8 Whichcote Avenue, Meriden – Change of use from a dwelling house to mixed dwelling house and bed and breakfast.

Notification that application will be considered by Planning Sub Committee on 18th November.

10. Accounts

a) **Loan of Laptop** – the spare Acer Laptop has been loaned to Mrs Markham whilst her own is being repaired. Mrs Markham is the Community Speed Watch Co-ordinator and therefore needs to be able to email volunteers and session statistics to the police.

b) **Insurance Claim for Matrix**

Cheque received from Zurich in settlement of the cost of repairs to the Matrix (net of VAT). Parish Council to pay Wicksteed direct and recover the VAT element.

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment except for item 9 for which the clerk is to obtain up to date financial status information.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is on Wednesday 16th December 2009 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

- a) Solihull Shopmobility – copy to each councillor
- b) Local Council Review – Autumn 09
- c) West Midlands Police – Rural Assembly Meeting 11/6/09 Minutes
- d) Solihull MBC Neighbourhood newsletter
- e) WALC – Newsletter November 2009
- f) CPRE – Countryside Voice
- g) SMBC – Conservation Committee, meeting notes 10/11/09
- h) SMBC – Public Rights of Way – Practical Works Aug/Sept/Oct