

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 24th November 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Ms Weaver (Chair), Mr Goodsir, Mrs Goodsir, Mrs Hamilton, Mr Kipling, Mrs Lee, Mrs Markham, District Councillor Ken Allsopp and three members of the public.

1. Apologies

District Councillor David Bell
Mr 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.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Meeting on 27th October 2008, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council sub committee meeting on 12th November 2008 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 Compliments on the remembrance service.
- 5.2 When walking into the village from Millison's Wood hawthorn hedges are overgrowing the footpath.
- 5.3 At the entrance to Meriden Hall by the sign the patch of grass used to be well maintained so that you could see the stream. It is now overgrown.
- 5.4 The verges by the cottages on the roundabout are churned up.
- 5.5 Disappointment that the Parish Appraisal did not look at the finance of Solihull MBC.
- 5.6 Railings leaning over by Church Lane, hazardous to cyclist/walkers etc.
- 5.7 Traffic parking along Fillongley Road outside the tea rooms. Can we request a traffic warden between 8.45am and 9.45am. Clerk to do this.

Clerk responded to issues as follows:

- 5.2 Scheduled to take place shortly.
- 5.3 Will refer to Neighbourhood Co-ordinator.
- 5.4 Already provided SMBC with details of the vehicles causing damage in order that they can recover reinstatement costs from the companies concerned.
- 5.5 Chair to refer to the Steering Group in order that one of the working groups can consider this.
- 5.6 Reported to SMBC previously. Clerk to report again.
- 5.7 Clerk to request traffic warden.

6. Correspondence and Communication

- 6.1 Letter from Wright Hassall Solicitors re Heads of Terms – circulated to all councillors – no comments.
- 6.2 Thank you letter sent to Mrs Fairbrother who provided all the past history on Meriden Village in the Coventry Telegraph from 1938 to 1974 for the Village Hall Celebrations display.
- 6.3 Letter sent to Allotment Holders asking if they would like to be in an allotment association, rubbish project date 10th November, request not to park in private driveway, keeping of chickens, reminder that sheds/hutches are the tenant's responsibility for insurance etc and not the parish council's, request that water leaks are reported to the Clerk, request to contact by email, whether anybody wished to end their tenancy.
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- 6.4 Remembrance Sunday letters of thanks
Thank you letters historically sent to Mr Moorhouse, Mr Hammon and Mr Barstow for involvement and organisation in the Remembrance Day Service. Clerk suggests that a letter is also sent to the road closure marshals, Mr Ledbrook

and Mr and Mrs Lee for the huge amount of work they put into the presentation to Solihull MBC and West Midlands Police re the road closure.

AGREED

Letters sent to the road closure marshals, Mr Ledbrook and Mr and Mrs Lee

6.5 Antisocial Behaviour. Resident who has suffered harassment has contacted the Parish Council for support. Although the incident was reported to police no response received for several days and only once resident had met with Caroline Spelman MP. Chair and Clerk met with resident on 13th November who suggests a community warden. Letter also received from Caroline Spelman asking the Parish Council to consider this. Advice sought from WALC and the response was as follows:

“Community wardens vary in responsibility and remuneration, and are appointed by principal authorities to suit the need of communities. They are a more urban concept. They maybe trained individuals who are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices under the Clean Neighbourhood and Env Act 2005. To control litter, graffiti, dog fouling etc see attached Legal Topic Note. PCs may appoint and employ, but have to be sure officers undertake correct training”

Reported to Sharon Williams at surgery who will try and arrange for the PCSO from Balsall Common to attend here more frequently.

Suggest that the police ourselves and the Community Safety Manager, Gillian McGee of Solihull MBC team work together.

AGREED

Letter be sent in response to Caroline Spelman advising of the proposed action.

6.6 Codes of Conduct for local authority members and employees consultation – circulated with agenda. Comments : there is nothing about ways of appeal or if the appeal process has changed. Drachonian can't do anything wrong. It is wrong to be penalised for being bankrupt. It has been raised on the standards committee.

6.7 Freedom of Information Act 2000 – information circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

To adopt the new model publication scheme as developed and approved by the Information Commissioner in line with Section 20 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The model scheme to be operational from 1st January 2009.

ADDITIONAL – EMERGENCY ITEM

6.8 Letter from Village Hall Management Committee

They are applying for a grant from Landfill Trust to replace the windows in the Village Hall. They have requested a letter of support from the Parish Council as soon as possible to be included with their grant application.

AGREED

Letter of support of the application.

7. Receive Reports

- **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** - Mrs Goodsir
No report.
- **School Governors for Parish Council** – Mrs Goodsir
Further meeting on 3rd December to finalise policies. Head teacher thanks the Chair for agreeing to help with any grant applications.
- **Committee Member for War Memorial** - Mr Markham
No report.
- **Pool** - Mr Goodsir, Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall.
No update.
- **Allotment Representative** - Mrs Hall, Mr Goodsir.
See later on the agenda.
- **Footpaths / Forum** - Mrs Hamilton
No report.
- **Meriden Sands Working Group** - Mr Kipling, Mr Markham
Ongoing – to dovetail this with quarry lorries travelling through the village.
- **Conservation Committee** - Ms Weaver.
We have had the papers from the last meeting.

- **Local Strategic Partnership** - Ms Weaver, Mrs Hall
Chair has been trying to get a representative to go to the next Solihull Area Committee Meeting but has received no responses to emails.
- **Police Rural Assembly** - Mr Markham.
No report.
- **Solihull Area Committee** - Ms Weaver, Mr Kipling
Chair unable to attend the next meeting. Mr Markham may be able to attend.
- **Tree Wardens** - Mrs Markham
No report.
- **Village Appraisal** - Mrs Lee, Ms Weaver, Mrs Goodsir.
See below.
- **Police Priority Setting Meeting** - Mrs Markham, Mrs Hall.
No report
- **Remembrance Sunday** – Meriden
Good reports. Question over what the Parish Council's responsibility is for the Remembrance Day Service. To be put on the agenda for another meeting.
- **Remembrance Sunday** – Solihull
Attended by Mr Goodsir. Lovely service.

8. Village Matters

8.1 Village Appraisal Update/Awards for All Financial Report

- Update on Village Appraisal.
Draft of Appraisal Report has been produced. Aim to get this distributed first week in December. Next Meeting is 8th December 2008 at 7.30pm in the Dawson Room of the Methodist Church Hall
- Awards for All Financial Report
End of Award report and financial report has been completed. Unspent funds total £1.30.
RESOLVED
Cheque for £1.30 to be returned to Awards for All representing unspent funds should it be requested.
- Quote for printing of the Appraisal Report from Norwood Press £926.00. This has been questioned by the Clerk as it seems high compared to the quote received for the questionnaire.
RESOLVED
That the Clerk is given the authority to negotiate with Norwood Press and agree the best price possible.

8.2 Maxstoke Lane Development

- Notes circulated from meetings on 10th November with David Wilson Homes
- Notes circulated from meeting arranged at very short notice with SMBC and their solicitors Wragge & Co, PC and our solicitors Wright Hassall, DTZ. Clerk would like it to be recorded that the meeting was arranged at short notice as the heads of terms are in their final draft form. They have to be approved by Cabinet on 15th December and the report needs to be done by 28th November. Meeting was requested by SMBC on Monday afternoon and it took place at 9am on Wednesday morning. Clerk considered it was in the Parish Council's best interest that we attended the meeting as we could feed back to the Parish Council at this meeting in time for any questions to be raised with SMBC prior to the report going to cabinet on 28th November.
- Topographical survey has been carried out. David Wilson Homes would like permission to carry out Groundworks which constitute small diameter boreholes of less than 100mm to allow for simple reinstatement (same as the works which were carried out by Bryants.)
RESOLVED
That permission be granted to David Wilson Homes to carry out these works.
- Registration of title – SMBC had requested the deeds to carry this out. However, at the meeting on 19th November our solicitor agreed with SMBC that he would carry out the registration in order that the deeds did not have to be given to SMBC. Makes no difference cost wise as the costs will be deducted from gross proceeds.
- Solicitors costs – These are escalating. At the meeting on 19th November our solicitor requested that his costs are paid by SMBC/developer rather than the Parish Council. This will have to go to Cabinet and our solicitor is arranging for details of his expected costs to be sent to SMBC prior to 28th November in order that they can be included in the cabinet report.

- Meriden Parish Council Clerk costs

AGREED

That a request be made to Solihull MBC that a pool of 40 hours at the cost of approximately £500 be set aside for our Clerk to use when dealing with the development issues. This is extending the Clerks hours above the 20 hours work per week in the contract of employment.

- Wright Hassall coming on 15th December to give a report. This will obviously incur costs.

AGREED

That Wright Hassall should attend the meeting on 15th December.

- For future meeting to consider any changes we would like to suggest to the new recreation facility.
- Replies to preliminary enquiries to be completed by Parish Council – James Carney checking that the version we have is the correct one.

8.3 Solihull MBC – Application for a modification order to add a public footpath Birmingham Road to Maxstoke Lane, Meriden

Any further reports received?

AGREED

Clerk to forward additional reports received to Solihull MBC

8.4 Allotments

Rubbish – 10th November did not go ahead as no skips or portaloo for the probation workers. Rescheduled for 1st December.

8.5 Community Speed Watch

PC Sharon Williams attended the sub committee meeting on 12th November to introduce the scheme.

RESOLVED

That a community speed watch initiative be launched in Meriden and the cost of approximately £450.

RESOLVED

That a newsletter detailing Community Speed Watch be printed for distribution with the appraisal report at a cost of £90 (estimate received from Norwood Press for double sided, black and white folded to A4 1400 copies).

8.6 Alcohol Free Zone

To put on the agenda for a future meeting.

8.7 Project Playbuilder – Millison’s Wood

The playbuilder project is able to support a new facility. Solihull are unable to assist as the piece of land previously considered is in Coventry and not Solihull. Clerk contacted Coventry CC who are willing to help but have concerns that although the piece of land is in Coventry the beneficiaries are in Solihull. Clerk suggested that Coventry and Solihull work together and a joint project is pursued. Current position is that Coventry CC are liaising with the contact at Solihull MBC in this respect.

8.8 Public conveniences

Clerk met with Paul Tovey and Carolyn Harris from Solihull MBC Traffic and Transport Department and Dawn Harris-Roper from Centro. The meeting was to discuss the suitability of the public conveniences site as a bus shelter. Mr Tovey reported that there have been no road safety issues reported with the bus shelter at the existing location and the number of stops does not cause congestion on the road. With regard to the proposed location the existing lay-by is too small to accommodate buses and therefore it would either have to be lengthened or removed. This would then place the bus stop opposite the junction of Waterfall Close which would increase the risk of collisions occurring at this junction. They would recommend that the bus stop and shelter should remain in its current position.

When the Clerk and Chair met with the Neighbour hood Manager she advised them of a project in which they assisted with funding to transform an old shelter into a memorial site for a resident. Possible project for Meriden is a tourist information board site/seating/display cabinet. The Parish Council would be responsible for maintenance though. Another idea is a storage facility. With our obtaining Quality Parish Status we may need some storage ourselves. We could also rent part of the building as storage and generate an income from it.

AGREED

Mrs Markham would look into and cost some of these suggestions.

8.9 Bus Shelter Inspection

Clerk has carried out an inspection of the bus shelters. (Handed out at the meeting). This was sent to Centro for action on 5th November but no response has been received, chased today.

RESOLVED

The necessary works highlighted in report to be referred to SMG the current contractor to correct.

8.10 Report from Clerk on the Provision of Burial Grounds

Handed out, for comment at the next Parish Council meeting.

8.11 Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners Study – Response required by 6th December. No responses received.

ADDITIONAL

8.12 Football Academy

Tuesday 9th December 2008 at 10.00am Solihull MBC Central Library, meeting with Ian Clarkson at Solihull MBC regarding their advice and financial assistance available with this project.

Adrian Willis has put his name forward to be involved in this project.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 P/A2008/1882 – Pinehurst, Berkswell Road, Meriden – 2 storey side extension to increase size of existing garage and increase size of existing bedroom with additional ensuite erection of a new detached garage to the front of the dwelling.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.2 P/A2008/1983 – Swallowfield, Hampton Lane – Single storey rear side extension to enlarge existing conservatory.

RESOLVED

There have been several applications for Swallowfield over the last 4 years. The Parish Council have objected on some principal on all applications. However, their views do not seem to have been taken into consideration. The applicants intention has been to achieve bed and breakfast accommodation by stealth and have not been honest in their applications. With regard to this particular application, again the Parish Council point out that the property is in greenbelt and are concerned over the increase in traffic volume.

9.3 P/A2008/1962 – 133 Fillongley Road, Meriden – Single storey side and rear extension with first floor extension over.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.4 P/A2008/2038 – 1 Darlaston Cottages, The Green, Meriden – first floor side extension and ground floor rear extension to form a conservatory.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.5 P/A2008/2051 – 25 Birmingham Road, Millison's Wood – Rear single storey extension to kitchen and garage.

RESOLVED

Leave to neighbour notification.

9.6 P/A2008/2061 – Land at Becks Lane, Meriden – Redevelopment of scrapyard to provide 4 dwellings and alterations to existing access.

RESOLVED

Clerk to look up previous comments on the same application.

ADDITIONAL

9.7 P/A2008/1769 – Former television booster station, Showell Lane, Meriden – change of use from a redundant television booster station to a 1 bedroom domestic dwelling.

Notification received from SMBC that this application is going to planning committee on 26th November at 6pm in the Civic Suite. Our comments have already been submitted and will be considered. Anybody may attend.

10. Accounts

- a) Any comments regarding budget / precept 2008/2009?
- b) Purchase of speakers/microphone.

At our last open meeting on 15th October PC Sharon Williams was unable to show her DVD re. Community Speed Watch due to poor sound from our laptop. A resident has also pointed out that they cannot hear the Chair of the Parish Council meetings/Speakers at Village Appraisal meetings/open meetings. Clerk has purchased Speakers and a microphone and will deduct these costs from the Village Appraisal Funding received from Awards for All.

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

There is no sub-committee meeting in December. The date of the next Parish Council Meeting 15th December starting at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.52pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION.

- a) Solihull MBC Rural Footpaths Ranger – Summary of work for Aug/Sept/Oct
- b) Solihull MBC Conservation Committee – Notes for Mtg 28/10/08
- c) CPRE Countryside Voice magazine – Autumn 2008
- d) NALC – Local Council Review – November 2008
- e) WALC – Newsletter October 2008
- f) West Midlands Regional Assembly, Speaking Out Issue 21
- g) Meriden Parish Appraisal Steering Group Minutes 13th October
- h) SMBC Neighbourhood Team Newsletter October 2008