

**Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present**

Melanie Lee, Rosie Weaver, Paul Lee Graeme Goodsir, Shirley Goodsir, Will Markham, Bob Kipling, David Bell, David Simpson of SMBC and Paul Watson of SMBC and 5 members of the public.

**1. Apologies**

Marilyn Hamilton

**Absent**

None

**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.

PL and Chair confirmed their interest in item 10.1

**3. Minutes**

**3.1 RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

Chair advised that the roundabout planting was due to start this week but due to works planned for the new playing fields this could lead to plants being disturbed. Planting elsewhere is being undertaken.

**5. Presentation by David Simpon and Paul Watsonn**

Visitors – David Simpson (DS) and Paul Watson (PW) of Solihull Council gave a presentation of the Emerging Core Strategy currently out for Consultation.

**6. Public Participation**

Members of the public were invited to ask questions.

Resident questioned the sites set out in the Emerging Core Strategy.

DS confirmed that Solihull had to identify land to meet the governments targets for houses in the borough. All sites were being considered but selection has not taken place. If the suggestions go forward as planned then Meriden will not expand.

Resident questioned if this would remain the case if a need for houses was identified. DS confirmed that the proposals suggest a policy in the plan for rural exceptions such as developing a site to meet a particular need.

Resident 2 raised concern over traffic in Meriden particularly the new development at Maxstoke Lane and whether matters such as the impact of increased traffic are considered in new developments.

Resident 3 raised concern over coal mining. DS would like to see a copy of the letter sent by the coal board. He has not been made aware of any plans for coal mining.

Concerns were also raised regarding HS2.

DS was asked if the consultation could be extended in light of the Localism Bill. DS advised that it was not likely to be extended but there may be a second consultation.

*DS and PW left*

Resident asked about footpath from Maxstoke Lane to Birmingham Road. Clerk to investigate the container blocking the path.

Public participation closed.

## **7. Correspondence and Communication**

7.1 The One Show – We have received two copies of DVD of The One Show on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2010 featuring Meriden . The Clerk is passing a copy to the Library so that it may be taken out for loan.

7.2 Letter from Wright Hassall Solicitors. This letter is the Client care letter setting out the conditions of business. This needs to be signed agreeing to the fee rates and terms.

### **RESOLVED**

That the letter of engagement is signed on behalf of the Parish Council.

7.3 SMBC – Letter requesting identification of flood risk areas within Parish. SMBC are updating their records and would like Parish Councils to be involved in assisting them in identifying flood risk areas.

IR to be provided with a copy of the letter and be consulted on response to SMBC.

7.4 Severn Trent Water –Allotments 3 Leys Lane. The last bill was an estimate and this is the updated bill for the period 2009/2010

7.5 E-On – review of Contract for electricity – playing fields. The contract for the supply of electricity is due to expire. The current contract expires 13 Feb 2011. Agreed that the contract is renewed as the children require electricity for football matches.

7.6 Campaign to Protect Rural England – CPRE membership. The current membership is due to expire. The cost is £29.00.

### **RESOLVED**

That the membership is renewed.

## **8. Receive Reports**

8.1 Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee - Meeting scheduled for Wednesday

8.2 School Governor from Parish Council - deputy head has retired. Job is now being shared by two staff. School Christmas Fayre Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December

- 8.3 Committee Member for War Memorial – no report
- 8.4 Pool - Clerk has meeting with drainage engineers Tuesday 30 November at 1pm
- 8.5 Allotment Representative – no report
- 8.6 Footpaths/Forum – no report
- 8.7 Meriden Sands Working Group – no report
- 8.8 Conservation Committee – RW unable to attend last meeting due to illness
- 8.9 Local Strategic Partnership – Rural Forum attended by Clerk, PL and Chair. Presentation about Emerging Core strategy.
- 8.10 Police Rural Assembly – WM attended, police are requesting residents to report scrap vans in area. Also programme to increase awareness of cyber bullying and reporting. WM working with Police to hold presentations at local schools
- 8.11 Solihull Area Committee – Meeting Nov 18<sup>th</sup>. There was a good turn out and Dave Simpson also gave a presentation.
- 8.12 Tree Wardens – no report
- 8.13 Parish Plan – meeting scheduled this week
- 8.14 Community Surgery - This was attended by the Clerk and two officers from the Police and Bruce Brant of Solihull Council. Unfortunately, there was no public attendance. Dates for next year's surgeries have been agreed to run as before being the second Monday of the month.
- 8.15 Joint Councillor Surgery – RW had a site visit with resident from Strawberry Fields.
- 8.16 Community Speed Watch – last session cancelled due to illness. PL advised that there is a shortage of volunteers
- 8.17 Fusion Football Sessions – Wednesday evenings – progressing well. We require electricity as youngsters cannot see where they are going.
- 8.18 Paul Jayes Football Academy – Meriden Rovers – Saturday Mornings – First friendly played – good turnout.

## **9. Village Matters**

- 9.1 **Community Centre – Alspath Road** – Update – The dome hawk has been successful. Following its placement, the youths appear to have moved on. Police are making regular visits.
- 9.2 **Pool** - Update – Bruce Brant is assisting the Clerk and a meeting is scheduled for tomorrow at 1pm.
- 9.3 **Parking on The Green** - The posts have now been erected although there is an issue with them and we shall be taking this up with Solihull Council. It was also noted that

cars are still driving on the Green which was evident during the recent bad weather. Tyre marks could be seen in the snow.

9.4 **Maxstoke Lane/Hampton Lane development** – A meeting was attended with SMBC and DWH. DWH wish to change the heating installation from under floor heating to radiators as they advise that the original design was flawed and cannot be warranted. SMBC are taking advice from DTZ. Some graffiti appeared on the hoarding which has been removed. RW produced the revised allocations policy for approval. As for management arrangements, this meeting had to be rearranged due to illness and is due to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the allocations policy is approved.

9.5 **Road Hump and new zebra crossing in Meriden** –Chair provided update of further meeting with Paul Tovey. We have informed Paul Tovey that we are not happy with the location of the pedestrian crossing.

9.6 **Eaves Green Lane** – Date for Public Inquiry set for 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010.

9.7 **Public Conveniences** – Demolition quotes obtained. We have now obtained three quotes for the demolition of the toilets.

A report has been prepared. RW to discuss the matter with SMBC.

#### **RESOLVED**

To be placed on agenda for next meeting.

9.8 **Roundabout** –see item 4 above. The crocus bulbs have been planted on the communal garden area to the rear of 40 Alspath Road and the grass verge next to Maxstoke Lane along Fillongley Road.

9.9 **Millisons Wood** – Bluebell trail- Funding. The application form has been submitted to the lottery as the closing date was 24<sup>th</sup> November 2010.

#### **RESOLVED**

Agreed that the Parish may proceed with this application.

9.10 **Community Volunteers– Environment Champion** - Community centre/Scout Hut. A meeting took place with Bruce Brant and Trish Willets to the Scout Hut on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November and this was a building desperately in need of work. Trish wanted to make this as one of her projects if not now definitely for the future. They have undertaken similar projects successfully and Trish is very keen to get involved with making the Scout Hut better. She will arrange a meeting with the leader and update us.

9.11 **Changing Rooms – Playing Fields** – Electrical testing needs to be carried out before electricity maybe switched on. Three quotes have been obtained for carrying out the electrical testing.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Clerk instructs Peter Kennedy to undertake the work.

**9.12 Standards Committee – Self Assessment and Publishing Costs Consultations**

To be considered by Councillors for next meeting.

**9.13 Solihull partnership Forum – Meriden Village Hall – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November -**

This was attended by the Clerk and Mel and Paul Lee. It was well attended and was informative of future plans in Solihull.

**9.14 Strawberry Fields** – RW and Clerk attended 45 Strawberry Fields following an inquiry by a resident regarding a planning issue. RW outlined the background to the matter. David Bell is making representation at the Planning Committee.

**9.15 HS2 Exhibition**

An exhibition is being held setting out the arguments for and against the High Speed Rail Link. This will take place at the Village Hall on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2011. The cost is £60.00 for hire of the Village Hall from 10am till 4pm.

**RESOLVED**

Meriden Parish Council will fund the hire of the Village Hall.

**9.16 Finance Training - Clerk**

Clerk would like to attend Finance training with AdvantEdge to understand the software and enable the clerk to use it.

**RESOLVED**

The training is undertaken.

**9.17 Solihull Transport Users Forum** – Agreed that we should log all transport issues.

**9.18 Sustainable Communities Act** – Clerk to provide a link to the Act

**9.19 Remembrance Service** – Donation

This was well attended and Bob Kipling and Graeme Goodsir attended on behalf of the Parish Council.

**RESOLVED**

Donation to British Legion in the sum of £50.00 approved

**9.20 Training Courses** – RW and Clerk wish to attend training course on 11<sup>th</sup> Dec and clerk would like to attend financial clinic in January 2011.

**RESOLVED**

That payment for the training courses is approved.

9.21 **Local Transport Consultation** – Consultation on the draft strategy for the West Midlands Area – two public exhibitions Chelmsley Wood shopping centre Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Dec – Solihull Town Centre – High Street– St Alphege church end – Sat 11<sup>th</sup> December.

9.22 **Financial Report** – Clerk will provide this at the next meeting.

9.23 **Parish Council Meeting** – December - This is scheduled for a Wednesday. According to our Standing Orders we must hold meetings on the fourth Monday of each month unless agreed otherwise. We require formal agreement for December's meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

That the next meeting is held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December.

## **10. Planning Matters**

10.1 **2010/1502 – Workshop opposite, The Cottage, Eaves Green Lane, Meriden-**  
Temporary location of a portacabin to use as site office

**Comments:-** Object based on Green Belt as identified by Solihull Council. We support Solihull's report in relation to hedging, trees and wildlife.

10.2 **2010/1708 – 37 Meriden Park Homes, Main Road, Meriden –** Felling of one Holly Tree covered by TPO

**Comments:-** Object on the basis that a) the person making the request is not the owner of the tree (b) Tree has a TPO (c) Greenbelt area (d) Changes character and view of location

10.3 **2010/1780 – 9 Thebes Close, Millisons Wood, Coventry –** Conversion of existing Integral garage into study

**Comments:-** No objection

10.4 **2010/1787 - Fordes Hairdressers, The Green, Meriden –** Change of Use of first floor office space to residential flat

**Comments:-** No objection subject to parking only being at the rear of the property and that parking restrictions are observed

10.5 **2010/1826 – Manor Hotel, 127 Main Road, Meriden –** Fell 1 No. Ash Tree

**Comments:-** Tree has TPO and we would like to see the Tree Officer's report before we make a decision

## **11. Accounts**

## **RESOLVED**

That the above accounts are approved for payment.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

The next Parish Council Meeting is Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10.07pm.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_