

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 26th October 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present

Rosie Weaver (Chair), Bob Kipling (Vice Chair), Melanie Lee, Marilyn Hamilton, Shirley Goodsir, Graeme Goodsir, Sarah Markham, Will Markham and 39 members of the public. (Including Ward Councillor Ken Allsopp, Sergeant Liam Dalton and PC Donna Fearn).

1. Apologies

David Bell and Peter Lea.

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.

Mr Kipling declared a personal interest in item 9.2.

3. Minutes

3.1 RESOLVED

That the minutes of the last Parish Council meeting on September 28th 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Village Matters

5.1 Parish Plan – Adoption/Printing Costs/Actions

Parish Plan pre-circulated with agenda. Iain Roxburgh presented the completed Parish Plan to the Parish Council.

RESOLVED

That the Parish Plan is adopted by Meriden Parish Council. (Proposed by Mr Kipling and seconded by Mrs Lee).

Printing Costs – at the PC meeting in June a capped figure of £1280 was agreed for the printing costs of the parish plan. This figure has now risen to £1650 for glossy front/coated paper inside (for the quality of the photographs) 1500 copies, colour throughout, centre stapled, paged in 25s and delivery. Unless the clerk can negotiate a further reduction we will have overspent on the grant monies by approx £170.00. The Parish Council did however budget £2,000 in the event that the additional grant from Awards For All was not successful.

RESOLVED

That the sum of £1650 is agreed for the printing of the parish plan.

Agenda item 6 Public Participation was brought forwards to this part of the meeting.

6. Public Participation

6.1 The Chair invited members of the public to make comment on any items which are on the agenda. Due to the number of residents present there would be a time limit of 3 minutes per person which is in accordance with national guidelines.

6.2 The Chair informed the meeting of the parish council's position in commenting on planning applications, ie SMBC make the final decision whether or not to agree the planning application, the parish council is a statutory consultee. Comments must relate to the proposal and be based on sound planning grounds.

Comments from the public were as follows:

6.3 * Concern over the capacity of the junction of Fillongley Road and Maxstoke Lane. This has not been assessed by the Traffic Assessment Report (TAR).

- * Traffic assessment tubes were put to the north of Maxstoke Close so no traffic from Maxstoke Close was recorded.
 - * The tubes were vandalised by youths.
 - * Can the Parish Council make the developers and SMBC carry out a proper TAR.
 - * Maxstoke Lane is not wide enough. There is only one footpath and residents need to pull over to let others past.
 - * Concern over the amount of traffic at the junction of Maxstoke Lane and Fillongley Road which makes it unsafe for children to cross at that point.
- 6.4 Can a TAR be carried out by an independent body.
- 6.5
- * The TAR measured the traffic in the wrong place.
 - * TRICS data referred to in the TAR which is used to calculate the expected level of traffic from the new development is inaccurate/unrealistic.
 - * The tubes put down by Maxstoke Close were damaged.
 - * A full independent review was promised on the access and volume of traffic not the speed of traffic.
 - * The TAR is incomplete, incompetent, and fraudulent. What can be done to ensure the correct assessment is carried out.
- 6.6
- * The fundamental issue is access.
 - * There needs to be transparency.
 - * Is the site sold? Why continuing with this when nobody wants it?
- The Chair advised that this discussion should not rehearse the history of this development. The parish council have to represent all residents views and there are a considerable number of people in support of this development.
- 6.7
- * Concerns over the impact on the increase in traffic outside school/The Green.
 - * How did the addition of Strawberry Fields impact on traffic/school etc.
- 6.8
- * How will emergency services get to the Firs.
 - * The footpath slopes into the road so residents of the Firs walk up the road. Concerned if somebody falls on the footpath they will go into the road.
- 6.9
- * National Planning Policy Statement 3 – s14 and 16 which relate to new developments states that they should be accessible/safe and visually attractive. They are not safe due to the access issues.
 - * Its more dense than other areas of the village.
 - * No play area / open space / private gardens only very small on the development.
 - * Pinch point is illegal under the Highway Code as it is placed adjacent to a driveway.
 - * 30ft boundary fence on the new playing field will not be attractive.
- 6.10
- * Residents must write to District Councillors and also to the planning committee with their views.
- 6.11
- * Concerned over access/congestion which will make the junction of Maxstoke Lane/Fillongley Road unsafe. An accident is likely to happen.
 - * The houses will not be affordable to the public.
- 6.12
- * Concerned over the assessment of the number of vehicles in Maxstoke Lane.
 - * Plan is ill conceived. There is no backup plan. Why is the entrance on Kittermaster Road for emergency only.
- 6.13
- * New playing fields – isolated/by gravel pits - fences do not stop children.
- 6.14
- * What assurances are there that the new playing fields will be complete before the current one is closed.

The Chair advised this is incorporated in the Development Agreement between the developer and SMBC.

- 6.15 * This has been going on 21 years – why are we looking at a planning application when the basic issues have not been settled.
* In 1990 there was going to be no further progress until a full feasibility study was carried out. This has still not been done.
* The TAR is corrupt.
* There are safety/access issues.
* Sewage – heavy rain can cause raw sewage to spill out into the street outside the Bulls Head.
* The new playing field is 2/3 smaller than the existing one. PPG 17.
* Would like the parish council to object to the application.
- 6.16 * Pedestrian crossing – asked for one before but was rejected, now going to put one in.
* Crossing to the new playing field will be dangerous.
* Plans for the new pavilion are not in keeping with the rest of the village.
* Concerned that the facilities will not be what the children actually want/need.
* Concerned that Meriden School does not have capacity to take many more children.
- 6.17 * The Parish Plan refers to concerns over the amount of traffic there is currently in the village.
- 6.18 * There needs to be an agreement between the contractors and the village relating to construction traffic. There needs to be another access for that other than Maxstoke Lane.
- 6.19 * Drainage and sewage concerns throughout village and also Maxstoke Lane itself.

The Chair thanked all speakers for their comments which would be taken into consideration by the parish council when they make their decision.

5.2 Development

- a) Planning application – 2009/1513 – Land at Hampton Lane Meriden.
The Parish Councillors discussed the issues around the planning application
RESOLVED
To object to the application on the following points:
- Access – width of road, only one pavement, cul de sac (only one exit).
 - No public open space as required by UDP.
 - Concern over sewage – existing system not adequate.
 - Kittermaster Road not suitable as emergency access.
 - Traffic survey inaccurate/lacks validity.
 - Sewage, overburdening.
 - Storm water.
 - Safety.
- b) New Play Facilities at Hampton Lane
RW and JH attended the meeting at SMBC with Mike Swallow and John Shaw of DTZ .
Notes of the meeting have been pre-circulated with the agenda. Chair and Clerk will be meeting with the Meriden CofE School Council and the Scouts to consult with them to look at what equipment they would like.
- c) Quarterly Review Meeting – DWH/SMBC/PC
Chair and Clerk attended. Notes to be circulated shortly.
- d) Local Lettings Policy.
The Cabinet Member and manager are both supportive of the principle of a Local Lettings Plan for Meriden.

5.3 **Community Speed Watch**

Mrs Markham fed back from the first two sessions. Need more volunteers.

The clerk would like to remind councillors of their responsibilities under the code of conduct and in particular to uphold the law. Please therefore watch your speed and help to set an example to the drivers who speed through our village.

5.4 **Alcohol Free Zone**

The police will support the parish council in making an application.

AGREED

To wait to see what affect the Domehawk Camera has. Take off the agenda for now.

5.5 **Allotments**

Tenant on Allotment 14 has vacated.

A discussion around a one off bonfire to be added to the agenda for the next parish council meeting.

5.6 **Remembrance Day Service/Equipment**

Equipment will be loaned this year. Funds allocated to be used to purchase equipment next year.

5.7 **Pool**

Project day was a success. Thanks to Mel for updating the village blog, there will be more photos on the website shortly.

AGREED

A letter of thanks to be sent from the parish council and the village to all involved.

5.8 **Meriden Mag**

Newsletter to include - Blog, Britain in Bloom, thank you for responses to dome hawk consultation – now approved for Alspath Road and all comments will be used if need to move it to village green. Meriden booklets for sale. ASB surgeries and joint surgeries. Safer streets website (see 7.3 below). Speedwatch volunteers needed.

5.9 **Tenders 2010/2011**

Advertise in December copy of Meriden “Mag” inviting Tenders for Contracts for year 2010/2011. Draft pre-circulated with Agenda. Only one amendment which is to include contract 6 for maintenance of the red phone kiosk in Millisons’ Wood.

RESOLVED

That the tender is approved as drafted and for it to be put into the Meriden Mag.

5.10 **Public conveniences.**

- Pallets have now been removed. Paul/Mel are organising a clean up in the centre area so that the Remembrance Day Service equipment can be stored in there.
- After the quarterly review meeting on 21/10/09 Clerk and Chair had a brief discussion with Mike Swallow of SMBC re the relaxing of the clause in the transfer document which prevents any other use on the site than for toilets. Clerk to write to Mike Swallow to state that we have looked into various options ie bus stop, recycling and they are not possible.

AGREED

Clerk to write to Mike Swallow as above.

5.11 **Meeting dates 2010/2011**

Suggested dates circulated with the agenda – no comments.

AGREED

6. **Public Participation**

See above.

7. Correspondence and Communication

7.1 Solihull MBC – Remembrance Service at the War Memorial, Solihull

Mr Goodsir to attend.

RESOLVED

That another wreath is purchased from the British Legion in the sum of £16.50 but is deducted from the donation given annually.

7.2 School Buses

Letter from resident concerned over the safety of school children crossing Main Road to catch the school bus. They request that the Parish Council puts pressure on the HofE School and bus contractors to have two collection/drop off positions on either side of Main Road even if it involves the coach/bus having to negotiate the roundabout.

AGREED

Chair to write to Heart of England School to request that they do a risk assessment of the drop off and pick up points.

7.3 West Midlands Police – Safer Streets

Notification of a new Home Office Website that will give residents a real say in how to improve the safety of streets. Solihull has been chosen to pilot the scheme for a three month period. Residents can use the interactive website to identify streets where they do and don't feel safe by using virtual "pins". www.direct.gov.uk/saferstreets . Information to be put in the Meriden Mag.

8. Receive Reports

8.1 Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee – The will be getting a ramp to improve access for disabled people shortly.

8.2 School Governors for Parish Council – missed the meeting. Build work is on track. Ofstead is due. Are looking into funding sources for shelving in the new library. Nursery intake next year is high. Tenants from the allotments are helping build raised beds and plant vegetables. Chair proposed that the parish council should make a small donation to assist in purchasing seeds and potatoes etc. To be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

8.3 Committee Member for War Memorial – there will not be a meeting of the committee this year.

8.4 Pool – no additional report.

8.5 Allotment Representative – no additional report.

8.6 Footpaths/Forum – Footpath between 176/174 Main Road needs cutting back.

8.7 Meriden Sands Working Group – Clive has some documentation, he will sort it out and call the Clerk.

8.8 Conservation Committee – Chair attended the meeting and made comment. Notes of the meeting will be put on circulation.

8.9 Local Strategic Partnership – Chair attended workshop to look at the Local Development Framework. Chair's comments were that it does not include parish and town councils or parish plans.

8.10 Police Rural Assembly – Nothing to report – minutes will be put on circulation once received.

8.11 Solihull Area Committee – Alison Hodge attended the last meeting to discuss WALC's role. This was for the benefit of the new parish and town councils in the area.

8.12 Tree Wardens – nothing to report.

8.13 Parish Plan – See above.

8.14 **Community Police Surgery / ASB Surgery** – ASB is being dealt with. Residents need to report everything. Decision trees will be put in next Meriden Mag to assist with this.

8.15 **Joint Ward Councillor/Parish Council surgery** – First surgery was with Ken Allsopp, Marilyn Hamilton, Chair and Clerk also attended. One resident booked in. Mrs Markham and Mrs Lee to attend next surgery on 11/11/09.

9 Planning Matters

9.1 **2009/1513** – Land at Maxstoke Lane, Meriden – Residential Development for 83 dwellings to include a mixture of 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroomed houses. Comments copied to the Parish Council by residents pre-circulated with the agenda. – see above.

9.2 **2009/1499** – 6 Waterfall Close, Meriden – Proposed alterations and extension to form ground floor bedroom and bathroom.

RESOLVED

No comment – neighbour notification.

9.3 **2009/1584** – 8 Whichcote Avenue, Meriden, Coventry – Change of use of two bedrooms and two bathrooms for use as a bed and breakfast.

RESOLVED

Object – does not fit in with the surrounding as it is inappropriate in a residential area. Concerns over extra traffic.

9.4 **2009/1501** – Spar Stores, 1 The Green, Meriden – Listed building application for the retention of 2 refrigeration units and erection of an enclosure.

RESOLVED

No comment.

9.5 **2009/1679** – 37 Strawberry Fields, Meriden – Change of use of garage to a salon.

RESOLVED

Object – increased traffic, does not fit into surroundings as it is a residential area. Increased parking and extra parking requirements for customers.

10. Accounts

a) **Clerks Salary Increment to Spinal Column Point 21.**

In accordance with clause 6.2 of the Clerks Contract of Employment the first salary increment was due on 1st October 2009 (thereafter on 1st April each year until the maximum of the scale is reached). This adjustment has been included in the Clerk's salary payment this month.

b) **2009/2010 National Salary Award for Local Council Clerks**

Spinal Column Points 11-49, an increase of 1.00% backdated to 1st April. This adjustment has been included in the Clerks salary payment this month.

c) **Clerks holiday entitlement**

The NJC Agreement, which is jointly recommended by the National Association of Local Councils and the SLCC has amended the minimum Annual Leave from 1st April 2009 to 21 days (was 20 days) with a further 4 days after 5 years continuous service. .

RESOLVED

That the clerk's Contract of Employment be amended accordingly and signed by the Chair.

d) **Car allowances for Local Council Clerks**

The NJC for Local Government Services has reached agreement on the rates of car allowances payable from 1st April 2009. New figures are based on a price of 86.88p per litre.

RESOLVED

That the accounts are approved for payment.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is the Parish Council meeting on Monday 23rd November 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 9.50 pm.

Chair : _____

Date : _____

DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION

- a) Solihull MBC – Conservation Committee – Notes for meeting on 29/9/09 and 20/10/09
- b) Heart of England Way Association – Footnotes Autumn 2009
- c) West Midlands Police – Newsletter September 2009
- d) Solihull MBC – Overview & Scrutiny Newsletter – September 2009
- e) SMBC Neighbourhood Management Area 3 – Newsletter Sept 2009