

**Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.**

**Present**

Rosie Weaver, Bob Kipling, Shirley Goodsir, Graeme Goodsir, Sarah Markham, Marilyn Hamilton, Melanie Lee and two members of the public.

**1. Apologies**

David Bell who is at another meeting.

**Absent**

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 24<sup>th</sup> August 2009, having been circulated, be taken as read and signed as a correct record

**3.2 RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the last Parish Council Sub-Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009, having been taken as read and signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising from the minutes**

4.1 The Clerk has received further email correspondence over art classes at the village hall. The resident has been asked to direct his concerns to the Village Hall Management Committee.

4.2 (5.1 and 6.6) Mel managed to print off the minutes from the website.

4.3 (6.7) Moles – Information from Natural England Technical Information Note TIN033 Moles: options for management and control is that “...The timing of control is important and is best carried out between October and April. This is when moles are most noticeable as they are actively digging new tunnels.....”. Clerk therefore suggests that the work is carried out in say November as it is particularly mild at the moment.

4.4 (6.9) Football posts – clerk is having problems contacting SMG Services over obtaining the quote for repairing the goal posts and also to replace the Perspex in the library notice board. Clerk to continue chasing.

4.5 (8.5) Remembrance Day Service – Risk assessment was carried out with the police. Paul Lee did the formal presentation. Now need to get equipment for the best price. Need storage space. Clerk to arrange meeting with Mel to look at the centre storage space at the public conveniences.

4.6 (8.9) Design Competition – RW to contact Kevin to see if the Youth Club want to get involved.

**5. Public Participation**

5.1 Neighbour notification for the planning application for the development is not through enough. Clerk advised that there is a neighbour plan on SMBC website.

5.2 Trees outside house numbers 2,4,6,8,12,14,16 Birmingham Road need cutting back.

5.3 Bus shelter at Birmingham Road opposite Albert Road the hedge is blocking the visibility splay.

5.4 ASB in Meriden - Chair advised resident of the current partnership working with SMBC ASB Team and Police, Domehawk camera in Alspath Road, police aware of offenders, reduction in ASB over the summer due to higher police presence, PCSO for Meriden being trained as we speak.

5.5 Information in bus shelters not clear – see later on the agenda.

## **6. Correspondence and Communication**

### **6.1 SMBC – Gambling Policy**

Initial consultation on the draft policy was in June. Comments submitted by the Parish Council. New draft of the policy document was consulted on with a closing date of 18<sup>th</sup> September. Clerk sent this by email to councillors who responded initially. No further comments.

### **6.2 WRCC – Free event – Future Proofing your Community**

Invitation for anybody interested in attending at Ettington Village Hall (Stratford way – approx 30 miles) on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October 10-4pm for a free information exchange event on “Future Proofing your Community.” Clerk has printed off directions and map if anybody would like to go.

### **6.3 WALC – AGM Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at Shire Hall, Market Place Warwick 7.30pm**

Rosie Weaver to attend.

### **6.4 Meriden Sands**

Clerk received a telephone call from a resident. He had concerns over the effects of the Sandvik System in the village. His concerns were as follows:

- As trees have been removed there are pigeons now nesting in the hedgerows by the Community Centre.
- There are no doves this year.
- The spinney off Cornets Lane is dying off.
- The two pools where the Moor Hens feed have gone.
- The brook which comes from the Blyth and goes under Cornets End Lane and back up to the Golf Club has dried up.

Clerk advised that the Parish Council with Cllr David Bell are resurrecting the Meriden Sands Working Group and his comments would be passed on.

Cllr Bell has advised that the group folded as it did not have anybody to carry out the secretarial work. We also needs to locate details of who was on the group previously and any paperwork relating to it. Cllr Bell has asked Julie whether she could do the secretarial role. Julie is willing to consider this but not until her CiLCA and the application for Quality Parish Status are concluded.

Clerk to contact Clive Jones for the paperwork.

### **6.5 WALC – Training**

Information pre-circulated to councillors.

- Briefing event for all Chairmen and aspiring Chairmen and interested Councillors. Rosie Weaver to attend.
- “The Next Step” – making the most of your role as parish and town councillors. Nobody wanting to attend.

### **6.6 Sustain – notification of forthcoming conferences.**

Information pre-circulated.

- Children and Young Peoples Trust Assembly – 15<sup>th</sup> October
- Solihull Partnership Assembly – 11<sup>th</sup> November
- Solihull Third Sector Network – date to be advised soon.

### **6.7 Solihull MBC Consultation – Nature Conservation Strategy : Review**

Bob Kipling to respond.

### **6.8 Solihull MBC Consultation – Woodlands Strategy : Review**

Sarah Markham to respond.

### **6.9 Sustainable Communities Act 2007 Amendment Bill – your help needed!**

Email from Steve Shaw together with WALC/NALC's advice pre-circulated.

#### **AGREED**

That a response is sent as requested. Proposed by Bob Kipling and seconded by Rosie Weaver.

6.10 **Land adjacent to Meriden Garage, Birmingham Road.**

Update received from planning officer to say that the land at the above site has now been tidied (and an additional part of the approval of 2003/928 implemented) to the extent that a section 215 (untidy land) notice would no longer be appropriate. They are therefore closing their file on this case at this time. However, there is still a large number of bricks at the site (to be used for the approved building). The officer proposes to monitor the site on an occasional basis to ensure that the bricks are used for their intended purpose and/or removed.

**AGREED**

Clerk to contact SMBC as the site where the garage was has been tidied but there is still debris in the field that has not been tidied. There is also a container blocking the footpath which the parish council have applied to have modified.

7. **Receive Reports**

7.1 **Committee Member for Village Hall Management Committee** – They have had a quote for the disabled access to the Hall. The walls behind the cupboards in the kitchen have been treated. The slope on walk way to the doctor's surgery will be dug up and levelled out.

7.2 **School Governors for Parish Council** – No report.

7.3 **Committee Member for War Memorial** – Melanie Lee to check the electricity supply for the remembrance day service. Report from Sarah Markham on behalf of Will Markham is that there have been no meetings. This will be chased up.

7.4 **Pool** – The Meriden Pool project big tidy up is happening on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009. We have been very fortunate that Environmental Champion Co-ordinator Trish Willets has managed to get 16 volunteers from N Power to help out, as well as Neil Cameron Park Ranger and Lorna Teager from Streetcare.

The areas that we hope to cover during the day will include:-

- Rub down and re paint the metal benches x 4 and metal bins by the pool.
- Cut back the stingers, holly and weeds to open the area up more.
- Install a new information board about the local wildlife in the area, and its impact on the local nature.
- Plant bulbs in the area, as part of SMBC bulb planting week.
- Paint the metal railing around the pool area.

The day will start from about 09.30 and will certainly make a big impact on the area, in addition to this the park Rangers and Susan East will also be involved in putting bird boxes up with the local school. This will take place on either the day before or day after, helping to bring the community together. If you anybody else would like to come and help on any of these days please let Julie know.

**Application for funding for necessary works.**

Once the detailed costs of the necessary works are received we will continue with the application for funding.

7.5 **Allotment Representative** – SMBC have rejected a request for green wheelie bins at the site. They have offered a composting clinic. Allotment 14 has transferred to Mrs M Lee. Mrs Lee was assisting the current tenant with the plot but the tenant no longer wanted to continue with the tenancy. The tenancy agreement states no notices or advertisements which prevents the allotment association having a notice board. Clerk to contact tenants regarding a composting clinic.

7.6 **Footpaths/Forum**  
All overgrown.

7.7 **Meriden Sands Working Group** – see 6.4 above.

- 7.8 **Conservation Committee** – notes of the last meeting are on circulation. The Centre's application for the gate has been approved.
- 7.9 **Local Strategic Partnership** – no report
- 7.10 **Police Rural Assembly** – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 7.30pm in the Civic Suite. Mr Goodsir attended. Open day at Shirley Police Station is now 18<sup>th</sup> October 10am -2pm. Anti tamper screws for number plates were handed out. Speedwatch is now running in Berkswell. Minutes will be circulated.
- 7.11 **Solihull Area Committee – Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm The Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common.** Draft unapproved minutes of last meeting are on circulation. There will be two speakers including Alison Hodge from WALC.
- 7.12 **Tree Wardens** – no report.
- 7.13 **Parish Plan** – Comments have now been received from SMBC on the draft plan. The next steering group meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 at 7.30pm at Heart of England Social Club. Parish Council to formally adopt the Parish Plan at the next meeting.
- 7.14 **Community Surgery**  
This month's surgery was attended by two police officers, the neighbourhood co-ordinator, Sherry Studholme from SMBC Public Sector ASB Team and Raj Singh from Solihull Community Housing ASB Team. Rosie, Julie and Shirley were also present.

Kelvin Jones attended and discussed his idea around decision trees. This was well received by the ASB representatives and the police. The Parish Council will include this information in their next newsletter in the Meriden Mag.

Summary of the outcomes:

- Parents of some young people in Meriden have been contacted by the Police and the SCH ASB Team.
  - As a trial, a representative from the SCH ASB Team will attend the next three surgeries to give residents the opportunity to discuss, in confidence, any issues. If this is successful and utilised it will continue.
  - Susan and Sherry will look into a project in October where they (with additional volunteers) call on residents in hotspot areas to let them know about ASB and where they can get assistance. This is an ideal time of year for this because of bonfire night and Halloween.
  - Sherry will arrange for a member of her team to attend at Heart of England School to talk to students.
  - X2 types of leaflets have been given to the Clerk. One for parents which we need to decide if they are appropriate for the school bags and one with general ASB information for the notice boards, community centre, library, doctors surgery etc.
  - ASB Log Sheets have also been emailed to Julie and can be used by anybody to record incidents of ASB.
- 7.15 **Solihull in Bloom Presentation Evening** 16<sup>th</sup> September. Clerk attended. Although the Green was put through to the final round of judging, we unfortunately were not successful in receiving any awards this year. However, the Queens Head and Mr John Douglas of Eves Green were successful as follows:
- The Solihull Times Pub/Hotel/Restaurant Frontage prize – 1<sup>st</sup> The Queens Head.
  - The Notcutts Front Garden Prize – 1<sup>st</sup> Mr John Douglas
  - The Notcutts past winners Hanging Basket – 1<sup>st</sup> Mr John Douglas
  - Champion of Champions – overall winner of the 8 categories was Mr John Douglas.

The clerk suggests that our congratulations are put in the next newsletter in the Meriden Mag.

7.16 **Installation of Interpretation board by Heart of England Way Association at St Laurence Church.** Attended by Shirley and Graeme. Wet day but a nice board.

## 8. **Village Matters**

### 8.1 **Development**

- a) **Layout Plans** - Revised plans for the layout of the development have been given to the Clerk. These will form part of the planning application. Contact Clerk if you would like to see them.
- b) **Option Appraisal** – this is now underway. Clerk and Tessa Roxburgh have also met with reps from the scout hut and village hall.
- c) Planning application has been received. Will deal with that under planning.

### 8.2 **Parish Plan**

See 7.3 above.

### 8.3 **Community Speed Watch**

Clerk and Sarah met with Sharon Williams this week.

- We now have all the equipment (invoice to follow!)
- 6 areas have been risk assessed (one for Hampton Lane to follow).
  - 1) Main Road, opposite Church Lane adjacent to open bus shelter.
  - 2) Main Road, in the wide access to the pool.
  - 3) Opposite Bulls Head adjacent to Pertemps entrance.
  - 4) Main Road, Outside Brooklyn
  - 5) Fillongley Road gated driveway into school playing field.
  - 6) Fillongley Road outside number 147.
- Sarah will be contacting all volunteers shortly with the following dates:

Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> October at 10am –	outside Brooklyn
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 10am –	gated driveway into school playing field.
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 10am -	opposite Church Lane adjacent to open bus shelter.
- Other sites can be considered to expand the scheme once we are up and running.
- Still need more volunteers.

### 8.4 **Alcohol Free Zone**

Mr Goodsirs report circulated and added to the website.

### 8.5 **Insurance Claim for damage to Matrix.**

The equipment is now repaired. An insurance claim for the cost of repairing the Matrix has been submitted to Zurich Insurance. The cost of repairs is £607.40 and we are liable for a £100 excess. Prior to submitting the claim the Clerk confirmed with Zurich that the Parish Council's insurance premium would not be increased as a result of the claim.

### 8.6 **BT – Adoption of Red Telephone Kiosk at Albert Road, Millison's Wood**

- Once adopted the workings are removed from the kiosk
- Ownership reverts to the parish council upon payment of £1.
- Costs incurred are maintenance costs and electricity supply.
  - Maintenance would be painting now and again approx £50.
  - Information received from the electricity supply company is that it would be £269.00 plus VAT to have the electricity supply removed. An estimated annual energy cost for the use of the light installed in a BT red telephone box is approx £20 per annum.
- Possible vandalism problem. However, when was the last time they were vandalised?

Clerk has spoken to Barston Parish Council's clerk. They have already adopted their kiosk and have no regrets, it is a landmark. They are worth approx £600 each. The only maintenance is an occasional repaint of approx £50. They have not had any problems with vandalism.

**RESOLVED**

That the red kiosk at Albert Road, Millison's Wood be adopted and the retain the electricity supply at a cost of approximately £20 per annum.

**8.7 Manhole at rear of Co-op.**

Historically there was a manhole adjacent to the garage at the back of the Co-op which was covered up when works were carried on in that area. SMBC Drainage team visited the site but unable to do anything to stop the water running down the alley way.

**AGREED**

Clerk to write to the Co-op to see if it can be reinstated. To also point out that lorries are being driven badly in a residential area to access the shop.

**8.8 Centro – Passenger Information.**

Centro want to install new timetable cases to the bus shelters.

**AGREED**

That we contact Cllr David Bell and Cllr Ken Allsop to see if they can assist us in having realtime digital displays installed.

**8.9 Project Playbuilder – play area in Millison's Wood.**

Solihull MBC are still awaiting a report on the suitability of the play space in Millison's Wood. However, they have received a verbal general summary to suggest that the proposed site would not support a playground in the traditional sense. One option could be to improve the natural play aspects of the site by clearing away some of the brambles etc to create a play trail for toddlers without fixed equipment. Picture displayed.

For any form of play facility the proximity of the road would mean substantially reinforcing the boundary and residents facing the wood may not be happy for the site to be opened up. The site is also a nature conservation area and all trees have a TPO limiting possible work.

**AGREED**

To wait for the formal report before any further action is taken.

**8.10 Meriden Centre of England booklets.**

Copies circulated with the agenda. Booklets produced by the parish council to celebrate their centenary. Clerk has 116 of the books. What do we want to do with them?

**AGREED**

To put some at the library, SMBC library, sell on the website, send some to Connecticut USA Library. For any money received to go to future publications on Meriden.

**8.11 Meriden Library – update on temporary closure.**

SMBC have made amendments to the temporary closure plans. The design scope and extent of works is still being worked on. The timescale will be set when designs have been fully confirmed and planning approval sought. They will allow sufficient time for communication with the community. They are aiming for the works to be carried out in summer 2010.

**8.12 Joint Surgeries with Ward Councillors**

**AGREED**

Two councillors to attend with the Ward Councillors. Residents to book a 10 minute time slot and to provide details of what they want to discuss. Protocol to be agreed as drafted and approved in three months.

**8.12 Dome Hawk Camera – Parish Council Consultation.**

From the consultation in the Meriden Mag we have had 14 responses 12 in favour and 2 against. The SMBC Anti Social Behaviour team have had their application approved for the Dome Hawk Camera in Alspath Road by the Community Centre. The information we have obtained from residents can be used in a future application for that camera to be moved to the Green.

## **9 Planning Matters**

- 9.1 **2009/1223 – The Centre, The Green, Meriden** – Erection of a gate to the side of building.

### **RATIFIED**

Leave to Conservation Committee

- 9.2 **2008/22 – Birmingham International Airport Ltd, Solihull – Extension of Main Runway etc.**

The application was considered by the Planning Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> April where members resolved that they were minded to approve the application subject to details of the revised Section 106 Agreement and conditions being reported back to Committee. The planning application is being reported to Planning Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> September to formally endorse the Section 106 Agreement and conditions proposed and consider any material change in circumstances since the resolution. All written responses received by SMBC were reported to the Planning Committee and fully taken into account before any decision was made.

- 9.3 **2009/1442 – Berryfields Farm, Berkswell Road, Meriden** – Change of use of part of existing floor above existing farm shop for use as a cafe.

### **RESOLVED**

Object – The Parish Council are concerned that this will jeopardise current local shops in Meriden. They are also concerned over the increase in traffic and consider it to be inappropriate in the green belt. (Bob Kipling proposed the objection – vote four in favour two against.)

- 9.4 **2009/63 – Pertemps Group – Construction of a building to accommodate a communication and response centre.** Notification received today that the Planning Appeal Inquiry scheduled for 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2009 has been cancelled. This is due to the appellants withdrawing the appeal.

Residents who had rejected to the application were not informed of the appeal. Clerk to follow this up.

- 9.5 **2009/1412 – Meriden Quarry, Cornets End Lane, Meriden** – Variation of condition No.4 of planning approval 1996/1511 to allow the shredding of wood waste on site.

### **RESOLVED**

**Object – inappropriate in the greenbelt. More traffic in and out.**

## **ADDITIONAL**

- 9.6 **Residential Development Land at Maxstoke Lane, Meriden** – Certificate B in relation to the submission of the planning application on land at Maxstoke Lane, Meriden has been served upon the Parish Council.

The planning application has now been registered under reference 2009/1513 and copy supporting documentation has been received by the Clerk. (Councillors emailed on 25/9/09). Documentation is now available on the SMBC website. Alternatively, councillors wishing to view documents may do so with prior appointment with the Clerk. Clerk has also requested that documents are made available at Meriden Library as soon as possible.

Clerk suggests that councillors thoroughly review the documentation and email her with their comments in order that a response can be agreed at our Parish Council meeting in October. Councillors are reminded that their comments should be in respect of the specifics of the planning application only. Clerk is awaiting confirmation that our response can be submitted after the October PC meeting.

The Clerk would also like to remind councillors of the conditions within the side letter which the Parish Council resolved to sign on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2008. Particular attention is brought to clause 7j which relates to confidentiality and states “it will keep confidential the Heads of Terms and all other information provided to it by SMBC (or by SMBC’s professional advisers or representatives) in relation to the Recreation Site Works or the BDW Agreement under the terms of the Documents or this letter or otherwise (“information”) and will, in accordance with the Parish Council’s governing rules and regulations, treat the information as exempt information which is not for publication.”

Clerk has a copy of the side letter at the meeting if anybody needs to read it.

Residents need to send their comments on the planning application to SMBC individually. Councillors can also send their own comments to SMBC as residents.

#### **10. Accounts**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the accounts are approved for payment.

#### **11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next sub committee meeting is 14<sup>th</sup> October 2009 and the date of the next Parish Council meeting is Monday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.34pm.

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

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

#### **DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION**

- a) SMBC – Solihull in Bloom, Judging Portfolio 2009.
- b) CPRE – Fieldwork, September 2009.
- c) WRCC – Greening your Community Plan
- d) WALC – 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009
- e) SMBC – Conservation Committee, meeting notes 8<sup>th</sup> September 2009.
- f) CPRE - Outlook