

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
Virtual Meeting via Member Zoom Conferencing commencing at 5.30 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair		
Cllr J Barber JB			
Cllr J Hughes JH			
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chair welcomed Councillors, guests and members of the public; and noted the non-attendance without apologies of Cllrs Kipling and Lynch-Smith. Apologies were received from Cllrs Allsopp, Howell, Woollard, Nunn and Fiona Woolston, LM Community Engagement Team. Paul Tovey, Head of Highway Management sent his apologies due to cabinet meeting attendance. It was noted Cllr Diccico will attend for first hour only.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members recorded the non-attendance of Cllrs Kipling and Lynch-Smith. Apologies were accepted from Cllrs Allsopp, Howell, Woollard, Nunn, Fiona Woolston and Paul Tovey.

**2. Public Participation**

RW welcomed Rachel Johnson, HS2 and Hayden Wright, Balfour Beatty Vinci. Both presentations gave an update and overview of current works around M42 junction 6, A45, A446 and A452. The presentations may be viewed on the parish council website. Any queries from members of the public should be directed to [hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk](mailto:hs2enquiries@hs2.org.uk)

RW welcomed David Keaney, Traffic Manager, Sustainable Travel & Highway Management.

**Mr Keaney’s summary is given below:-**

“Thanks for giving me the opportunity to update the Council yesterday on highways matter impacting the village.

**20mph temporary speed limit** – I can confirm that we have now had confirmation that we are able to accelerate the introduction of a temporary 20mph speed limit for the village centre as part of our Covid19 response as requested. I have attached a plan showing the proposed extents which focus of the village triangle and shopping area. We will be looking to get this in place and operational (with the use of temporary signage as we have done in Knowle) by the 6<sup>th</sup> August which is the earliest date available to us.

**Signed .....** Chair      **Dated .....**

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Once the measure has gone live, we will publish information about the changes on our Commonplace portal which provides residents with a mechanism to feedback to us on whether the measures are working or need to amend. Any feedback collected will then be fed into a report that we will take on 1<sup>st</sup> September to our cabinet member to review the impact of all the measures introduced and to determine if these need to be amended, continued or removed.

The portal is currently live for the other measures we have already put in place across the borough and also provides a mechanism to feed in ideas for other measures that residents may be keen to see come forward. The portal can be viewed here: <https://solihullactivetravel.commonplace.is/>

**Leys Lane Traffic Management** – We have previously discussed with the Parish Council proposals to introduce measures on Leys Lane to prevent it being used as a cut through by vehicles attempting to avoid the roundabout and village centre. In doing so, we could create a much more pleasant and usable corridor for pedestrian and cyclists with only minimal inconvenience for residents of the road. To this end I have attached a plan showing what such measures could look like. The installation of barriers approximately halfway down the lane would make each end a cul-de-sac for vehicles, whilst pedestrian and cyclist access would be unaffected. If this is something that the Parish Council and Ward Members are supportive of we have two options on how we proceed.

1. We could introduce the measure on an experimental basis initially. This would effectively be as a trial using temporary measures but would enable us to fully establish and understand the impact for local residents before progressing to a permanent solution.
2. Advertise and consult on the measures as shown and if supported proceed with the measures on a permanent basis as we would do with a standard scheme of this type.

**A45 Overbridge** – The Council has now secured the necessary funding to progress the replacement of this bridge. The proposed scheme has not significantly changed from the one previously promoted. Colleagues from our infrastructure team intend to commence works on this scheme in the current financial year and as such will engage again with the Parish fully this side of Christmas on the scheme and potential impact on surrounding roads.”

Additional to the above for consideration is:-

- Tranch 2 funding enabling the potential of improving cycle route to Millison’s Wood to include a cycling facility, narrowing of highway and speed management.
- Fillongley Road works to be completed by week ending 25<sup>th</sup> July 2020 including new gateway signage.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....

- Resident concerns regarding pavement parking has been passed onto parking services team but no retrospective enforcement can take place upon evidence supplied. A request has been made to the enforcement officer.
- Order has been placed for new gateway signage to Coronation Island verge.
- All road signs have been cleaned.

RW thanked HS2 and Highways representatives for their attendance tonight which has been informative and beneficial to the community. HS2 will be returning in October 2020 to provide further update of summer works.

RW invited the public to raise any concerns pertaining to items on the agenda:-

- Concerns shared regarding the planning application submitted by Strawberry Bank for a 30 bedroom extension which he felt was disproportionate to the existing complex.

JH replied that he had contacted the planning consultant requesting an informal meeting to understand the proposal more fully specifically around noise, light pollution, loss of and replanting of trees and change of landscape impacting greenbelt public amenity.

- The issue around A & A and potential particulate airborne matter identified in gardens on furniture, property, ponds and vehicles. Communication had been sent to Cllr Howell without a receiving a response. The parish council is requested take the matter up with Quarry Liaison Group. The parish council is further asked to support an investigation to identify materials and source.

RW replied that the parish council is working with the EA for data recording levels of pollutants and airborne matter.

Cllr Diccico to speak with SMBC Environmental Compliance Team and Cllr Howell.

**Action: Cllr Diccico.**

JH requested Cllr Diccico's assistance in obtaining planning documents on site licences and ROMP reviews that he is led to believe have been archived when previously requested.

**Action: Cllr Diccico.**

- Cllr Diccico apologised that he would have to leave shortly but advised he had been contacted by residents from Winspear Close regarding Anti-social behaviour of a threatening nature. This has been passed onto SMBC to investigate. It was unknown if Bromford Housing has been notified.
- A traffic survey has concluded at Berkswell Road Bear junction, and work will be undertaken to make the junction safer.

Cllr Diccico left the meeting.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....



**3. Declarations of Interest**

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.  
None.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature  
None.

**4. Minutes of Last Meeting – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record. All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2020 were approved; proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

**5. Finance**

**5.1 July Payments**

Parish Council July payments amounting to £3920.06 had been circulated for Member’s approval. Highlights include the additions of £16.36 covid expenses and £486 Norwood Press for NDP Regulation 16 PR materials.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved £3920.66 for July. Proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Weaver.

Sports Park July payments amounting to £8101.47 had been circulated for Members approval. Highlights include the additions of £2040.00 AMS Groundwork and Covid related cleansing, and £2690.00 Came & Co annual insurance renewal.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved £8101.47 for July. Proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Barber.

**6. Progress Reports**

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee  
Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials  
Nothing to report.

6.2(i) Heritage Monuments & Memorial Funding

Clerk reported Monuments Trust has request two further quotations for work to be undertaken. She has contacted Cliveden and Hall Conservation and awaits a reply and date to attend site. Panel meet in August to award funding.

**Action: Clerk**

6.3 Meriden Pool

The pool is looking very good with the efforts of the Friends Group.

6.3(i) Friends Group

Clerk advised that three new volunteers have joined the group; they had put together a working party of 4 to weed in-between the newly planted hedge whips.

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**



Some tidying up has also been undertaken to rear of pool around flow outlet into pool. The Rotary Club of Meriden will be donating two new planters for winter planting. Two benches await installation.

**Action: Clerk to contact Head of Public Realm for meeting dates.**

6.3(ii) Management & Funding  
Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments

Clerk advised there are two vacant plots and the first on the list have declined. She is working down the list and will meeting interested parties in the next week or so.

**Action: Clerk**

6.5 Footpaths/Forum

Nothing to report; however clerk mentioned the footpaths leading to the A45 from Showell Lane and Eaves Green Lane are in need of attention.

**Action: Clerk to contact Mr Hawley.**

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group

RW reported no meeting was held in June with the next scheduled meeting to be held 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

**Action: RW/Clerk to draft letter to members of Quarry Liaison Group.**

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

RW reported the AGM took place on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2020. Alison McGrory, David Turton and Sarah Rooney attended to provide parish and town representatives with an overview of the new reporting structure due to the neighbourhood team being redeployed and SMBC's recent restructure of services. All matters to be logged with the Connect team.

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List

Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries

There are no surgeries being held.

6.10 Community Speed Watch

JB advised that it was still not safe to undertake Speed Watch in numbers and therefore it was being left to PCSO's and police officers to carry out speed watch. A request has been made for data to be shared with the parish council regarding numbers of drivers and interventions made.

**Action: Clerk to follow up with PCSO Hanley.**

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

**Clerk:** Barbara Bland

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6.11 HS2

RW advised we have received full updates from earlier HS2 presentations. Please see website for public access.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park

RW reported the park re-opened with strict guidelines including the display of signage. There is a lot of reading material but there is evidence that signs are being removed. Thanks to JB recorded from the parish council for displaying approved signage to keep users safe. An incursion of travellers was averted last Sunday (unauthorised encampment) from the sports park. Swift response from JB to lock and chain gates. JH recorded his personal thanks.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust

JH advised the Trust has closed its small grants application process. The Trust is expecting a lower return of investment. Situation will be reviewed in September for small grants.

**7. Clerk’s Report**

Clerk reported all matters included in Agenda items.

**8. District and Ward Councillor Reports**

Cllr Diccico had left the meeting but please see his report of antisocial behaviour complaints from residents in Winspear Close.

**9. Correspondence & Communication**

- All correspondence circulated to Members where appropriate;
- RW advised residents’ complaints regarding increase in dog fouling. Clerk to contact Love Solihull Team for to target Meriden with a clean-up campaign. JH suggested the enforcement officer be advised so he may impose fines onto offending dog owners and advice to be taken from LA that he has powers to undertake this.

**Action: Clerk to contact Jo-Ann Williams and Sarah Jones SMBC Love Solihull Team.**

**10. Meriden Village Matters**

10.1 Meriden Library

RW reported she and clerk had attended an earlier meeting with Head of Customer and Library Services and Library Lead to ascertain current situation of Library delays. It was not a favourable outcome with confirmation that there are no foundations to the building with further investigative works required for compliance to building regulations. Clerk advised it is disappointing and frustrating to reach this point without any warnings being raised previously by property services given discussions commenced on first floor strengthening in 2014. It is left in the hands of property services and conservation officers to look and provide a report of the following:-

**Signed ..... Chair Dated .....**

Option 1 – Building regulations to authorise work going ahead on basis of existing structure, which is unlikely;  
Option 2 – Underpinning the library building.

All parties to complete this survey/report by end of July with a view to presenting findings to the parish council early August. If both options prove negative then options are to be considered.

SMBC advise their commitment to work with parish council and providing the library building as shared space/community hub.  
**Action: RW/Clerk.**

10.2 VE75 Village Commemoration  
RW reflected the postponement of the Village Event and advised deferment to 2021. Future planning to be considered with event organisers and government guidance.  
**Action: Event Organisers and working party.**

10.3 Meriden Gate  
Clerk advised our solicitor is working through the many difficulties with Barretts David Wilson Homes and SMBC.  
**Action: Solicitor/Clerk/David Wilson Homes/SMBC.**

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)  
Clerk advised solicitor and Taylor Wimpey are working on draft Deed of Transfer.  
**Action: Clerk/Solicitor.**

10.5 Highways  
RW advised Highways comprehensive update from Mr Keaney under item 2.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership  
Clerk advised solicitors looking at potential parish council existing ownership of corner of Letitia Avenue/Maxstoke Lane which is to be advised. Likewise the solicitor is working through the transfer deeds of the copse immediately behind the sports park field to establish ownership which is summarised as being SMBC but to be confirmed.  
**Action: Clerk/Solicitor**

10.7 Local Council Award Scheme  
RW stated that JB/Clerk are finalising website content to meet criteria content requirements.  
**Action: All**

10.7(i) Website  
RW reported the website is looking good and nears completion.  
**Action: JB/RW/JH/BB.**

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

**10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport**

It was reported that the village bus stop has an intermittent bleep from the electronic timetable.

**Action: Clerk to contact TfWM.**

**10.9 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training, Business Network**

JH advised the business network pages continue to be updated with new Covid-19 guidelines.

**11. Planning Matters**

**11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update**

RW advised that Regulation 16 consultation is underway for a fixed period ending 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020. Notification is on social media sites, noticeboards and library display. Hard copies are available via the clerk. Updates being made weekly.

**Action: NDP Steering Group and SMBC.**

**11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid**

RW advised a new bid is being prepared to cover costs of Referendum stage including consultant and promotional materials.

**Action: RW/Clerk**

**11.2 Neighbourhood Community/Ward Action Plan**

RW advised with the reorganisation of the neighbourhood team there is uncertainty of this being continued.

**Action: All**

**11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review**

Nothing to report.

**11.4 Planning Application Status Updates**

JH had circulated planning updates to Members for July which may be accessed from website clicking on Planning. Members noted there were 3 approvals. JH advised he was organising a meeting with Strawberry Bank agent to discuss latest planning application for 30 bedroom hotel extension.

**Action: JH and full council.**

**12. Climate Change**

JH advised the parish council is looking for volunteers with a keen interest to join a working group. It continues to be a work in progress and will be picked up again in September.

Action: JH

**13. Youth Council**

JH presented standing orders and constitution for approval.

**Signed .....** Chair **Dated .....**

Heart of England School and Meriden School have both indicated their support to this project. RW recommended Member approval of standing orders and constitution.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Cllr Weaver proposed approval of the standing orders and constitution of Meriden's Youth Council, seconded by Cllr Barber.  
RW recorded parish council thanks to JH and well done urging Meriden's young people to get involved.

**14. Digital Review**

JH advised nothing to report. RW stated the hybrid meetings were going well with council business being achieved. Further guidance is awaited on holding Annual Parish meetings. JB said there may be a need to consider recording equipment and microphones for when meetings return to the Pavilion for continuation of resident participation via zoom.

**Action: RW/JH/JH/BB**

**15. Parish Council Development Day**

A Development Day to be organised for the future.

**Action: All**

**16. Annual Parish Assembly**

RW reported there is no government guidance on Annual Parish/Annual Assembly meetings. This item remains on the agenda.

**17. Casual Vacancy**

RW reported the vacancy not filled in 2019 election remains. The monitoring officer approves content of the advertisement and application form. Clerk to put into noticeboards and JB to put onto social media sites. Interviews required if more than one applicant interest.

**Action: Clerk to speak to Monitoring Officer and report at next meeting.**

**17. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda**

- Developing an Apprenticeship Scheme  
Looking at future proofing the parish council from 2023. The government is promoting apprenticeship schemes and JH to get information for next meeting.
- Remembrance Sunday.

**18. Date of Next Meeting**

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2020 at 19.30 hours via Zoom Conferencing.

The meeting closed at 17.20 hours.

**Signed** ..... **Chair**      **Dated** .....