

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd November 2020
Virtual Meeting via Member Zoom Conferencing commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver BEM RW	Chair	Cllr M Woollard MW	
Cllr J Barber JB	Vice Chair	Cllr R Kipling RK	
Cllr J Hughes JH		Cllr A Eburne AE	
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

In attendance Cllr Diccio.
There were 5 members of the public in attendance; meeting streaming live.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed Councillors, invited guests and members of the public. Apologies received from Cllr Howell and Cllr Nunn due to ill health. The meeting was being live streamed and RW thanked all for logging in.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted Cllr Howell and Cllr Nunn’s apologies.

2. Public Participation

Guests Fiona Woolston (LM Engagement Manager), Rachel Johnson (HS2 Community Engagement Manager) and Nicholas Cuming (BBV Community Engagement Manager).

HS2 presentation by the Community Engagement Team from HS2, LM and BBV. The presentation may be viewed on the parish council website.

Cllr Diccio stated he chaired the HS2 Implementation Advisory Group and all resident concerns raised should be directed to himself so he may put onto agenda and invite residents to attend and raise their issues in the forum; specifically the destruction of greenbelt and trees lost from the Vale of Arden Forest.

Cllr Weaver reported HS2 HGV’s parking on yellow lines around village green to access fish & chips or shops, sometimes causing pavement obstruction with engines left running. Drivers access shops without wearing masks. This will be reported to the HS2 construction manager and included in morning briefings.

Residents raised the following items:-

- Strawberry Bank – more information is required and it is difficult to obtain relevant information from SMBC planning portal. The licence relates to the whole site including grounds and car park licenced until 2am 7 days per week. Concerns around light and noise nuisance have been logged.

Signed Chair **Dated**

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- Is there any update on the environmental monitoring station data for dust from the quarry?

Cllr Hughes replied that the EA confirmed monitoring equipment will remain in situ for another 6 months due to Covid restrictions and working practices during lockdown. Current data does not reflect actual impact in normal working environments.

Action: Clerk to forward EA statement to resident.

- Access to the SMBC's planning portal is difficult to negotiate and information is not always found relative to planning applications. Cllr Weaver advised she would log this and take to Solihull Area Committee meeting in January when Head of Planning will be attending to address parish and town council planning concerns.

Action: Cllr Weaver to address concerns with Head of Planning.

Cllr Diccio also responded that he had shared issues of access to planning portal with SMBC Planning.

An upgrade to the current system is to be implemented which will enable a more accessible and usable format. Cllr Diccio accepted the criticism on behalf of SMBC.

Action: SMBC

- A question was asked about the Defibrillator at the Library and how this may be used by members of the public. Cllr Hughes replied that the procedure is to dial 999 and the operator will talk through the access code and how to use it. Instructions will also be put onto website. There will be 3 defibrillators in Meriden Parish located Meriden Sports Park, Meriden Library and Millison's Wood.

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 – 19th October 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 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 19th October 2020 were approved; proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Barber.

5. Finance

The Clerk circulated finance committee minutes of 16th November 2020 a copy of which may be accessed on the website.

5.1 November Payments

Parish Council November payments amounting to £3220.86 had been circulated for Member's approval.

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The clerk highlighted 4 additions included Covid shopping reimbursement £22.94; NALC training £38.93, Meriden Mag £176.00; Brian Ball £356.00.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £3220.86 for November. Proposed by Cllr Woollard and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

Sports Park November payments amounting to £4018.15 had been circulated for Members approval.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved £4018.15 for November. Proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Hughes.

5.2 Finance Committee

The finance committee met on 16th November 2020 and make the following recommendations for full council approval.

- Parish Action Plan

Additions made to the PAP included new identified projects for apprenticeship/trainee scheme, climate emergency and youth parish council.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Parish Action Plan is approved. Proposed Cllr Kipling and seconded Cllr Woollard.

- Business Plan 2019-2023

The business plan had been updated to include for Covid-19 and the restrictions placed upon the parish council in order to meet business planning for 2020. The PAP has been cross referenced to the Business Plan and the finance committee recommend full council approval. Cllr Weaver requested the removal of DR (draft) from the Business Plan.

IT WAS RESOLVED The Business Plan is approved. Proposed Cllr Kipling and seconded Cllr Hughes.

Action: Clerk to remove DR from Business Plan pages.

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 the method statement had been signed off by IMI contractor and received back by Monuments Trust. The contractor will be instructed to forward a date for maintenance to be undertaken.

Action: Clerk

6.3 Meriden Pool

Nothing to report.

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6.3(i) Friends Group
Nothing to report.

6.3(ii) Management & Funding
Nothing to report.

6.4 Allotments
Nothing to report.

6.5 Footpaths/Forum
Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarries Liaison Group
Cllr Hughes reported the next meeting will be held in January 2021. It is recorded NRS did not provide any admin and the meeting was recorded. Cllr Hughes requested a letter of thanks be written to Alderman Bell for taking on the role of Chair.
Action: Clerk.

6.7 Solihull Area Committee
RW reported the next meeting will be held in January 2021. The new Head of Planning will be the guest speaker.

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List
Chair recorded her thanks to Sarah Sharland for her editorial in the Meriden Mag.
Action: Clerk to contact Tree Warden for monthly update.

6.9 "Tea & Talk"
Cllr Hughes reported this was the first of the newly branded community surgery sessions. PCSO's Harkin and Murdoch attended along with the clerk and Cllr Woollard with 5 members of the public. The police provided an update on general crime, speeding and number plate theft, drug crime, enforcement of a marijuana factory and enforcing Covid restrictions by dispersal measures. Focus was also given to the Strawberry Bank licensing application which residents were unhappy with.
Action: Cllr Woollard, Cllr Hughes, PCSO Harkin and Clerk.

6.10 Community Speed Watch
JB reported speed watch sessions are currently on hold due to Covid-19 restrictions. The police team have continued carrying out sessions and more are planned.
Action: Cllr Barber, PCSO Harkin and PCSO Murdoch.

6.11 HS2

Signed Chair **Dated**

Please see tonight's HS2 presentation on parish council website along with all weekly notifications of construction works affecting highway network being M42, A45, A446 and A452.

1. Meriden Sports Park

Cllr Weaver advised the next Director's meeting is arranged for Tuesday 1st December 2020 and a report will be provided to Council at December's meeting.

Action: Cllr Barber/Cllr Weaver/Clerk.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust

Cllr Hughes advised the Trustees were meeting on 24th November 2020. There will be the election of a new Chair and Secretary as Mr & Mrs Roxburgh are stepping down. New Trustees are also needed. Chair suggested a letter be written to Mr & Mrs Roxburgh from the parish council thanking them for their sterling service supporting the sports park. Cllr Hughes stated he had already done this on behalf of the parish council. The parish council formally recorded their appreciation.

7. **Clerk's Report**

Clerk reported all matters included in Agenda.

8. **District and Ward Councillor Reports**

Cllr Diccico advised the full Council meeting held in October concentrated on the Local Plan consultation process. The consultation period concludes 14th December. Comments will be included in the examination process early 2021.

- Cllr Hughes asked about the planning application proposal for Aldi? Cllr Diccico replied the proposal is on the back burner and nothing is likely to happen for 12/18 months.
- Cllr Hughes asked how the Heart of England School will cope with increased intake of pupil numbers. Cllr Diccico replied that there are discussions with CEO of Schools Trust to build another primary school as school numbers indicate a shortage of primary provision. Secondary provision plans say ok. Places will be freed up by those pupils travelling from Tile Hill etc. Most of the building will be phase 2 Barretts Lane Farm of 1200 houses.
- Cllr Hughes advised the Quarry Liaison Group has met. Responses to the latest planning applications have been submitted. SMBC planning officer and Ward Councillor presence requested at next meeting planned for January 2021.

9. **Correspondence & Communication**

All correspondence has been circulated and emailed to Members. Cllr Weaver reported a thank you received from the Mayor thanking the Community Action Team and Volunteers for their work during the Coronavirus pandemic. 600 phone calls received to date and the Helpline continues for the foreseeable future.

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10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Meriden Library

Clerk advised no update from Library Services. A meeting is arranged with Ben Rayment, Parliamentary Assistant to Saqib Bhatti MP, to explore options for funding and safeguarding of the Library and it's future.

Action: RW/Clerk.

10.2 Village Commemoration

10.2(i) VE75

Deferred to 2021.

10.2(ii) Remembrance Sunday

Chair reported the Service was pre-recorded by St Laurence Church.

Rev Lilley did a brilliant job and a selection of representatives from various groups participated in the recorded event. The recording may be viewed on St Laurence Church FB page. Rev Lilley is no longer in the Parish and she will be sadly missed.

10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

Action: Clerk/Solicitor.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey (Transfer of Allotments/freehold land)

Work is progressing with solicitor and TWH legal team to conclude transfer.

Action: Clerk/Solicitor.

10.5 Highways

Nothing to report.

10.6 Land Registry & Ownership

Nothing to report.

10.7 Local Council Award Scheme

Continues as a work in progress.

Action: All

10.7(i) Website

The review continues.

Action: JB/RW/JH/BB.

10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport

Nothing to report.

10.9 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training

Nothing to report.

10.10 Business Network

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Cllr Hughes reported that SMBC businesses can put in application for financial support. The parish council continues to update website and Facebook pages with information of what to do.

10.11 Millison's Wood Telephone Box & Emergency Response (Defibrillator)
Clerk to order and arrange installation. Also maintenance of telephone kiosk.
Action: Clerk to order defibrillator, signage and installation.

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Neighbourhood Planning Update
Chair advised SMBC has appointed an independent examiner.
Action: NDP Steering Group and SMBC.

11.1(i) Locality Funding Bid
Nothing to report.

11.2 Parish Action Plan & Business Plan
Chair confirmed both the Parish Action Plan and Business Plan had been agreed by finance committee and approved by full Council.

11.3 Solihull Local Plan Review
Chair advised the parish council had been submitted with acknowledgement of safe receipt.

11.4 Planning Application Status Updates
Cllr Hughes advised there are no new quarry applications with the two recent HS2 related applications awaiting a decision.

Cllr Woollard reported there was nothing of note in the latest applications received going to neighbor notification. The Strawberry Bank licensing application response has been submitted and we await decision.
Action: Planning Committee

12. Climate Change

Cllr Hughes advised the group is looking for more volunteers including the local business community. This will be revisited early 2021.
Action: Cllr Hughes

13. Youth Council

Cllr Hughes advised there has been no response from Heart of England. He will reach out again but will leave until January 2021.
Action: Cllr Hughes

Signed Chair **Dated**



14. Council Development Day

Chair advised there was a range of issues discussed and planning for the next financial year. A draft response to the Local Plan consultation was outlined for parish council submission. Another development day to be arranged for early 2021.

Action: All

15. Annual Parish Assembly

Chair reported the parish council is looking at ways of hosting this event using methods of virtual participation and accessible platforms for community inclusion.

Action: Cllr Weaver/Cllr Hughes

16. Casual Vacancy

Chair advised there was a vacancy for a co-opted Parish Councillor and this would be advertised in the New Year.

Action: Clerk

17. Community Champions

Chair advised she and clerk are attending weekly briefings with SMBC.

17.1 COVID-19

Chair advised the factual summary of weekly briefings from Public Health are being circulated to the local community via website and FB pages. Key issues around transmission and large groups congregating requiring police enforced dispersal is included. There is also information for residents who need help.

Action: Cllr Weaver/Clerk

18. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

- Platinum Jubilee 2022
- Apprentice/Trainee Scheme

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 14th December 2020 at 19.30 hours via Zoom Conferencing.

The meeting closed at 21.01 hours.

Signed Chair **Dated**