



Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
Virtual Meeting via Member Zoom Conferencing commencing at 7.30 p.m.

<b>Present:</b>			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr M Woollard MW	
Cllr J Hughes JH			
Cllr A Eburne AE	Via zoom non-voting		
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

**1. Welcome & Apologies**

Chair opened the meeting; there have been recent sad news of deaths of people who have given service in public life both nationally and more locally in Meriden. Meriden Parish Council would like to pass our condolences to their families and friends.

Chair welcomed Councillors, guests, and members of the public. Apologies recorded from Cllrs Barber, Smith, Allsopp and Charlie Beaty who will be attending the next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021. Tonight’s meeting will be recorded for reference and public access. Guests and members of the public were welcomed via zoom and FB live streaming. No apologies received from Cllrs Nunn and Kipling.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Members approved apologies from Cllrs Barber and Smith. They further recorded non-attendance by Cllrs Nunn and Kipling.

**2. Public Participation**

Chair introduced guest speakers from HS2 Community Engagement Team being Fiona Woolston LM, Rachel Johnson HS2 and Cameron Cashmore BBV.

The team presented an comprehensive update for programme of works which included

- HS2 route connecting Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and London;
- Community & Environment Fund;
- Interchange Area & Station;
- Enabling works for interchange area and temporary road closures;
- BBV main works update;
- Truggist Lane compound;
- Haul routes;
- BBV community projects;
- HS2 virtual drop-ins Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November for Interchange & Chelmsley Wood.

A copy of the full presentation may be accessed from parish council website.

Cllr Dicicco advised questions may be raised at forums such as the SMBC Advisory Group or the HS2 team.

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

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The devastation of woodland, trees, shrubs in and around Meriden Ward is difficult to witness. Also coordination is required with other agencies regarding highways works as recent works have left Meriden grid locked with only 2 routes to Solihull town centre. SMBC Implementation Group have full details of road closures and replanting programmes of woodland.

Chair thanked the HS2 team and looked forward to their quarterly update in the New Year.

**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 – 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were agreed as an accurate record. All matters arising are covered in the agenda.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** The minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were approved; proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

**5. Finance**

**5.1 October Payments**

The clerk explained that payments for parish council and sports park expenditure for October was not complete due to outstanding invoices. Therefore, the recommendation is for October's payments to be approved under the scheme of delegation.

**IT WAS RESOLVED** Clerk approves October payments for parish council and sports park expenditure under the scheme of delegation.

**Action: Clerk**

**5.2 Budget 2022-2023**

It was suggested it would be useful for the finance working group to meet to identify future projects for parish action plan, which will inform budget revisions and new project expenditure v. precept percentage increase to cover any shortfall. Proposed dates either 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> November with Members to confirm their availability for a 4 p.m. start.

**Action: Clerk and finance working group.**

**5.3 DBS Checks**

A brief discussion regarding SMBC's support for the parish council to obtain DBS checks for councillors to engage one to one with young people and lone work with wider community.

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

This has become a protracted process without positive outcome. Cllr Dicicco was asked for his assistance in moving this along with HR and Monitoring Officer.

**Action: Emails to be forwarded to Cllr Dicicco for his reference and action.**

**6. Progress Reports**

**6.1 Village Hall Management Committee**

A conversation with representatives requesting the parish council be kept advised of meetings and other issues concerning the Village Hall. The parish council has a seat on the Village Hall Management Committee and would welcome an invitation to the clerk to attend the next meeting.

**6.2 War Memorials**

Nothing to report.

**6.3 Meriden Pool**

Nothing to report.

**6.4 Allotments**

HS2 delivered wood chippings for allotment holders which was gratefully received.

**6.5 Footpaths/Forum**

It was reported that the steps leading to the A45 bridge from Maxstoke Lane were still to be repaired with broken wooden structure evident.

**Action: Clerk to contact North Warwickshire Highways regarding A45 Bridge.**

**6.6 Quarries Liaison Group**

There was no update to reinstatement of the quarry liaison group; an email had been sent to Mr Williams, Alder Mill, who was to initiate the commencement of quarterly meetings. The parish council and Solihull MBC are both keen to re-establish communications with quarry operators. The recommendation from council is for the parish council to kick start the commencement of quarterly meetings.

**Action: JH/Clerk**

**6.7 Solihull Area Committee**

- It was reported there was an update on the Commonwealth Games 2022 as one of the venues is the NEC.
- Parish councils raised the reporting process into Connect and the difficulties all have had in tracking actions and receiving feedback that work has been undertaken or case closed. Repeatedly there is a lack of feedback from SMBC. There will be a review to prioritise workload and push the "I love Solihull" brand.
- The next meeting is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

**6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List**

Nothing to report.

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



6.9 Tea & Talk  
Nothing to report.

6.10 Community Speed Watch/Street Watch  
Nothing to report. AE requested to email Police and re-instate speed watch for Meriden including recruiting new volunteers and organising training sessions. Also to liaise with Police regarding Street Watch initiatives. This has been raised at East Localities meeting. There are two new PCSOs to support Meriden’s speed watch team.  
**Action: AE/Cllr Diccico**

6.11 HS2  
The HS2 Team have provided an update at the start of the meeting. The presentation is available for public access on the parish council website.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park  
The Park remains open for business with twice weekly risk assessments undertaken. Parish councillors and directors are required to take a lateral flow test prior to their attendance at meetings. Football teams are back and pitch repairs have been completed with positive comments received from hirers. Some plans are underway for improving the children’s play area which will result in a two-week closure period middle to end November. The T-Cup to be removed and replaced with an inclusive roundabout. Suggestion for the T-Cup not to be scraped but used as a planter at play area entrance will be suggested to Directors.  
**Action: Clerk/Sports Park Directors**

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust  
The chair of sports park will meet with Chair of Trustees on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October for update and information exchange.  
**Action: Directors and Trustees.**

7. **Clerk’s Report**  
Nothing to report.

8. **District and Ward Councillor Reports**  
Cllr Diccico reported: -

- HS2 update; amount of devastation is an issue with particular focus on closure of Lavender Hall Lane. Also the amount of road closures in and around the Meriden Ward is an ongoing issue which will be exacerbated by the commencement of build for the viaduct which will be challenging.
- 3 planning applications have been approved including (i) Hall Meadow Road Certificate of Lawful use for work to commence around car parking and guest house – August 2022 (ii) Waste Lane/Kelsey Lane there will be 12 lorries in

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

either direction using this highway without planning. A loophole has enabled 5 x 12 lorries and 6 x 12 lorries cumulative impact 120 vehicle movements per day (iii) Hall Meadow Road will have 2-3 years of pain with vehicle movements alongside track development.

- Solihull's Local Plan is before external Inspector and feedback to date is good. We have met our duty to co-operate, but significantly more houses are requested for Balsall Common and Berkswell with associated traffic. Requests are countered with recommendation for more Black Country/Birmingham brownfield sites to be redeveloped to meet housing needs.
- Covid rates continue to rise with significant increases in ages 12-16 years with a slow vaccination take up which is due to parental consent and logistics of vaccination sites.

## **9. Correspondence & Communication**

All correspondence received is forward to Members for their reference. Where comments are required, a request accompanies the email.

## **10. Meriden Village Matters**

### 10.1 Library

The library continues to open Mondays and Fridays 10.00 to 12.30 hours.

### 10.2 Village Commemoration

#### 10.2(i) Platinum Jubilee

It was discussed and suggested that the parish council register as part of the "Big Lunch" for 2022 and we dovetail the Jubilee and Big Lunch together to provide "The Big Jubilee Lunch" inviting communities to come together across the UK on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to celebrate HM The Queen's 70-year reign.

**Action: ALL**

**Action: Clerk to register with the Big Lunch Team.**

#### 10.2(ii) Remembrance Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

All arrangements continue with contact made to Methodist Church, Scouts and St Laurence. The application for temporary road closure is approved. A SAG (Solihull Area Group) meeting is arranged for parish and town councils, highways, cultural services and public health on 25<sup>th</sup> October. Risk Assessment is required to be submitted to SAG for approval. Volunteers will be needed for road closure manning of barriers. Please contact the clerk.

An invitation has been received from the mayor's office to attend the Civic Service at St Alphege Church, Solihull. Cllr Hughes agreed to attend and represent Meriden.

**Action: Clerk/JB/JH**

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

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10.3 Meriden Gate

It was reported that there had been no communication with the locum solicitor acting for the parish council in the transfer of sports park land from Solihull MBC. Cllr Diccico was asked for his assistance in this process so the matter may reach a satisfactory conclusion. Clerk requested to forward all emails to Cllr Diccico.

**Action: Cllr Diccico/clerk**

10.4 Highways

Public comments continue to filter in regarding the new cycle lane design in Meriden. Mr Prescott, SMBC Project Engineer for the scheme is replying individually to those who have contacted the clerk. Further comments have been received regarding the impending Fillongley Road Bridge works. The clerk will contact SMBC officers requesting information on commencement of works and diversion routes. Members of the public may contact the Highways team via [connectcc@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:connectcc@solihull.gov.uk)

**Action: Clerk**

10.4(i)Litter

The recent litter pick had 14 volunteers attend. Two young people are also volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and are showing real enthusiasm for the job in hand and it is good to work with them and the wider litter team.

Cllr Diccico requested dates so he may participate; the next date is 21<sup>st</sup> November meeting at the sports park. He suggested the volunteers be a formalised litter group that meet on a regular basis. It should also be recorded that Millisons Wood residents regularly litter pick when out walking. Future dates will be posted on FB page and website. A question was raised regarding SMBC's consideration of the mobile household recycling units scheme currently being trialled by Birmingham City Council to reduce fly tipping? This was unknown at this time but would be suggested to SMBC officers.

10.5 Local Council Award Scheme

To be discussed at the forthcoming development day.

**Action: ALL**

10.6 Digital Community Inclusion/Engagement

To be discussed at the forthcoming development day.

**Action: ALL**

10.7 Meriden Public & Community Transport

Meriden is referring covid booster/flu jabs to residents attending Balsall Common Surgery. Many complaints are being received regarding transport issues and the need to get taxis to keep appointments made in Balsall Common.

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



The parish council has been working with Transport for West Midlands to see what transport is available to overcome this issue. As a result a series of drop in sessions will be hosted by TfWM at the Pavilion as part of the Warm Hub project.

More information to follow.

**Action: Clerk**

**10.8 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training**

The parish council is trialling the Warm Hub project in Meriden which is a joint initiative with Cadent and WRCC. Information may obtained for home heating bills, transport, home safety. The third visit is tomorrow between 10.30-12.30 where residents can pop in and chat over a coffee and biscuit. The project is funded until 21<sup>st</sup> December. A bid has been put into East Localities for the parish council to continue this project to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. We aim to offer what is needed being dementia/autism friendly and young families. Transport to be worked out to get residents to Pavilion.

**Action: RW/CS/clerk**

**10.9 Business Network**

Berryfields and Pertemps to be approached for additional sponsorship for Christmas Lights.

**Action: JH**

**10.10 Defibrillators & Training**

Future dates for Defib training (CPR) Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November 10-12.00 hours and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 19.00-21.00 hours. If anyone wishes to attend please contact the clerk on [clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Action: RW/Clerk**

**10.11 Farmers Market**

This project to be further considered and discussed at Development Day and with WI.

**11. Planning Matters**

**11.1 Community Asset/Right to Bid/Land Ownership**

Nothing to report.

**11.2 Planning Applications Update**

The working group to meet.

**Action: JH**

**11.3 Parish Action Plan & Business Plan**

To be reviewed as part of the budget setting and precept processes for 2022/2023.

**Action: Finance Committee**

**11.4 Solihull Local Plan Review**

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

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The Local Plan is undergoing independent examination. Problems reported accessing online documentation which is currently being investigated.

**12. Climate Change**

This topic is the headline for the forthcoming WALC Annual Conference being hosted on 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Please advise the clerk if you wish to register for the conference.

**Action: All**

**13. Youth Council**

Another young person has come forward interested in being part of the council. Currently work is limited due to lack of DBS checks in place.

**Action: JH/CS**

**14. Digital Review**

This is now concluded and will be removed as a standing item for next meeting.

**Action: Clerk**

**15. Parish Council Development Day**

The date of the next meeting is Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021 10.00-12.00 hours via zoom. All Members are expected to attend.

**Action: RW/Clerk**

**16. Annual Parish Assembly**

A dated to be set at Development Day for 2022.

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

Nothing to report.

**18. Date of Next Meeting**

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021 at 19.30.

Chair thanked Councillors, guests and members of the public for attending tonight's meetings.

The meeting closed at 20.55 hours.

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