

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th September 2021
Virtual Meeting via Member Zoom Conferencing commencing at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr M Woollard MW	
Cllr J Barber JB	Via Zoom (non-voting)	Cllr M Nunn MN	
Cllr J Hughes JH		Cllr C Smith CS	
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair welcomed Councillors, guests, and members of the public to the first parish council meeting in the Pavilion. Guests and members of the public are in attendance via zoom and this is the first time trialling this set up to reduce any Covid risk to vulnerable participants. Apologies recorded from Cllrs Kipling and Eburne. The meeting will be recorded for reference and public access. Guests and members of the public were welcomed via zoom.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved apologies from Cllrs Kipling and Eburne and acknowledged the meeting set up.

2. Public Participation

Chair introduced guest speakers as Donna Savage, Donna Savage Planning Limited and Charlotte Brace, Stonewater who presented an update on the Firs development. Prior to the meeting a new site layout was circulated, and this is displayed for this evening's meeting reference. The revised plan for The Firs development may be accessed via the parish council website planning page.

- There had been a few tweaks to the original application with extensive input from SMBC to the pre-application. Survey work for layout and final checks commences in the coming weeks.
- There will be a mix of shared ownership, affordable and open market properties in line with housing needs survey.
- Mitigation for Maxstoke Lane residents is a required condition with construction management plans. There will be considerable controls in place including traffic management plan, detailed drainage strategy and connectivity to existing infrastructure and hours of working.
- Shared ownership/affordable schemes allocation must detail local need and local connection under Section 106 agreement.
- Adoption via SMBC highways and open green space will be the responsibility of Stonewater landscaping/grounds work teams.

Chair thanked Donna and Charlotte for their attendance and update.

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 – 5th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 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 5th May 2021 were approved; proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Woollard.

5. Finance

5.1 September Payments

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

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

Action: Clerk

5.2 Scheme of Delegation Review

Members considered the continuation of the scheme of delegation. It was agreed that airing on the side of caution with rising Covid cases and a spike in Meriden, that the scheme of delegation agreed at the Annual Meeting on 5th May 2021 continues until the Annual Meeting May 2022 or until such time as a legal full council resolution to amend or discontinue this practice.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members approved the continuation of scheme of delegation until the Annual Meeting May 2022 or until such time as a legal full council resolution to amend or discontinue this practice. Proposed Cllr Weaver and seconded Cllr Nunn.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee
Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials

It was reported that the completion documents had been signed off and forwarded to War Memorials Trust including uploading before and after photographs to the WMT website with condition statement. We await confirmation end of grant documentation is accepted to release the final grant payment for the cleaning and maintenance works undertaken in April 2021.

Signed Chair **Dated**

Action: Clerk

6.3 Meriden Pool

All good; thank you to the Friends group for their continued support. The Pool has looked particularly lovely this year with many residents and visitors enjoying sitting and looking at the wildfowl. The new seating at the rear of the Pool has made a difference to visitors providing a new vista to enjoy.

6.4 Allotments

Allotments have full tenancy with a waiting list of 9 names. Trinity/MBG management agreed to cut back large branches overhanging and remove dead trees from the copse boundary inside the allotment at no cost to the parish council. This has been a long negotiation, but much appreciated to reach this satisfactory outcome.

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. The overgrown weeds had been cut back and removed. It was further reported that the footpath/pavement along Hampton Lane (Meriden Mile) needed resurfacing as very uneven under foot.

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

Action: Clerk to contact SMBC Highways regarding footpath Meriden Mile.

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.

Action: JH

6.7 Solihull Area Committee

The next meeting is scheduled for 7th October 2021 via zoom. RW continues as vice chair of SAC and JH is the nominated representative for Meriden. All councillors are welcome to attend and it would be useful for CS and MW to attend. Meetings are usually 1.5 hours with good representation from SMBC's officers and Assistant Director for Communities.

Action: RW

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List

Nothing to report.

6.9 Tea & Talk

To be re-established end of October.

Action: JH/MW

Signed Chair **Dated**



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.

Action: AE

6.11 HS2

Nothing to report; increased devastation visible in surrounding areas of Meriden. Haulage roads now approved for HS2 material transportation to and from areas of construction including Balsall Common. The HS2 community engagement team will be presenting their update at 18th October 2021 parish council meeting.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park

The next directors meeting to be held on 27th September 2021. 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. Craft Club has recommenced, and football season is underway.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust

There is no scheduled joint meeting arranged. Regular updates between directors and trustees take place with regular park walkabouts to plan for maintenance and other park concerns.

Action: Directors and Trustees.

7. Clerk's Report

The clerk circulated a summary report of actions including a finance report to Members. Any questions invited? There were none. The clerk continues working under the scheme of delegation and remains home based.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports

Nothing to report.

9. Correspondence & Communication

Nothing to report.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library

The library re-opens on 27th September 2021 on Mondays and Fridays between 10-12.30. Some maintenance has been undertaken internally for water leaks. Nothing further has been reported on upstairs refurbishment of staff rest room or available first floor space.

10.2 Village Commemoration

Signed **Chair** **Dated**

10.2(i) Platinum Jubilee

It is unlikely a VE75 event will be organised in 2021. It is recommended that focus be given to a Platinum Jubilee 2022 event instead. The previous organisers of picnic in the park events to be contacted so planning may get underway. Funding to be included in the 2022/2023 budget for this purpose. More details to follow when dates have been agreed with sports park directors.

Action: RW

10.2(ii) Remembrance Sunday 14th November 2021

An application to be submitted to Solihull Highways for temporary road closures for Remembrance Day Service. An email to be sent to St Laurence Church requesting any details in plan for this event. Suitable notice to be drafted for residents detailing time of service and closure sites. JB to forward information to clerk.

Action: Clerk/JB

10.3 Meriden Gate

Nothing to report.

10.4 Taylor Wimpey & Associated Works

The transfer of allotment site from Taylor Wimpey to the parish council has been concluded. We await Deed of Transfer from Land Registry. This item will be removed from future agendas.

Action: Clerk

10.5 Highways

There has been much reported about the new cycle lane layout. All emails referred to Mr Prescott, Highways Officer leading on the cycle lane design and implementation works so he may address the concerns raised by residents and local cyclists. The design is in accordance with Government's Active Travel Fund. There was a period of consultation on Solihull and parish council websites in February 2021. Highways representatives also attended parish council meetings to present their proposals. Mr Prescott is engaging with all complainants individually and has been out to site meetings where concerns could be raised.

General discussion and comments made by councillors included a noticeable reduction in speed of traffic travelling along the Birmingham and Main Roads.

Action: SMBC Highways Officer, Mr Prescott.

10.5(i) Litter

Litter picks for volunteers are scheduled for Saturday 25th September at 11.30 and Tuesday 28th September at 09.30. Further dates to be arranged. Please let Cllr Woollard know if you wish to be included. Two young people have volunteered as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme c/o Heart of England School. Risk

Signed Chair **Dated**



Assessments undertaken and litter picking guidance included with letter of confirmation.

Action: Cllr Woollard & Clerk

10.6 Local Council Award Scheme

All policies are now on the website and work is continuing to ensure the parish council meets the accessibility guidelines. Appreciation and thanks were given to JB for his diligence.

Action: JB/BB

10.7 Digital Community Inclusion/Engagement

Emails received from Head of Stronger Communities regarding the Parish Council linking with the digital task and finish group exploring digital and social inclusion projects aimed specifically at the older population. It is hoped that Meriden is likely to be in a good position to develop and trial some projects in association with the task and finish group.

Action: Clerk

10.8 Meriden Public & Community Transport

One complaint had been received and this was being followed through with appropriate personnel.

Action: RW

10.9 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training

There is a Memories Group that the parish council will email targeting dementia and link into.

Action: RW

10.10 Business Network

It was reported that three local businesses being A & A, NRS and Packington Estate have each donated £1,000 for new Christmas Lights to the large Oak Tree at Meriden's Gateway for Christmas 2021. The parish council acknowledges and appreciates this sponsorship on behalf of the local community.

Action: JH/BB

10.11 Defibrillators & Training

Three dates have been offered being 30th September 18.00-20.00 hours, 2nd October 10-12.00 hours and 3rd October 10-12.00 hours. Please advise clerk if anyone wishes to attend.

Action: All

11. Planning Matters

11.1 Community Asset/Right to Bid/Land Ownership

Signed Chair **Dated**

The Fields in Trust plaque awarding Village Green “Centenary Fields” status to be installed on The Green. Liaison has commenced with Conservation officers at Solihull regarding achieving conservation area for the War Memorial including sandstone wall (Meriden Hall grounds curtilage), Meriden Pool, Waterfall Cottages, Bull’s Head and cottages at the entrance to Meriden Hall.

Action: Clerk

11.2 Planning Applications Update

The NRS application has been resubmitted with parish notification received. A meeting has been requested with the Agent for NRS to update on amended content since May 2021 as specified by Solihull Planning and the EA. Two applications have been decided being Alspath Road and removal of Oak Tree dead wood.

Action: JH

It was further reported that an email received from Head of Planning regarding PL/2021/01352/PPFL. Mr Andrews email will be circulated to Members for reference.

Action: Clerk

11.2(i)Acceptance of Cllr Woollard’s resignation as Chair of Planning Committee Members approved the email resignation of Cllr Woollard as chair of planning committee forthwith. Cllr Hughes as vice chair will become Chair at next meeting of planning committee. Thanks, were unanimously given to Cllr Woollard for her contribution.

IT WAS RESOLVED Members accepted Cllr Woollard’s resignation as Chair of Planning Committee with immediate effect. Proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded Cllr Smith.

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

11.4Solihull Local Plan Review

The Local Plan is undergoing independent examination. A hearing timetable has been scheduled. Updates and recordings may be viewed on-line accessing Solihull’s website, clicking Solihull Local Plan and going into the Examination Library.

12. Climate Change

We have received an email from a resident and two local businesses interested in joining this group; a membership of 7/8 people required from the local community. The WALC National Conference on 22nd and 23rd October 2021 is focusing on climate change and councillors are urged to register their attendance. A further advertisement went into the Meriden Mag requesting interested parties contact the clerk.

Action: All

Signed Chair **Dated**



13. Youth Council

A working group to be set up and first meeting to be arranged.

Action: JH/CS

14. Digital Review

Mobile devices have been purchased for councillor use specific to council business. Email addresses have been set up for parish councillors and this is now being managed by Edge IT Systems. Personal email accounts must not be used for parish council business. This item to be merged with item 7 for the next agenda.

Action: BB

15. Parish Council Development Day

A date to be arranged to meet via zoom in November 2022 for project action planning.

Action: RW/BB

16. Annual Parish Assembly

The next assembly will be scheduled for April 2022.

17. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

- Introduction of a Farmer's Market for local producers. Canvassed interest and over 300 residents confirmed their support. More work is needed speaking to local suppliers/producers who would get involved. Plan of action required and further discussion.

Action: Development Day

- DBS Checks
This has become an exhaustive exercise getting support for parish councillors to achieve DBS enhanced clearance. Further discussion required with follow up to third sector organisations to contract with.

Action: RW/BB

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 18th October 2021 at 19.30. Chair thanked Councillors, guests and members of the public for attending tonight's meetings.

The meeting closed at 21.10 hours.

Signed Chair **Dated**

Clerk: Barbara Bland

55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ

T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: barbarablandmpc@btconnect.com

www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk