Meriden PARISH COUNCIL
the historic centre of England

FRIENDS OF MERIDEN POOL MEETING 10-08-2020

Present: Chris Barr (CB), Cllr Rosie Weaver (RW), Peter Moss (PM), Mike Holdsworth (MH) and Barbara Bland (BB).

Apologies received from John Gaughran and Sarah Jones. No apologies received from Carol Stafford and Brian Jones.

CB welcomed all and advised he would use the content of the 27th July email from BB as agenda as follows:-

1. **Rowan Tree Planting**

PM confirmed the small tree had been planted with far too much attention being given to memorial and dedication; however MW had looked after and kept it alive watering during hot spells.

CB reaffirmed the Friends Group needed to follow the right processes in future with a further discussion to take place with Rotary regarding the status of the tree. A request has been made to Rotary for a written outline to be provided to the clerk of the parish council regarding their proposal.

RW reiterated the postmistresses were much valued and contributed to village life and served the local community during covid lockdown. However it should be remembered that other members of the community have been lost to covid-19 and there is already a Memorial site dedicated by the Church being Memorial Approach where a commemorative plaque/stone/tree may be sited.

CB confirmed SMBC will be providing Cherry Trees as a symbolic gesture of remembrance and peace for covid victims in the wider sense. BB confirmed she had received confirmation that her application had been accepted to receive a tree.
Action: BB to contact David Maughan regarding written proposal and advising alternative site.
Action: BB to contact Rev Lilley regarding deferment of any ceremony of dedication.
Action: CB to revisit Rotary requested when written proposal received.

2. **Meriden Mag Sponsorship**

BB confirmed the parish council is in receipt of £200 donation for additional seating. We will source bench or picnic table. PM recommended this be placed on the newly reclaimed land at the rear of the Pool providing another "vista" of this lovely amenity. CB had previously recommended SMBC contractor Darren Tipping for install of furniture that meets SMBC specification for health, safety and risk.
Action: BB to contact Darren Tipping and obtain quotation.

3. **Meriden Rotary Planters**

CB suggested arranging a socially distanced site meeting to map out locations of new seating; also to discuss programme of works for next 12 months for Friends Group. MH advised Rotary wished to get involved with community projects including the Pool.

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RW thanked MH and said Rotary's support to the local community would be great and much appreciated. MH confirmed that David Maughan is the Community Officer and all communication should now be sent to him. BB has contact details. CB said there is now a nucleus of a working group with passion and willingness to get involved. Ideas to be shared at site meeting to be arranged, prioritising 5 things to achieve in next 12 months.

Action: BB to arrange site meeting early September for Sarah Jones to lead on. CB will brief Sarah when she returns from leave.

Planters

- MH confirmed 2 planters the same size as one already sited had been ordered;
- There will be a plaque on each with wording such as "donated by Meriden Rotary";
- The planters will not be "Memorial Planters" each with a "Memorial Plaque" for the postmistresses;
- The site meeting in September to identify location for planters with preference being given to either side of the service entrance gateway;
- MH confirmed that Tom Beaty would move the existing planter to chosen site of parish council. BB to advise.

Action: CB to brief Sarah Jones;
Action: BB to contact Darren Tipping regarding laying of slabs for planters;
Action: MH to provide BB with dimensions of planters orders.

4. **Meriden Bloomers Kissing Seat**

BB confirmed seat in storage awaiting permitted location for install. PM suggested this seat be put in an area at rear of Pool where a large bush and self-seeded saplings require some maintenance and clearing/reduction of size of overgrowth. Again this to be discussed at site meeting early September and suggested site permitted.

Action: BB to arrange September site meeting.
Action: BB to contact Darren Tipping re. install onto slabs with fixings.

5. **Recent Volunteer Works Undertaken**

CB stated a programme of works to be drawn up after site meeting in September prioritising 5 things to achieve in 12 month period. (One to consider is a wooden/willow handrail across bridge). He acknowledges the excellent works carried out to date and clearance of rear of feeder stream and stones from grass banked area to ease Amey maintenance and use of strimmers/mowers. An annual spray will be factored into the ongoing maintenance to keep down nettles/weeds. CB does not wish to demotivate Friends however it should be remembered as SMBC land there is a responsibility for the safety and well-being of volunteers undertaking work on site. Therefore Friends will need to be signed up to the Love Solihull brand and issued with suitable equipment including PPE and HiViz. An induction pack to be put together which will include insurance for all working on the site under SMBC's public liability. RW reminded Friends that there is the proceeds of the Christmas calendar sales to provide some PPE for the group.

Action: Sarah Jones to sign up Friends and provide induction.
Action: CB to speak to Rangers about handrail across bridge.

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6. **IVY Removal**

PM reported that Glendale had actually attended site and cut the base of the ivy growth from the holly tree. MH confirmed this action. However it was the wrong tree and the large tree at the front of the Pool remains strangled with Ivy that requires removing.

Action: CB to speak to Glendale and get ivy cut at base.

7. **Rat Nests**

There have been many reports of rats openly running between nests in the base of the large ivy covered tree and planter. Emails have been sent to public health and environmental services without a reply. CB advised a programme of baiting continues but until residents stop emptying carrier bags of bread, the rat problem cannot be tackled successfully. Persons known have been spoken to but this has not been enough for them to stop scouring Co-Op skips for stale bread to feed the wildfowl. CB suggested an education board about best feeding practice and identifying good v. bad for wildfowl. This to be explored some more.

Action: CB to look into education board and signage regarding feeding of wildfowl to reduce bread being deposited in large quantities that feed the rats.

Action: CB to speak to Sarah Jones.

Date of Next Meeting

A site meeting to be arranged for week commencing 7th September 2020.

The meeting closed at 17.00.

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