Meriden
PARISH COUNCIL
the historic centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23rd January 2023
Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr R Weaver RW	Chair	Cllr C Smith CS	
Cllr J Barber JB	Vice Chair	Cllr M Eggar ME	
Cllr J Hughes JH	Acting as Clerk	Cllr A Eburne AE	

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed councillors. Apologies received from Cllr Woollard and Barbara Bland. There were no guest speakers.

IT WAS RESOLVED Apologies accepted from Cllr Woollard and Barbara Bland, and recorded.

2. Public Participation

There was one member of the public in attendance who raised the following issues:

- Footpaths – there has been a noticeable deterioration in the condition of local footpaths in terms of the lighting and repairs works needed. When there is rain there are a number of holes or dips in the footpaths that collect water and make it difficult to use the footpath. This is most noticeable by the Post Office and on the way down to the Doctors Surgery
    - Cllr Weaver advised that she had reported the issue on behalf of a number of local residents and that SMBC had advised that an assessment was to be made but that they needed specific details when items are being reported.
- Potholes on highways – there has been a noticeable increase in the number and severity of potholes on highways in and around Meriden. The patchwork repairs that take place are not holding for long enough and the issue is reoccurring. The Member of the Public highlighted the hill to Millisons Wood and the Cycle Lane as being areas that are particularly bad.
    - Councillors agreed with the comments made and highlighted how the Ward Councillor Cllr A Burrow had got highways to agree to assess the entire route of the diversion, including Main Road and the hill, after the works to Fillongley Bridge had ended. Cllr Weaver also suggested that the Parish Council write formally to SMBC to seek to understand when more substantial work could be carried out.
      ACTION: JH to check with AB if the assessment had been carried out and RW to write to SMBC seeking clarity on the timetable for more substantial resurfacing.
- Leys Lane Consultation – The member of the public advised of a political leaflet that had been distributed by local Ward Councillors seeking residents views on a proposals for traffic calming measures on Leys Lane

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

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- Councillors advised the member of the public that the Parish Council had been discussing this with SMBC Highways over a long period of time and had not heard of any immediate works being planned. It was the Council's understanding that this work would not be carried out until the Fillongley Road Bridge work had been completed, since that has now ended the Council would seek further information from SMBC Highways.
  ACTION: JH to contact SMBC Highways and seek further information.

- Impact of Quarry Traffic on Highways – It was felt that the wheel washer was not having enough of an impact on HGV's leaving the local quarry and that the road sweeper was simply redistributing detritus left on the highway.
  - Cllr Weaver advised that NRS had got a new wheel wash but she would seek information on if it had been installed and whether there was anything else the quarry could do to lower the impact.
    ACTION: RW to contact NRS.
- Parking at local shops – It was asked whether there could be time restrictions introduced on the Main Road side of the green to prevent people parking all day?
  - Cllr Weaver advised that we had looked into this before and raised the issues with SMBC Highways. Cllr Barber suggested having 6am-6pm restrictions in place so that local residents could still then park their vehicles overnight.
    ACTION: JH to raise with SMBC Highways

3. Declarations of Interest

3.1. None Declared

3.2. None Declared

4. Minutes: To consider the approval of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th December 2022.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved.
Proposed: CS Seconded: JB

5. Finance & Governance

5.1. RESOLVED: Full Council approved the recommendations made by the Finance Committee.
Proposed: ME Seconded: JB

5.2. RESOLVED: Full Council approved MPC, MSP and Staff Payments.
Proposed: JB Seconded: ME

5.3. Cllr Weaver informed Cllr Smith that there was action needed on the system used to secure DBS checks and that this would be done on the Clerk's return.

6. Progress Reports for information

6.1. None

6.2. None

6.3. None

6.4. None

6.5. None

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6.6. Cllr Weaver informed Council that it was proving difficult to secure a meeting with all the parties who should attend the Quarry Liaison Group. There had been a change in Site Manager at NRS and Cllr Weaver informed Council there was a meeting to be held with A&A next week on a separate issue.

6.7. The next meeting of the Solihull Area Committee is scheduled for Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 19:15pm. The venue is Meriden Sports Park.

6.8. Cllr Weaver advised that the tree planting discussed at the last meeting had now been agreed with Whittles Way and the land at the top of Strawberry Fields identified. The planting will take place on Friday 3rd February 2023 at 10am.

6.9. There had been 1 community surgery held with partners where issues such as drug dealing, common neighbour issues and speeding had been raised. The next surgery is planned for Tuesday 24th January 2023 at 14:00pm in the Sports Park.

6.10. None.

6.11. The impact of the closure of Shadowbrook Lane was discussed and it was agreed that the information on the closure would be shared via Facebook.

6.12. None.

6.13. Cllr Hughes advised the fund was performing well.

7. Clerk's Report on Urgent Decisions since last meeting (Clerks Actions)
None.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports for information.
None present.

9. Correspondence & Communication for information only
None.

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1. None

10.2. The Coronation Celebration in the village will be held on Sunday 7th May 2023.

10.3. Cllr Weaver informed Council the issues was ongoing.

10.4. As per Item 2.

10.4.1. Litter picking continues in the village with apparatus available at the library. Cllr Hughes would contact Cllr Wollard for more dates to go in the next issue of the Meriden Mag.

ACTION: JH to secure dates from MW.

10.5. None

10.6. Cllr Weaver informed Council that she had met with David Blame, Senior Transport Planner at SMBC to discuss local issues.

10.7. Dates for training were needed and Cllr Smith agreed to secure some in March.

ACTION: Cllr Smith to pass on dates to RW/JH.

10.8. Cllr Eggar suggested that defibrillator training be offered to local businesses and it was agreed this would be a good idea.

ACTION: Cllr Eggar to contact local businesses to offer the training.

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10.9. As above.

10.10. Cllr Weaver updated Council on the success of the Warm Hub. The Hub is well attended and has picked up a number of safeguarding issues which would have gone unnoticed. The Hub is being used as a model in other areas of the Borough and feedback has been good.

11. Planning Matters

11.1. None

11.2. Cllr Barber advised Council there had been a small flurry of application in the last several days and that these had been circulated to Planning Committee Members for their comments.

11.3. None

11.4. None

12. Climate Change

It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Development Day.

13. Youth Council

Cllr Smith advised that they were just waiting on the agreement of the documents to set the group up.

14. Digital/Review

No update.

15. Council Development Day

The next Development Day was agreed to be Saturday 4th March at 9:00am.

16. Annual Parish Assembly

No update.

17. Community, Health & Wellbeing Working Group

Cllr Smith updated Council on the outcome of the last meeting which had focussed on Terms of Reference for the group and how we can better link up the work that is going on across the respective parish areas. The next meeting of the group is scheduled for 16th February 2023.

18. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

None received.

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Monday 20th February 2023 at 19.30 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park

Meeting Closed at 20:43.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

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