Meriden
PARISH COUNCIL
the historic centre of England

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th March 2023
Venue: The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park at 7.30 p.m.

Present:			
Cllr J Barber JB	Chair	Cllr M Woollard MW	
Cllr J Hughes JH			
Cllr M Eggar ME			
Mrs B Bland BB	Clerk		

In attendance: Cllr A Burrow

There was two members of the public attending.

1. Welcome & Apologies

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed councillors. Apologies received from Cllr Weaver and Cllr Eburne. Non-attendance recorded for Cllr Smith. There were no guest speakers.

IT WAS RESOLVED Apologies accepted from Cllrs Weaver and Eburne.

2. Public Participation

There have been emails received from members of the public regarding potholes and cycle lane all of which have been forwarded to Head of Highways for direct replies. A programme of works is scheduled for the new financial year and once confirmed this will be shared on social media sites.

3. Declarations of Interest

3a To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature.
Cllrs Hughes declared their employment with Solihull MBC.

3b To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature
None.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting – 20th February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February 2023 agreed for accuracy.

IT WAS RESOLVED Minutes of meeting held on 20th February 2023 approved by Members. Proposed Cllr Woollard and seconded Cllr Hughes.

5. Finance & Governance

5.1 Minutes were circulated to members prior to the meeting for reference and recommendation for full council to approve the 2023/2024 budget and reserves.

IT WAS RESOLVED The budget for 2023/2024 approved. Proposed Cllr Hughes and seconded Cllr Woollard. The reserves for 2023/2024 approved. Proposed Cllr Eggar and seconded Cllr Woollard.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

5.2 March Payments
March payments circulated to members for the parish council and sports park for approval.

- Parish Council

Payments totalling £ approved.

The parish council payments for March approved at £ gross.
IT WAS RESOLVED Proposed by Cllr Woollard and seconded Cllr Hughes.

- Sports Park

Payments totalling £ approved.

The sports park payments for March approved at £ gross.
IT WAS RESOLVED Proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Eggar.

5.2.1 1st Meriden Scout Group
A request for annual flag raising donation received. Consideration given to £25 increase due to Coronation approved.
IT WAS RESOLVED A donation to 1st Meriden Scouts approved for £500. Proposed Cllr Hughes and seconded Cllr Eggar.

5.3 DBS Checks
All completed except for Cllr Smith.

6. Progress Reports

6.1 Village Hall Management Committee
Nothing to report.

6.2 War Memorials
The Cyclists Memorial Service will take place on Sunday 15th May 2023. It is confirmed that toilet facilities and secure parking of bicycles will be available at the Sports Park.

6.3 Meriden Pool
There has been an outpouring of concerns from residents regarding the disappearance of Cecil (the Pools resident goose). No one can give any known explanation to his whereabouts or what has happened to him. We are all deeply saddened by his loss at Meriden Pool.

6.4 Allotments
A review was requested for allotment rents with Local authority allotment charges and neighbouring parishes. This to be picked up by finance committee.
Action: Finance Committee April meeting.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

6.5 Footpaths/Forum
Nothing to report.

6.6 Quarry Liaison Group
The next meeting will be held on 3rd April 2023, venue NRS conference room.
Agenda to be prepared by Cllr Burrow and A & A and circulated.
Action: Cllr Burrow & A & A Recycling

6.7 Solihull Area Committee
The next meeting is scheduled for 26th January 2022 and JH will attend.

6.8 Tree Warden & TPO List
Nothing to report.

6.9 Community Surgeries
An email to be sent to PCSO Bennett requesting dates for joint community surgeries and speedwatch.
Action: Clerk

6.10 Community Speed Watch/Street Watch
Dates to be requested for May 2023.
Action: RW

6.11 HS2
No update. A presentation is being rolled out to parish and town councils. Cllr Burrow will make a request for Meriden's residents to be included. An invite to be extended to HS2 community engagement team for June 2023.
Action: Cllr Burrow/Clerk.

6.12 Meriden Sports Park
Directors met on 14th March with priority being budget setting 2023/2024.

6.13 Meriden Sport & Recreation Trust
A joint meeting of Directors and Trustees to be scheduled for late April/early May.

7. Clerk's Report
Nothing to report.

8. District and Ward Councillor Reports
Nothing to report.

9. Correspondence & Communication
All circulated to members.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

10. Meriden Village Matters

10.1 Library

Nothing to report.

10.2 Village Commemoration

Coronation Day will be 6th May 2023. A new date has been agreed for "Coronation Picnic in the Park" event on Sunday 9th July 2023.

Action: RW

10.3 Freehold Transfer of Sports Park

Chair read the following from SMBC Legal team received 16th March 2023:-

"We are attempting to secure a hearing date at the Magistrates' Court to deal with our stopping up application. We are required to serve notice of the hearing on the parish council and on statutory undertakers, as well as putting up site notices and advertising in relevant publications. The notices have been prepared but need to have the date of the hearing inserted before they can be circulated. We are expecting the hearing date to be around the end of July, which allows some time to negotiate agreements with statutory undertakers should they need to maintain rights for their equipment that may exist beneath the highway. I will come back to you when I have confirmation of the hearing date."

Action: SMBC/BB

10.4 Highways

Potholes reported on Main Road. Kittermaster Road parking is a matter to be referred to Solihull Community Housing.

Action: Clerk

10.4(i)Litter

Exploring "adopt a street" as part of community litter picking. The Great British Spring Clean is back and SMBC is running this initiative between 20th March and 13th April for all local litter picking groups to get involved with. Thanks extended to all Meriden's volunteer litter pickers and enquiries received from young people wanting to volunteer to complete their Due of Edinburgh Awards. Woodland View to be contacted to see if they would like to be included in Meriden's litter pick initiatives. A suggestion was made to see if one of the local pubs would like to get involved with the supply of an "alcoholic drink & butty" as reward for litter volunteers.

Action: Cllr Woollard.

10.5 Local Council Award Scheme

Nothing to report.

10.6Meriden Public & Community Transport

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

The on-demand service has expanded increasing days and service. The app is working well with travel to Walsgrave Hospital being £6 plus travelling partner £1. Feedback on the service is not arriving on time and there are still issues with booking. Kenilworth service is good. A TfWM representative to be invited to attend Warm Hub.
Action: Clerk/Community Transport Champion/TfWM representatives

10.7 Dementia Friends/First Aiders/Dementia & Autism Training
Dates to be advertised in Meriden Mag for Dementia and Autism training.

It was reported that School Parent Mail advertising a 12 week accredited course free if living in area. It is an intensive course and MW will forward link for social media sites.
Action: Cllr Woollard and post link.
Action: Cllr Smith to be contacted to see if training advertised will be going ahead.

10.8 Business Network
Nothing to report.

10.9 Defibrillators & Training
Further training dates to be arranged.
Action: RW

10.10Warm Hub
Warm Hub continues meeting every Tuesday morning. Hot lunches end 27th March. ME (who will open/close) and MW will be covering the absence of RW and BB. JB will be attending 10.45-11.45.
Action: MW/ME/JB.

There is a free coffee morning and well being checks at the Village Hall on Monday 24th April. This will be promoted in , social media and Warm Hub.
Action: MW social media.

11. Planning Matters
11.1 Community Asset/Right to Bid/Land Ownership
An re-application is required for the Library building and reviews of scout hut, village hall and post office to be undertaken.
Action: BB

11.2 Planning Committee & Applications Update
There have not been too many applications received this month, however the quarry application for composting and variation of conditions to 2031 causes concern. Planning Committee is looking into applications and all 3 will be commented upon in due course.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

Action: Planning Committee

11.3 Parish Action Plan & Business Plan
The PAP will be the basis of presentation to residents and what has been delivered to at Annual Assembly on 24th April. A revised action plan will be formulated by the new council team post 4th May elections.
Action: All

11.4 Solihull Local Plan Review
The Council has responded to the Inspectors' latest letter and has accepted that the examination of the Solihull Local Plan should be paused to enable the finalised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) to be published. This is expected in the spring. This will enable the examination to consider the significant changes to the NPPF, and it is anticipated that the Inspectors will set out how they intend to do this once it is published. A significant review is required due to housing allocations at NEC site and there will be another round of consultations.

12. Climate Change
This to be included in the Annual Assembly presentation.
Action: JH/MW/ME/AE

13. Youth Council
Nothing to report but will be pushed forward post May.
Action:CS /ME/MW

14. Digital Review
Nothing to report but will be pushed forward post May.
Action: AE

15. Parish Council Development Day
The next meeting with be parish action planning with the new team post May.
Action: ALL

16. Annual Parish Assembly
This is scheduled for 24th April 2023.
Action: ALL

17. Community, Health & Wellbeing Working Group
The next meeting has been changed from 30th March to 27th April at 8pm at Balsall Common Village Hall. MW unable to attend but will send out Ruth Tennant's email to those nominated members for attendance.
Action: RW, CS, MW.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk

18. Councillor's reports and items for future agenda

Nothing to report.

19. Date of Next Meeting

The next **Parish Council meeting** will be held on Monday 17th April 2023 at 19.30 at Pavilion.

Chair thanked Councillors and closed the meeting at 20.15 hours.

Signed …… Chair Dated ……

Clerk: Barbara Bland
55 James Dawson Drive, Millisons Wood, Coventry, CV5 9QJ
T: 01676 522474 M: 07767 162423 E: clerk@meridenparishcouncil.org.uk
www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk