The Pavilion
Meriden Sports Park
10 Main Road
Meriden
CV7 7SP

Meriden Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.41pm on Monday 18 May 2026 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Present: Cllr Whitehead (Chair), Cllr Marshall, Cllr Ritchie and Cllr McGrath
Apologies: Cllr Murphy, Cllr Eburne-Brereton and M.P. Saqib Bhatti
Public Attendees: SMBC Ward Cllr David Hoey, SMBC Ward Cllr Jane Lamden, SMBC Ward Cllr Catherine Price and 12 members of the public

Min No.	Item	Action
01/2627 01/2627.1	**Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Murphy and Cllr Eburne-Brereton. **All in favour**	
01/2627.2	Apologies were received from M.P. Saqib Bhatti.	
02/2627 02/2627.1	**Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest** None.	
03/2627 03/2627.1	**Public Participation** Highway resurfacing on Main Road from the Bull's Head to the village centre roundabout was raised; the Parish Council confirmed a date would be requested from SMBC.	Chair and Clerk to action
03/2627.2	Speeding through the village and the lack of a speed camera on Birmingham Road (near the Maxstoke Lane development) was raised; the Parish Council would raise this with SMBC.	Chair and Clerk to action
03/2627.3	Traffic calming and speed monitoring was raised on Fillongley Road, the Parish Council would ask SMBC for data on average speeds on this road.	Chair and Clerk to action
03/2627.4	The positioning of speed cameras on Hampton Lane was raised and whether these were effective; the Parish Council would raise this with SMBC.	Chair and Clerk to action
03/2627.5	Parish Councillor co-option was raised following correspondence from a small number of residents. The Chair confirmed that a legal co-option process was followed correctly, with all co-options. The Clerk counselled against slander (spoken) and libel (written) and advised residents they have the option to approach the SMBC Monitoring Officer, with evidence. A brief discussion took place on the meeting recordings; the Clerk advised recordings are primarily for the purpose of minuting meetings and destroyed.	
03/2627.6	It was confirmed Meriden village hall would be obtaining a defibrillator.	
04/2627 04/2627.1	**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20 April 2026** The minutes of the ordinary meeting held on 20 April 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Whitehead. **Proposed: Cllr Whitehead, Seconded: Cllr Ritchie**	
05/2627 05/2627.1	**Correspondence and Communication** The Christmas tree lights were hanging low on Meriden roundabout; the Clerk had reported this to SMBC and requested a fee to repair the lights.	

Signed: Cllr Whitehead
Dated: 15 June 2026

05/2627.2 05/2627.3	Correspondence had been received regarding the co-option process; the Clerk had confirmed the legal process had been correctly followed. A query was raised as to whether the Parish Council would consider apprenticeships; the Clerk had recommended a formal request was made to the Parish Council for consideration.	
06/2627 06/2627.1	**Ward Councillor Reports** All Ward Councillors attended the Parish Council meeting. Meriden is represented by Ward Cllr David Hoey, Ward Cllr Jane Lamden and Ward Cllr Catherine Price. Ward Cllrs confirmed they would keep in contact with residents through leaflets and they may hold public meetings/surgeries.	
07/2627 07/2627.1 07/2627.2 07/2627.3	**Meriden Parish Council Chair Report** The Chair attended a Neighbourhood Development Plan meeting and a Sports Park meeting. The Chair had written an annual Parish Council report for the Meriden Mag. The Chair would ask Cllr Eburne-Brereton to create an online survey following issues raised at the Parish Council Assembly. The Chair had been contacted by a representative from a fast aid response team asking whether the Parish Council would assist with the defibrillator located outside Meriden library; the Chair had requested a formal response was made to the Parish Council.	Chair to progress
08/2627 08/2627.1	**Meriden Parish Council Councillor Reports** None	
09/2627 09/2627.1	**Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Committee (NDP):** The Parish Council received the draft minutes from the NDP committee meeting held on 30 April 2026 and accepted all recommendations. **All in favour**	
10/2627 10/2627.1	**Meriden Sports Park Committee (MSP)** The Parish Council received the draft minutes from the MSP committee meeting held on 11 May 2026 and accepted all recommendations. **All in favour**	
11/2627 11/2627.1	**Planning Applications** PL/2026/00700/MINFHO | 82 Main Road Meriden CV7 7NF | New porch to front and new garden shed to rear of property. | No comment	Clerk to inform SMBC
12/2627 12/2627.1	**Insurance** An insurance premium renewal for 14 June 2026 had not yet been received.	
13/2627 13/2627.1	**Meriden Primary School Sports Park Use** A request had been received from the primary school for exclusive use of the sports park grounds and Sports Pavilion for a wellbeing pupil away day in July 2026, from 8.30am until 3.30pm. Discussion took place on the implications of closing the park and play areas to the public and concerns were raised of setting a precedent for	

	requests for exclusive use by others. The Clerk would write to Meriden Sports and Recreation Trust to ascertain whether the funding agreement of the park would prohibit approval of the request for exclusive use of the park by the school; the MSP Committee would review the request once a response had been received from the Trust.	Clerk to action and MSP Committee to review
14/2627 14/2627.1	**Planters** Selecting suitable replacement wooden planters for The Green would be deferred to the TEC committee. **All in favour**	Cllr McGrath to action
15/2627 15/2627.1 15/2627.2	**Christmas Lights** The Parish Council approved the cost of £3,144.00 plus VAT for the repair to the tree lights and the cost of erecting and removing the lamppost light features; it was noted that the 2026-2027 budget allocated £4,000 for Christmas lights so there was insufficient funds to purchase new lights as each new light plus the switching mechanism cost a minimum of £1,150.00. **All in favour** The Parish Council recommended the TEC committee discuss whether any additional Christmas lights were required for future years.	Clerk to action TEC Committee to action
16/2627 16/2627.1	**Training Courses** Councillors were advised to review the training courses available and register for any training required.	MPC to action
17/2627 17/2627.1	**Monthly Finance Report** The bank reconciliation to 30 April 2026 was received and approved by Full Council. **All in favour**	
18/2627 18/2627.1	**Finance** The following payments were presented:	

Main Account	**Net**	**VAT**	**Total**	**Payment Method**
Parkway maintenance April 2026 ground maintenance	£1,284.17	£256.83	£1,541.00	Bank transfer
Avon Planning	£125.00	£25.00	£150.00	Bank transfer
Edge IT change from R&P to I&E	£176.00	£35.20	£211.20	Bank transfer
Edge IT email creation	£35.00	£7.00	£42.00	Bank transfer
Hollywood Home Improvements allotment works	£165.00	£0.00	£165.00	Bank transfer
Lloyds credit card May 2026	£430.48	£0.00	£430.48	Direct Debit
W.J. Robinson internal audit	£291.00	£0.00	£291.00	Bank transfer
I Care warm hub meals 20/04/26 to 17/05/26	£188.50	£37.70	£226.20	Bank transfer
Unity Trust monthly bank account fee	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	Direct Debit

The following May 2026 payments were confidential to the Parish Council and not published in the agenda or minutes:

19/2627
19/2627.1

Clerk's May 2026 salary
Deputy Clerk's May 2026 salary
WMPF April 2026 pension contributions employer and employees (Payroll provider made an error with the April pension calculation)
WMPF May 2026 pension contributions employer and employees
HMRC May 2026 payments

20/2627
20/2627.1

Sports Park Finance: the following payments were presented

Main Account	**Net**	**VAT**	**Total**	**Payment Method**
Fairways maintenance April 2026	£3,012.50	£602.50	£3,615.00	Bank transfer
Fairways maintenance May 2026	£3,012.50	£602.50	£3,615.00	Bank transfer
Glacier Window Cleaning April 2026	£158.00	£0.00	£158.00	Bank transfer
Hygiene Solutions 29 April 2026 – 28 April 2027	£719.22	£143.84	£863.06	Bank transfer
G. Collins security services May 2026	£700.00	£0.00	£700.00	Bank transfer
Waterplus April 2026	£204.27	£0.00	£204.27	Direct Debit
DB Cleaning Services May 2026	£231.00	£0.00	£231.00	Bank transfer
Fortress Recycling bin emptying April 2026	£55.04	£11.01	£66.05	Direct Debit
Cllr McGrath reimbursement of a gate padlock	£30.15	£0.00	£30.15	Bank transfer

**Please note that additional payments may be authorised on the evening following Councillors' decisions*

All of the above payments (18/2627 – 20/2627) were approved; Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Marshall would authorise the pending payments via online banking.

All in favour

21/2627
Clerk's Report

21/2627.1 WMCA confirmed they would not be making any changes to the On Demand bus service and would not increase the radius of journeys from 5 miles to 10 miles.

21/2627.2 Upcoming Meetings – the Chair and Clerk to meet with the head of SMBC Highways on 19 June 2026. The Quarry Liaison meeting was pencilled in for 13 July 2026, pending a Ward Councillor Chair being appointed by SMBC. The next Solihull Area Meeting was scheduled for 21 July 2026.

21/2627.3 Sports Park utilities - the Clerk had arranged an account with the current Sports Pavilion electricity provider Eon and with WaterPlus from 1 April 2026. The Sports Park Company confirmed they had cancelled the TV licence. Creation of a broadband and telephone line account remained outstanding whilst the Meriden Sports Park Company (MSP) challenged the termination fee; MSP confirmed the broadband and telephone line service was fully paid to the end of June 2026.

Clerk to action

21/2627.4	Severn Trent believed there was a water leak, the Clerk switched the water supply off for a number of hours and no water was registered on the meter. Potential sources of escaping water within the Pavilion will be explored.	Clerk to action
22/2627 22/2627.1	**Date and Time of the Next Full Ordinary Council Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting** The June ordinary Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Monday 15 June 2026, to commence at 7:30pm.	