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

Meriden Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at 7.32pm on Monday 20 July 2026 at The Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park.

Present: Cllr Whitehead (Chair), Cllr Marshall and Cllr McGrath
Apologies: Cllr Murphy, Cllr Ritchie, Cllr Eburne-Brereton and M.P. Saqib Bhatti
Public Attendees: SMBC Ward Cllr Hoey, SMBC Ward Cllr Lamden, SMBC Ward Cllr Price, 24 members of the public in attendance and 7 members of the public attended remotely

Min No.	Item	Action
55/2627 55/2627.1 55/2627.2	**Apologies and Acceptance of Apologies** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Murphy, Cllr Eburne-Brereton and Cllr Ritchie. **All in favour** Apologies were received from M.P. Saqib Bhatti.	
56/2627 56/2627.1	**Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interest** None.	
57/2627 57/2627.1	**Public Participation** Residents raised issues during the public session, all actions resolved from the formal public session were as follows (actions resolved relating to land south of Fillongley Road are detailed under minute item 66): • Clerk to query with SMBC when the remainder of Church Lane, Meriden, will be resurfaced. • Clerk to arrange for cleansing of the Parish noticeboard at the duck pond. • Clerk to discuss the flower planters and watering schedule with the Parish Council's contractor. • Clerk to report the footpath between Walsh Lane and Fillongley Road cannot be used as crops have been planted.	Clerk action
58/2627 58/2627.1	**Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 15 June 2026** The minutes of the annual Parish Council meeting held on 15 June 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Whitehead. **All in favour**	
59/2627 59/2627.1	**Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 23 June 2026** The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 23 June 2026 were agreed as a true and accurate record and signed by Cllr Whitehead. **Proposed: Cllr Whitehead, Seconded: Cllr McGrath**	
60/2627 60/2627.1 60/2627.2	**Correspondence and Communication** Correspondence was received regarding parking issues on Maxstoke Lane, the service road adjacent to The Green and Alspath Road. These were raised by the Chair with SMBC Highways in which Operation SNAP was suggested to report parking issues and SMBC Enforcement Officers will continue to visit the areas near The Green and the shops/restaurants. A resident had written to SMBC Planning requesting they advise Parish Councils of planning applications, within other Local Authorities, that are close to Parish boundaries.	

60/2627.3	Correspondence was received requesting MPC undertake an ecological assessment, a flood assessment and a transport assessment at the site comprising land south of Fillongley Road, along with a request for MPC to object to the Heritage Assessment from SMBC.	
60/2627.4	Correspondence was received from Jaguar Land Rover, Solihull, offering volunteer time as part of their corporate social responsibility strategy. Painting the interior of the Sports Pavilion, or offering assistance to the primary school or Scouting Association, was suggested.	Clerk to action
61/2627	**Ward Councillor Reports**	
61/2627.1	Cllr Hoey had joined the Conservative Party from Reform UK and remained a member of the SMBC Planning Committee.	
61/2627.2	It was resolved the Clerk would publish Ward Councillors email addresses on the Parish noticeboards.	Clerk to action
62/2627	**Meriden Parish Council Chair Report**	
62/2627.1	The Chair confirmed a meeting with Meriden Sports and Recreation Trust took place, a meeting with SMBC Highways, and a meeting of the NDP committee had also taken place.	
63/2627	**Meriden Parish Council Councillor Reports**	
63/2627.1	Cllr McGrath will progress replacement planters through the TEC committee.	Cllr McGrath to action
63/2627.2	Cllr Marshall reported a dead pigeon outside the Strawberry Bank restaurant/hotel on Main Road. Dead animals on the public highway can be reported to SMBC using 'Report It'.	
64/2627	**Neighbourhood Development Plan Review Committee (NDP)**	
64/2627.1	The draft minutes from the NDP committee meeting held on 16 July 2026 were received and all recommendations accepted. **All in favour**	
65/2627	**Planning Applications**	
65/2627.1	PL/2026/01159/PPFL — St Laurence Church, Church Lane, Meriden — Construction of a disabled access ramp — Neutral	
65/2627.2	The Parish Council requested the applicant ensures the works have minimal impact upon the heritage character of the area.	Clerk to inform SMBC
66/2627	**Land South of Fillongley Road**	
66/2627.1	The Chair discussed this item immediately after agenda item 57/2627 to allow members of the public to comment.	
66/2627.2	The Parish Council discussed the requests received from members of the public to commission a range of technical reports. Following representation from the public in which the importance of having expert technical opinion not commissioned by the land promoters was discussed, reports of 1,500 residents that have signed a petition against the proposed development, public opinion from residents present that the Council reserves should be used and the precept increased to spend funds gaining expert opinion, it was resolved to commission the following reports:	

	Ecological assessment £2,250.00 plus VAT – **resolved by majority vote** Flood risk assessment £2,250.00 plus VAT – **resolved as all in favour** Traffic and highways assessment £5,100.00 plus VAT - **resolved as all in favour**	Clerk to action
66/2627.3	A resident queried whether there was commercial sensitivity issues in publishing the contractor undertaking the report. The Clerk confirmed that Parish Councils, under the transparency code, must publish all its contractor payments, and the public can also inspect the accounts annually. Given that there were no comparison quotations for each assessment, commercial sensitivity rules did not apply.	
66/2627.4	It was resolved to use financial regulation 5.13 to enable a price to be accepted without comparison quotations. This was due to the timescales involved in commissioning the reports to ensure they would be completed during particular seasonal conditions and to ensure they were finalised before SMBC Planning make a recommendation to the Planning Committee. The Parish Council, and the member of the public who had approached consultants for quotations, did not have an affiliation with any of the consultants/companies. **All in favour**	
66/2627.5	The Parish Council confirmed that funds had not been allocated for technical reports in the 2026-2027 budget and it was likely it would not be possible to commit the same funds to future planning applications. It was also noted that the Parish Council's assessments may find the same information as the developers.	
66/2627.6	The Parish Council would issue a follow up response to SMBC planning regarding their heritage assessment report on the proposed development as the Council felt that significant harm would occur. **All in favour**	Clerk to action
66/2627.7	Following queries raised from the public regarding how SMBC Planning Officers were counting objections to planning applications, the Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council had written to the Head of Planning at SMBC to request confirmation on this issue.	
67/2627 67/2627.1	**Football Hire 2026-2027** Authority to determine football hire use, fees and any fees for training for the 2026-2027 season was delegated to the Sports Park committee. **All in favour**	MSP committee to progress
68/2627 68/2627.1	**Security at the Sports Park** Authority to determine security improvements was delegated to the Sports Park committee. **All in favour**	MSP committee to progress
69/2627 69/2627.1	**Playground Repairs** A quotation had been received for further works required as detailed in the play inspection report. The Clerk was awaiting further quotations. Authority was delegated to the Clerk to determine the most appropriate quotation, request a grant from MS&RT and instruct a contractor. **All in favour**	Clerk to progress

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70/2627
70/2627.1

Quarter One Financial Report 2026-2027
The Q1 financial report was received and accepted for the period 1 April 2026 – 30 June 2026.

All in favour

71/2627
71/2627.1

August 2026 Invoice Payments
As the Parish Council does not meet in August, authority was delegated to Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Marshall to approve the payment of all invoices via the banking system for August 2026.

All in favour

Clerk to action

72/2627
72/2627.1

Monthly Finance Report
The bank reconciliation to 30 June 2026 was received and approved by Full Council.

All in favour

73/2627
73/2627.1

Finance
The following payments were presented:

Main Account	Net	VAT	Total	Payment Method
Parkway grounds maintenance June 2026	£1,284.17	£ 256.83	£1,541.00	Bank transfer
Avon Planning Services	£840.00	£168.00	£1,008.00	Bank transfer
Edge IT licences	£860.25	£172.05	£1,032.30	Bank transfer
Hollywood Home Improvements allotment works	£90.00	£0.00	£90.00	Bank transfer
I Care community warm hub meals 15/06/26 to 12/07/26	£156.00	£31.20	£187.20	Bank transfer
Clerk's quarter 1 2026-2027 mileage claim	£26.65	£0.00	£26.65	Bank transfer
Lloyds credit card July 2026	£ 44.78	£0.00	£ 44.78	Direct Debit
Unity Trust monthly bank account	£7.00	£0.00	£7.00	Direct Debit
Cllr Whitehead quarter 1 Chair allowance	£375.00	£0.00	£375.00	Bank transfer

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

74/2627
74/2627.1

Clerk's July 2026 salary
Deputy Clerk's July 2026 salary
WMPF July 2026 pension contributions employer and employees
HMRC July 2026 payments

75/2627
75/2627.1

Sports Park Finance: the following payments were presented

Main Account	Net	VAT	Total	Payment Method
Fairways grounds maintenance	£3,012.50	£602.50	£3,615.00	Bank

	July 2026				transfer
	Glacier Window Cleaning June 2026	£12.00	£0.00	£12.00	Bank transfer
	G. Collins security services July 2026	£700.00	£0.00	£700.00	Bank transfer
	DB Cleaning Services July 2026	£231.00	£0.00	£231.00	Bank transfer
	Eon electricity 1 June 2026 – 30 June 2026	£209.33	£10.47	£ 219.80	Direct Debit
	Fortress Recycling bin emptying July 2026	£ 54.44	£ 10.89	£65.33	Direct Debit
	Patrol Alarm Systems - CCTV annual maintenance 01/08/26 - 31/07/27 and central monitoring fee	£675.00	£135.00	£810.00	Bank transfer
	Phoenix Pest Control quarter 2 2026-2027	£450.00	£0.00	£450.00	Bank transfer
	Reactive Facilities Management quarter 2 2026-2027	£2,835.00	£567.00	£3,402.00	Bank transfer

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

All of the above payments (73/2627 – 75/2627) were approved; Cllr Whitehead and Cllr Marshall would authorise the pending payments via online banking.

All in favour

76/2627 **Clerk's Report**

76/2627.1 A planning application (PL/2026/01232/PPFL) was received at Daytona Drive, Millisons Wood, after the publication of the agenda for a change of use of a house (Class C3a) to a children's home for a single child, with a manager and up to two carers, working on a rota basis (C2); expiry date of 7 August 2026. As the Council does not meet in August, MPC will discuss the application and provide a response to the Clerk to respond.

76/2627.2 The next Solihull Area Meeting (SAM) was scheduled for Tuesday 21 July 2026, 7.15pm.

76/2627.3 The Quarry liaison meeting was cancelled on 13 July 2026, the next meeting was scheduled for Monday 12 October 2026, 2pm, at the Sports Pavilion.

77/2627 **Date and Time of the Next Full Ordinary Council Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting**

77/2627.1 The next ordinary Parish Council meeting was scheduled for Monday 21 September 2026, to commence at 7:30pm at Meriden Sports Park.

78/2627 **Confidential Session for Staffing Matters**

78/2627.1 Members of the public and press were excluded from the meeting as per the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to allow confidential staffing matters to be discussed.

Proposed: Cllr Whitehead, Seconded: Cllr Marshall

Public meeting ended at 21.36.

Signed: Cllr Whitehead
Dated: 21 September 2026