

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 7 February 2018
Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

Present:

Cllr Frank Bunce – Chairman
Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Jon Horton
Cllr Jessica Rathbone
Cllr Peter Tennant
Cllr Barbara Tocher
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Donna Williams

Clerk: Carole Cox

Public: 8 members of the public

2537 The Public/Highway England

Jonathan Prizzey and Ian Bamford from Highways England updated members on the plans, they advised that the public consultation had been extended until 9 March 2018. There would also be a public exhibition before the planning application is submitted later in the summer.

Cllr Jon Horton raised the issue of the footbridge over the A45 and its location, he asked if Highways England could in fact supply two footbridges. They advised that the provision of a footbridge was being discussed and also the location of the bridge and could see no reason why this cannot at least be considered, although funding may be an issue.

Sadie Hamilton asked the Parish Council to consider the plague of plastic that was affecting the environment.

Pat Preece brought to the attention a program being shown on BBC2 tonight, which raises the awareness of the dangers to the countryside and the battle of the new build.

Mr Holdsworth advised that a plank is broken on the wooden bridge in Marston Green Park. It's the bridge which leads onto Moorend Avenue. The Clerk will raise the matter with Solihull MBC.

Parking on the grass verges opposite the Funeral Directors and Elmdon Lane allotments was raised.

Phil Jones asked if the Parish Council had an update on the CIL payments, the Clerk advised that she had and this would be covered under matters arising.

Issues were also raised in relation to the deliveries for the Chelmsley Lane development which were causing some disruption in the village.

Cllr Frank Bunce advised of the sad news regarding the passing of Mr Alan Laight. Alan had been a member of the Parish Council some years ago and had long served as the Chairman of the Resident's Association. We pass on our condolences to his family.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public.

2538 Apologies

No apologies received.

2539 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2540 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday, 3 January 2018

Cllr Frank Bunce asked members if they had read the minutes and if they can confirm these are a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Barbara Tocher

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved that the minutes are a true and accurate record

Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 3 January 2018

Minute no 2520.1 Parking on Grass Verges – Elmdon Road

Kerrie Grandison advised she had spoken with the residents who have the Dog Centre vans. They have recently had work to the drive to enable them to park the vehicles at the property.

Minute no 2504.2 CIL Payment

The Clerk advised she had spoken with Solihull MBC regarding a CIL payment in relation to the Chelmsley Lane development. SMBC had confirmed the Parish Council would receive a 15% share of the overall CIL payment. The developer will be liable to pay this amount once development has commenced and has the option to pay in four equal instalments over a period of 2 years. As an authority they have a duty to pass on any funds to the Parish Council twice a year probably in April and October. However, guidance on how the funds may be spent has not yet been issued.

Minute no 2528 Parish Councillor Vacancies

The Clerk had placed an advert regarding the vacancies but unfortunately she had not received any enquiries.

Minute no 2530 Airport Committees

The Clerk had written to SMBC to advise of the change in representation. This had been duly accepted.

2541 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting – 15 January 2018

Minute no 2541.1 (1221) Email from Tom Hewlett

The Recreation Committee discussed the request from Tom Hewlett to reduce the costs of the Allotment Rents for over 60's, in line with Solihull MBC and Birmingham CC.

The Recreation Committee advised members that we have never offered reduced rates and had looked at the charges for comparison of rates for Solihull MBC and Birmingham CC

PC

SMBC

BCC

Full Plot	£39.60	£57.00	£91.00
Half Plot	£19.60	£39.00	£61.00

The Recreation Committee is therefore, proposing to the Parish Council that we do not change our policy to offer reductions but keep the charge reasonable for all plot holders.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams

All in favour

It was resolved there is no change in policy and no reduction is offered

Minute no 2541.2 1st Marston Green Scout Group

The Clerk had received an email from Paul Wood who is a cub leader with the scouts. He was enquiring about local environmental projects the cubs could get involved with to earn a couple of their badges. The Recreation Committee had agreed planting of bluebells in Millennium Wood was a good idea and should be recommended to the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved to liaise with the Scouts regarding the planting of bluebells

2542 Matters arising from the Finance & General Purpose Meeting – 22 January 2018

Minute no 2542.1 (430.1) Replacement Planters

The Recreation Committee had further discussed replacement of the planters. A site visit to compare the new and old had concluded that we should purchase sixteen planters at £95.00 each, a total cost of £1520.00. The F&GP Committee members agreed had with the recommendation.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved to place the order

Minute no 2542.1 (430.2) Recreation Ground Fees

The Clerk advised the Recreation Committee had discussed the current fee table and it was proposing that there is no increase to be applied for 2018/19. The F&GP members had agreed with the proposal.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved no increase in Recreation fees

Minute no 2542.3 (430.3) Review of Burial Ground Fees

The Clerk referred members to the F&GP minutes which detailed the Recreation Committee proposals for a price increase following comparison to Solihull MBC and Birmingham CC charges. The proposed increase will come into effect from 1 April 2018.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved the proposed increase in fees are accepted

Minute no 2542.4 (430.4) Allotment Fees.

The Clerk advised the proposal is to increase fees to £40 for a full plot and £20 per half a plot for 2019.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved the proposed increase in fees are accepted

2543 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting – 25 January 2018

Cllr Clive Hill advised there was not much to report.

2544 Recommendation of the Interview Panel

Cllr Clive Hill advised the Interview Panel were proposing that Wayne Hadley be co-opted to the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

Minute no 2544.1 Declaration into Office

The Clerk asked Wayne Hadley to read and sign the Declaration into Office.

Minute no 2544.2 Code of Conduct

The Clerk asked Wayne Hadley to read and sign the Declaration into Office.

2545 Renewal of Zurich Insurance Policy

The Clerk advised that the annual renewal of the Public & Employers Liability Insurance. As we are in a fixed term contract it is a formal ratification which is required.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Jon Horton

All in favour

It was resolved

2546 GDPR Audit

The Clerk advised the audit had been carried out. There are a couple of additional security measures and password protection required and these have now been implemented. The main area of change is the introduction of privacy policies, copies of policies have been supplied from DM Payroll Services for the Burial Ground, Allotments, Recreation Ground which have to be implemented before May 2018.

2547 Donation Request St Peter's Church

The Clerk advised we had received a letter from St Peter's Church requesting the donation of £500.00 towards the grass cutting of the churchyard.

Proposed: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that a donation of £500.00 is made

2548 HS2 Update

Cllr Karen Dunn had attended the last meeting on the 25 January 2018. She advised the first round of the community project funding for phase one, London to Birmingham had been released. However, as we fall into phase two they are still interested in hearing from community groups who may wish to apply for funding, applications can be made through the website.

There are plans for an interactive platform which should be on display in Solihull, but the finer details are to be agreed.

Work will commence in the spring on a new island on the A452 and B4438, the new island will eventually replace the existing one.

Cllr Karen Dunn advised, Dame Caroline Spelman had raised the issues of Coventry being the city of culture for 2021 and the Commonwealth Games to be held in Birmingham in 2022 and despite the requirements of the work, it is hoped that visitors can still have a positive experience when visiting the area. Jonathon Lord, Solihull MBC will treat the matter as a priority.

2549 Airport Matters

Nothing to report.

2550 Internal & External Committee Reports

Cllr Frank Bunce advised that he along with Cllr Clive Hill and the Clerk had attended the recent Question Time Session where residents could ask questions of the Police Solihull Commander, West Midlands Fire Service, Tony Dicicco, Solihull MBC and Dame Caroline Spelman. It was the first of its kind meeting and proved to be very informative.

2551 Finance – Payments for Authorisation

The proposal is to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure reports.

Proposed: Cllr Barbara Tocher

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved to accept the expenditure payments detailed on the reports

2552 Correspondence

Minute no 2552.1 Solihull MBC – Proposed merger of Balsall & Berkswell Parish Councils

Minute no 2552.2 Email from R Swindell from Coleshill Road re Hedge at the bottom of Garden

The Parish Council discussed the matter and referred to a similar case which had been denied, it was therefore, agreed that we should deny this request.

Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

Minute no 2552.3 Email Richard Lloyd re Public Footpaths in Bickenhill which are affected by the M42 J6 Improvement Scheme

Minute no 2552.4 Email Mum & Toddlers Class at Recreation Ground

After some discussion it was agreed that the Recreation Ground would not really be suitable and we should perhaps suggest using the Parish Hall.

Minute no 2552.5 SMBC Mayor Solihull – Sapphire Ball

The Clerk advised members of the venue, date and cost of the tickets

2553 Roads and Rights of Way

Nothing to report

2554 Bus and Train Services

Nothing to report

2556 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 07 March 2018

7:30pm in the Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green