

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting  
Wednesday, 15 May 2019  
Parish Hall Elmdon Road Marston Green**

**Present:**

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

**Clerk:** Franciska Giles

**RFO:** Carole Cox

**Public:** 18 members of the public

**2749 The Public**

Mrs. Sarah Cotterill:

- Stated, that taxis and mini buses parking on Clock Lane obstruct the traffic and they leave litter behind. Although Solihull Metropolitan Council recognises the need for restriction, the lady does not feel that redistributing the taxis and buses from one lane to another solves the problem. She said that she often gets verbal abuse from the taxi drivers and when the residents place wooden blocks on the road to deter the taxis from parking, the blocks often get removed. In addition, she suggested that parking restrictions are needed on Church Lane too. Mr. Cotterill added that these taxis and buses are practically breaking the highway codes and therefore they could be prosecuted, however when reporting them to the police, the force does not seem to do much about them. Mrs. Byrne's daughter added that installing cameras on these lanes would be beneficial and so funding options should be investigated. She also added that working together with the police on this matter would be good. Mrs. Cotterill also suggested that safe crossing facility for school children especially, such as zebra crossing or a lollipop person should be in place on Catherine de Barnes Lane as it is a very busy place in the morning.

Cllr. Jonathan Horton suggested that double yellow lines might be a solution on Clock Lane and parking restrictions on Church Lane might work and said that any further ideas as how to solve such issues from the public are welcome. Cllr. Jonathan Horton also added, that these questions could be raised with Birmingham Airport as they wish to be good neighbours and therefore they might be able to offer assistance and help and also approaching Highway England would be useful.



The RFO advised that Kerrie Grandison, on behalf of SMBC, had visited the site and spoken to the taxi drivers, most of which were licensed outside of the borough, therefore SMBC have no powers to enforce notices due to licence conditions.

Jon Fox added that positioning wooden blocks on the road is not a good idea as someone could get hurt and the responsible person may get prosecuted. Cllr. Jonathan Horton suggested that in order to resolve the issues, the residents should speak to Kerrie Grandison at the next Parish Meeting (05.06.19) as she will be present.

#### Blackfirs Lane Resident

- Wished to put on record that recently there were some burglaries on Blackfirs Lane. The Police were informed.

#### A Resident

- Inquired whether BMGPC did submit any comment on the Proposed Parking Restrictions in Marston Green? Cllr. Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council submitted their comments on the proposal to SMBC. Cllr. Clive Hill also stated that the Parish raised their concerns of parking restrictions on Aylesford Drive and on roads of Aylesford Drive and asked SMBC to engage with Aylesford Drive residents to agree a solution. In addition, BMGPC suggested a single yellow line along the Garden of Memory, which would restrict parking at certain times of the day but still would allow parking at school run hours. Cllr. Clive Hill made the residents aware that the scheme is only a proposal and although BMGPC submitted their comments and recommendations, ultimately SMBC will make the final decision.

#### Mr. Holdsworth

- Enquired about the netting on the headline at Ivy Lodge. Cllr. Frank Bunce advised Mr. Holdsworth that this matter will be covered in Correspondences

#### Mr. Bazeley

- Feels that double yellow lines on Elmdon Road are needed as impatient drivers force their way through the road and it often becomes dangerous. Cllr. Clive Hill stated that SMBC will make a decision on parking restrictions in Marston Green within the proposed scheme.

#### Mrs. Byrne's daughter

- Asked the Parish Council to work with the residents and on their behalf approach the developer on Chelmsley Lane and request them to resurface Malthouse Row. Her argument was that the row is not solely used by its residents but also being used by pedestrians. The traffic will potentially increase when the Chelmsley Lane development is completed. She also seeks clarification on whether the row is adopted or un-adopted. Cllr. Jonathan Horton advised that he did some extensive research on Malthouse Row's ownership but no ownership could be identified. He advised the residents of Malthouse Row to visit the Land Registry Office in Coventry to seek clarification and if the residents wish him to accompany them, then Cllr. Jonathan Horton is happy to do so. Cllr. Jonathan Horton also stated that he would set up the meeting with the Land Registry as it was felt during the meeting that it would be more



efficient to do so as Cllr. Horton has dealt with the Land Registry before. The lady stated, that if the road is un-adopted, then the residents of Malthouse Row still wish to escalate the matter to SMBC, and seek their advice as what steps they will need to take next. She feels, that it is especially important as the residents of Malthouse Row must understand why did SMBC install bollards on the Row when it is un-adopted? Mrs. Byrne's daughter stated that SMBC acknowledged that there is a public safety issue and therefore the bollards are needed but challenged SMBC to concentrate on the road re-surfacing too as the current state of the walkway prove public safety risk. The RFO advised that BMGPC asked SMBC to approach the Chelmsley Lane developer to re-surface Malthouse Row, however SMBC did not do so. Cllr. Jonathan Horton said that he will ask Mr. Simon Raisbeck to accompany him to the Land Registry as he is an expert in this field and therefore aid the investigation.

Cllr. Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 8:25

**2750 Apologies**

The Clerk advised that she had received apologies from Cllr. Wayne Hadley

**2751 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations**

None

**2752 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday 03 April 2019**

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

**Proposed: Cllr. Barbara Tocher**

**Seconded: Cllr. Jessica Rathbone**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved** that the minutes were a true and accurate record

**Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 03 April 2019**

**2753 Matters arising from the Recreation Meeting – 15 April 2019**

**Minute no. 1312 – Marston Green Residents Association Donation**

Cllr. Clive Hill advised that the donation request had been discussed at the last Recreation meeting and that it was proposed that the Parish Council could cover 50% of the cost for the coming year, which equated to a donation of £102.00. The committee agreed with this proposal and the matter is to be discussed at the F&GP Meeting.

**Proposed: Cllr. Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr. Kim Wallace**

**All in favour**

**It was Resolved** that the Parish Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Parish Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure for 50% donation towards the room hire for Marston Green Residents Association meetings.

**Action item:** The RFO to raise the cheque

**Minute no. 1315 Great British Spring Clean**



Cllr. Frank Bunce proposed a 'Design a poster' project whereby the MGJS children can submit a piece of their own work proposing as how to keep the environment clean and tidy and encouraging litter picking. The winners will be announced w/c 20<sup>th</sup> and the prizes will be handed out in the school assembly by Cllr. Frank Bunce. Cllr. Frank Bunce was requesting a budget of £160.00 to be allocated for the prize monies.

**Proposed: Cllr. Donna Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr. Karen Dunn**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved that the RFO can arrange the funding**

**Minute no. 1328 Play Equipment Repairs**

- Mr. Montgomery provided his quote of £4200 + VAT to re-paint the playground equipment in Marston Green and Bickenhill play areas

**Proposed: Cllr. Frank Bunce**

**Seconded: Cllr. Jonathan Horton**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved that the RFO can raise the Purchase Order**

- Play & Leisure provided their quote:

- £545.60 to install 2x cradle seats (2x £108), 2x flat seats (2x £57) and 2x 8ft cradle chains (2x £77.80) (plus £60 delivery cost) on Bickenhill Playground

**Proposed: Cllr. Jonathan Horton**

**Seconded: Cllr. Barbara Tocher**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved that the RFO can raise the Purchase Order**

- £1413 to wet pour & resurface affected area (£1290) and replace 1x cradle swing seat (£108) (plus £15 delivery cost) on Marston Green Recreation Playground

**Proposed: Cllr. Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr. Jonathan Horton**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved that the RFO can raise the Purchase Order**

**Minute no. 1335 - Burial Ground High Barrier Repair**

SW Fencing provided their quote to dig out existing gate post, extend both post as well infill the ground around the posts and straighten top height bar. Total cost £390.

**Proposed: Cllr. Frank Bunce**

**Seconded: Cllr. Donna Williams**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved that the RFO can raise the Purchase Order**

**Minute no. 1341 – Dog Bin**

The clerk had obtained a quote to replace an existing dog bin at a cost of £223.20, the committee agreed the request.

**Proposed: Cllr. Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr. Jonathan Horton**

**All in favour**

**It was resolved that the RFO can raise the Purchase Order**

**2754 Planning Application PL/2019/00937**



Cllr. Clive Hill stated that Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council sent their objection to this application on the ground that the felling of four oak trees should not be taken lightly. It is the opinion of the Parish Council that oak trees add to our environment and should only be felled if they are dead, dying, diseased, dangerous to people or property or causing subsidence. We would ask Solihull MBC to take this into consideration before such drastic work be undertaken. Having made these points the Parish Council acknowledge that the felling of trees may, on the odd occasion, enhance or maybe beneficial to remaining trees and we understand such considerations will be made by the tree officer in making his recommendation.

## **2755 HS2 Update**

Cllr. Karen Dunn advised that she attended 3 meetings in the last 6 weeks, each of which provided no more information than the first meeting on 28/03/19. As the first two meetings were for the public, she did not find this surprising. A representative from LM & HS2 were at two of the meetings, Fiona Woolston and Sophie Powers. The reason behind the meeting was to remind communities that two funding pots are available that could boost local projects.

Cllr. Karen Dunn said she would provide the Clerk with more detail regarding the funds and any relevant web address - see the following:

- **CEF** (Community & Environment Fund) – split into two sections:
  - Local: focuses on improving quality of life and environment in communities along the route
  - Strategic: focuses on larger projects across several communities that leave a suitable legacy
- **BLEF** (Business and Local Economy Fund) - fund available for organisations that support the level of local business & tourism

Cllr. Karen Dun advised that [www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/hs2funds](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/sites/hs2funds) is the website to visit regarding the above available funds, providing detailed information and application forms. An interesting note is that HS2 have so far, awarded £1.9 million of funding via the CEF & BLEF.

Cllr. Karen Dunn stated that:

- HS2 are now in formal possession of the golden triangle and are due to begin installing 'piling' mats (for large vehicles to be stored on) within the boundaries of the triangle and alongside M42 and A446. Other groundwork will also start within the compound.
- Certain structures and changes to highways (realignments) will be taking place once approval has been given; expected at latest, end of May. Once received, trace bridges will begin with immediate effect and highway changes will commence in August.
- Scaffolding opposite the corner of the last football pitch, by M6. This is to do with electric pylons to put in the Golden Triangle and will take up to 12 months to fully erect.



**2756 Airport Matters**

Cllr. Jonathan Horton advised that nothing to report on however the next meeting he is going to attend will be w/c 20<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 and he will provide an update on it at the next Parish Council meeting.

**2757 Internal & External Committee Reports**

Cllr. Clive Hill advised that he and Cllr. Frank Bunce, Cllr. Jonathan Horton and Cllr. Barbara Tocher attended a meeting held by AECOM on behalf of M42 junction 6 on the 14<sup>th</sup> of May 2019. AECOM gave an update on their current work progress and also advised that a compound in Bickenhill is going to be set up to store machinery and materials for the ongoing works at junction 6. Cllr. Clive Hill stated that this new compound came as a surprise to BMGPC and that they are going to request clarification and more details on the proposed project. Cllr. Jonathan Horton will write to Highways England regarding the matter. He also stated that the developer had purchased Brace's Nursery's fields. Cllr. Clive Hill said that the Parish Council will provide an update at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action item:** Cllr. Jonathan Horton provide update at the next Parish Council Meeting

**2758 Finance – Payments for Authorisation**

The proposal was to authorise the payments detailed in the expenditure reports.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Clive Hill

**Seconded:** Cllr. Kim Wallace

**All in favour**

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

**2759 Correspondence**

- Letter from the Leese family – The clerk read out the letter.
  1. Joy-Riders problem: The Council advised residents that they should ring 101 and report such incidents as it is the police's responsibility
  2. Request for wheelchair access into Millennium Wood: The Council stated that in general the use of wheelchairs in the Wood are allowed at the discretion of the user. The widening of the gate to allow motorized wheelchairs could lead to quadbikes entering the Wood causing havoc and anti-social behavior.

Cllr. Frank Bunce stopped the meeting at 20:45

Mrs. Byrne's daughter added that the Parish Council must be inclusive to support everyone equally, that means wheelchair users too. The RFO added that the current access is big enough for a standard wheelchair.

Cllr. Frank Bunce re-opened the meeting at 20:46.

3. Mini island at the junction of Coleshill Road – Land Lane?: The Council advised that BMGPC did not receive any proposal from SMBC on a mini island.

**Action:** the Clerk to write to the Lees family

Cllr. Frank Bunce stopped the meeting at 20:47



Jon Fox added that Marston Green Residents Association is in liaison with SMBC on potential surveys to be carried out on this area.

Cllr. Frank Bunce re-opened the meeting at 20:48.

- Letter from Sheila Rehmany – Litter around the path entrance on Coleshill Heath Road  
The clerk read out the letter. The Council suggested that the email is to be forwarded to Kerrie Grandison at SMBC. Kerrie should be also approached about this matter in person at the next Parish Council meeting on the 05/06/19.

**Action item:** Clerk to forward email to Kerrie Grandison

- Pitt Lane Pond – 3<sup>rd</sup> ecological inspection 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of May (last one w/c/20<sup>th</sup> May)
- Email from Les Owen - Netting on hedge at Ivy Lodge  
BMGPC contacted the Planning Department in SMBC to obtain more information on the matter. The Planning Department advised BMGPC that a covering hedges with netting is not a planning concern however if the Parish Council wishes to escalate this issue then they should formulate a written complaint letter and send it to SMBC who then will liaise with the developer on the Parish's behalf and who will ask the developer to remove the netting. The Council agreed that the clerk should formulate a written complaint and send it to SMBC.

**Proposed:** Cllr. Donna Williams

**Seconded:** Cllr. Barbara Tocher

**All in favour**

**Action Item:** the clerk should formulate a written complaint and send it to SMBC

- The clerk advised that the Locality Plan Survey was sent to the Councillors via email. Cllr. Barbara Tocher advised that Bickenhill is not in the North Plan and asked for a copy of the South Plan.

**Action item:** the clerk to email Cllr. Barbara Tocher the West and East Plans

#### **2760 Roads and Rights of Way**

Nothing to report

#### **2761 Bus and Train Services**

Nothing to report

The Parish Council Meeting was closed at 20:57 GMT

#### **2762 Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 05 June 2019 at 19:00.

Venue: Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

