

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 05 June 2019
Parish Hall Elmdon Road Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Frank Bunce – Chairman
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Barbara Tocher
Cllr Jessica Rathbone
Cllr Donna Williams
Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Jonathan Horton
Cllr Wayne Hadley

Clerk: Franciska Giles

RFO: Carole Cox

Public: 15 members of the public

Kerrie Grandison - SMBC
Tammy Rowley - SMBC
Peter Sharples – SMBC/Wildlife Ways

2763 Wildlife Ways Presentation

Peter Sharples introduced himself as the Engagement Officer from SMBC Wildlife Ways. He said that £16 million funding from the European Fund had been allocated for local improvements of green areas, pathways and cycle ways in order to make them more attractive for sustainable travel and usage. Mr Sharples said that three routes were selected for the Marston Green area. Work will commence: Coleshill Road in September 2019, Coleshill Heath Road in November 2019 and Station Road in January 2020. The last two routes are not yet been finalised and are subject to approval. Mr Sharples also stated that to support the planned work and in line with future highways works, the Parish planters on Station Road would need to be relocated either temporarily or permanently. Wildlife Ways will liaise with the Parish Council to find suitable positions for the planters.

Mr Sharples further advised that crocus, primrose, snowdrop, daffodil and allium bulbs will also be planted and wild flower turf laying will commence in August. Any further project work and their schedules are available on the website <https://wildlifeways.co.uk> and individuals can also sign up to an e-newsletter. Mr Sharples stated that he would be available to attend any future parish council meetings when requested where he would provide updates on Wildlife Ways projects.



2763.1 Solihull MBC – Managed Growth

Kerrie Grandison introduced Suzanne Hughes as the Neighbourhood Coordinator for Bickenhill. All matters relating to Bickenhill should be directed to Suzanne. Her email address is suzanne.hughes@solihull.gov.uk

Kerrie Grandison also stated that the Friends of Marston Green Station group had its first planter delivered and it is positioned in front of the station. The planter is going to be painted in the forthcoming weeks. Kerrie said that the Friends of Marston Green Station group is still looking for volunteers to join their circle and to help out with watering and planting on an ad-hoc basis. If anybody is interested, they should get in touch with the Clerk.

Mr Stephen Thompson raised the following issues:

- that no Give Way lines are marked in Bickenhill on Church Lane - St. Peter's Lane leading to junction with Hazel Farm
- that the drains on St. Peter's Lane are blocked

Kerrie Grandison advised Mr Thompson to contact SMBC Highways department in regard to the no Give Way lines as it is a Highways related matter and to log the drainage issue with SMBC Drainage team so the problems can be followed up and an audit trail is created.

Cllr Jonathan Horton said that together with Mr Clover, he recently assessed the footpaths and drainage in Bickenhill and found that the footpath on Church Lane is overgrown. Mr Thompson asked whether a road sweeper could be used. Tammy Rowley advised that road sweepers have a vacuum on and therefore they only operate if they can flick up dirt against a 90 degree angle surface, i.e. a curb. As there are a limited amount of curbs in Bickenhill, she advised to contact SMBC and request a JCB to first scrape the sides and create a definite line along the sides which will aid the road sweeper. Suzanne Hughes agreed to meet Mr Thompson and Cllr Barbara Tocher on the 06/06/19 in Bickenhill to assess the situation. Kerrie Grandison asked the public that any future problems must be logged at SMCS Contact Centre on 0121 6000/8000 for audit purposes and so they can be directed to the right departments.

Mr Cotterill raised the issue of private hire parking in Bickenhill. Kerrie Grandison advised that she spoke to Paul Tovey of SMBC Highways department who offered two possible options. The first one is to apply for a Traffic Order where parking restrictions would be applied to the affected areas. This option, however would potentially push the traffic to other areas of the village and may take 2-3 years until it is properly enforced. Alternatively, leave the situation unchanged. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that Bickenhill residents are frustrated and feel that the proportion of taxis compared to domestic vehicles is high, around 20% overall. These taxis are inconsiderate to the village as they ruin the verges and block the lanes which is an H&S issue. Mr Thompson suggested that only permit holders should be allowed in Bickenhill. Mr Hastings asked how much does a permit cost. Kerrie Grandison advised Mr Hastings to go on SMBC's website and search for permits in order to find out the cost.



Cllr Frank Bunce suggested to invite Paul Tovey to the next Parish Council meeting, direct this matter at him and ask him for guidance and solution.

Action item: Clerk to invite Paul Tovey to the July Parish Council meeting

2764 The Public

Mr Trevor Wills

- Thanked the Parish Council for their £102 donation towards Marston Green Residents Association's up keeping
- Wanted to inform the public that the netting on the hedgerow on Coleshill Road is there to stop the birds nesting so when the developer cuts the section of hedges out, they do not disturb any birds. Cllr Frank Bunce stated that the netting had been slashed by unknown persons and that the Clerk had engaged with SMBC on this matter.

Colin Hastings stated that he airport is becoming increasingly noisy. Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that Jon Fox had previously raised this matter and approached the airport about it. The airport said that they will look into this matter however they did not yet respond to Jon Fox. Mr Cotterill asked whether currently there are any flight restrictions in place. Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that there is a night-time flight policy and a noise abatement plan of maximum 83 decibel in place with further reduction in the pipeline. Cllr Jonathan Horton also advised that noisy aeroplanes such as the Russian Antonov are withdrawn from flying and that the number of take offs are reduced. Furthermore he stated that if the airport expands then there will be around 20% flight increase however there are no plans to increase the number of taking off planes if the airport does not grow. Cllr Jonathan Horton anticipates that in the next 10 years the planes will gradually become quieter due to technological advancement. Cllr Jonathan Horton also said that the airport is looking at different options as how to better themselves to comply with sustainability and climate change. Such initiative would be to use battery based technology for take offs in the next 5 years. The airport also fines late coming in planes and the money goes to community funding.

Mrs Byrne's daughter asked for an update on Malthouse Row. Cllr Jonathan Horton presented his finding and said that the Land Registry in Coventry could not identify ownership of Malthouse Row and suggested that the next step would be to approach SMBC. Mrs Byrne's daughter asked whether the Council could approach the developer on Chelmsley Lane and ask them again to resurface the Row? The RFO also advised the residents of Malthouse Row that prior to the meeting with SMBC they collectively need to agree what options are available even if the Borough Council does not wish to adopt the Row. Mr Byrne's daughter said that a residents meeting will be called and that they are keen to arrange a meeting with SMBC and asked for a contact name. Cllr Frank Bunce suggested to get in touch with Cllr Bob Sleigh as he is the Borough Council representative and kindly copy the Clerk in on their emails so the Parish Council will be updated too. Mrs Byrne's daughter agreed to approach Bob Sleigh and Paul Tovey.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 20:06



2765 Apologies

None

2766 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2767 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday 15 May 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 Donna Williams

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

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

2768 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 15 May 2019

Minute no. 2753 (1315) Great British Spring Clean

Cllr Frank Bunce advised that the Parish Council is proposing a litter pick later in the year. The Parish Council started this project by asking the MGJS children to design an anti-litter logo for the Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish. The Recreation Committee will discuss potential dates for the actual litter pick and Cllr Frank Bunce will provide further updates at the forthcoming Parish Council meetings.

Minute no. 2759

- **Letter from the Leese family**

The Clerk advised that she wrote to the family and advised them about the Parish Council's comments and decisions.

- **Letter from Sheila Rehmany**

The Clerk contacted Kerrie Grandison who investigated the matter with Birmingham Business Park and Mrs Rehmany was informed.

- **Email from Les Owen**

The Clerk formulated a written complaint and sent it to the Planning Department and asked the Borough Council requesting the developer to remove the netting from the hedgerow on Coleshill Road

2769 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting – 20 May 2019

Minute no 1352 – CIL Money Notification

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council had received a CIL payment of £75745.69 on the 20th of May 2019. The RFO had spoken to SMBC requesting clarification that the sum of money received is correct. Cllr Clive Hill also said that the CIL money would be transferred into a separate bank account. The RFO requested a meeting with SMBC to clarify what the CIL



money can be spent on in line with guidelines and restrictions and also what type of procedures the Parish Council will need to follow.

Minute no 1354 – Phone Box in Bickenhill

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council wishes to turn the phone box into a village library and is looking to have it professionally restored and painted with the correct BS paint. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that Bickenhill residents welcomed the idea of a village library and it was especially encouraged by families with young children.

2770 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting – 28 May 2019

Minute no 520 – CCTV Quotes

The Recreation Committee had discussed the CCTV quotes and were proposing that the CBS quote is the preferred option. CBS currently provide the service for the alarm and fire protection system.

Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that the RFO will raise the order

Minute no 521 – Internal Audit Report

The RFO read the report to the Councillors and asked the matter to be duly noted.

Minute no 526

The RFO read out the orders raised to the Councillors and asked them to be duly noted.

Proposed: Cllr Jonathan Horton

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the orders were duly noted

The RFO advised that the next Finance meeting is on the 17th of June at 4pm and said that hopefully SMBC is also going to be present.

2771 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting – 24 May 2019

Application no PL/2019/00937

Cllr Clive Hill advised that this application had been declined.

Application no PL/2019/01193

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council objected to this application based on H&S grounds and because the sign would upset the street scene.

Minute 5. - Proposed M42 Slip Road Scheme – Bickenhill Compound

Cllr Jonathan Horton updated the Parish Council on the current status of the proposed Bickenhill Compound. He advised that Parish Councillors that together with Cllr Clive Hill, Cllr Barbara Tocher and Cllr Frank Bunce, he attended a meeting with Highways England on the 14th of May 2019. The purpose of the meeting was to update on the progress of the M42 junction 6 improvements and outline the scheduled future works. During the meeting,



Highways England stated, that a compound is to be set up in Bickenhill just off Church Lane. Cllr Jonathan Horton stated, that he told Highways England that the Parish Council had not received any communication about this compound and asked Highways England to supply BMGPC with the site layout plan and actual work schedules including working days and hours. Highways England admitted that at the moment, there are no issued plans available to the public. Following an invitation from Highways England, Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that he attended an Open Floor Hearing at Solihull where a number of concerns were raised by him and other residents regarding the situation of the proposed compound. The Planning Inspectorate was also very much surprised that Bickenhill residents had not been informed about this proposed compound therefore there were quite a bit of discussion around the topic.

Cllr Jonathan Horton said that following this meeting, a Bickenhill village meeting had been arranged for the 30th of May where Highways England was expected to provide further details on the proposed compound. Bickenhill villagers as well as neighbouring residents such as from Catherine de Barnes felt that until now Highways England did not communicate clearly with the affected bodies and that no comprehensive documents about the proposed compound are available either electronically nor in a paper based format. On behalf of BMGPC, Cllr Frank Bunce, Cllr Clive Hill and Cllr Barbara Tocher attended this meeting. This meeting was especially of importance as the last opportunity to understand the proposed plan and conditions before the deadline on the 3rd of July 2019 midnight for a formal objections against the compound could be submitted. During the meeting Highways England was unable to provide any further information other than the red outline of the proposed compound and that works will go on for 4 years and the area will be lit 24/7. Following the meeting the Parish Council formulated a written representation and submitted their objection against the proposed compound to the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol.

Cllr Jonathan Horton stated that a few prominent persons, like Cllr Bob Sleight are involved behind the scenes trying to get a good resolution for the village. Further information suggested that there were three proposed locations for the compound and that SMBC was believed to have chosen Bickenhill as its location. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that the Parish Council wishes to understand on what ground was Bickenhill chosen and the criteria behind SMBC's decision and therefore will engage with SMBC. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that the Planning Inspectorate in the next 6 months will carefully consider and evaluate all the documents, comments and objections and resolution is expected thereafter. Cllr Jonathan Horton suggested that in the meantime Cllr Bob Sleight, Jim Ryan and Cllr Alison Rolf should be asked for their help and independent Planning Consultants should be commissioned to speak on behalf of the Parish Council and it is suggested that the next step would be to invite the Planning Inspectorate to Bickenhill for a site visit.

2772 Approval of Accounts for External Audit
Section One – Annual Governance Statement

The RFO read out the statement to the Councillors and asked them for their approvals.

Proposed: Cllr Barbara Tocher

Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams



All in favour

It was resolved that Section One was approved

2772.1 Section Two – Accounting Statements 2018/19

The RFO read out the statement to the Councillors and asked them for their approvals.

Proposed: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that Section Two was approved

2773 Approval of Procedures regarding Governance & Accountability

2773.1 Effectiveness of Audit Internal Review

2773.2 Statement of Internal Controls

2773.3 System of Internal Controls

The RFO read out the procedures to the Councillors and asked them for their approvals.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Jonathan Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the above procedures were approved

2774 Bickenhill Private Hire

Addressed in Minute no 2763

2775 HS2 Update

Cllr Karen Dunn said that all Councillors should have received an email from the Clerk about a project called Wild Well Being, a community funding opportunity proposed by a local environmental charity Organic who now joined forces with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust. The project is open to small organisations in the Warwickshire and Solihull area and the organisation is requesting the public and Parish Councils to fill out a questionnaire and provide evidence that this funding would be applicable to the applicant. Cllr Karen Dunn asked the Councillors if she could, on behalf of the Parish Council, complete the online questionnaire as it may be relevant to the Bickenhill & Marston Green area. All Councillors gave their consent and Cllr Karen Dunn agreed that all communication will be carried out via the Clerk.

2776 Airport Matters

Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that he attended an airport meeting three weeks ago. There were a few points he wished to report on:

- The new Airport CEO was at the meeting and talked about the airport's visions and plans for the foreseeable future
- The airport had a bad year and they profit is down by 3%. This due to Monarch became solvent, Brexit worries and tough market conditions
- Airport drones are being tested and non-airport drones are being monitored. The CEO is asking the public to report any drone sightings
- Excessive aircraft noise is being monitored and the airport is going to provide their findings at the next meetings



- Hybridisation due to climate change is on the agenda. Initiatives such as battery operated take offs are being evaluated
- Airport aspiration is to grow, from 14 million to 18 million passengers
- Cllr Jonathan Horton raised a question about environmental impact and concerns, such as plastic and air pollution and asked the airport how they see their expansion plan affecting climate change. The Airport CEO said that the airport will issue a statement on this topic in 3-4 months' time where suggestions will be proposed to help the battle against climate change. One example is to moving towards a significant level of battery powered ground level operations

2777 Internal & External Committee Reports

Cllr Frank Bunce advised that the Trustees AGM will be at the next meeting in July 2019.

2778 Finance – Payments for Authorisation

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

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

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

2779 Correspondence

The Clerk advised the Councillors that she had received some applications from prospective Parish Councillors therefore she asked the Councillors to agree on who would sit on the interview panel. Cllr Karen Dunn, Cllr Kim Wallace, Cllr Donna Williams and Cllr Wayne Hadley had volunteered. Cllr Frank Bunce advised that the date and time for the interview will be agreed in the next two weeks. Cllr Jonathan Horton asked whether anybody from Bickenhill area could apply. The RFO advised Cllr Jonathan Horton that there are only two positions at the Parish Council to serve on the Bickenhill ward which are already taken up by Cllr Jonathan Horton and Cllr Barbara Tocher, however Bickenhill residents could serve as Councillors on any other ward. Cllr Jonathan Horton suggested that he would get in touch with a few Bickenhill residents and enquire whether anybody would be interested. The Clerk offered Cllr Jonathan Horton the relevant documents and application form to be sent via email which Cllr Jonathan Horton could distribute.

Action item: The Clerk to send all relevant document and application form to Cllr Jonathan Horton via email

2780 Roads and Rights of Way

Cllr Karen Dunn asked the Clerk whether she received any correspondence back from Kerrie Grandison on the concerns raised by the Parish Council in relation to poor resurfacing work on Bickenhill Road. The Clerk stated that no update was provided by SMBC so far and that she will follow this matter up with Kerrie.

Action item: The Clerk to follow the matter up with Kerrie Grandison

2781 Bus and Train Services





Nothing to report

The Parish Council Meeting was closed at 20:40 GMT

2782 **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 03 July 2019 at 19:30.
Venue: Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized 'A' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.