

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 02 October 2019
Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Marston Green

Present:

Cllr Frank Bunce – Chairman
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Jessica Rathbone
Cllr Donna Williams
Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Jonathan Horton
Cllr Peter Tennant
Cllr Michael Kay
Cllr John Fox

Clerk: Franciska Giles

RFO: Carole Cox

Public: 21 members of the public

2821 Guest Speakers from SMBC – Managed Growth and Communities Directorate

Cllr Frank Bunce introduced Kerrie Grandison and Tammy Rowley and asked the Public if they had any questions for the representatives of SMBC.

John Fox

Cllr John Fox reported on gaps on yellow lines on Elmdon Lane. Tammy Rowley confirmed, that arrangements have been made for the work to be completed but no timescales have been set.

Mrs Hastings & Mr Inshaw

Mrs Hasting advised that there are some items of rubbish at the end of Blackfirs Lane which were reported to SMBC. Mr Inshaw stated that the Council attended the site and coned off the area but did not remove the rubbish. Tammy advised that SMBC case officers often investigate fly tipping, cordon off the areas and collect evidence as part of the process. Tammy said that she requested the rubbish to be collected and the work will be carried out by the end of the week. Cllr Karen Dunn advised that the Parish Council also reported this incident and a reference number for the case was provided by SMBC.

Cllr Kim Wallace

Cllr Kim Wallace asked when the hedges will be cut by SMBC. Tammy advised that all hedges across the borough grew rapidly during the last few months due to weather conditions. SMBC made a decision that all hedges will be trimmed and cut to 4ft high to factor in future growth



as SMBC only cuts them once a year. Tammy advised that SMBC stopped grass cutting on the 2nd of October and hedge cutting works will commence in November.

Cllr Kim Wallace also enquired about the 'moss looking' grass area around Marston Green. Tammy advised that Wildlife Ways are preparing the ground for the wild flower seeds to be planted so they may bloom in full from February onwards. Cllr Kim Wallace reported that in Marston Green centre a car keeps parking on one of these freshly prepared grass verges which inevitably are going to destroy the wild flower seeds. Tammy said that such incidents are very difficult to prevent as there are no by-laws prohibiting parking on grass verges and said that she hopes that when the flowers will be in bloom then motorists will refrain from parking on these verges.

A Resident

A Resident reported that the hedge at the crossing in Marston Green is too high and obstruct visibility. Tammy advised that SMBC will cut this hedge too as part of their November start work schedule.

Mr Inshaw

Mr Inshaw advised that the island at the entrance of the Airport is an eye sore as all the flowers are dead and it looks like the vegetation is not maintained. Tammy advised that the rabbits ate all the flowers and said that SMBC asked the Airport, the NEC and other organisations for sponsorship and contribution to replant the flowers as the island is a focal point and is in the interest of the whole community. Tammy said that she will report on the progress next time she attends the Parish Council meeting.

Mr & Mrs Holdsworth and Mrs Laight

Mrs Holdsworth stated that the new occupants in 21 The Oaklands have built a high wall extending beyond their front garden obstructing the view of motorists existing from The Oaklands onto Bickenhill Road. Mrs Laight added, that when she lived there, the area in front of the house was maintained by SMBC. Once the new properties were built the occupants in 21 The Oaklands built a tall wall at the end of their garden. Mrs Laight reported this wall to Mr Paul Tovey at SMBC who advised Mrs Laight that SMBC does not have any objections against the wall. Kerrie advised Mrs Laight that Mr Paul Tovey is a senior engineer and that this decision is final.

2822 The Public

Mrs Laight

Mrs Laight expressed her disapproval in relation to the limited spending power of the Parish Council in regard to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies. Mrs Laight stated that she did not attend the Community Engagement meeting organised by the Parish Council on the 24th of September for Malthouse Row residents (advising them on the findings of SMBC's Drainage Team investigation and Seven Trent Water communication as well as the criteria as to what projects the Parish Council can and cannot spend CIL monies on), however she confirmed that she received a copy of the presentation document. Mrs Laight stated that she is concerned about the section of the presentation document called 'Malthouse Row



Residents Responsibilities' and claims that the presentation document is stating that Malthouse Row residents are responsible for the Row.

Cllr Frank Bunce advised Mrs Laight that information in the document is based on the recommendation of the law and other legal terms and that it is clearly referenced to sources where they were obtained from. Mrs Laight added that she is concerned about the wellbeing of people using the Row, especially children, as she had an accident the other day where a car speeding from the back of the shops area hit her car and similarly a child or a pedestrian could have been hit too. Mrs Laight asked who would be liable in the event of an accident and she suggested that any claims would have to be the responsibility of SMBC.

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Row is an un-adopted road to which Mrs Laight replied that in her opinion the best way to avoid such incidents is to close off the Row. She underpinned her argument by saying that cars from the shops and cyclists (which sometimes bang on her window) are regularly using the lane and this traffic is dangerous to pedestrians using the Row and said that the Parish Council *"got to take this into consideration as it is a real danger to children"*. Mrs Laight again claimed that the presentation document states that the Row's residents are responsible for the wellbeing of the pedestrians passing through the Row.

The Clerks advised Mrs Laight that the part of the presentation document which Mrs Laight is referring to relates to frontagers of properties and their responsibilities and not to public health & safety matters. The Clerk also reiterated that the information in the document is based on the recommendation of the law, it answers all the questions Malthouse Row residents wanted the Parish Council to answer or investigate and it also explains what the Parish Council can or cannot do. Mrs Laight said that the presentation does not offer any new information to the residents of the Row as they already investigated them many years ago. Cllr Frank Bunce said that the Parish Council had to do all the research as Malthouse Row residents did not present the Parish Council with any previously collated information or findings. Cllr Frank Bunce said that the request Malthouse Row residents put to the Parish Council this year were investigated and the findings presented in the presentation document.

Mrs Laight pressed on claiming that the presentation document states that the Parish Council cannot help as *"it is an old problem."* She claimed that *"it is a new problem"* as 70 houses were built on Chelmsley Lane and therefore the traffic increased on the Row. Cllr Clive Hill asked Mrs Laight for what exactly she wants the Parish Council to do to which Mrs Laight replied that the Row's drainage need to be sorted out. Cllr Clive Hill said that the Clerk engaged with all relevant bodies, they investigated the drainage and their findings were presented to Malthouse Row residents. Cllr Frank Bunce asked Mrs Laight that *"you are not happy then with what the Parish Council did?"* to which Mrs Laight responded that she is grateful for the investigation however *"it will cause a lot of problems"*.

Mr Hastings suggested to ask SMBC for a sign stating that the Row is un-adopted and to be used at one's own risk. Cllr Frank Bunce asked the Clerk to contact SMBC and request a sign to be erected at the top of Malthouse Row. Mr Hastings asked the Parish Council to *"put pressure on SMBC"* to which Cllr Frank Bunce said that the Parish Council is not allowed to put



pressure on anyone. Mr Hastings then asked if the residents could put some pressure on to SMBC Councillors, like Cllr Bob Sleigh. Cllr Frank Bunce said that yes, they can.

Action item: Clerk to contact SMBC and request a sign to be erected at the top of Malthouse Row

Mrs Byrne

Mrs Byrne said that the residents of Malthouse Row are grateful for what the Parish Council has done for the residents, however they are upset that the CIL money cannot be utilised to solve the problems on Malthouse Row. She added that they will try other avenues. Mrs Byrne stated that for the last 8 days she had a petition outside of her property and collected 468 signatures which indicates the amount of people using the Row. The petition will be taken to SMBC by Cllr Bob Sleigh. Mrs Byrne continued that the residents are working with SMBC on the drainage problems too as the water coming off Station Road is causing corrosion on Malthouse Row. She said that it is concerning as another 50 houses are going to be built on Chelmsley Lane as part of phase 2 and the builder is promoting the Row as a short cut.

Mrs Laight added that this additional traffic from the newly built houses is causing the problem and asked the Parish Council to spend the CIL money on Malthouse Row. Cllr Frank Bunce stated that not all of the CIL money derives from the Chelmsley Lane development and that the Parish Council has clear criteria as to what it can spend the CIL money on. Mrs Byrne asked whether this criteria is based on a new levy or an old levy. The RFO confirmed that it is based on a new levy. Mrs Fairbairn said that this is a problem with Solihull Council then. Cllr Frank Bunce said that the Parish Council is bound by rules as what the CIL money can be spent on and that advice from SMBC was sought.

Mrs Laight claimed that the Parish Council cannot help Malthouse Row residents because *“it is an old problem”*. Cllr Kim Wallace said that this is an ongoing problem. Cllr Clive Hill said to Mrs Laight that residents of Malthouse Row approached SMBC over 10 years ago with the same problem to which Mrs Laight replied that they approached SMBC about 20 years ago in fact. Mrs Laight added that back then the houses on Chelmsley Lane were not built and that Solihull MBC had connected the drainage from Malthouse Row to the top of the Row as they were not draining. She also added that they are still not working very well and that she has been pointing this problem out to SMBC for the last 22 years. Cllr Clive Hill asked if Bob Sleigh is taking this petition to SMBC on Thursday which the residents confirmed. Mrs Laight said that the CIL money from the Chelmsley Lane development should be spent on Malthouse Row to help the people who live there and who are using the Row. Cllr Frank Bunce said that the Parish Council will try to assist with any new request in relation to Malthouse Row to which Mrs Laight asked the Parish Council to spend the CIL money on the Row. Cllr Kim Wallace reiterated that due to regulations, the Parish Council is unable to do so from the CIL money. Mr Hastings asked for clarification as which utility provider is responsible for Malthouse Row and Station Road. Cllr Frank Bunce advised Mr Hastings that Seven Trent Water looks after Malthouse Row and SMBC looks after Station Road as that is a highway and that the Parish Council provided contact details of both organisations to the residents of Malthouse Row.



Mrs Laight wished to find out why Scallywags Nursery blocked off the access so now the occupants of the shops need to use Malthouse Row as the only access route. Cllr Frank Bunce asked the Clerk to investigate this matter with SMBC and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action item: *Clerk to investigate blocked off access with SMBC and report back at the next Parish Council meeting*

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 20:00

2823 Apologies

Cllr Wayne Hadley and Cllr Trevor Wills offered their apologies to the Clerk which were accepted

2824 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2825 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday 04 September 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 Clive Hill*

Seconded: *Cllr Donna Williams*

All in favour

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

2826 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 04 September 2019

Minute no. 2800 – Crossing Requests

The Clerk advised that the request for a new crossing on Station Road, east of the petrol station has progressed through the stage 1 process and the next stage will involve it competing for a place on SMBC's Capital Works Programme for 2020 (Community Liveability Programme). This may go to Cabinet this year or early next year.

The crossing request at the Memory Garden did not pass the stage 1 assessment as SMBC could not identify sufficient space to accommodate a formal crossing facility.

2827 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting – 16 September 2019

Minute no. 1354 – Phone Box in Bickenhill

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Recreation Committee recommended Mr Montgomery's quotation for approval. Cllr Kim Wallace reported that the Finance Committee discussed the recommendation but could not pass a resolution on it. Cllr Frank Bunce suggested to include this recommendation as one of the projects to consider as part of the CIL project.

Minute no. 1361 – VE & VJ Day 2020

Cllr Clive Hill asked the Parish Councillors to agree whether to commemorate VE & VJ Day 2020. All Parish Councillors were in favour.



Minute no. 1368 – Amenity Land Allotments - Shed Request

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council is in discussion with the Airport in relation to this request however no decision has been made. The Clerk said that feedback is expected by the next Parish Council meeting.

Minute no. 1370 – Litter Campaign

Cllr Clive Hill advised the Recreation Committee agreed that the date of the Litter Pick should be set for the 13th of October 2019 and that the Parish Council will litter pick together with Marston Green and District Lions Club and the Friends of Marston Green Railway Station. Everybody will meet in front of the Library at 10:15. Cllr Frank Bunce asked the Clerk to advertise the Litter Pick on BMGPC's Facebook page.

Action item: *The Clerk to advertise the Litter Pick on BMGPC's Facebook page*

Minute no. 1379 – Exhumation Request

The Clerk advised that some progress has been made in regards to the exhumation request and that it will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

Minute no. 1380 – Remembrance Sunday

The Clerk advised that the involved parties had met on the 19th of September to discuss the details and that the poppy wreaths had been ordered.

2828 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting – 23 September 2019

Minute No. 543.1 - Quote to Repair Fence of The Spinney on Coleshill Road

The RFO advised that the Recreation Committee had discussed the quote to repair the fence of The Spinney, which had been damaged by a car, no details of the accident had been obtained. The quote was for £385.00 and was being recommended for approval. The Finance Committee agreed that the quote is to be recommended. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors to ratify the cost.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved that the cost has been ratified

2829 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting – 26 September 2019

Planning Application no PL/2019/02325

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee submitted an objection to SMBC on this application as follows:

“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council agrees to the changes to the existing building proposed but is objecting to the plans of the new built proposed on over intensity, does not fit in the street scene and highways issues.”

Planning Application PL/2018/03166 – APP/Q4625/W/19/3235301

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee had discuss the appeal and that the Parish Council had approached Richard Cobb for his advice.

Cllr Mike Kay declared his interest in relation to this appeal. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that the residents of Bickenhill are anxious and that the Parish Council approached SMBC for support. Cllr Bob Sleigh offered his advice and the Parish Council feels that SMBC will support Bickenhill residents in their objections.

Street Trading Consent Application – Ref. 105842

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee submitted an objection to SMBC on this application.

2830 Community Engagement Meeting – Malthouse Row

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council has met with the residents of Malthouse Row on the 24th of September and presented them with the findings of SMBC Drainage Team and passed on Severn Trent Water’s contact details.

2831 External Audit – PKF Notice of Conclusion of Accounts 2018/19

The RFO advised that the Parish Council received a response back from the PKF External Auditors. The 3 part document was sent out to all Parish Councillors and it states a clean bill of health. The RFO said that the next step is to publish the report of BMGPC’s website and in the notice boards.

2832 HS2

Cllr Karen Dunn advised that a meeting with the advisory group at SMBC is scheduled for the 3rd of October 2019 and a community drop in session at the Church Hall in Bickenhill is scheduled for the 3rd of October. Cllr Karen Dunn said that further drop in sessions over the next couple of months are also planned and the dates of these events are published on the Parish Council’s Facebook page.

Cllr Karen Dunn wished to update the Councillors on the Automated People Mover (APM). The service will be every 3 minutes, with the journey between the Interchange Station and the Airport taking 6 minutes. On its route it will be stopping at the NEC and the International Railway Station. It is anticipated to move 2100 passengers per hour in each direction. Cllr Karen Dunn said that the APM vehicles will be travelling the entire route on a viaduct system, which at its highest point will be 12 metres above ground. It is also set to travel over Pendigo Lake at the NEC during its journey. The maintenance station for the APM will be within the ‘golden triangle’ on the opposite side of the M42 to the NEC. Hopefully the introduction of the APM will reduce the amount of cars to be used on our surrounding roads. Cllr Karen Dunn advised that there will be some lane and overnight road closures during the next few months and information regarding these is available on BMGPC’s Facebook site and the PC notice boards. Cllr Karen Dunn will report back on any further developments at the next Parish Council meeting.



2833 Airport

Cllr John Fox advised that due to the insolvency of Thomas Cook a number of 747 aircrafts had been used as an emergency measure. These aircraft are normally not in operation due to noise abatement regulation and should be withdrawn by the end of the week.

2834 Internal & External Committee Reports

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the sale of the Village Hall is slowly progressing and that it is still ongoing.

2835 Finance – Payments for Authorisation

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

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

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

2836 Correspondences

2836.1 Park Run

The Clerk advised that Solihull has a new venue for parkruns. These free, weekly 5km timed runs are now taking place at Babbs Mill Local Nature Reserve as well as Brueton Park on Saturday mornings. Solihull parkruns take place on Saturday mornings starting at 9am. To register or find out more, visit www.parkrun.org.uk and search for the venue.

2836.2 Government Consultation

The Clerk advised that there is a Government Consultation in place regarding changes in planning regulations to allow new masts for 5G networks. Copy of the document was sent out to all Parish Councillors. One can submit their response or comments to the Government until the 5th of November 2019.

2836.3 Flood Aware App

The Clerk advised that following the flooding in the borough last year, Solihull Council has invested in a new app which will allow residents to be more flood aware. The new app allows people to view the Council's network of cameras and sensors which monitor water levels. Users can also receive flood warnings 24/7. The app, called the Vision Link Community App, costs nothing, is advert free and works through Wi-Fi and mobile data. It displays cameras based on the user's location and is available on Android and iPhone. The pairing code for Solihull is 925721.

2836.4 Parking Charges Rise In Solihull Town Centre

The Clerk advised that a 20p rise was implemented on the 13th of September in all public car parks.



2836.5 Change Into Action

The Clerk advised that there is an alternative giving scheme which will help local specialist charities and street teams operating in the borough to support rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping . Change into Action was launched on 12th September 2019 by Mayor of the West Midlands, Andy Street, Solihull Council’s Cabinet Member for Stronger and Safer Communities, Cllr Alison Rolf, and Solihull BID Chief Executive, Melanie Palmer. Change into Action gathers donations to support the specialist organisations already working with homeless people in Solihull and helps to get people off the streets and back into the community. Money donated will be used to help people with everything from overnight temporary accommodation to new clothing and training for jobs. Donations can be made online at changeintoaction.org.uk/solihull or by visiting one of the collection points.

2836.6 Scams And Cyber Crime Awareness Event Solihull

The Clerk advised that a copy of the document was sent out to all Parish Councillors. Solihull Police is holding this event at the Core Library on the 9th of October from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

2836.7 Meriden Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Clerk advised that Meriden Parish Council as the Qualifying Body has prepared a neighbourhood development plan entitled the ‘Meriden Neighbourhood Development Plan’ for their Parish with the help of the local community and has formally published its Pre-submission Draft Plan for public consultation. The Plan sets out a vision for the future of the Parish and planning policies which will be used to determine planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area. A copy of the Pre-submission Draft Plan and supporting documentation are available on the Parish Council’s website with this link: <http://www.meridenparishcouncil.org.uk/neighbourhood-planning/>. Alternatively, hard copies of the documents are available for inspection at the Pavilion, Meriden Sports Park and Meriden Library during normal working hours.

2636.8 HS2/LM Presentation on the 11th September 2019

The Clerk advised that LM on behalf of HS2 visited the Parish Council to provide an update on the ongoing and future works. A copy of the presentation was sent to all Councillors, and hard copies are available at the Parish Office

2636.9 HS2 – Notice of Site Preparation Works at Interchange Station Area

The Clerk advised that a copy of the notice was sent to all Parish Councillors and put onto BMGPC’s Facebook Page as well as in all of the notice boards

2636.10 WMCA – Commonwealth Strategic Transport Plan

The Clerk advised that over the next 12 weeks comments are being welcomed from residents and businesses across the West Midlands on a draft, Games Strategic Transport Plan for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games. The draft plan provides a high-level view of transport preparations for Birmingham 2022. It sets out which transport projects will be delivered in time for the Games, such as the first phase of three new Sprint routes,

improvements to rail stations and the expansion of the Metro network.

As part of the engagement process, Transport for West Midlands is asking if people agree with five principles for planning which are detailed in the plan and how they would like to be kept in touch as the plans develop. A number of engagement events will be taking place across the region, including one at Mell Square on Saturday 5 October, 10am - 3pm. One can read the plan, take the survey and find out more by visiting www.tfwm.org.uk/B2022Transport. Closes 6 December 2019.

2636.11 Polling District And Polling Place Review

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council received an enquiry from SMBC about suitable alternative polling places in Marston Green. SMBC would like to use the Tea Room at the Parish Office for all the electors in Blackfirs and the Parish Hall for all the electors in the Marston Green and Merstone Ward. Both places were chosen as they are close to the Wards, have the required facilities, like the use of the kitchen, toilets, car parks and have disabled access. SMBC is asking for the Parish Council's decision. Cllr Frank Bunce advised that as only one room must be allocated as a polling place, he will take this matter to the Parish Hall trustees for approval.

Action item: *Cllr Frank Bunce to consult the Parish Hall Trustees and report on their decision at the next Parish Council meeting*

2636.12 WALC Annual General Meeting Invitation & Report

The Clerk advised that WALC's Annual General Meeting is scheduled for the 9th of November 2019 at 2:00 p.m. The Parish Councillors should let the clerk know if they wish to attend. Hard copy of WALC's Annual Report is available from the Parish Office

2636.13 Poppy Wreaths

The Clerk advised that the Poppy Wreaths for the Remembrance Sunday Service have been ordered

2837 Roads and Rights of Way

Cllr Jonathan Horton provided an update on the M42/Junction 6 development and advised that on the 11th of October the Parish Council should get a proposal from Highways England. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that more hearings are scheduled and that at today's hearing Bickenhill residents saw alternative suggestions from the contractor SCANSKA in relation to future works. Namely that the compound could be moved as far away from the village as possible towards the A45 and potentially an alternative access to the main compound. Cllr Jonathan Horton however added that some bad news was also presented namely that a temporary road may be created at Catherine de Barnes Lane which will curve around the Church Farm B&B.

2838 Bus and Train Services

Cllr John Fox advised that a new train service provider had taken over and that the trains are often delayed or cancelled. Cllr John Fox suggested that people should claim from the provider immediately when their trains are cancelled or delayed.





The Parish Council Meeting was closed at 20:55 GMT

2839 **Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, 6th November 2019 at 19:30
Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Marston Green Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green, B37 7BT

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized first name followed by a surname, with a horizontal line underneath.