

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 06 November 2019
Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Marston Green**

Present:

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

Clerk: Franciska Giles

RFO: Carole Cox

Public: 15 members of the public

2840 The Public

Mrs Hamilton

Mrs Hamilton stated that a minute from the Recreation Committee meeting on the 16th of September is incorrect in saying that Mrs Hamilton instructed the Groundsmen to lay bark on the flooded footpaths in Millennium Wood. The Clerk advised Mrs Hamilton that the minute refers to the Clerk instructing the Groundsmen to carry out the task and not to Mrs Hamilton.

Mr Lowry

Mr Lowry asked the Parish Council why the height barrier was not in use to deter the van which recently fly tipped a mattress on the Recreation Ground car park. The RFO advised Mr Lowry that the height barrier must stay open to allow the Veola truck to collect waste from the Recreation Ground and to allow other delivery vans to enter the Ground. Cllr Frank Bunce also added that the height barrier was installed to deter the Traveller and Gypsy community when on the move and added that the height barrier at the Burial Ground is always closed at night.

Mr Hastings

Mr Hastings asked whether the Parish Council has a tree planting policy in place, i.e. to replace any felled trees on Parish Council land. Cllr Frank Bunce said that currently the Parish Council does not have any tree planting policy in place, however confirmed that the Parish Council will look into this request.

Action item: Tree planting policy to be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting



Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 19:40

2841 Apologies

Cllr Wayne Hadley and Cllr Karen Dunn offered their apologies to the Clerk which were accepted

2842 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2843 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday 02 October 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 Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

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

2844 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 02 October 2019

Minute no. 2822.1 – Sign at Malthouse Row Requests

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.

The Clerk contacted SMBC and the Council said that it had received a petition from local residents in respect of Malthouse Row and suggested that SMBC includes the request for a sign to be included in that report which is due to go before the Environment & Highways Cabinet on 19th November. SMBC gave no promises at this stage but said that the Council will need to consult colleagues in the Neighbourhood Management team as well as their legal advisers.

Minute no. 2822.2 – Scallywags Nursery / Access

Mrs Laight wished to find out why Scallywags Nursery opened up access on Chelmsley Lane and blocked off the access in the back of their premises 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. The Clerk contacted SMBC and the Planning department confirmed that their "*reading [from 2018] of the planning permission does not restrict Wellies access. Thus Wellies/Little Scallywags would not be obliged to submit a planning application for creating an access point from Chelmsley Lane ...*"

The Clerk is still waiting for a confirmation from SMBC in regard to access points of the shops and flats.

Action item: On-going

Minute no. 2827 (1368) – Amenity Land Allotments - Shed Request

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council is in discussion with the Airport and submitted all the required documents and information in relation to this request however no decision has been made by the Airport just yet.



Minute no. 2827 (1370) - Litter Campaign

The Clerk thanked everyone who participated in the Litter Pick and the Picnic Basket for providing the brunch afterwards. The Parish Council also posted its appreciation on its Facebook page

Minute no. 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 Wards. The Parish Hall Trustees and the Parish Councillors gave their consent to the use of the Parish Hall and the Tea Room as polling stations. These venues would replace the current polling stations at the Marston Green Junior School as of 2020.

Both places were visited by SMBC Electoral Officers and they will make their recommendation to the Returning Officer. SMBC will decide on the venues in February 2020 and will inform the Parish Council thereafter.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting at 20:47

Mr Lowry wished to ask whether these new venues will be used for only local elections or for all elections. Cllr Frank Bunce advised that if these new venues are approved by SMBC then future voting will take place there instead of the Junior School.

Cllr Frank Bunce opened the meeting at 20:48

2845 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting – 21 October 2019

Minute no. 1361 - VE Day

Cllr Clive Hill reiterated that volunteers are still needed for this event and asked the Councillors if they could offer their help. Cllr John Fox offered his assistance. Cllr Clive Hill will arrange a separate meeting to discuss the details further.

Minute no. 1370 – Litter Campaign

Cllr Clive Hill said thank you to all the people who participated in the Litter Pick

Minute no. 1378 – Exhumation Request

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council received an exhumation request from the Taylor family. The Recreation Committee proposed some options which could be offered to the family, namely:

Option 1:

SMBC to carry out the exhumation work. The remains of Mr Kenneth Alfred Charles Taylor in plot R50 may be moved to a different location in Marston Green Burial Ground however according to the Parish Council's Policy, no additional plots may be pre-purchased by the Taylor family. The family is to sell back plot R50 to the Parish Council at the original cost of the plot and a new plot at current cost must be purchased by the Taylor family.

Option 2:

SMBC to carry out the exhumation work. The remains of Mr Kenneth Alfred Charles Taylor in plot R50 may be removed to an alternative burial ground so that the family may have a double plot. The family is to sell back plot R50 to the Parish Council at the original cost of the plot.

Option 3:

As plot R50 is a double ashes plot purchased by the Taylor family, Mrs Carol Ann Taylor may be interned in plot R50 when the time comes.

Cllr Clive Hill asked the Parish Councillors to agree to the three proposed options.

Proposed: Cllr Frank Bunce

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Councillors agreed to the options

Action item: Clerk to write to the family offering the three options

Minute no. 1380 – Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Clive Hill said that the Remembrance Day service will be held on the 10th of November and asked the Parish Councillors and members of the public for some help on the day.

Minute no. 1394 – Japanese Knotweed

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the first treatment of the Japanese Knotweed had been carried out

2846 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting – 24 October 2019

2846.1 - PL/2019/02246

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council objected to PL/2019/02246, 29 Holly Lane, Marston Green, Solihull, B37 7AP, to the proposal of change of use from dwelling house to 3 apartments plus first floor side extension:

“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council objects to this application on the basis of insufficient parking spaces and traffic congestion due to the amount of traffic existing on Holly Lane and the convergence of Chelmsley Lane and Moseley Drive”

2846.2 - PL/2019/026953

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council was notified of some submitted changes to PL/2019/026953, 4 Ivy Lodge, Marston Green, B37 7HJ. The Parish Council had no observations.

2846.3 - PL/2019/00395

Cllr Clive Hill advised that PL/2019/00395, Appeal Ref: APP/Q4625/W/19/3230932 Depot adjacent to Mayfield, Clock Lane, Bickenhill, Solihull B92 0DX, planning permission for the change of use from an extant haulage contracting business and storage of vehicles (including the maintenance and repair of vehicles) to private car parking was refused by SMBC.



2846.4 – M42 Junction 6 Project Update

Cllr Jonathan Horton updated the Councillors that there will be two more hearings in relation to this project and as in previous hearings, the written representations must be sent to the Planning Inspectorates before the deadline, however as of yet the final deadline date has not yet been published. Cllr Jonathan Horton suggested that the time in which representations can be made will be tight due to the ongoing submission of documents from Highways England.

2846.5 - Planning Appeal ref APP/Q4625/W/19/3235301

Cllr Clive Hill advised the Councillors that the Parish Council submitted a representation to the Planning Inspectorate objecting to the “Demolition and removal of existing buildings and structures and the use of land for the stationing of caravans for residential purposes” on Land on North West Side of Church Lane Church Lane, Bickenhill, Solihull B92 0DS. In addition the Parish Council also wrote to and questioned SMBC on their Travellers’ Site Policy and SMBC’s future intentions. SMBC responded and advised the Parish Council that “... they have recently commissioned an update of their Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment....The Assessment will set out the Council’s future requirements for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots in the Borough over the period from 2035/36....It will ensure that the Council has a credible and robust evidence base which can be used to aid the preparation and implementation of planning policies while developing an effective strategy for the provision of new Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots in the Borough.

2847 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting – 29 October 2019

Minute no. 555.1 – Marston Green Infants Academy Donation Proposal

Cllr Frank Bunce proposed to the Recreation Committee that a donation of £170.00 be made to Marston Green Infant Academy to fund the making of 101 poppies for the Remembrance Day. This amount is in line with the total expenditure of £170.00 for the Junior School in relation to the litter pick. The Recreation Committee agreed with the proposal. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors for approval.

Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Councillors agreed to the spend

Minute no. 555.2 – Christmas Trees

The RFO advised the Councillors that the cost of the Christmas trees this year is in line with last year’s spend. The RFO said that due to time restraint, the Parish Council ordered the trees and the total cost of both trees is £660. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors for the cost to be duly noted.

Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved that the cost was duly noted



Minute no. 555.3 – Poppy Appeal Donation

The RFO advised that the Parish Council purchased two wreaths with two ribbons at the cost of £38.50. The RFO said that last year the Parish Council matched this cost with a further donation of £86.50, giving a total donation of £125.00. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors if they would consider the same amount of donation this year.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Secoded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

It was resolved that the cost is ratified

2848 CIL Projects

Cllr Frank Bunce wished to update the Councillors and said that all proposed CIL projects are to be collated on a CIL Project List which will be approved by all Parish Councillors. Cllr Frank Bunce stated that currently 5 potential projects had been identified, namely:

1. Parish Hall Roof Repair
2. Bickenhill Telephone Box Repair
3. Bickenhill Playground Fence (subject to mutual agreement between BMGPC and Bickenhill Church)
4. School Rough
5. Burial Ground Extension

Cllr Frank Bunce also said that the Parish Council sent a funding request to Wildlife Ways to improve the walkways in Millennium Wood. Cllr Frank Bunce stated that if this request is not successful, then the Parish Council may consider including this project onto the CIL project List.

Cllr Kim Wallace suggested inviting the public to submit further requests which could also be added to the CIL project List. Cllr Trevor Wills suggested agreeing a deadline which the public and Councillors may submit their request. Cllr Peter Tennant suggested that once the list is compiled, then the Parish Council could look at the projects individually and decide on their eligibility and start date. The RFO suggested consulting with SMBC on the 5 identified projects to see whether they meet the CIL spend criteria. Cllr Jonathan Horton also agreed with the Councilors' proposal.

It was proposed that:

- The RFO to consult SMBC on the 5 identified projects and seek approval
- The Parish Councillors to agree the CIL project submission deadline at the next Parish Council meeting
- The Parish Council to offer the CIL projects submission opportunity together with the criteria to the public in January 2020

Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams

Secoded: Cllr John Fox

All in favour

It was resolved that the above points were agreed by all Parish Councillors



Action item: The RFO to consult SMBC on the 5 identified projects and seek approval & The Parish Councillors to agree the CIL project submission deadline at the next Parish Council meeting & The Parish Council to offer the CIL projects submission opportunity together with the criteria to the public in January 2020

2849 HS2 Update

Cllr Kim Wallace said that Cllr Karen Dunn attended the last HS2 meeting but no new matters relating to the Parish were discussed.

2850 Airport Matters

Cllr Donna Williams stated that she noticed that the noise level increased recently. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that the Airport discussed matters relating to noise levels about 2-3 weeks ago but no new incidents have been reported.

2851 Internal & External Committee Report

Cllr John Fox stated that he attended the WALC meeting in Solihull which he found quite interesting. Some guest speakers from the NHS spoke that night and some facts were presented however Cllr Jonathan Fox is still waiting for the summary of this meeting so once received it will be available to view.

2852 Finance – Payments for Authorisation

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

Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

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

2853 Correspondences

1. New project in Solihull to strengthen families and keep children out of care

Solihull Council has been successful in being accepted onto the £84m Strengthening Families, Protecting Children Programme which will see it adopt the 'Family Valued' project, recently launched by the Department for Education (DfE). This is one of three successful projects created through the Government's landmark Innovation Programme designed to support families to stay together wherever appropriate, so that fewer children need to be taken away from their birth families. . Copy of the communication was sent to all Councillors

2. World Homeless Day – time for change

On the 10th October was the tenth World Homeless Day. Solihull Council was calling on local residents to put their loose change and notes into action for additional support for local homeless people. Donations can be made online at www.changeintoaction.org.uk/solihull or by visiting one of the collection points at – Sporting Barbers and Specsavers on Solihull High Street; William Hill on Station Road, Solihull; Touchwood Solihull. Copy of the communication was sent to all Councillors



3. The Solihull Apprenticeship Show returned on Wednesday 23 October at the Renewal Conference Centre, Lode Lane B91 2JR from 3pm – 7.30pm. Visitors were able to find out about apprenticeships by talking to around 50 exhibitors from a range of sectors including engineering, finance and hospitality as they showcase opportunities on offer up to degree level. Exhibitors included Arup, KPMG, West Midlands Ambulance Service, Balfour Beatty and the NEC Group.

4. HS2 – Borehole Monitoring and Road Closures

LM on behalf of HS2 sent out a notice of works detailing continued borehole monitoring on the A452, A45 and M42. Monthly monitoring will allow them to take samples and measure water levels that the holes have collected. The results will help LM to plan their future works by assessing the condition of the land. To conduct these tests safely, LM needs to undertake a number of overnight single lane closures, which will relate to three evenings per month, from October 2019 to January 2020. On these evenings the same lanes will be closed on the same two sections of road and the hours of works will be 8pm to 6am.

5. Vélo Birmingham & Midlands is a 100-mile closed road cycling sportive will be returning to the Midlands on Sunday 21st June 2020. Please note that even if your Parish is not on the route, your parishioners may experience a knock-on effect on available travel routes, transport networks and traffic on key roads on the event day so it is vital to plan ahead.

6. Public Consultation Survey

Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) are the statutory body that bring together local partners to solve shared issues around: Crime and Disorder, Anti-Social Behaviour, Drug and Alcohol misuse, and Reoffending.

Each year, Community Safety Partnerships are required to undertake strategic assessments to help to inform their priorities. The Clerk asked the Parish Councillors to take a look at the survey. Cllr Peter Tennant completed the survey.

7. Westgate scheme set for planning submission

Solihull Council is set to receive a planning application to bring forward its ambitious plans for the vacant Homer Road site in the town centre. The initial planning application will provide a high level overview of proposals for 'Westgate, 21 Homer Road', an exciting new development, located at the corner of Homer Road and Station Road in Solihull town centre. The scheme has the potential to deliver over 10,000sq m of new Grade A office space, close to Touchwood shopping centre and Solihull railway station. If approved 'Westgate' will form a vital part of the Council's new town centre Masterplan which provides a clear blueprint for future investment and development in the town centre over the next 20 years. It will be rated as BREEAM Excellent, in line with the Council's commitment to a low carbon future. Opportunities are also being explored to connect the scheme to the proposed phase 1 town centre heat network.



8. Meriden Park adventure playground

Solihull Council is set to lease a piece of land in Meriden Park so that the adventure playground can become a long-standing facility for local residents to enjoy. Under current arrangements the adventure playground operates under a license agreement between the Council and Meriden Adventure Playground Association (MAPA). However, the Council is keen to give MAPA a lease for the area for an initial period of six years. In order to make this happen, the Council must put out a statutory notice for a period of no less than two weeks giving people the opportunity to comment. After this period of time and subject to no formal objections being made, the Council will enter into a lease agreement.

9. NALC legal briefing on purdah

The pre-election period (purdah) prior to the General Election starts when Parliament is dissolved on 6 November. Although local councils will not be holding elections on 12th December, NALC has reissued their Legal Briefing L01-19 on the code of recommended practice on local authority publicity and we recommend everyone reacquainting themselves with the requirements. Although the legal risks to councils around this time are low, there could still be risks related to public perception and local media. So when advising councils, NALC recommends to be cautious around any activity or communications that could be perceived to be political or controversial.

10. Thank you letter from Pauline Griffiths

The Parish Council received a thank you letter from Pauline Griffiths in relation to the donation from the Parish Council towards their Community Fund.

2854 Roads and Rights of Way

Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that there are some changes to the access road on Catherine De-Barnes Lane at the Gaelic Football Club (GFC) ground. The road may be move due to the planned new club house and leisure facilities. If the new club house is approved then there is a possibility that the GFC site will be substantially larger and it is stipulated that the new access road may be shared with the local community wishing to use the facilities on site. Planning discussions will go on in the next 3-9 months.

2855 Bus and Train Services

Cllr Frank Bunce said that due to the upcoming festive seasons some trains and bus services may be affected.

The Parish Council Meeting was closed at 20:55 GMT

2856 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 4th of December 2019 at 19:30

Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Marston Green Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green, B37 7BT

