

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 15 January 2020
Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Marston Green**

Present:

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

RFO: Carole Cox

Clerk: Franciska Giles

Public: 15 members of the public

2878 The Public

Mr Holdsworth

Mr Holdsworth said that there is a big hole on the pavement at the Oaklands. The Clerk advised Mr Holdsworth that all highway related matters must be reported to SMBC. As Mr Holdsworth did not have the details of SMBC's Contact Centre, the Clerk offered to advise Mr Holdsworth of the contact details the following day. Mr Hastings asked if the Clerk could report this matter to SMBC to which the Clerk said that although the Parish Council endeavours to help residents whenever they can it is encouraged that residents report matters directly to SMBC.

Mr Hastings

Mr Hastings asked the Parish Council if they have a Tree Planting Policy in place. The Clerk advised Mr Hastings that the Parish Council is in the process of compiling a Tree Planting Policy and once completed and ratified by the Parish Council it will be communicated to the public. The Clerk also advised Mr Hastings that tree planting may only take place on Parish Council land and not many places can be identified as suitable positions. Mr Hastings asked whether money from the CIL fund could be allocated to tree planting. Cllr Frank Bunce said that it may be possible but the viability must be assessed first and the CIL criteria must met.

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



2879 Apologies

None

2880 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2881 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday 04th December 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

Objected: Cllr Trevor Wills

In favour: Cllr Frank Bunce

Cllr Clive Hill

Cllr Donna Williams

Cllr Peter Tennant

Cllr Karen Dunn

Did not vote as absent from the December 2019 Parish Council Meeting:

Cllr Wayne Hadley

Cllr Jonathan Horton

Cllr Michael Kay

Cllr Jessica Rathbone

Cllr Kim Wallace

Cllr John Fox

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

2882 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 04th December 2019

Minute no 2873 - Bus and Train Services

The Clerk advised that an email had been sent to CENTRO in December 2019 asking the company for their explanation in relation to the many delayed or cancelled train services in and out of Marston Green. West Midlands Railway responded on the 12th of January stating: *"In May last year we introduced a new timetable to meet the service requirements of our franchise, provided by Department for Transport and West Midlands Rail Executive. This was to provide more journey opportunities and capacity across our network. This has been beneficial to lots of our passengers. However, the timetable brought in a layer of complexity in the way trains and train crew are assigned services throughout the day, which was not there before. This means that when something disrupts the service, the knock-on effects ripple far and wide, and for longer than used to be the case. We have found the timetable challenging to operate effectively and it's fair to say the service is not working well everywhere. In particular, the performance of services between Coventry through Birmingham to Wolverhampton has declined markedly.*

In December, we introduced a new timetable which has various changes to reduce its complexity. The pattern of services at stations between Coventry and Birmingham has been



changed to improve reliability and punctuality. We expect this to be the first step along the road to improving the service. The service ran better in the first week of January than it has for a while, so it seems things are now on the right track. We will make further changes to the timetable in May 2020 too. Regrettably, industry planning practises have long lead times, so has not been a straightforward process to quickly apply the changes to the timetable that we wanted to make. However, we are working very hard to improve the situation as quickly as we can. On those occasions passengers are delayed by fifteen minutes or more, compensation is available through our Delay Repay scheme.

In recognition of the poor performance of our service recently, we have provided season ticket holders with a discount of 3% off the cost of their new season ticket purchase(s) for tickets valid in 2020.

We know that the poor performance has affected more than just season ticket holders, so we are proposing a summer promotion that infrequent travellers can make use of - details of which will be announced in due course."

Cllr John Fox added that train services were atrocious around Christmas. Cllr John Fox also did not agree with West Midlands Trains' explanation of delays and said that the delay related problems did not occur around Coventry but in London. Cllr John Fox added that the train company recently added more trains on the line, which means four trains are running during the week every hour from Marston Green plus an express train from New Street to International only however this train is often delayed due to other trains in the way.

2883 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting on the 16th December 2019

Minute no 1252 - Pitt Lane Pond

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Recreation Committee agreed to an emergency order being raised so that SMBC could drain Pitt Lane Pond twice just before Christmas as the Pond was overflowing and the roads and nearby residential properties were affected. Cllr Clive Hill said that SMBC will provide a report of these works and a cost and work proposal as what infrastructure the Pond needs in order to safeguard future flooding.

Minute no 1361 – VE Day 2020

Cllr Clive said that the original VE/VJ Day meeting had been cancelled however a new meeting was arranged for the 29th of January 2020.

Minute no 1362 PC Minute no 2743 – Bickenhill Playground Fence

Cllr Clive Hill said that this item is ongoing however asked Cllr Jonathan Horton if he can provide an update. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that the Church Warden of Bickenhill is trying to set up a meeting this week to discuss this item.

Minute no 1378 – Allotments Inspection & Improvement Proposal

Cllr Clive Hill advised that an allotment meeting took place on the 8th of January 2020 which a majority of the allotment tenants, Cllr Clive Hill, Cllr Jessica Rathbone and the Clerk attended. Cllr Clive Hill added that the Clerk will write up the minutes of the meeting.



Action item: the Clerk to write up the minutes of the allotment meeting on the 8th of January 2020

Minute no 1394 – Japanese Knotweed

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the temporary fencing to safeguard the area where the Japanese Knotweed plants were treated had been erected early January and a letter to the nearby residents been sent out advising them of the temporary arrangement.

Minute no 1400 – Additional CIL Projects Request

The Clerk gave the Parish Councillors a copy of the update Recreation Committee Meeting minutes and advised that for clarification reasons the names of the months had been added. Furthermore, the last paragraph had been updated as Cllr Trevor Wills asked for his comments and suggestions to be included.

Minute no 1401 - Recycling Permit

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Clerk wrote to SMBC requesting a permit for the Parish Council's pick up van to use the waste recycling centre in Bickenhill. SMBC stated that:

Unfortunately we are unable to provide Bickenhill Parish Council with a permit as the waste that they collect is generated through commercial activities. Our household waste recycling centre is not licensed to accept trade or commercial waste and this is why we cannot provide them with a permit to use the site. Solihull Council do not offer any commercial collections nor facilities to dispose of waste generated through commercial activities. Bickenhill waste and Recycling site can only accept household waste."

Cllr Clive Hill added that as an alternative option, the Clerk wrote to Veolia to obtain a quotation and is waiting for their reply.

Minute no 1412 - Baptist Free Church – CIL Fund Request

Cllr Clive Hill advised that a letter from the Baptist Free Church had been received requesting funding from the CIL money to improve their patio area and kitchen. As no concrete quotations were attached to the letter but only indicative costs were supplied by the Church, the Clerk wrote to the Baptist Church requesting a copy of their actual quotations.

2884 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting on the 17th December 2019

PL/2019/02947 - 45 Coleshill Road, Marston Green, Solihull, B37 7HW

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee commented on this application and said that the Parish Council has no observations subject to the recommendations of SMBC's Tree Officer

PL/2019/01269 – APP/Q4625/X/19/3233731 - 9 Coventry Road, Solihull, B26 3QS

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee commented on this application and said that the Parish Council supports the objection Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council put forward.



PL/2019/02246 - 29 Holly Lane Marston Green Solihull B37 7AP

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee objected to this application which SMBC also refused.

2885 Approval of 2020/21 Precept Application

The RFO stated that the relevant documents were sent out via email to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and asked the Parish Councillors to approve the Precept Application for the coming financial year. The RFO added that the calculations showed that the provisional tax rate had gone up slightly and that there will be no support grant available.

The Parish Councillors discussed the calculated options and with the recommendation of the RFO, namely that the Parish Council to keep the figures in line with inflation, they approved table two, 2.54% increase.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the 2020/21 Precept Application is ratified by the Parish Council

2886 Approval of 2020/21 Fees & Procedures

2886.1 Burial Ground Fees

The RFO stated that the relevant documents were sent out to all Parish Councillors via email and that the figures were discussed at the December Recreation Committee meeting. The RFO explained the proposed new costings and asked the Parish Councillors for their approval.

Cllr Jonathan Horton asked why the Parish Council's burial ground costs are much less than SMBC's and Birmingham Council's. The RFO explained that the burial ground is mainly offered to the residents of the Parish so wanted to remain affordable. The RFO added that a few years ago, funeral directors started to promote the burial ground extensively therefore the Parish Council had agreed that the rates are to be increased gradually but still to remain attractive to the residents. The RFO also advised that the Parish Council limited the number of out of area burials.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the 2020/21 Burial Ground fees are ratified by the Parish Council

2886.2 Out of Area Interments

The RFO said that currently the Parish Council only allows three out of area interments and asked the Parish Councillors if they wished to maintain this procedure in the coming financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council allows only three out of area interments in 2020/21



2886.3 Pre-Purchases for Non-Residents

The RFO said that currently the Parish Council does not allow pre-purchases for non-residents and asked the Parish Councillors if they wished to maintain this procedure in the coming financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council does not allow pre-purchases for non-residents in 2020/21

2886.4 Resident Definition

The RFO said that currently the Parish Council classifies a person as a resident who did not live outside of the Parish for more than 12 months prior to their passing. In that case, the interment fee is charged at resident rate. If the person does not qualify as resident, then the interment fee is charged at out of area rate. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors if they wish to maintain this procedure in the coming financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Trevor Wills

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that a resident interment rate is charged to a person who did not live outside of the Parish for more than 12 months prior to their passing

2886.5 Recreation Ground Fees – Cricket, Football and Baseball

The RFO said that after much deliberation the Recreation Committee proposed no increase in the 2020/21 Recreation Ground fees. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors to approve the same fees.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the 2020/21 Recreation Ground fees are ratified by the Parish Council

2886.6 Allotments Fees

The RFO stated that the relevant documents had been sent out via email to all Parish Councillors prior to the meeting and asked the Parish Councillors to approve the 2020/21 Allotment fees. Cllr John Fox asked why the up to 50% increase. Cllr Clive Hill explained that the increase is proposed to bring the costs in line with SMBC and Birmingham Council's allotment rates and that the proposed increase will not apply to existing tenants until January 2021.



Cllr Clive Hill added that he was invited to a fact gathering exercise by a current allotment tenant when he is hoping to gather information on allotment facilities and services offered by another allotment site. Cllr Clive Hill said that he would report back on his finding.

Cllr Jonathan Horton asked the Clerk whether there are any vacant allotment plots and whether they would be advertised. The Clerk confirmed that some plots became vacant due to notices served to tenants. Some of these vacant plots were taken by existing tenants but the rest will be advertised to the public. The channels of advertising will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the 2021 Allotment fees are ratified by the Parish Council

2887 HS2 Update

Cllr Karen Dunn wished to update the Councillors that the HS2 Oakervee review has not yet been finalised however an unofficial overview was provided recently by Lord Berkeley.

Cllr Karen Dunn added that no update can be provided on the pollution monitors just yet as the December HS2 meeting was cancelled and it is re-scheduled for the 16th of January 2020. Cllr Karen Dunn said that if the pollution monitors are raised at this new meeting then an update will follow at the February Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Karen Dunn said that HS2 will be holding various meetings in the upcoming months. These notices are also displayed on the Parish Council's Facebook page and on their noticeboards. These meetings will cover elements of design consultations, noise level and such topics. Cllr Karen Dunn added that some HS2 drop-in events are also scheduled when works in the area of the Golden Triangle the will be explained. Road closures around the Business Park are also expected.

2888 Airport Matters

Cllr Jonathan Horton said that FlyBe is experiencing some difficulties and that a rescue bid was put together by the Airport which is not looked at favourably by FlyBe's competitors. As part of this bid the air passenger duty is temporarily suspended for FlyBe. The reason for the rescue bid is to reassure connectivity. Cllr John Fox said that the Airport is apprehensive about FlyBe's vulnerability as over 95% of flights operated by FlyBe out of Birmingham are profitable and take up the majority of the slots.

2889 Internal & External Committee Reports

None



2890 Finance – Payments for Authorisation

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

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley

All in favour

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

2891 Zurich Insurance

The RFO said that the annual Zurich Insurance premium covering employer and public liability is now due and explained that the insurance is based on a three years fix contract. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors to approve the cost of £3714.47.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr John Fox

All in favour

It was resolved that the Zurich Insurance premium is accepted and ratified by the Parish Council

2892 Correspondence: Separate report

1. Poppy Appeal

Thank you letter for the donation of £424.00

2. HS2 general drop-in events in Solihull

- Tuesday 4 February, 11am to 3pm - Ibis Style Birmingham NEC & Airport Hotel, Bickenhill Lane, B40 1PQ
- Monday 16 March, 11am to 2pm - Three Trees Community Centre, Hedingham Grove, Chelmsley Wood, B37 7TP
- Wednesday 8 April, 4pm to 7pm - St Peter's Church Hall, Church Lane, Bickenhill, B92 0DN
- Wednesday 13 May, 11am to 3pm - Melbicks Garden Centre, Chester Road, Coleshill, B46 3HY

3. WALC Training Opportunities

- 07/03/2020 – Understanding Planning (MG Parish Hall)
- 16/05/2020 – Understanding Council Meetings & the Law (Lapworth Village Hall)

4. Wildlife Ways will be planting approx. 10 trees on Bickenhill Lane, 60 along Moorend Avenue from January 2020, and possibly some along Hampton Lane. This is scheduled to be followed between late February and April 2020.

5. Transport for West Midlands – Reply letter



Sent to all Parish Councillors

6. Free cycling in North Solihull

A new Bike Hub, based at North Solihull Sports Centre, is set to offer free cycling and wellbeing activities for adults and children. On Thursday 16 January at 10am, the Bike Hub will be officially opened. Residents are invited to come along to North Solihull Sports Centre from 9:30am to 11am and try free adult cycling activities. Following the launch regular weekly Learn to Ride sessions (aimed at beginners and those looking to improve their skills and confidence) will take place every Thursday from 1pm to 3pm starting on 23 January. Weekly Led Rides from the Sports Centre will start on Thursday 20th February at 1pm. To find out more visit www.active-communities.org

7. HS2 Community Events in relation to the new HS2 Station

Email were sent out to all Parish Councillors

8. Notification of Temporary Traffic Restrictions - A452/A446 Birmingham Business Park Island/ A452 Chester Road Northbound Approach - 20 Jan to 24 Jan 2020 – document was sent to Parish Councillors and was put onto the Parish Council’s Facebook Page

2893 Roads, Rights of Way and Street Lighting

Cllr Jonathan Horton wished to update the Parish Council about the development of the proposed new Gaelic Football Club and its facilities. Cllr Jonathan Horton said that it is stipulated that Highways England will provide some funding to the Club and the public may also benefit from this new development by being able to use some of the Club’s sport facilities. Cllr Jonathan Horton added that when communication from Highways England and or the Gaelic Football Club and more details of the development are received, an update will follow.

2894 Bus & Train Services

None

2895 Date of the next meetings – Wednesday 04th March 2020 at 19:30 GMT

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

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting at 20:30 p.m.



