

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 5th February 2020
Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Marston Green

Present:

Cllr Frank Bunce – Chairman
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Karen Dunn
Cllr Donna Williams
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: 8 members of the public

2896 Guest Speaker Solihull MBC – Highways

Cllr Frank Bunce introduced Mr Paul Tovey to the public and asked Mr Tovey to elaborate on the matters which were raised previously with him during Parish Council meetings.

Pedestrian Crossing

Mr Tovey advised that the request to install a pedestrian crossing on Station Road close to Malthouse Row was considered by SMBC and has passed the first stage of Highways' approval process, namely that a suitable location for the crossing was identified. Mr Tovey said that this project will be included in SMBC's Community and Capital Funding Program and will go to Cabinet in March to discuss proposed works etc. Decisions made will be communicated after the March Cabinet meeting.

Cllr Jessica Rathbone asked what will happen to the Lollypop person who works at school drop off and pick up times. Mr Tovey confirmed that the current Lollypop person will remain and that the crossing will be approx. 50m away from the school gates.

Malthouse Row Petition

Mr Paul Tovey advised that last year SMBC received a petition from Malthouse Row residents which Solihull MBC's Cabinet members considered. The outcome was that Malthouse Row is a private road and shall remain as a private road. The Borough Council cannot invest in that private road, it is for the residents to take it forward, which means that SMBC will not do any work on the drainage or the surface of the Row. If needed, SMBC will offer advice in relation to drainage and the Borough Council will provide a new street name plate stating that Malthouse Row is a private road.



The Clerk asked Mr Tovey whether SMBC's decision will be communicated to Malthouse Row residents directly which Mr Tovey confirmed.

School Streets

Mr Tovey stated that SMBC has won the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award for School Street Programmes, part of which is Elm Farm Avenue. In November the Cabinet members approved extending this scheme to cover Wayside and resident consultation will follow shortly. Notices of the extended scheme will be in circulation at around Easter time and works will commence later or in September. Mr Tovey said that the Borough Council is still working on enforcements and said that behaviour is changing slowly. Mr Tovey said that he is hopeful that the Government will decriminalise parking offences so the Council can do their own warnings rather than the police only. If this extended scheme is supported by residents then SMBC will introduce a prohibition of driving for two short periods of the day.

Elmdon Lane Traffic Regulation Order

Mr Tovey said that SMBC put line markings on Elmdon Lane and as a result the Borough Council has received a petition from residents of side lanes stating that they are concerned about displaced parking. Mr Tovey said that the Council is monitoring the displacement and also the current restrictions in place for up to two years. The next formal review will be in September but Mr Tovey encouraged residents to monitor the situation and feed it back to SMBC.

A Resident's Complaint

Mr Tovey stated that a resident's complaint was received by Highways and the following points were addressed.

- **Road markings on Station Road – Elmdon Road junction are worn off**
Mr Tovey confirmed that SMBC included road re-lining in their program after the gritting season has finished and the worn off linings on Station Road-Elmdon Road junction will be carried out accordingly. Cllr Karen Dunn requested re-lining of the disabled bays in front of both set of shops to which Mr Tovey agreed. Cllr John Fox also requested the have the island on Elmdon Road re-marked.
- **Debris in the gutters on Station Road**
Mr Tovey said that although he could not see any debris in the gutters on Station Road just before tonight's Parish Council meeting, however he confirmed that they will take a look at the area again during daylight. Mr Inshaw added that the gutters around Malthouse Row tend to collect debris. Mr Tovey asked the residents to report any Highways related problems on SMBC's website or by calling 0121 704 8000.
- **Joyriders**
Mr Tovey advised that Joyriding or Car Cruising is a criminal offence and should be reported to the Police. The Police have jurisdictionary powers and the vehicle can be seized and crushed.
- **Vehicles parking in the layby on Station Road**
Mr Tovey indicated that Station Road is a wide enough road and although deliveries do take place around the shops areas, drivers can carefully overtake parked vehicles.



- **Cars parking on the pavements**

Mr Tovey said that if cars are parked fully on the pavement, i.e. causing an obstruction, then that is classed as a moving traffic offence as it is preventing a person or a vehicle moving on the highway. Currently only the Police can fine these offenders. Mr Tovey asked the public to report such incidents to 101.

- **Cars parked in disabled space**

Mr Tovey said that he will ask the traffic warden assigned to this area to monitor such behaviour and feed it back to SMBC

Electric charging stations

Cllr Michael Kay asked Mr Tovey about SMBC's plans for electric charging stations. Mr Tovey confirmed that currently there are no such facilities in Marston Green but on Solihull MBC's website there is information about e-charging points. Mr Tovey stated that Solihull Borough currently has 54 charging points and added that SMBC has just put a bid in to the Combined Authority - Low Carbon Initiatives and, if successful, SMBC can implement more on street charging points in another 20 locations.

Blackfirs Lane Sign

Cllr Frank Bunce said that he attended a meeting on the 30th January 2020 hosted by Prologis where some of the Blackfirs Lane residents expressed their concerns about parking and the number of people driving down the Lane and they requested a sign to be erected at the top of the Lane at Coleshill Heath Road. Cllr Frank Bunce also stated that Cllr Alison Rolf will also write to SMBC's Highway in relation to this request.

Mr Inshaw added that there was a very large sign in situ telling drivers that the Lane is a dead end and no drive through to Prologis however when the development was completed, it was removed. Mr Inshaw said that the residents were told that this was due to the fact that SMBC does not like signposts unnecessarily. Mr Inshaw said that on the existing sign, Blackfirs Lane, it is written 'Cul-de-Sac', however the residents are wondering whether a more appropriate sign could be put underneath the Blackfirs Lane sign telling people not to go that way. The Lane is very narrow and when cars come down accidentally they often reverse. Cllr Frank Bunce added that often cars also drive over the grass verges.

Mr Inshaw said that the residents asked Prologis whether they could install a fence. Mr Inshaw stated that Prologis originally suggested large rocks or stones but later confirmed that SMBC will not allow such objects on the highway. Mr Inshaw also asked Mr Tovey whether he would be available for a separate meeting with Blackfirs Lane residents as the representatives from SMBC who have been dealing with Blackfirs Lane residents are not very helpful. Mr Tovey added that although signs can be altered, SATNAV updates can take up to 10 years or so.

Mr Bazeley said that cars keep parking at the Garden of Memory during times when it is prohibited. Mr Bazeley said that these motorists get away with it as nobody stops them. Mr



Tovey suggested Mr Bazeley to send photographic evidence to the Clerk who can forward them to SMBC Highways for investigation.

Drainage

Mr Bazeley added that the drains in Marston Green are full and consequently a number of roads, such as sections of Land Lane, Coleshill Road and Elmdon Road become flooded after heavy rain. Mr Bazeley said that a section on Bickenhill Road around the brook is constantly flooded. The Clerk advised Mr Bazeley that the blocked gully close to the brook has been reported and Severn Trent is working on it.

Mr Tovey confirmed that SMBC drains the surface water off the highway into Severn Trent main. Mr Tovey advised Mr Bazeley that the best practice is to report drainage issues to SMBC on the Council's website. After the report is received, SMBC will attend site within 5 working days. Mr Tovey added that SMBC is constantly striving to improve their service level and technology. One of the technology improvements SMBC is considering is adding sensors to the drainages which would feedback vital information such as when the gullies are full etc.

Land Lane /Clinic area parking arrangements

Cllr Clive Hill asked Mr Tovey about the current parking arrangements on Land Lane at the Clinic. Cllr Clive Hill stated that a section does not have yellow line markings and it causes problems when the traffic is heavy and there are many cars are parked on the side.

Mr Tovey said that during the residents' consultation, SMBC received some objections about a need for parking on that section. Cllr John Fox also added that this section of Land Lane is concerning as vehicles reversing onto the main road had already caused two accidents. Cllr Clive Hill added that his understanding was that the original plans suggested double yellow road markings for this section of Land Lane. Mr Tovey said that this will be checked by SMBC and feedback will be provided.

Action item: *Mr Tovey to check original TRO in relation to Land Lane-Clinic area and provide feedback to BMGPC*

Village Plan

Mr Tovey suggested that the Parish Council should consider plans for the future of traffic management in the village. The proposal should look at speed, volume and the type of vehicles coming through the village as these concerns were previously raised by the residents and the Parish Council. Mr Tovey said that the Parish Council should think about what they would like implementing or changing in the event that some funding, like CIL through the planning process becomes available to spend on traffic calming. In short looking at redesigning the road network.

Mr Tovey said that Marston Green village currently has three access points, namely Bickenhill Road, Holly Lane and Alcott Lane and Coleshill Road could also been added. If the Parish Council was to change the section on Station Road in front of the chemist, effectively sever the village from Coleshill Road and Bickenhill Road make that a U-road and do the same on Holly Lane and Alcott Lane, then traffic coming through the village would be cut down but access for the majority of commuters would be still maintained. Mr Tovey said



that although this proposal might be a solution to “cut the rat run”, he anticipates that some will be pleased and others disappointed.

Cllr Donna Williams asked whether the Chester Road will be reinstated into two lanes as she suggested that the single lane set up might have caused some of the congestions and excessive traffic in Marston Green. Mr Tovey confirmed that the consultants have visited the Chester Road and completed a review of the A452 corridor and agreed that there are some disadvantages in closing the right turn. Therefore, they proposed a two lane traffic system through this section of the road. Mr Tovey said that the challenge going forward is in how to deal with pedestrians and cyclists but SMBC is looking at options.

Guest Speakers Solihull MBC – Managed Growth and Community Directorate

Kerrie Grandison said that Wildlife Ways have progressed onto Marston Green Park. Mrs Grandison added that SMBC has received some enquiries about the mud on the roads and on the grass verges generated by Wildlife Ways but confirmed that once works have been completed, all affected areas will be reinstated as they were before.

Mrs Poulson said that the hedges at Land Lane - Elmdon Road junction are overgrown and need trimming. Mrs Grandison said that a site visit will be arranged to assess the state of the hedges.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 19:30 GMT

2897 Public

No comments

2898 Apologies

Cllr Wayne Hadley and Cllr Jonathan Horton offered their apologies to the Clerk which were accepted. The Clerk also received an email from Cllr Trevor Wills prior to the meeting stating “please automatically accept my apologies for the next week or two, for any meetings I can’t make”, however Cllr Trevor Wills did attend the Parish Council meeting on the 5th of February 2020.

2899 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2900 Approval of the Parish Council In-Camera Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 15th January 2020

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 Clive Hill

All in favour

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



2901 Matters arising from the Parish Council In-Camera Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 15th January 2020

None

2902 Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 15th January 2020

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 Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

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

2903 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 15th January 2020

Minute no 1252 – Pitt Lane Pond

Cllr Michael Kay declared his interest and asked the Clerk for an update on Pitt Lane Pond. The Clerk advised that on the 5th of February one of the Parish Council's Groundsmen took some photos of the extremely high water level, almost encroaching onto the highway, which will be submitted to SMBC's Drainage Department on the 6th of February 2020 asking for an emergency call-out.

Minute no 1379 – Allotment Inspection & Improvement Proposal

The Clerk advised that the minutes of the Allotment Meeting held on the 8th of January 2020 have been completed and a copy was sent out to all allotment tenants.

Minute no 1412 – Baptist Free Church – CIL Fund Request

Cllr Michael Kay asked the Clerk whether the Baptist Free Church has submitted any copies of quotations obtained for works to be carried out in the kitchen and outside area of the Church Hall. The Clerk confirmed that the Baptist Free Church had sent their quotations to the Clerk and that they will be discussed at the next Recreation Committee meeting.

2904 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting on the 30th January 2020

Cllr Clive Hill detailed the proposal of planning application PL/2019/03091, referring to a rear conservatory extension to the existing dental surgery, and said that the Planning Committee submitted a comment to SMBC's Planning Department as below:

"Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council is concerned about the over intensity of the proposed development and would recommend an inspection to be carried out by a Planning Inspector."

Cllr Clive Hill said that that the Planning Committee did not object to SMBC's Planning Department on planning application PL/2020/00130 relating to the proposal of an erection of a road side mast for mounting a Roadside Unit (RSU) and a Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) Correction Unit to the south of the A45 Coventry Road (to the east of the road's junction with Goodway Road) to facilitate the creation of a Testbed for Connected and Autonomous Vehicles (CAVs).



2905 Financial Approvals

2905.1 - Approval of 2020/21 Budget

The RFO said that a hard and an electronic copy of the relevant Budget documents were distributed to all Parish Councillors. The RFO said that calculation and projections were made for 2020 following the agreement of the Precept. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors for their approval.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr John Fox

All in favour

It was resolved that the 2020/21 Budget Calculation is ratified by the Parish Council

2905.2 - Approval of Precept Application – Additional Information

The RFO said that following the Parish Council's Precept Application to SMBC, and because next year's Precept Application value is over £140,000, the Parish Council needed to supply Solihull MBC with a breakdown of the figures. The RFO said that this breakdown was submitted to SMBC last week due to deadline constraints and an email advising the Parish Councillors of this submission was also sent by the RFO. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors for their approval of the Precept Application.

Proposed: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

Seconded: Trevor Wills

All in favour

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

2906 Approval of Grass Cutting Contract - St Peter's Church

The Clerk advised that St Peter's Church submitted a letter asking the Parish Council for a donation towards their grass cutting costs. The RFO advised that in previous years the Parish Council donated £500 and from the financial point, this sum will be allocated to section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The Clerk asked the Parish Councillors for their approval.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Donna Williams

All in favour

It was Resolved that the Parish Council in accordance with its powers under sections 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 grass cutting.

2907 Prologis Meeting

Cllr Frank Bunce said that, further to his comment earlier, he believes that the representatives of Prologis work well together with the residents and that the residents appear to be happy with this relationship. Cllr Frank Bunce added that for him the main point which came out of the meeting with Prologis 30th January 2020 was the need for a sign at Blackfirs Lane and to



solve the issue relating to cars parking on the Lane. Cllr Frank Bunce said that hopefully Mr Tovey will be able to address both points.

2908 HS2 Update

Cllr Karen Dunn wished to update the Councillors that the HS2 Oakervee review has still not been finalised although it is speculated that HS2 will go ahead.

Cllr Karen Dunn said that during the last HS2 meeting it was confirmed that pollution monitors will be implemented for vehicle emissions of contract vehicles only. HS2 brought out a requirement that all work related contractors must be compliant with the air quality criteria submitted to SMBC.

Cllr Karen Dunn said that Mr John Lord voiced his concern about of the slow take up of the community & business fund which is available from them. Allegedly, Solihull is one of the slowest take ups. Cllr Karen Dunn reiterated that HS2 wants people to use these funds and to apply on www.groundwork.org.uk/hs2funds.

Cllr Karen Dunn said that there will be some changes around the Birmingham Business Park area. Highways work from the 10th of February 2020 to move more vegetation and trees and to create some trenches. All to do with the Golden Triangle. Cllr Karen Dunn added that HS2 is creating a new road system outside of the original Business Park entrance, therefore from the 10th until the 16th February 2020 between 09:30 and 15:30 there will be single lane closures as well as some overnight closures until the 3rd of March, Northway on A4438. Cllr Karen Dunn said that if anybody has any queries in relation to these closures or other matters, they should check the HS2 website.

Cllr Karen Dunn advised that during the last meeting HS2 stated that they want small, local businesses, such as sandwich bars, cafes, guesthouses, civil engineering, corporate services to benefit from their presence in the area. Therefore, HS2 is asking these businesses to make themselves known by registering themselves on hs2.org.uk/local-business or hs2.org.uk/supply-chain.

Cllr Karen Dunn stated that during the last HS2 meeting she picked up an HS2 pack comprising of various documents such as common design elements, station, funding, important dates etc. however all this information are available on the HS2 website as well.

Lastly, Cllr Karen Dunn said that HS2 is preparing to submit a schedule 17 relating to the final design of the interstation and the people mover.



2909 Airport Matters

None

2910 Internal & External Committee Reports

None

2911 Finance – Payments for Authorisation

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

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill

Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone

All in favour

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

2912 Correspondence: Separate report

1. New Kingshurst Concept Masterplan

The new high level Masterplan which was approved in October following public consultation will transform the current Kingshurst Village Centre enhancing connectivity and improving the public space through the creation of a new 'High Street'.

2. HS2 Advisory Group Meeting 16.01.2020 - Matters Arising

• **Temporary Diversion of Footpath M216**

Solihull MBC has received and approved an application from HS2 limited under Schedule 4 part 2. The applications are held on the Council's tracking system and can be found on our Website: <https://www.solihull.gov.uk/Resident/Parking-travel-roads/HS2> .

- **Conflicting works – Lavender Hall Lane and Truggist Lane** – The matter has been raised with the HS2 traffic management team and HS2 have amended their programme of work to avoid the risk of working at both locations at the same time.

- **Old Waste Lane** - An update will be provided in due course

3. The next HS2 IAG meeting will take place on 10th March at 6pm, not 26th March. This is because of purdah.

4. Leisure card discounts to get people active

Solihull Council and Everyone Active have launched a new leisure card that will give off peak discounts for people on a low income and in receipt of certain benefits*. The card will also allow people aged 75 and over a free membership for use during off peak times and can be used at North Solihull Sports Centre and Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.



The Leisure Card will give 30% off certain activities during off peak time and is available to local residents who receive benefits* (terms and conditions apply – ask local centre for details) –

In addition:

People aged 75 and over are entitled to free membership and access to leisure facilities during off peak times. Looked after children and care leavers won't be charged for casual access and are entitled to free membership up to their 25th birthdays.

Foster and other carers will be given free entry when participating with or facilitating access for those who they care for.

5. NALC - Developing a new model code of conduct

Draft model code to be consulted upon in coming months as the Local Government Association is aiming to publish the new code at its conference in July.

6. Tree Planting

On Wednesday 19 February from 11:00 – 13:00 the #LoveSolihull team have organised a 'Community Tree Planting Day' in #MalvernPark and are welcoming volunteers to come and support them with the tree planting!

7. Wonderful Villages Photo Competition

- Send a photo which characterises the value of community in your village'. This is not about 'pretty villages' or professional photography, but rather capturing the essence of 'community'.
- It's open to all rural halls. No fee to enter. Halls can enter as many photos as they wish
- Closing date is 15 March 2020
- Details and rules are available from <https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition>
- Trustees can download a poster for noticeboard display from the link below.
- To vote for the best photos from other communities in order to help the judges. <https://villagehallsurvey.com/survey/photo-competition/photo-gallery>
- Top prize is £1,000 to the village hall and £500 to the photographer. There are other prizes.

8. The Solihull 'Taste of Fairtrade Cake Off' is back for Fairtrade Fortnight 2020. The Cake Off is a competition taking place at The Core Library on Saturday 22 February and is open to both adults and children, with several different categories available. For further information please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/taste-of-fairtrade-cake-competition-off-2020-tickets-86782582039>



9. Parish Council Annual Conference – SMBC Wednesday 26th February - The Studio at the Core in Solihull, 5:30-8:30pm to discuss how the Council and Parish and Town Councils can work together to achieve the outcomes in the environmental plan.

10. Permanent Traffic Regulation Order - Notice of Implementation – Birmingham Business Park, Marston Green

- **Total Prohibition of Waiting (At Any Time)**

New access road to Birmingham Business Park between Bickenhill Parkway and Solihull Parkway provisionally named Progress Way - both sides from a point approximately 209 metres north of its junction with Bickenhill Parkway (roundabout) northwards to the junction of Solihull Parkway (roundabout).

- Solihull Parkway (southern side) - from its junction with Progress Way (roundabout) south eastwards for 15 metres.

11. Blackfirs Ward Polling Place – BMGPC’s Tea Room – Recreation Ground

SMBC has approved the proposal that the Tea Room will be used as a polling station for Blackfirs Ward. The first booking is on Thursday 7th May 2020.

2913 Roads, Rights of Way and Street Lighting

None

2914 Bus & Train Services

Cllr John Fox said that more and more trains leaving from Marston Green station are cancelled.

2915 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.