

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 04 September 2019
Church Hall, Bickenhill**

Present:

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

Clerk: Franciska Giles

RFO: Carole Cox

Public: 11 members of the public

2800 The Public

Mr Lowry

Mr Lowry enquired whether there are any vacant allotment plots available as he would like to take on some in addition to his current plots. The Clerk advised Mr Lowry, at present, no allotment plots are vacant and that there are two persons already on the waiting list. Mr Lowry stated that he is very surprised by this and said that some of the allotment plots are not maintained at all and he feels that it would be better to offer those plots to people who want to cultivate and keep them to a good standard. The Clerk advised Mr Lowry that the Parish Council is scheduled to carry out the annual allotment inspection on the 09th of September where all allotment plots will be assessed. Any tenant who had not met their obligations will receive a written notice advising them of the findings of the Parish Council and a one month notice will be served to improve the situation.

Mr Bazeley

Mr Bazeley requested a zebra crossing at the Memory Garden – Station Road side. He stated that it is a busy road, especially during rush hours when pedestrians often find it difficult to cross due to the high volume of cars travelling in both directions and turning at the junction. The Clerk advised Mr Bazeley that the Parish Council did not receive any plans from SMBC for a crossing at this location but she offered to contact the Highways



Department of SMBC to take up this request with them and report back on the findings at the next Parish Council meeting in October.

Action item: Clerk is to contact the Highways Department of SMBC and report back on the findings at the next Parish Council meeting in October

Mrs Hamilton

- Wished to talk about the Millennium Wood. She stated that the state of the paths needs improving and that the grass areas around the pathways have to be maintained sensitively due to the collection of wildflowers and bulbs present. Mrs Hamilton expressed her concerns about the method as how the grass is being cut, namely that flowers are often cut down and the cut grass is not collected which disables flower growth from below the surface. She felt that as a result of the flowers being cut down other wildlife such as birds and bats may find it difficult to find adequate food supply. Cllr Frank Bunce advised Mrs Hamilton that the Parish Council has a concern for wildlife in general and is working closely with Wildlife Ways to establish and enable areas where more wildflowers, bulbs and trees can be planted.
- Reported that the damaged dog bin at the Burial Ground has not yet been replaced

Mrs Tocher

Mrs Tocher wished to update the Parish Council that the requested white lines in Bickenhill have been marked by the Highways Department of SMBC and that the residents are pleased with the outcome.

Mr Hastings

- Mr Hastings asked for an update on the Village Hall. Cllr Clive Hill advised Mr Hastings that there is no significant development since the last Parish Council meeting. The legal representatives are completing the relevant documentations and both parties are in discussion in relation to drawing up a sales contract.
- Mr Hastings asked whether any Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is expected from the sale of the Village Hall. Cllr Clive Hill advised that no CIL money is due from this sale, but potentially from the housing development on this site once completed. Mr Hastings wished to comment by saying that he found a case study where a development of a small site (originally a bungalow) in Solihull prompted the developer to pay <£30K CIL. Cllr Jonathan Horton stated that it is highly unlikely that any developer would be willing or obliged to pay such high amount for a small development as CIL is calculated on a square metre basis, unless this is a very large dwelling. Cllr Jonathan Horton offered his advice in relation to the case by saying that he would go through the document with Mr Hastings outside of the Parish Council meeting.
- Mr Hastings enquired about the total amount of CIL the Parish Council is expecting to receive. The RFO advised Mr Hastings that the Parish Council received the initial instalment of CIL payment of £75745.69 in May 2019 and is expecting another instalment soon. The RFO also pointed out that this sum is made up of various



developments in and around Marston Green and did not solely derive from the Chelmsley Lane development.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 19:46

2801 Recommendations of the Interview Panel regarding Co-opting Members to Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council

Cllr Frank Bunce asked the Parish Councillors to pass a resolution to accept the recommendations of the interview panel.

Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill Secoded: Cllr Jonathan Horton

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Councillors accepted the recommendations of the interview panel

2802 Cllr Frank Bunce invited the Co-opted Parish Councillors to join the meeting and introduced them individually. The Clerk asked the Co-opted Councillors to sign the Declaration of Acceptance to Office, the Code of Conduct and the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest documents.

2803 Appointment of New Members of Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council to the Committees

Cllr Frank Bunce asked the New Members which Committees they wish to join. The new members stated their preferences as below:

Finance Committee - Cllr Peter Tennant
 - Cllr Michael Kay

Planning Committee - Cllr Trevor Wills
 - Cllr John Fox

Recreation Committee - Cllr Trevor Wills

2804 Apologies

None

2805 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

2806 Approval of the Parish Council Minutes - Held on Wednesday 03 July 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 Jonathan Horton Secoded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

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



2807 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting on the 03 July 2019

Minute no. 2784 Parking Restrictions

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the new parking restrictions will come into force on the 6th of September and pre- works, like marking the yellow lines are being carried out.

Minute no. 2784 Pedestrian Crossing Request in Bickenhill

The Clerk advised the Councillors that no update from SMBC has been received on this matter.

Minute no.2788 Wildlife Ways Contact Person

The Clerk advised that Peter Sharples returned to SMBC and took up the same remit in SMBC's Wildlife Ways department and therefore he remains the contact person.

Minute no.2796.1 Wildlife Ways

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council met with Wildlife Ways on the 8th of August to discuss the newly proposed shared usage cycle path going through Marston Green village. New shared usage path would be laid on the entire length of Bickenhill Road joining onto Station Road, passing the Junior School and the Petrol Station and would terminate at Marston Green Railway Station. The Clerk stated that the Parish Council formulated and submitted a written representation to Wildlife Ways where they objected to this and proposed an alternative route for the shared usage cycle path avoiding Marston Green village centre.

Minute no.2796.2 Safer Solihull Partnership

The Clerk advised that a copy of Safer Solihull Partnership notice was placed on Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council's Facebook page.

2808 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting – 9 July 2019

Minute no. 1318 Recycling at BMGPC

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the recycling effort of BMGPC continues and two new bins for external use will be purchased by the Clerk.

Minute no. 1348 Pest Control

Cllr Clive Hill advised that Pest Control on the Recreation Ground was completed.

Minute no. 1349 Marston Green Burial Ground Fence Repair

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the fence at Marston Green Burial Ground was repaired.

Minute no. 1351 Bench Repair Request

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the bench at the baseball pitch was repaired.

Minute no. 1362 PC Minutes No 2743 – Bickenhill Playground Fence Quote



Cllr Clive Hill asked Cllr Jonathan Horton to update the Parish Councillors on the status. Cllr Jonathan Horton stated that the matter is ongoing and that he will hopefully be able to provide an update soon.

Minute no. 1368 Amenity Land Allotments – Shed Request

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Clerk engaged with the Airport, who the Parish Council is leasing the Amenity Land allotment ground from, to seek permission to erect sheds. The Parish Council is waiting to hear from the relevant department at the Airport.

Minute no. 1370 – Litter Campaign

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council is hoping to carry out a litter pick together with the Marston Green Lions. Cllr Clive Hill stated that he received some proposed dates from Marston Green Lions and that he will discuss the dates with the Recreation Committee when they meet later in September.

Minute no. 1371 – Train Station Planter – Watering

Cllr Clive Hill advised that after the trial period of 4 weeks, the Parish Council agreed to continue watering the Marston Green Train Station Planter 1x a week. The Groundsmen were instructed.

Minute no. 1372 – Rugby Pitch Hire

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council received an inquiry from an established team wanting to play rugby in Marston Green. The Parish Council met with the club's representatives and is evaluating the viability of this request.

2809 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting – 22 August 2019

Application no PL/2019/01743

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

“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council is concerned about the proposed room square metres sizes and questions whether it meets Solihull MBC’s HMO guidelines. The Parish Council also wishes to ensure that SMBC Planning Department liaises with the Licencing Authority on this application to ensure all necessary regulations are adhered to. BMGPC would like to request that any parking, disturbance and noise related matters are also taken into consideration. The Parish Council would be interested to learn exactly what Solihull’s strategy is regarding HMOs, for example Article 4 direction etc.”

Application no PL/2019/01911

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



“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council objects to this application on the ground of complete change of use from residential to business. The Parish Council has a concern about the inconvenience caused by street parking from customers. In addition to this BMGPC is vary about the possible annoyance caused to neighbours particularity bearing in mind the hours of work.”

Application no PL/2019/00395 (Appeal Ref: APP/Q4625/W/19/3230932)

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

“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council objects to this planning application on the ground of noise and disruption to neighbours based on the number of possible cars and 24/7 working hours. In addition, the Parish Council wants to make SMBC's Planning Department aware that the junction of Clock Lane and Catherine De Barnes Lane is a dangerous junction on the bend in the road.”

Application Number PL/2019/01702

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council submitted a written representation to SMBC on this application.

2810 Marston Green Community Group – Grant Request

The Clerk advised that the Parish Council received a letter from Marston Green Community Group who were planning a community day trip during the summer holidays using two buses as the transport method. As the total cost of the coach hire cannot be met by the Community Group, they are requesting a donation from the Parish Council. The Clerk informed the Councillors that in previous years the Parish Council donated £200 towards this cause and asked if the Councillors would consider the same amount this year also.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the donation of £200 is made.

Proposed: Cllr Frank Bunce

Secoded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council in accordance with its powers under section 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 interest of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure of 200.00 for supporting a community event.

2811 Remembrance Sunday Service 2019

Cllr Frank Bunce advised that the Clerk had set up a meeting with the Marston Green Church of England and Baptist Church and the Scouts Group for the 19/09/2019 to discuss the upcoming Remembrance Sunday Service. Cllr Frank Bunce and the Clerk said that any help from the Councillors in organising the event would be greatly appreciated.



2812 VE Day 75

The Clerk advised that nationwide the VE Day 75 celebration is going to take place in May 2020 and asked the Councillors if they feel that the Parish Council should get involved. Cllr John Fox pointed out that VJ (Victory in Japan) Day should also be celebrated to draw attention to this important date as many are not aware of it. Cllr Jonathan Horton wished to involve the Bickenhill village children in these celebrations although maybe on a different scale.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills

All in favour

It was resolved that the Parish Council will make arrangements for the VE and VJ Day celebrations

2813 HS2

Cllr Karen Dunn advised that HS2 contractors are carrying on with the scheduled work however the Government's Oakervee review is going to look at whether and how HS2 should proceed, using all existing evidence on the project to consider. The Government Transport Minister Mr Grant Shaft had stated that a final report is expected by the end of the year. Cllr Karen Dunn stated that the overall HS2 project is predicted to be delayed, the foreseeable delay of phase one in and around Bickenhill and Marston Green is about 3-5 years. In addition, the overall cost of the HS2 project has risen from the initial £62 Billion to a predicted £81-88 Billion.

Cllr Karen Dunn said that in a close proximity of the Parish new road constructions are on the way. Such works can be seen around the Little Owl Restaurant where a roadway is being built into the future HS2 area. This roadway gives access to the Inter Station (IS) and the Automated People Mover (APM) maintenance station. The APM is to run between the IS, the NEC, the Airport and the International Railway Station. The maintenance station for the APM is planned to be positioned this side of the M42 within the 'golden triangle', although Cllr Karen Dunn stated alternative areas are being investigated for the location of the APM maintenance station.

Cllr Karen Dunn said, that in addition, new access roads are planned, namely

- one off the B4438 between the M42 start and the bend at the Holiday Inn hotel
- one on the A452 northbound opposite Melbicks Garden Centre
- one on the A446 south of Melbicks and
- one before Melbicks between the A446 southbound and the A452 southbound

The second phase of the HS2 project has also been delayed, i.e. the route between Birmingham and Manchester and Leeds is predicted to be completed by 2035-2040.



2814 Airport

Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that

- The Airport had a meeting in August where they stated that the Airport is going through tough times as the plane traffic has been reduced although planes are now operating at fuller capacity. The delayed departures are still of concern, Jet2 departures especially. On the plus side, the signage at Airport security had improved.
- His frustration with the original process of raising issues effectively with the Airport authority has been eliminated as the Airport introduced a new process whereby all issues stay on the agenda as items until they got resolved.
- Another improvement policy was implemented by the Airport Authority whereby no 747 is allowed to come in to Birmingham Airport. This change was triggered by the recent event where the operator TUI sent in a 747 to Birmingham Airport without prior authorisation however no Airport policy on 747 was at that point in place at BHX. This incident was reported to Solihull MBC and TUI is expected to receive a fine for this incident
- A Noise Abatement Committee was set up at the Airport which are implementing a change on approved noise levels, i.e. aiming to reduce the numbers from 90 to 86 and identifying the noisy planes. The Committee will also 'educate' pilots on what is the most efficient way of operating the plans to reduce noise levels. Further work is in line for 2020/21.

2815 Internal & External Committee Reports

Cllr Frank Bunce advised that he provided the Clerk with a copy of the Parish Hall's AGM Report and the Auditor's Report and stated that if any Councillors wish to read the reports then they should contact the Clerk.

2816 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 Frank Bunce

All in favour

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

2817 Correspondences

2817.1 Wildlife Ways

Wildlife Ways project team informed the Clerk that work on more routes are underway and are in progress.

- From mid-July to late August, wildflower seeding and 'green hay' spreading works are being taken place at Marston Green Park
- Improvements on Routes D, E and F will soon be underway. Cllr Frank Bunce and Cllr Clive Hill and the Clerk attended a guided walk organised by Wildlife Ways to



demonstrate Route F through Gloucester Way to Coleshill Road. The project team informed the Parish Council that in addition to bulk planting, the existing cycle routes will be upgraded too. The path on Gloucester Way will be widened to allow shared usage and the existing tarmac will be replaced by a porous service to let water run through it.

- Wildlife Ways' landscape contractor *idverde* will be planting crocus, primrose, snowdrop, daffodil and allium bulbs from mid-September to December in road verges and open spaces along Station Road, Moorend Avenue, Bickenhill Road, Elmdon Lane, Coleshill Road, Bickenhill Parkway and Hampton Lane

2817.2 HS2 Implementation Advisory Group

The Clerk received a notification of an additional meeting of the HS2 Implementation Advisory Group which is scheduled for the 3rd of October 2019 at 6pm. The Clerk said that Cllr Karen Dunn indicated that she wishes to attend this meeting, however if other Parish Councillors wish to be present, then they need to inform the Clerk as soon as possible.

2817.3 Tree Felling

The Clerk obtained a quote from Treefix to fell 6 trees in the Spinney and Recreation Ground. The total cost is £800. The Clerk also requested quotations from other local tree surgeons however they failed to supply a like-for-like quote. One of the identified trees next to the Recreation Carpark needs urgent attention as it has started to lean towards the carpark. The Clerk advised the Councillors that if this tree is not felled soon then the safety of the public may be compromised. Due to the seriousness of the situation, the Clerk wishes to commission Treefix to fell this problematic tree and all the other trees at the same time to take advantage of the bulk tree removal discount offered by the company. Treefix has done quite a few jobs for the Parish Council and they have also been professional and available at short notice.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that the RFO can raise the order

2817.3 Japanese Knotweed on 3Ms

The Clerk received a notification from Panther PLC who owns the land behind the Recreation Ground that Japanese Knotweed is growing on the site of 3Ms. The exact location of the plants has been identified as the land behind 2 and 3 The Woodlands/Coleshill Road. Panther PLC commissioned a specialised Japanese Knotweed Solution company to carry out an investigation and compile a survey document which the Clerk had received. Based on the document and some independent research by the Clerk, it became apparent that Japanese Knotweed is an invasive plant and if not treated quickly and efficiently, it can rapidly overtake the native habitat and eventually kill them. As a matter of urgency, the Parish Council arranged a telephone conference with Panther PLC for the 5th of September where solutions will be discussed. One of the points to discuss will be the survey and its



recommendation by the specialised Japanese Knotweed removal company Panther PLC commissioned. This company quoted for the treatment and removal of the Japanese Knotweed found on 3Ms and also offered a 5 year warranty to monitor the area and possible further treatments. The total cost is £4032. The Parish Council currently leases 3Ms from Panther PLC and therefore has an interest in finding a solution which may result in financial contribution. The Clerk proposed to obtain two more independent quotes to compare the treatments and select the most suitable one. As Japanese Knotweed must be dealt with immediately to avoid further complications, the Clerk asked the Parish Councillors to empower the Recreation Committee to be able to make a decision on which quotations to approve up to the value of £4000 as part of Parish Council's potential contribution. Cllr Jonathan Horton suggested to also take out an insurance backed guarantee for 10 years.

Proposed: Cllr Frank Bunce
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Jonathan Horton

It was resolved that the Parish Council approved the spend up to the value of £4000.

2818 Roads and Rights of Way

Cllr Jonathan Horton provided an update on the M42/Junction 6 development. Cllr Jonathan Horton advised that another round of hearing was completed where Bickenhill residents and the Parish Council presented their concerns and requests, namely:

- Request to have the compound moved to an alternative location
- If relocation of the compound is not possible, the Parish Council and Bickenhill residents wish to put forward some suggestions to limit the impact of the compound on the area and the local residents. These suggestions are:
 - Move the compound further north of the village towards the A45
 - Reduce the scale of work activities by sharing them out amongst the other satellite compounds in the area
 - Move access closer to the A45
 - Change operational timings
 - Direct route from new footbridge over the A45 to the Train Station, rather than through Trinity Park, and better footpath access to the Airport from the South end of the village.

Cllr Jonathan Horton added, that the Parish Council also asked the M42/J6 Stakeholder Manager that in addition to SMBC the village also wishes to be consulted on landscaping matters and therefore the names of the representative of the Parish Council and Bickenhill village should be included on the consultees' list. In addition to the above, compensation options were requested by the involved parties and a decision on this will be communicated at the next hearing.

Cllr Clive Hill praised and thanked Cllr Jonathan Horton for all his effort in the matter of Bickenhill Compound Project.



2819 Bus and Train Services

Nothing to report

The Parish Council Meeting was closed at 21:05 GMT

2820 Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, 2nd October 2019 at 19:30

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

