

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**  
**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 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  
Cllr Wayne Hadley

**RFO:** Carole Cox

**Clerk:** Franciska Giles

**Public:** 9 members of the public

Cllr Frank Bunce opened the meeting at 19:30 GMT

**2916 Public**

Mr Chance wished to speak on behalf of Mr Hewlett, Mr Lowry, Mr Butler and Mr Bryant (absent from the Parish Council meeting).

Mr Chance stated that the 5 allotment tenants are unhappy with the Parish Council's 2021 Allotment Rent increase based on the services the Parish Council is currently providing.

Mr Chance said that the tenants investigated the current allotment rent rates charged by Solihull MBC (SMBC) and Birmingham City Council (BCC) and they concluded that the Parish Council's 2021 Allotment Rent rates are in fact in line with the other two authorities' rates.

Nevertheless, they asked the Parish Councillors to debate how the Parish Council could offer more facilities and support to its allotment tenants as they felt that SMBC and BCC offer more.

A few suggestions were proposed by Mr Chance et al.:

**1) Square Metre Based Allotment Rent Fee**

Mr Chance advised that SMBC and BCC's allotment sizes are consistent and that these two authorities charge allotment rent fees based on square metre.

Mr Chance added that they carried out a survey and established that the Elmdon Lane allotment plots are larger than the Amenity Land allotment plots. They feel that it is not fair that the Parish Council charges the same rent to all tenants regardless of the allotment plot size.

**2) 50% discount to over 60s/65s**



Mr Chance stated that SMBC and BCC offer discounted allotment rent fees and they would like to Parish Council to offer a similar discount scheme.

**3) Communal Shed**

Mr Chance said that they wish to inform the Parish Council that they do not want a communal shed on the Amenity Land Allotment site.

The Clerk advised Mr Chance that the Recreation Committee and the Parish Council will discuss the presented findings and a feedback will be delivered to the allotment tenants at the April Allotment meeting.

**A Resident** wished to seek clarification whether the location of the proposed Muslim Cemetery and the proposed Service Station at Catherine-de-Barnes are inside or outside of Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish.

Parish Councillors confirmed that these two locations are outside of the Parish but the Parish Council had submitted a strong objection to the Muslim Cemetery. Cllr Frank Bunce added that the planning application for the Muslim Cemetery has now been withdrawn.

**Mr Dennis Butler** asked whether there is an area on the Recreation Ground which is dog free or dogs cannot be let off lead. Mr Butler said that dogs seem to roam free everywhere on the Recreation ground, even on the playground area.

Mr Butler said that his grandchildren are scared of dogs and therefore he can no longer take them to the Recreation Ground play area. In addition, Mr Butler said that when parking on the Recreation Ground carpark he and his grandchildren cannot proceed to the playground as dogs are running across the cricket and football pitches.

The RFO said that the Parish Council currently does not restrict dogs on the Recreation Ground but a signage at the playground states that no dogs are allowed in that area.

Mr Butler replied that despite the signage, dogs do enter the play area.

Cllr Frank Bunce and Cllr Clive Hill sympathised with Mr Butler but said that it is very difficult to police the matter. Nevertheless, Cllr Frank Bunce and Cllr Clive Hill said that the Groundsmen inform dog owners about the 'no dog rule on the playground' when they spot dogs there.

Mr Bazeley said that both Groundsmen have dogs which go around with them and that he exercises his dog on the Recreation Ground too.

Mr Butler asked whether the Parish Council could create/cordon off an area, for example the football pitches, where no dogs would be allowed. Cllr Frank Bunce said that it would be possible but it would prove unpractical as the Parish Council would not be able to monitor it or police it.



Cllr Trevor Wills wished to ask the Parish Council as a member of the public “*what is the issue with the Muslim Burial site*”? Cllr Frank Bunce replied that there is not an issue but it has been withdrawn and rejected.

Cllr Trevor Wills had another question as a member of the public rather than a Councillor. Cllr Trevor Wills said that “*the Clerk, on a number of occasions, has stated that there is a legal requirement for 3 business days...*” but could not complete the sentence as Cllr Clive Hill asked Cllr Trevor Wills to “*discuss this matter some another time as I don’t think now is the time to discuss this quite honestly*”. *We will sort this. It is something that is really not up for discussion this time, I don’t think. And if you are going to criticise the Clerk as well, I make exception to that as well.*”

Cllr Trevor Wills replied “*I was just going to ask a question*”.

Cllr Wayne Hadley asked the Chairman for guidance. The Clerk asked the Chairman if he would grant Cllr Trevor Wills a question. The Chairman, Cllr Frank Bunce said “*Yes*”. Cllr Trevor Wills replied “*No, no, far be it from me*”. As Cllr Wills did not want to proceed with his question, the Parish Council continued with the agenda items.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting to the public at 19:55 GMT

**2917 Apologies**

Cllr Jonathan Horton offered his apologies to the Clerk which were accepted.

**2918 Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations**

As and when required

**2919 Approval of the Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> February 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 Clive Hill***

***Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn***

***In favour:***

Cllr Frank Bunce

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*

*Cllr Wayne Hadley did not vote as he was not present at the February Parish Council meeting*

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



**2920 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting Minutes - Held on Wednesday 05<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**Minute no 2896 - Land Lane /Clinic area parking arrangements**

In February 2020, 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.

In March 2020, the Clerk stated that no feedback from Mr Tovey has been submitted therefore this item is to be carried over to the next Parish Council meeting

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

**2921 Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting Minutes - Held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

Cllr Frank Bunce stated that due to an internal error, agenda item Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting was left off the issued Parish Council Agenda. Cllr Frank Bunce asked the Parish Council to include and discuss the missing agenda item and asked the Parish Councillors for their vote.

**Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill**

**Seconded: Cllr John Fox**

**All In favour**

It was resolved, that agenda item Matters arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting - held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020 was approved by the Parish Councillors for discussion on 4th March 2020

**Minute no 1402 - Allotment waiting list**

The Clerk advised that the vacant allotment plots have been advertised on the Parish Council's Facebook site and consequently a number of enquiries were received. The Clerk said that a plot is now allocated to a new tenant and more viewings are scheduled.

**Minute no 1412 – Baptist Free Church – CIL Fund Request**

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Parish Council is still waiting for some information from the Baptist Free Church.

**Action item:** On-going



**Minute no 1422.2 – New Allotment Tenancy Agreement**

Cllr Clive Hill advised that a new Allotment Tenancy Agreement was formulated and asked the Parish Councillors for their approval. The Parish Councillors wished to read through the document in their on time and provide feedback via email to the Clerk.

**Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams**

**All In favour**

It was resolved, that the Councillors will provide their feedback to the Clerk via email

**Action item: On-going**

**2922 Matters arising from the Finance Committee Meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

**2922.1 Minute no 582.1 – Pavilion Lighting**

The RFO said that the Finance Committee discussed the three quotations for the internal LED lighting in the Pavilion and recommended Westwood Property's quotation. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors for their approval.

**Proposed: Cllr Jessica Rathbone**

**Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams**

**All In favour**

It was resolved, that Westwood Property quotation is approved by the Parish Council

**2922.2 Minute no 582.2 - Recycling at BMGPC**

The RFO advised that the Recreation Committee recommended VEOLIA for recycling in the Pavilion. VEOLIA is currently only offering the service of glass recycling as they have internal problems. The RFO stated that the annual cost would be £400.50. The RFO stated that the Finance Committee discussed the quotation and their feedback was that the cost should be borne by the Cricket Club as they are generating the waste. The RFO asked the Parish Councillors for their vote.

Cllr Peter Tennant expressed his concern about the underutilisations of the glass bin during the winter months when cricket is not played. Cllr Michael Kay and Cllr Donna Williams suggested to refer the matter back to the Recreation Committee for further discussion.

The RFO asked the Parish Councillors if they all agree with this suggestion.

**Proposed: Cllr Michael Kay**

**Seconded: Cllr Donna Williams**

**All In favour**

It was agreed that the matter to be referred back to the Recreation Committee

**2922.3 Minute no 582.3 Allotments**

The RFO said that the Recreation Committee put forward a proposal to improve the pathways at the Marston Green Allotment sites, which would incur cost of bark and timber.

The RFO stated the preferred provisions and asked the Parish Councillors for their vote.



Cllr Kim Wallace said that she would prefer to hire a rotavator and the Groundsmen would do the job. The Clerk explained that the Groundsmen will be involved in this project however due to other commitments at spring time, they could not be allocated solely to this project.

Cllr John Fox asked about additional cost such as membranes and pesticides. The Clerk advised that no membranes are planned under the bark and that the area would be treated prior to putting the bark down.

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting at 20:02 as Mr Lowry wished to comment.

Mr Lowry disagreed with the use of pesticide and stated that if sprayed, it would kill the produce on the allotment plots.

Cllr Frank Bunce opened the meeting at 20:03

Cllr Wayne Hadley said that he is qualified in ground maintenance and that he too would recommend weed membrane under the bark. The Parish Councillors agreed that the matter should be referred back to the Recreation Committee for further discussion.

**Proposed: Cllr Clive Hill**

**Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley**

**All In favour**

It was agreed, that the matter to be referred back to the Recreation Committee

#### **2922.4 Minute no 582.5 – Notice Board Refurbishment**

The RFO said that the cost of refurbishment would be £170 and asked for the Parish Councillors approval.

**Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace**

**Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn**

**All In favour**

It was resolved, that the quotation was approved and ratified by the Parish Council

#### **2922.5 Minute no 583 – Pitt Lane Pond Quotation**

Cllr Michael Kay declared his interest.

The RFO said that there is an ongoing problem with Pitt Lane Pond. The Parish Council engaged with Solihull MBC's Drainage department and obtained a quotation for the necessary drainage works to be carried and the installation of new infrastructure to regulate the water level of the Pond. The cost of the work is £1963.66 and the RFO asked the Parish Councillors for their approval.

**Proposed: Cllr Donna Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr Jessica Rathbone**

**All In favour**

It was resolved, that the quotation was approved and ratified by the Parish Council



Cllr Michael Kay raised the question whether the Parish Council need to ask permission from the landowner to discharge the Pond water onto a nearby field. The Clerk advised that SMBC confirmed that no permission from landowners is needed as the Pond water is not classed as waste water. Cllr John Fox suggested to write to SMBC to make them aware that there might be a potential problem with permissions in relation to ditch usage and offered his help to the Clerk in formulating a suitable email.

**Action item:** *The Clerk to seek clarification on ditch usage*

#### **2922.6 Minute no 592 – Chairman’s Allowance**

Cllr Frank Bunce declared his interest.

The RFO said that the Chairman’s Allowance for this year was due to be considered and she advised that the payment for the previous year had been £350. The Finance Committee recommended that the same payment be proposed.

**Proposed:** *Cllr Clive Hill*

**Seconded:** *Cllr Wayne Hadley*

**All In favour**

It was resolved, that the Chairman’s Allowance is approved and ratified by the Parish Council

#### **2923 Matters arising from the Planning Committee Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the Planning Committee received PL/2020/00289 planning application relating to HS2 Schedule 17 and said that the Committee did not have an objection to it on the basis that the work is to go ahead according to Government approval.

Cllr Clive Hill said that the Planning Committee submitted an objection to PL/2020/00236:  
*“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council is concerned about the proposed retaining wall which prevents the visibility exiting onto Bickenhill Road and its impacts on the street scene on entering the Oaklands.”*

Cllr Clive Hill said that the hearing for PL/2018/03166, App/Q4625/W/19/3235301 is scheduled on the 11.03.2020 at 10:00 at the Christian Renewal Centre.

Cllr Clive Hill stated that the Planning Committee discussed PL/2020/00218 and submitted an objection: *“Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council is concerned about safety on the highways and extensive traffic and the impact on residents’ safety. Old Damson Lane is effectively a single track road not suitable for excessive traffic volume.”*

Cllr Clive Hill reported that PL/2019/03091 was refused



**2924 HS2 Update**

Cllr Karen Dunn advised that the Oakervee Review has concluded and has given the go ahead to HS2. It is estimated that the project is 5 years behind schedule and is also over budget. Cllr Karen Dunn said that a discussion took place on 04/03/2020 by MPs in Westminster with regard to the delay and the overspent budget of HS2. The main question asked was why the officials, who were dealing with the account and the contract, have not raised the alarm bells sooner. The Secretary of Transport stated that these problems should have been identified earlier along with the sheer scale and complexity of the project and therefore to think about the capability in a different way for both the company and the department. They are going to reduce the responsibility of HS2 so that it is only delivering the railways between London and Birmingham and Crewe.

Locally, the Schedule 17 was submitted relating to the Interstation including the taxi ranks and drop offs.

Cllr Karen Dunn said that due to the bad weather the works that is due to end on 04/03/2020 have been extended. All updates are on [hs2.org.uk](http://hs2.org.uk)

**2925 Airport Matters**

Cllr John Fox stated that FlyBe is in trouble however a meeting is scheduled for the 05/03/2020

**2926 Internal & External Committee Reports**

None

**2927 Finance – Payments for Authorisation**

The proposal was to authorise the payments detailed in the February 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***

**2928 Correspondence: Separate report**

**Great British (GB) Spring Clean**

The campaign, organised by Keep Britain Tidy, will take place from 20 March until 13 April. SMBC's Love Solihull are proud to be taking part in #GBSpringClean for another year, which aims to inspire people to work in partnership with community organisations, businesses and schools to collect litter from Britain's streets.

SMBC wish to remind everyone of the support they can provide for your clean up. Contact [lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk](mailto:lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk) or call 0121 704 6243.





Register your event with Keep Britain Tidy <https://www.keepbritaintidy.org/get-involved/support-our-campaigns/great-british-spring-clean>. This will enable them to keep track of all the good work going on across the country!

**Proposed Prohibition of Driving – All vehicular traffic – Monday-Friday between 8.20am-9.00am and 2.45pm-3.45pm.**

Wayside – for its entire length. Proposed 20mph Maximum Speed Limit at All Times – 24 hours/7 days per week

Wayside – for its entire length.

**REMINDER: Government Consultation on Strengthening Police Powers to tackle unauthorised encampments - Closes 4th March 2020**

**REMINDER: Understanding Planning Application Training Course 07.03.2020 at 9:30**

**Solihull Council's Licensing Committee** approved a new policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire applicants at its meeting on 12 February 2020. The revised policy took note of the 600 plus responses to the consultation. The comments and a report summarising the feedback from the consultation can be found on the webpage here.

The new policy for Hackney Carriage and Private Hire applicants and licence holders can also be found on the webpage here.

**New electric vehicle charging points coming**

As part of its drive to work with residents to improve air quality and reduce CO2 emissions in the borough, Solihull Council is looking to install around 20 additional electric vehicle charging points from May - with more to follow later in the year.

The Council has applied for funding from central government under the On-street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) fund to help finance charging points at 17 sites with 34 bays across Solihull.

The Council is also working with Virgin Media to trial charging points that use power from roadside cabinets. In addition, the points that were installed in North Solihull with Cenex for an E-Car pilot last year will be re-commissioned for use by anyone with an electric car.

**Wildlife Ways landscape contractor idverde** will be carrying out some preparation for laying the wildflower turf at the Chester Road-Coleshill Heath Road roundabout (including seeding), and along Bickenhill Parkway/ Lane, in March. Some areas may look muddy to start with but this is necessary in order for the new turf to establish in readiness for a display of colour this spring and summer. The small roundabout in front of the airport – in preparation for laying wildflower turf will also be treated.



### **MG Library**

MG Library is in the early stages of setting up a new group 'Literary Litter Pickers of Marston Green' meeting once a month in Marston Green Library for one hour with tea and coffee afterwards and litter picking equipment will be provided by Solihull Council. The date is yet to be confirmed. If anyone does show an interest should contact the library 0121 779 2131

### **SMBC agreed budget**

At the Full Council meeting last night (27 February), councillors agreed a budget of £159.077 million for 2020/21 and a new council tax rate. Council tax will increase by 3.90% in total, which incorporates a 2.00% increase to fund adult social care and 1.90% in the general council tax. The Band D council tax figure, excluding police, fire and parish precepts, will be £1,411.00. This includes £1,285.53 for general council tax and £125.47 for adult social care. It is an increase of £52.96 on last year

**The Solihull Recruitment and Training Centre (SRTC)** is officially launching on 9th March. It will offer bespoke support to jobseekers to help them find employment or training, a one-stop shop for residents looking to improve their employment prospects and access new training opportunities leading to employment.

The centre can be found at 16-18 Maple Walk, Chelmsley Wood Shopping Centre, B37 5TS and will be open all year round on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, 10:00 till 16:00.

**SMBC is showcasing a new exhibition entitled 'Solihull Town Centre- Then and Now'**, which shows different views of the town centre between the 1880s and the 1960s, contrasted against the town centre today. The exhibition is being shown in the Core Library in Solihull until 21 March 2020. It also includes some "dash cam" footage of the town centre by Reginald Edwin Cooper (1907-1971) who mounted a hand-wound cine camera on his car. This footage is also on our YouTube channel.

### **2929 Roads, Rights of Way and Street Lighting**

Cllr John Fox stated that the trains are still delayed

Cllr Jessica Rathbone said that the new dog walking area on Coleshill Heath Road is now open.

### **2930 Bus & Train Services**

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

### **2931 Date of the next meetings – Wednesday 01<sup>st</sup> April 2020 at 19:30 GMT**

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

Cllr Frank Bunce closed the meeting at 08:30 p.m.

