

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 7 September 2022 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

CLlr Clive Hill – Chairman
CLlr Mike Kay
CLlr Karen Dunn
CLlr Mark Noblet
CLlr Sue Rogers
CLlr Kim Wallace
CLlr Wayne Hadley
CLlr Carole Pearce

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 6

4333. Chair's welcome

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4334. The Public

4334.1 A member of the public asked for an update on the replacement post box and CLlr Hill confirmed that CLlr Bob Sleigh was dealing with the matter which it was hoped would be resolved soon.

4334.2 A member of the public noted the rising costs of utility bills and CLlr Hill confirm that the Parish Council were looking into this in terms of the supply at the Pavilion

4335. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from CLlr Jon Horton, CLlr Claire Kelly and CLlr Trevor Wills.

4336. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

4337. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 July 2022

The Chairman asked those members present at the 6 July 2022 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: CLlr Mike Kay

Seconded: CLlr Mark Noblet

All in favour

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

4338. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 6 July 2022

4303.3 – Advertising Parish Council meetings via Facebook – The Chairman confirmed that the current meeting had been publicised on Facebook and that the website had been updated to ensure that information on the date, time and location of the meetings was now in a more prominent position on the website.

4303.4 – Traffic Calming – The Chairman confirmed that a proposal had been received from SMBC who were canvassing opinion on the introduction of a 20mph speed limit through parts of Marston Green.

4307 – Playground Gate - The Clerk confirmed that the new playground gate was due to be installed week commencing 19 September 2022.

4311 – Works to tree on land owned by the Parish Council at the Recreation Ground – the Clerk confirmed that a solicitor had been instructed to look into the boundary issue and that an opinion was awaited.

4316 – New printer for the Parish Office – the Clerk confirmed that the new printer had arrived.

4317 – Multi Factor Authentication on Edge IT Software – the Clerk confirmed that multi-factor authentication had now been added and was working well.

4318 – Cricket Club event 10 September 2022 – the Clerk confirmed that the Cricket Club had accepted the restrictions on use in relation to the bouncy castle and that the event would go ahead on 10 September 2022.

4339. Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 20 July 2022

The Chairman asked those members present at the 20 July 2022 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

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

4340. Matters arising from the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting – 20 July 2022

4328- Trespass matter at the Recreation Ground – the Clerk confirmed that approval had been given to the solicitor dealing with the matter of trespass at the Recreation Ground and that an update was awaited.

4330 – Signage at the Recreation Ground – the Clerk confirmed that a third quote was being sought for the signage and it was hoped to bring all three quotes to the next Recreation Committee meeting.

4341. Minutes of the Planning Committee 13 July 2022

The observations made in relation to the application to develop two warehouse units at Birmingham Business Park were noted. It was also noted that the Committee had requested that landscaping and screening be considered should the appeal to erect a replacement development on Bickenhill Lane be approved.

4342. Notes from the Planning Committee

The decision to refuse the planning application made in relation to 58 Station Road was noted.

4343. Minutes from the Recreation Committee – 20 July 2022

1576 – Allotments - Cllr Hill confirmed that a third quote was being sought for the work on the paths at the allotments and he confirmed that the figure of £46,600 was correct.

1698 – Signage – Cllr Hill confirmed that a third quote was being sought for the signage at the Recreation Ground.

4344. Notes from the Finance Committee meeting – 25 July 2022

Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that the Finance Committee meeting had not taken place as there were insufficient members present but that the checks had been carried out as noted in the minutes.

4345. Approval of the Finance Approval List

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the expenditure payments detailed in the report.

4346. The report on urgent payments made in line with Financial Regulations as detailed in the report was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the urgent payments detailed in the report.

4347. To note that the Clerk has applied for telephone banking and internet banking with HSBC

It was noted that the Clerk's access to internet banking had been suspended and she had been required to reapply which meant a delay in making payments. She confirmed that she had applied for telephone banking in the interim which had been granted.

4348. To discuss the delay in putting a pedestrian crossing in place at Blackfirs Lane/Progress Way

Cllr Hill advised that a resident of Blackfirs Lane had let him know that the promised pedestrian crossing at the junction with Progress Way had not yet been installed. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Highways team to ask for an update.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

It was resolved that the Clerk should contact SMBC's Highways team for an update on the proposed pedestrian crossing at the junction of Blackfirs Lane/Progress Way.

4349. To consider correspondence received relating to the CIL application from the Baptist Free Church which was not previously supported by the Parish Council

The Councillors debated the application at length and it was agreed that the original decision to decline the application would stand and an offer would be made to meet with representatives of the Baptist Free Church with a view to supporting them in making a new application with a comprehensive business plan which would give the Parish Council comfort in terms of the viability of the new kitchen, succession planning etc.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

It was resolved that the original decision to decline the CIL application by the Baptist Free Church would stand and that an offer to meet with representatives from the church with a view to supporting them in a further application would be made.

Action item: Clerk to advise the Baptist Free Church that their application was still declined and to ask if they would like to meet with representatives from the Parish Council with a view to making a new application.

It was suggested that the CIL application process should be revisited and all recommendations from the Recreation Committee should first be referred to the Finance and General Purpose Committee before being presented at Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

It was resolved that the CIL application process should be reviewed with a view to recommendations being made to the Finance & General Purpose Committee before being presented to Parish Council.

4350. To consider a request from JHB Fitness for a licence to use the Recreation Ground to hold fitness classes

It was noted that JHB Fitness had provided all the information requested from them and agreed that they should be allowed to use an area of the Recreation Ground to hold fitness classes free of charge until fees for 2023/2024 had been reviewed and agreed.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet
All in favour

Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley

It was resolved that JHB Fitness were approved to use an area next to the car park and around the cricket pitch to hold fitness classes free of charge until the fees had been agreed for 2023/2024.

4351. To consider quotes for the reinstatement valuation on the Pavilion and Groundsman's House

The councillors reviewed the quotes provided and chose Chartex to provide the reinstatement valuations for the Pavilion and Groundsman's House at a fee of £800 plus VAT (site visit).

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that Chartex should be asked to provide the reinstatement valuation on the Pavilion and Groundsman's House.

4352. To consider the points raised on an email from Birmingham Baseball and their request for a refund of fees paid

The email from the Baseball Club was discussed and a refund of £50 agreed given that the field had not been used for the full amount of time charged for.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that a refund of £50 should be made to the Baseball Club. t

4353. To consider a request to carry out work to trees on the 3Ms land

The request for work to be carried out on trees on the 3Ms land was approved with a budget of up to £4,500.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that works to the trees on the 3Ms land should be undertaken with a maximum budget of £4,500 approved.

4354. To discuss and consider signing up to the Civility and Respect Pledge

The requirements were discussed and it was decided that further work was required before the Parish Council would be in a position to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge.

4355. To agree the process for recruiting a new Parish Councillor for the Merstone ward vacancy

Approval was given for the recruitment process to be started. Interview panel to be confirmed once applications have been received.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that the Clerk should advertise the Parish Councillor vacancy and an interview panel be appointed once applications have been received.

4356. To consider quotes received for PAT testing and EICR testing at the Pavilion

The Councillors considered the quotes received and approval was given for Blythe Electrical to carry out both the PAT testing and the EICR testing.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that Blythe Electrical be asked to carry out the PAT testing at a cost of £50 plus VAT (up to 20 items) and £2 per item thereafter and the EICR testing at a cost of £270 plus VAT.

4357. To consider the request for a 'kissing gate' to be installed at the Recreation Ground

The Clerk advised that, following issues with horses and goats escaping from fields adjoining the Recreation Ground, a request had been made for a kissing gate to be fitted where the path from Bickenhill Road joins the corner of the Recreation Ground. It was also noted that regular users of the Recreation Ground had made similar requests. The Clerk had looked at the internet and thought that a budget of £600 would be sufficient for a gate to be installed. Approval was given for a budget of £600 maximum for the kissing gate to be installed.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour



It was resolved that a budget of £600 was approved for the installation of a kissing gate at the point where the path from Bickenhill Road joins the Recreation Ground.

4358. To approve the quote for the annual hedge cutting from Fairways

The Councillors discussed the need for the hedges to be cut and approved the quote of £1,080 (ex VAT) from Fairways. It was noted that the fee for the previous year had been £1,015.

Proposed: Cllr Karen Dunn

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that Fairways undertake the hedge cutting at a cost of £1,080 plus VAT.

4359. To discuss the possible extension and refurbishment of the Pavilion and next steps

Cllr Mike Kay outlined plans to extend and refurbish the Pavilion to ensure facilities were fit for purpose. He noted that indicative costs were between £250,000 and £300,000 and suggested that a working party be formed to investigate whether to take the matter forward.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Karen Dunn

All in favour

It was resolved that a working party be set up to investigate the options for extending and refurbishing the Pavilion. Clerk to ascertain which councillors would be interested in joining the working party.

4360. To update on the proposed village hall in Bickenhill and agree the wording for a letter to Nicola Bell of Highways England

Cllr Mike Kay outlined the current position regarding the proposed new village hall in Bickenhill confirming that, although it had appeared that funding had been approved following meetings with a representative from Skanska, this had not turned out to be the case. Cllr Kay asked for approval for a letter to be sent to Nicola Bell of National Highways. The draft letter had been provided to the Councillors and this was duly approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Wayne Hadley

All in favour

It was resolved that the draft letter be sent to Nicola Bell of National Highways.

4361. To update on the installation of broadband in Bickenhill village and discuss an application for CIL monies to cover a shortfall in funding

Cllr Mike Kay advised that, having worked to get broadband installed in Bickenhill for the last two years, a shortfall of £35,000 had now been identified which would need to be funded separately to the vouchers that the villagers had qualified for. He noted that 118 householders had expressed interest in taking part in the scheme, although not all of these were in Bickenhill. Cllr Dave Cuthbert of Hampton in Arden Parish Council had indicated that they would be willing to contribute to the shortfall in relation to their parishioners. Cllr Kay confirmed that other options continued to be considered including a Warwickshire scheme and advised that further updates would be provided as the matter progressed.

4362. Option to opt out of the SAAA central auditor appointment arrangements

The members discussed the option to opt out of the SAAA central external auditor appointment arrangements but agreed to remain in the central procurement regime managed by SAAA.

Proposed: Cllr Wayne Hadley

Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce

All in favour

It was resolved that Bickenhill & Marston Green Parish Council would remain opted in to the central procurement regime managed by SAAA.

4363. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – there was nothing to update on at this time.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust - there was nothing to update on at this time.

Airport matters - there was nothing to update on at this time.

HS2 update - Cllr Mike Kay provided details of road closures on St Peter's Lane between 09/10/2022 and 02/12/2022 and on Catherine de Barnes Lane between 18/11/22 and 02/12/2022. The closures were to enable the realignment of Catherine de Barnes Lane and formed part of the upgrading of the M42 at junction 6..

4364. Correspondence

Cllr Karen Dunn requested the copy of Countryside Voices magazine.

4365. The Parish Council meeting closed at 22:15

4366. Date of the next meeting: 5 October 2022 19:30

Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

