

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 1 February 2023 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill – Chairman
Cllr Mike Kay
Cllr Trevor Wills
Cllr Kim Wallace
Cllr Claire Kelly
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Leigh Trevis
Cllr Paul Powell

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 3

4456. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4457. The Public

4412.1 A member of the public asked if the Clerk had a plan of the gullies that she could share with him. The Clerk agreed to check her records and, if found, forward to the member of the public.

Action item: Clerk to check her records to see if she holds a plan of the gullies and, if so, to share this with the member of the public.

4412.2 A member of the public noted that a drain cover on Bickenhill Road was loose and noisy when vehicles drove over it and the tarmac around it was breaking up.

Action item: Clerk to log a ticket with SMBC asking for the drain cover to be inspected.

4458. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Carole Pearce, Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Jon Horton and Cllr Sue Rogers

4459. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

None

4460. To co-opt new members following the recommendation of the Interview Panel

Proposed: Cllr Trevor Wills proposed that Paul Powell and Leigh Trevis be co-opted to the Council. Cllr Paul Powell was co-opted to Blackfirs Ward and Cllr Leigh Trevis to Merstone Ward.

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that Paul Powell and Leigh Trevis be co-opted to the Council.

Cllr Paul Powell and Cllr Leigh Trevis signed the Declaration of Pecuniary Interests form, the Declaration of Acceptance and the Code of Conduct. The new Councillors then introduced themselves to the Council.

4461. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 11 January 2023

The Chairman asked those members present at the 11 January 2023 meeting if they had

read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Trevor Wills

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

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

4462. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 11 January 2023

4391/4368.3 – Flooding - The Chairman confirmed that the Teams meeting had taken place with Dean Ward of SMBC and that the problems identified at Brook Croft, Station Road, Alcott Lane and Land Lane were known and plans were being made for remedial works.

4449 – To agree the hearing of a complaint made relating to the handling of the boundary issue and work to tree 1578 at the Recreation Ground – the Chairman advised that the meeting was to be held after receipt of the boundary report from the Parish Council's solicitor which was still awaited.

4450 – To agree to update the bank mandate - the Clerk confirmed that she had requested the mandate from the bank but this had not yet arrived.

4463. Notes from the Pavilion Working Group meeting – 17 January 2023

It was noted that Cllr Mike Kay had chaired the meeting and the Terms of Reference for the group were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the Terms of Reference for the Pavilion Working Group were approved.

4464. Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting – 18 January 2023

4464.1 Minute no. 1766 – Cllr Hill asked for approval of the recommendation to ask SW Fencing to replace the fencing at the Millennium Wood at a cost of £1,257.00. It was noted that the insurance claim was still pending for the section damaged by the car crash.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that SW Fencing be asked to carry out the replacement fencing at the Millennium Wood at a cost of £1,257.00.

4464.2 Minute no. 1767 – Cllr Hill let the members know that the quotes to repair the paths at the Burial Ground and extend them had been more costly than anticipated and the recommendation was therefore to lift and relay the current paths and extend them as far as possible with a £7,000 budget.

Proposed: Cllr Claire Kelly

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that a budget of £7,000 was approved for the lifting and relaying of the existing paths and the extension of them as far as possible within this budget.

4464.3 Minute no. 1768 – Cllr Hill noted the recommendation from the Committee for approval of the £1,500 (plus VAT) quote from Flowers to remove two conifers and one Silver Birch tree at the Burial Ground.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that Flowers be asked to remove 2 x conifers and 1 x Silver Birch tree at a cost of £1,500 plus VAT.

Cllr Leigh Trevis suggested that it might be cost effective to group different works together in order to leverage better prices/discounts.

- 4464.4 Minute no. 1771** – Cllr Hill advised that a request had been received to install a greenhouse on plot 6C of the Amenity Land allotments and the recommendation was to refuse the request and suggest a new application be made for a polytunnel.
Proposed: Cllr Claire Kelly **Seconded: Cllr Leigh Trevis**
All in favour
It was resolved that the request to install a greenhouse at the Amenity Land allotments was refused and suggest a new application for a polytunnel.
- 4464.5 Minute no. 1772** – Cllr Hill asked for approval for a polytunnel to be installed on plot 5B of the Elmdon Lane allotment site.
Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace **Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet**
All in favour
It was resolved that the request to install a polytunnel on plot 5B of the Elmdon Lane allotment site was approved.
- 4464.6 Minute no. 1773** – Cllr Hill asked for approval for the Parish Council to buy back plot M18 in the Burial Ground at the cost price as the plot was no longer needed by the purchaser who was due to emigrate.
Proposed: Cllr Leigh Trevis **Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet**
All in favour
It was resolved that the Parish Council would buy back plot M18 at cost price.
- 4465. Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting – 23 January 2023**
- Minute no. 936** – Cllr Mike Kay asked for approval of the £550 donation to St Peter's Church, Bickenhill towards the cost of the upkeep of the churchyard.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay **Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet**
All in favour
It was resolved that a donation of £550 be made to St Peter's Church, Bickenhill towards the upkeep of the churchyard.
- Minute no. 937** – Cllr Mike Kay asked for approval for the spend of £155 per person to provide first aid training to all four staff.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay **Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet**
All in favour
It was resolved that the spend of £155 per person for first aid training for all four staff was approved.
- Minute no. 938** – Cllr Kay noted the recommendation for the office opening hours to be advertised as 09:30 to 13:30 Monday to Friday and to require appointments to be made for meetings with the Clerk.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay **Seconded: Cllr Trevor Wills**
All in favour
It was resolved that the office opening hours be advertised as 09:30 to 13:30 Monday to Friday and meetings with the Clerk to be by appointment and available outside of the stated opening hours.
- Minute no. 939** – Cllr Kay asked that remittance advice notes be accepted as proof of payment of invoice in place of receipted invoices when payments of CIL monies were being processed. It was noted that invoices should also be provided.
Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay **Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet**
All in favour
It was resolved that remittance advice notes would be accepted as proof of payment of invoices when the invoice had also been supplied when processing payments of CIL monies.
- Minutes no. 940** – Cllr Kay asked for approval of the 2023/2024 Parish and Committee meeting calendar.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the calendar of meetings for 2023/2024 was approved.

4466. Minutes of the Planning Committee 24 January 2023

Planning application no. PL/2022/02647/PPFL - Cllr Clive Hill noted that the residents of Blackfirs Lane had not objected to this planning application but had called for the replacement of trees that had been planted on the bund but had died.

Planning application no. PL/2022/02434/MINFHO – Cllr Hill highlighted the objection to the erection of the front wall on the grounds that it was inconsistent with the current street scene.

Planning application no. PL/2022/02171/PPOL – the refusal of the application for an infill house was noted.

4467. Notes from the Coronation Committee meeting - 26 January 2023

Cllr Trevor Wills outlined the initial plans that the Committee had come up with including an event at the Parish Hall on Saturday, 6 May 2023, a litter pick on Sunday, 7 May 2023 and a 'Fete' type event at the Recreation Ground on Monday, 8 May 2023. The Committee were asked to draw up a proposal for the events and to bring this to the 1 March 2023 Parish Council meeting for consideration and approval.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that the Coronation Committee should bring a proposal for the events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III to the 1 March 2023 Parish Council meeting for approval.

Action item: Coronation Committee to draw up a proposal for the events to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and to bring this to the 1 March 2023 Parish Council meeting for approval.

The Terms of Reference for the Coronation Committee were reviewed and approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved that the Terms of Reference for the Coronation Committee were approved.

4468. To approve the Finance Approval List

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report was approved. The note on urgent payments made was also approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

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

4469. To update on the situation in relation to the Village Hall in Bickenhill

Cllr Mike Kay stated that matters had not yet moved forward but he was chasing and hoped for progress soon.

4470. To update on the installation of Broadband in Bickenhill village

Cllr Mike Kay advised that Cllr Bob Sleight was involved and that a new scheme had been identified which Bickenhill may qualify for. Cllr Trevor Wills advised that he had met with Saqib Bhatti MBE MP who was still looking into the issues with broadband in Marston Green and he stated that he would provide an update when he had further news.

4471. To note the update from West Midlands Pension Fund in relation to the pension deficit, to approve the closure of the Pension Liability bank account and transfer funds to treasury account.



Cllr Mike Kay let the members know that, as a result of the recent actuarial valuation the past service pension deficit had been paid off and the Parish Council were no longer required to make the £7,125 yearly payment. The proposal to close the Pension Liability bank account and transfer the funds to the treasury account was approved.

Proposed: Cllr Kim Wallace

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved to close the Pension Liability bank account and transfer the remaining funds to the treasury account.

4472. To update on the 4 May 2023 election – what to expect, what we need to do now

The Clerk referred to the email from Matthew Rossi of SMBC which outlined key aspects of the election processes. She confirmed that she would forward the email to Councillors as it contained a link to the pack which included the nomination paper and other forms. It was confirmed that Councillors needed to make an appointment with Matthew Rossi to drop the papers off. The date for the publication of the Notice of Election was confirmed as 27 March 2023. The date for the receipt of nominations was confirmed as 4 April 2023. The Clerk asked for approval, in the event of a ballot, for the existing cheque signatories to remain until new signatories could be approved.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Clive Hill

All in favour

It was resolved that in the event of a ballot, existing cheque signatories would remain until new signatories could be approved.

4473. Five Year Plan Working Group

Cllr Clive Hill let the Councillors know that the Five Year Plan Working Group would welcome new members should anyone be interested to attend.

4474. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees

Cllr Claire Kelly advised that the gentlemen's toilets were due to be refurbished in the next few weeks.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust

Cllr Clive Hill advised that the trustees had met but there were no updates at present.

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

HS2/M42 J6 update

Cllr Trevor Wills noted that a meeting would take place shortly and an update provided at the next Parish Council meeting.

Solihull Area Meeting

Cllr Clive Hill advised that he and the Clerk had attended the SAM meeting on 26 January 2023 which had included a talk on drainage and street lighting by Dean Ward of SMBC.

4475. Correspondence

4475.1 Clerks & Councils Direct January 2023 – the issue was noted.

4475.2 Email from David Balme (SMBC) regarding Solihull Connected Transport Strategy

Cllr Hill asked members to feed back any comments they had on the Solihull Connected Transport Strategy by 20 February at the latest so that these could be submitted to SMBC.

Action item: Councillors to feedback any comments on the Solihull Connected Transport Strategy to the Clerk by 20 February 2023.

4476. The Parish Council meeting closed at 21:10

4477. Date of the next meeting: 1 March 2023

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