

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
Wednesday, 6 September 2023 at 19:30
The Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Clive Hill – Chairman
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Mike Kay
Cllr Sue Rogers

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 3

4610. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

4611. The Public

A member of the public asked if the Councillors had noted the change of collection time on the post boxes in the village which had moved from 6pm to 9am. Cllr Hill said that he would check the post box on Elmdon Lane to see if the collection time had changed on this post box too.

A member of the public confirmed that the post box in Bickenhill had been covered in black plastic making it impossible to use. Cllr Hill said that he would speak to Cllr Bob Sleight to see if he knew why this had been done.

A member of the public asked about the Community Event and how the event was being publicised. The Clerk confirmed that details were on the notice boards, Facebook, the website and posters had been placed in the shops which were happy to allow this.

A member of the public mentioned the current traffic problems caused by the gas works taking place. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been advised of the works or the timescale for their completion.

4612. Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Jon Horton, Cllr Paul Powell, Cllr Leigh Trevis and Cllr Claire Kelly. Cllr Wayne Hadley was noted as absent.

4613. Declaration of Pecuniary Interests and Dispensations

Cllr Mark Noblet highlighted item 15 of the agenda which related to his absence from the Planning Committee until February 2024.

4614. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5 July 2023

The Chairman asked those members present at the 5 July 2023 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Sue Rogers

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

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

4615. Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting – 5 July 2023

4583/4524.1 – 20mph speed limit – The Clerk confirmed that a reply was still awaited from the Police as to whether they would attend to discuss speeding in the village.

4583/4561.1 – Purchase of the horse field next to the Burial Ground – The Chairman confirmed that an update was still awaited from the landowner.

4584.3 – Changes to Burial Ground Regulations – the Clerk confirmed that the amendments would be considered at the 20 September 2023 Recreation Committee meeting before being brought to the 4 October 2023 Parish Council meeting for ratification.

4587 – Update from the Pavilion Working Group -it was noted that an update was awaited from the Cricket Club.

4590 – Mayor’s Community Weekend Event 9 September 2023 – Cllr Hill provided an overview of the planned event and noted the need for volunteers.

4591 – To consider next steps in relation to the boundary issue at the Recreation Ground – it was noted that this item was due to be considered at item number 14 of the agenda.

4594 – To discuss the request to send a letter to Network Rail on behalf of the Infant Academy – Cllr Hill confirmed that a call had been received in response to the letter and that Network Rail would not take action to obscure the view of the trainline from the school but they were happy for the school to take reasonable steps to remedy the problem.

4597 – Solihull Area Meeting – Cllr Hill confirmed that Cllr Ian Courts had attended the last SAM meeting and that the issue of policing in the borough had been raised.

4616. Minutes of the Recreation Committee meeting – 19 July 2023

4616.1 **Minute No. 1837 - Purchase of hedging plants for the Amenity Land allotments** – The members agreed a budget of £200 for the purchase of hedging plants to be used to repair the hedge at the Amenity Land allotments.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Carole Pearce

All in favour

It was resolved to approve a budget of £200 for the purchase of hedging plants to be used at the Amenity Land allotments.

4617. Minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee meeting – 24 July 2023

4617.1 Cllr Mike Kay proposed that the refundable allotment key deposit be increased from £5 to £20 with the aim of encouraging keys to be returned when plots were given up and covering the cost of purchasing replacement keys.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved that the refundable allotment key deposit be increased to £20.

4618. Notes from the Planning Committee

4618.1 Note number 1.10 - Cllr Hill outlined the pre planning consultation relating to an existing mast on a site referred to as Pitt Lane. The proposed works would see the existing mast replaced by a much taller mast and comments had been submitted to the company involved.

4618.2 Note number 2.6 - Cllr Hill noted the approval for works by HS2 at the Interchange Triangle.

4619. Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2 August 2023

The Chairman asked those members present at the 2 August 2023 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 Carole Pearce

All in favour

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

4620. Matters arising from the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 2 August 2023

4605 – Works at the Recreation Ground to enforce the one way system – The Clerk confirmed that the trip rail fencing had been installed, the signage ordered and the road markings were due to be renewed in the coming weeks.

4607- Donation to the Challenge Adventure Group – Cllr Mike Kay advised that the CAG group were happy with the work carried out to the trees on the Vicar's Field in Bickenhill.

4621. To approve the Finance Approval List and list of urgent payments made

The proposal to authorise the payments detailed on the expenditure report and list of urgent payments made was approved..

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

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

4622. To agree a response to the email from Lily's Tea Parlour/Push on Wellbeing regarding the refusal of a request for a donation

Members reviewed the email from Lily's Tea Parlour/Push on Wellbeing responding to their decision not to make a donation. However, all members were content that the decision should stand.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved to confirm to Lily's Tea Parlour/Push on Wellbeing that a donation would not be made.

4623. To note and discuss the Recreation Ground boundary determination from the Parish Council's solicitor, to agree next steps and the wording of a letter to be sent to a resident

Members approved the draft letter provided by the Parish Council's solicitor save for an amendment to the penultimate paragraph which it was thought could be read as implying that the resident was banned from the Recreation Ground. The Clerk was asked to request that the letter be sent by the solicitor. Members approved the quote of up to £1,450 plus VAT and disbursements for the work to rectify the title and asked the Clerk to request that Solihull MBC apply Tree Preservation Orders to the established trees in the boundary.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the draft letter which should be sent to the resident by the Parish Council's solicitor, to ask the solicitor to apply to the Land Registry to rectify the title and to request tree preservation orders for the established trees in the Recreation Ground boundary.

4624. To note and approve Cllr Mark Noblet's absence from Planning Committee meetings until February 2024

The Chairman advised that Cllr Noblet was unable to attend Planning Committee meetings due to work commitments until February 2024. He wished to remain on the Committee so approval was sought for a period of absence. The Chairman also asked any Members interested in joining the Planning Committee to come forward.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved to Cllr Mark Noblet would remain on the Planning Committee but would be absent from meeting until February 2024.

4625. To note the current training available from WALC

The Chairman referred to the list of training currently available through WALC and asked any

Members who would like to attend a course to contact the Clerk. Cllr Mark Noblet asked to attend the November 2023 Councillor Training.

4626. To approve the request for a bouncy castle to be used at the Sports Day on 30 September 2023 at the Recreation Ground

Members approved the request for a bouncy castle to be used at the Sports Day subject to compliance with the Parish Council's Bouncy Castle Safety requirements being met.

Proposed: Cllr Mike Kay

Seconded: Cllr Mark Noblet

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the request for approval to use a bouncy castle at the 30 September Sports Day subject to compliance with the Parish Council's Safety Requirements

4627. To note the WALC AGM which takes place on 15 November 2023 at Stratford Town Council and agree who will attend as the Parish Council's voting representative

The Chairman referred to the email from WALC detailing arrangements for the 15 November 2023 AGM. He asked for approval for himself and the Clerk to attend at a cost of £10 each (plus workshop charges to be confirmed) and encouraged other Members to go along.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Paul Powell

All in favour

It was resolved that Cllr Clive Hill and the Clerk should attend the WALC AGM at a cost of £10 each with workshop charges to be confirmed

4628. To discuss and approve the suggestion to hold an event to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings on 6 June 2024

Members approved the setting up of a committee chaired by Cllr Paul Powell to investigate options to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Mike Kay

All in favour

It was resolved to approve the setting up of a committee chaired by Cllr Paul Powell to investigate options to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day Landings.

4629. To note and discuss the electoral review consultation on ward boundaries in Solihull

The information from the Local Government Boundary Commission was noted.

4630. To note the account application submission form for Unity Trust Bank and sign the cheques needed to open the new accounts

The Clerk confirmed that she had completed the Unity Trust Bank account application form and had requested that the new account be set up in line with the current HSBC account including listing the current signatories on the new mandate. Cllr Kay, Cllr Hill, Cllr Rogers and Cllr Noblet all signed the application form. The Clerk, Cllr Kay and Cllr Hill signed a cheque in the sum of £500 required to open the new account.

4631. Correspondence

4631.1 The note of thanks from St Leonard's Church for the donation towards the trip to Weston Super Mare was noted.

4632. External Committee Reports

Parish Hall Trustees – Cllr Hill advised that a new Booking Clerk had been appointed.

Marston Green Village Charitable Trust – It was noted that a new bank account was being set up and that matters were moving along.

Airport matters – There were no updates to share at this meeting but the next meeting was due to take place on 21 September 2023.

HS2/M42 J6 update – There were no updates to share at this meeting.

Village Hall, Bickenhill – Cllr Kay confirmed that meetings had taken place and a feasibility study undertaken. It was likely that work would be carried out and this was likely to include updating the access and toilet facilities but further details were awaited.

Broadband in Bickenhill – Cllr Kay confirmed that Cllr Bob Sleigh was still looking into this.

Solihull Area Meeting – The Chairman confirmed that he, Cllr Paul Powell and the Clerk had attended the last SAM meeting and that Cllr Ian Courts had spoken at the meeting at some length on the subject of policing. The Chairman asked for approval for the draft letter addressed to Simon Foster, West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner to be sent inviting him to attend a Community Event in the Parish.

Proposed: Cllr Mark Noblet

Seconded: Cllr Sue Rogers

All in favour

It was resolved that the letter to Simon Foster, West Midlands Police & Crime Commissioner should be sent asking him to attend a Community Event in the Parish to discuss how to rebuild community policing within the Parish.

4633. The Parish Council meeting closed at 20:38

4634. Date of the next meeting: 4 October 2023 - Venue: The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green