

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting**  
**Wednesday, 10 April 2024 at 19:30**  
**The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

**Present:**

Cllr Clive Hill (Chairman)  
Cllr Mark Noblet  
Cllr Mike Kay  
Cllr Paul Powell  
Cllr Carole Pearce  
Cllr Claire Kelly  
Cllr Leigh Trevis  
Cllr Wayne Hadley

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 2

**C 24 - 075 Chairman's welcome**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**C 24 - 076 The Public**

A member of the public asked if the Council were aware of the damage to the metal fencing on the A452 near to Chelmunds Cross. Cllr Clive Hill asked the member of the public to report the matter to SMBC and agreed that the Clerk would also raise a ticket.

**Action item:** Clerk to raise a ticket to report the damaged fencing on the A452 to SMBC.

A member of the public asked if the Council was aware that Gorse Farm Support Centre on Coleshill Road was closing. Cllr Hill advised that the Council had not been made aware of any closure which it was felt was unlikely to happen given the recent planning application to increase the number of car parking spaces.

**C 24 - 077 Apologies**

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Philip Clover.

**C 24 - 078 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations**

None.

**C 24 - 079 Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 March 2024**

The Chairman asked those members present at the 6 March 2024 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record. Save for an amendment to correct items C24 – 050 c and g to read 'Elmdon Lane Allotments' rather than 'Amenity Land Allotments', the minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved:** that the minutes were a true and accurate record save for the amendment to items C24 – 050 c and g to read 'Elmdon Lane allotments'.

**C 24 - 080 Matters arising from the Parish Council Meeting held on 6 March 2024:**

- a) C 24 – 057 – The Pond, Pitt Lane – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that there was an item on the agenda to discuss the pond.
- b) C 24 – 062 – Parking and Traffic Measures within the Parish – Cllr Clive Hill reminded Members of the Teams meeting that had been set up with Paul Tovey of SMBC to discuss these issues.

### **C 24 - 081 Recreation Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2024 were discussed and noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report to 31 March 2024 was noted.
- c) Members discussed the proposed Business Planning Meeting and agreed to meet at the Pavilion on 7 August 2024 at 19:30 when works at the various Parish-owned sites would be considered, projects prioritised and a long-term budget drawn up.

**Resolved:** that a Business Planning meeting would be scheduled for 19:30 on 7 August 2024

### **C 24 - 082 Finance & General Purpose Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report to 31 March 2004 was noted.
- c) Members discussed and approved the quote of £100 each to renew the reinstatement valuations for the Pavilion and Groundsman's House.

**Resolved:** that the reinstatement valuations of the Pavilion and Groundsman's House should be renewed at a cost of £100 each.

- d) Members noted the need for a reserve to manage the deposits paid by allotment holders on the Amenity Land site. A reserve of £300 was agreed.

**Resolved:** that a reserve of £300 should be set up to manage the key deposits paid by allotment holders on the Amenity Land site.

- e) Members discussed the request for work experience but, as the Parish Council was not currently able to comply with the safeguarding requirements in the Insurance Statements of Fact, it was agreed that the request should be declined.

**Resolved:** to decline the request for work experience.

- f) The quotes from SMBC to carry out surveys on the pond at Bickenhill were considered. Members agreed with the recommendation to undertake the ecological surveys only and not to add any of the additional surveys at this time.

**Resolved:** to ask SMBC to undertake the ecological surveys at a cost of £1,720.95.

- g) Cllr Mike Kay let Members know that Thursfields had been asked to act for the Council in relation to the additional lease with SMBC and asked for approval for a maximum fee of £2,500 plus disbursements.

**Resolved:** that Thursfields were instructed to act for the Council on the new lease with SMBC at a maximum fee of £2,500 plus disbursements.

- h) Cllr Mike Kay explained that, as the proposed drop-in sessions

- i) were due to take place during the cricket season when matches would be taking place, the recommendation was to decline the request to use the Tea Room.

**Resolved:** to decline the request to use the Tea Room for drop-in sessions and to suggest that these might take place at the Library or the Parish Hall.

### **C 24 - 083 Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 25 March 2024**

The Chairman asked those members present at the 25 March 2024 meeting if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm these as a true and accurate record.

**Resolved:** that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

### **C 24 - 084 Matters arising from the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on 25 March 2024**

There were no matters arising.

### **C 24 - 085 Planning Committee**

- a) The Decisions of the Planning Committee for March 2024 were noted.

- b) Members discussed application number PL/2023/02534/ADV relating to the installation of a fascia sign and internal digital display screen at 37 Station Road. Cllr Mark Noblet outlined the Parish Council's request that the operation of the signage be restricted to 23:00 or, if not possible, that a three-month trial period be imposed during which time the signage would be switched off at midnight and any complaints from residents taken into consideration.

#### **C 24 - 086 Events Committee**

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2024 were noted.
- b) D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 6 June 2024 – Cllr Paul Powell provided an update on the event and noted that, so far, it had not been possible to arrange for vintage vehicles to attend. Cllr Mike Kay agreed to speak to a contact who might have vehicles available and it was suggested that the Motorcycle Museum might also be able to help. Cllr Powell confirmed that the beacon had been ordered and repeated his request for assistance from Councillors on the day and asked the Clerk to send an invitation out to all Councillors. Cllr Paul Powell advised that he would be speaking to HMS Forward/the TA to see if they could attend. It was noted that the Committee were grateful to the PPL for the free music licence. Cllr Clive Hill agreed to contact the Airport to see if they could help in any way with the event.

**Action item:** Cllr Mike Kay to speak to his contact regarding the availability of vintage vehicles.

**Action item:** Clerk to send a calendar invite out for the event to all Councillors.

**Action item:** Cllr Clive Hill to contact Andy Holding at Birmingham Airport to see if they could help with the event in any way.

- c) Community Day event - 14 September 2024 – Cllr Paul Powell confirmed that planning for this event would commence in the coming weeks.

#### **C 24 - 087 To approve the Finance Approval List & list of urgent payments made**

The payments detailed on the expenditure report and the list of urgent payments made were considered and approved.

**Resolved:** that the expenditure payments detailed in the reports were approved.

#### **C 24 - 088 May Market Event banner**

Members considered and approved the request for a banner to be displayed on the Pleck advertising the May Market event. The banner will be displayed one week prior to the event and removed the day after.

**Resolved:** that the May Market event banner may be displayed on the Pleck one week before the event and removed the day after.

#### **C24 - 089 Councillor Vacancies**

The Clerk confirmed that the Casual Vacancy Notice period had expired without any requests for an election being received. Members therefore agreed to advertise the three Councillor vacancies with a view to co-opting. Cllr Wayne Hadley, Cllr Clive Hill, Cllr Leigh Trevis and Cllr Paul Powell confirmed that they would be happy to form the interview panel.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk would advertise the three Councillor vacancies and liaise with the panel to set up the interviews.

#### **C 24 - 090 CiLCA training for Clerk**

Members discussed and approved the request from the Clerk to undertake the CiLCA training with WALC at a cost of £835.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk's request to undertake the CiLCA qualification at a cost of £835 was approved.

#### **C 24 - 091 Annual Easter Trail**

Members noted that the Easter Trail held on 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March had been a great success and that feedback had been positive. The request for the Trail to take place annually was approved and the Clerk was asked to thank the Scouts for putting on such a popular and successful event.

**Resolved:** that the request to run the Easter Trail annually was approved and that the Clerk should write to the Scouts to thank them for putting on this year's event.

#### **C 24 - 092 Fly Tipping around Coleshill Interchange Island**

Cllr Wayne Hadley outlined the problem of fly-tipping and litter in the Coleshill Interchange area, near to Stonebridge Island and the area around Melbick Garden Centre. It was noted that the issues seemed to have worsened since HS2 works had commenced. Members discussed the problem and agreed that HS2 and the Highways department of SMBC should be contacted and asked to look into the matter.

**Resolved:** that the Clerk should contact HS2 and the Highways department to request that they investigate the problems with litter and fly-tipping in the Coleshill Interchange area.

#### **C24 - 093 External Committee Reports**

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – Cllr Clive Hill and Cllr Paul Powell provided an update on matters relating to the Hall. It was noted that staffing levels had been cut and much of the work was being done by volunteers. The Afternoon Tea event had been a success and had raised £800 and further fundraising events including an Ascot Day and quizzes, were planned. As a result of an agreement with Screwfix (who were using the Hall for three events) the projector had been fixed. It was also noted that the Hall was being used for polling on 2 May 2024. Cllr Powell let Members know that he was looking for a scaffold tower large enough to be used in the main hall. He asked Members to let him know if they knew of one that was available.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – Cllr Clive Hill advised that the trustees had now sorted out the issues with banking and they hoped to be in a position to distribute funds soon. He confirmed that guidelines would be published to allow applications from individuals and groups.
- c) **Airport matters** – Cllr Mike Kay provided an update from the meeting which had taken place on 7 March 2024 noting that 11.4 million passengers had used the Airport in 2023 and that the Airport was targeting 18 million passengers. Cllr Kay advised that work was in progress regarding westbound flights to America and noted the problems with night flights and the issues arising. Cllr Kay confirmed that the next meeting was due to take place on 13 June 2024.
- d) **HS2 updates** – Cllr Mark Noblet advised that he had attended the last HS2 meeting at which Paul Tovey had provided an overview of the work that SMBC would be undertaking. Cllr Noblet advised that he had met Andy de Bell of HS2 who had offered to attend a Parish Council meeting to provide a presentation to the Council and the Public.
- e) **M42 J6 updates** Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that a meeting had taken place and that Andy Street had become involved. It was agreed that a chicane would be installed to stop large vehicles becoming stuck in the village, something that had happened recently and had caused damage to property.
- f) **Village Hall, Bickenhill** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that correspondence had been exchanged between the minister and Saqib Bhatti MBE MP but the matter had not yet moved forward and it was possible that the press may become involved.
- g) **Broadband in Bickenhill** – Cllr Mike Kay confirmed that installation of the Broadband service in the village had been completed and that this item did not need to be included on future agendas.

#### **C 24 - 094 Correspondence**

- a) The latest edition of the ICCM Journal was noted.

#### **C 24 - 095 Date of the next meeting:**

**Annual Parish Meeting** - 1 May 2024 at 19:00

**Annual Parish Council Meeting** – 1 May 2024 at 19:15

**Parish Council Meeting** – 1 May 2024 at 19:30

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

The meeting closed at 21:20