

**Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
Wednesday, 11 December 2024 at 19:30
The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green**

Present:

Cllr Mike Kay (Chairman)
Cllr Anne Clarke
Cllr Carole Pearce
Cllr Clive Hill
Cllr Mark Noblet
Cllr Philip Clover
Cllr Paul Powell
Cllr Leigh Trevis
Cllr Dave Fenlon

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 2

C 24 - 0229 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C 24 - 0230 The Public

A member of the Public queried the number of units located in the space which previously housed the florist shop. It was noted that there were at least two units with flats above.

C 24 - 0231 Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Claire Kelly.

C 24 - 0232 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

None.

C24 – 0233 Minutes

The Chairman asked those members present at the 13 November 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 - 0234 Actions update

C 24 – 0217 e – It was noted that the Starlink internet service and VOIP phones had been installed and were working well.

C 24 – 0218 f – The Clerk outlined issues that had arisen during a recent funeral organised with the Coop at Kitts Green who had been provided with the Guidance for Funeral Directors document. On arrival at the Burial Ground, the funeral director let the Council's representative know that mourners would be lowering. The Council's representative advised that this would not be possible as the necessary risk assessment had not been provided. During the interment, music was played but no request had been received for prior approval. Following the interment, mourners back filled the grave, something that had not been requested and, again, no risk assessment had been provided. The most serious issue had arisen when the funeral director announced to the mourners that the Council's representative would not allow them to lower, thereby placing the Council's representatives at risk. The issues had been notified to the Coop who had

agreed to look into the matter and a response was awaited. The Coop had been advised that, because of the funeral director's actions, all future bookings would require the approval of the Parish Council. Members noted the issues and agreed that future bookings from the Coop at Kitts Green should be approved by the Parish Council in advance of any interment. The Clerk advised that the Notice of Interment form would be amended to include questions regarding lowering, music and backfilling to try to ensure that such request is discussed with the family prior to the interment date.

C 24 – 0221 - Cllr Anne Clarke confirmed that she planned to meet with the Scouts in the New Year to investigate options such as a design or local research project that would engage young people and help them to understand what the Parish Council does.

C 24 - 0235 Recreation Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2024 were noted. Cllr Clive Hill provided a summary of the main points including the planting of trees on the Amenity Land to hide the solar panels and the request for a new lease of the Amenity Land. It was suggested that outdoor gym equipment could be installed at the Recreation Ground and the Clerk was asked to add this suggestion to the 5 year plan document.

Action item: Clerk to include an item on the five-year plan to add outdoor gym equipment at the Recreation Ground.

- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.

C24 – 0236 Finance & General Purpose Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 25 November 2024 were noted.

- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.

- c) The CIL budget and breakdown of income and expenditure were reviewed. It was agreed to send the draft letter provided to members to SMBC to explain the delay in spending the CIL monies which had been allocated for use but not yet spent.

Resolved: that the draft letter provided to members was approved to be sent to SMBC along with the breakdown of income and expenditure.

- d) Members reviewed and approved the draft New Model Finance Regulations.

Resolved: that the New Model Financial Regulations were approved.

- e) Members reviewed the draft budget and commentary provided for 2025/2026. The request for an additional £500 for the Events Committee was discussed but, as additional monies had already been included, this request was withdrawn and the budget approved as drafted.

Resolved: that the draft budget for 2025/2026 was approved as drafted.

- f) The Recreation Ground and Burial Ground draft fee lists for 2025/2026 were reviewed. Members were happy with the suggested fees save for the fee for the Baseball Club. Following discussion, a vote was called with the following result:

Abstained – 2

Against – 2

In favour - 5

Resolved: that the fee lists for 2025/2026 were approved by majority vote.

Members further discussed the suggestion that, in future, the Recreation Ground and Burial Ground fees should rise by CPI plus 2% based on the October CPI figure and this was also approved.

Resolved: that from 2026/2027, the Recreation Ground and Burial Ground fees should rise across the board by CPI plus 2% based on the October CPI figure.

- g) Members discussed the recommendation not to mark milestone birthdays given the potential to miss birthdays and this was approved by majority vote:

Abstain – 1

In favour – 8

Resolved: that the recommendation not to mark resident's milestone birthdays was approved by majority vote.

- h) The request from Spoke Telecom for the Council to pay for the VOIP phone service by Direct Debit was discussed and approved.

Resolved: that the Spoke Telecom invoice should be paid by Direct debit.

- i) Members reviewed the draft Meeting Diary for 2025/2026 which was approved.

Resolved: that the Meeting Diary for 2025/2026 was approved.

C 24 - 0237 Pavilion Working Group Meeting

It was noted that the Group had met on 25 November 2024 and amendments to the lease had been agreed which would be shared with the Parish Council's solicitor.

C 24 - 0238 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 3 December 2024 were noted.
- b) Planning Application PL/2024/02483/MINFHO (146 Elmdon Lane) was discussed and the observations submitted by the Committee were noted.
- c) The advice from SMBC relating to planning applications for takeaway restaurants was discussed and it was noted that Ward Councillors should be asked to refer such applications to Committee. A member asked if Ward Councillors were invited to attend Parish Council meetings and it was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Ward Councillors to ensure that they knew when the meetings took place and that they were invited to attend.

Action item: Clerk to contact all Ward Councillors and invite them to attend all Parish Council meetings.

C 24 - 0239 Events Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 3 December 2024 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted. Cllr Paul Powell confirmed that monies remaining in the Community Day budget would be spent on generic signage for future events.
- c) Cllr Paul Powell provided an update on feedback from previous events and plans for upcoming events noting that the Committee hoped to agree a date for the 2025 Community event shortly. The lack of volunteers for the Remembrance Sunday event was noted and it was hoped that by advertising earlier in the year for the 2025 event, more people would come forward to help. The plans for the VE Day event were moving forward with the Parish Hall taking the lead and support being provided by the Events Committee.

C 24 - 0240 To approve the Finance Approval List & List of Urgent Payments Made

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

Resolved: that the expenditure payments detailed in the report and list of urgent payments made were approved.

C 24 - 0241 WALC AGM

Cllr Paul Powell provided a summary of the events that had taken place at the WALC AGM. He recommended that the Parish Council considers taking a GOV.UK domain and it was agreed that this should be considered by F&GP. Cllr Powell also advised that issues including cyber threats, inclusivity and youth engagement, civility and respect, access for Parish Councils to the Financial Ombudsman, the rights for coopted councillors to claim allowances, Martyn's Law, and recent changes to sexual harassment legislation had also been covered.

Action item: the F&GP Committee are to consider the implications of the Parish Council obtaining a GOV.UK domain and report findings to a later full Parish Council meeting.

C 24 - 0242 Reporting Issues to SMBC

Cllr Paul Powell advised that he had been approached by residents regarding issues such as vandalism

and litter. He had advised that the Parish Council could not help and such matters needed to be reported to SMBC. He suggested using the Parish Council's social media/website to raise awareness amongst residents of who they needed to contact.

Resolved: that an item be included on the agenda for the F&GP Committee to consider how to raise awareness amongst residents of issues that SMBC can help with

C 24 - 0243 School Streets Issues

Cllr Paul Powell advised that he had been contacted by residents of Elm Farm Avenue with concerns regarding the lack of traffic wardens in the area and delays in installing ANPR cameras to support the School Streets project. Cllr Dave Fenlon agreed to look into the possibility of SMBC applying for powers in relation to the project. The Clerk was asked to request an update from Paul Tovey of SMBC on the project and to enquire about police enforcement.

Action item: Cllr Dave Fenlon to look into the possibility for SMBC to apply for powers in relation to the School Streets project.

Action item: The Clerk to contact Paul Tovey of SMBC to ask for an update on the School Streets project on Elm Farm Avenue and the effectiveness of police enforcement.

C 24 - 0244 Enabling remote attendance and Proxy Voting and Reporting Issues to SMBC

Members reviewed the scope of consultation provided in the pack along with a printout of the questions. It was agreed that members would respond individually ahead of the 19 December 2024 deadline.

Resolved: that Members should respond to the consultation on remote attendance and proxy voting individually ahead of the 19 December 2024 deadline.

C 24 - 0245 Reduction of speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in Bickenhill village

Members noted that residents of Bickenhill Village had requested that SMBC reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph in the village. It was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter to Paul Tovey of SMBC supporting the request for a reduction in speed limit.

Resolved: that the Clerk should write to Paul Tovey of SMBC seeking a reduction in the speed limit in Bickenhill Village from 20mph to 30mph.

C 24 - 0246 To approve the quotes for works at the Recreation Ground

It was noted that only two of the companies that had attended to view the works required to the car park and football pitch 3 had provided a quote. It was agreed that Flowers Ltd should be asked to undertake to:

- Install French drain between overspill car park and ditch - £4,500 plus VAT;
- Dig out and install new land drain on area of pitch 3 to the ditch - £7,500 plus VAT;
- Dig out, install MOT type 1 plus membrane and decorative gravel to overspill car park - £9,000 plus VAT; and
- Cut back and clear all trees and shrubbery in line with Donkey path - £1,000 plus VAT.

Resolved: that Flowers Ltd should carry out the works to the overspill car park and pitch 3 as detailed in their quote at a total cost of £22,000 plus VAT which was to be funded from the CIL monies.

C 24 - 0247 Lease for the 3Ms land

Members reviewed the lease plan provided by the landowner's solicitors in relation to the lease of the 3Ms field. The Clerk was asked to request that the path known as the Donkey Path was removed from the lease plan.

Action item: Clerk to request that the path included in the lease plan and known locally as the Donkey Path is removed from the lease plan.

C 24 - 0248 Scouts Easter Trail

Members discussed the request from the Scouts to use the Millennium Wood for an Easter Trail in 2025 in the same way that they had one in 2024.

Resolved: that the Scouts be allowed to use the Millennium Wood to hold an Easter Trail in the same way that they had done in 2024.

C 24 - 0249 Statement to SMBC Planning Committee

Members reviewed the draft oral submission statement prepared by Cllr Mike Kay to be delivered at the SMBC Planning Committee meeting considering the s106a request by Birmingham Airport. It was anticipated that the meeting would take place on 8 January 2025 and timings were to be confirmed.

Resolved: that the draft oral submission statement to be delivered by Cllr Mike Kay to SMBC's Planning Committee meeting in relation to Birmingham Airport's night flying application was approved as drafted.

C 24 - 0250 Correspondence

The receipt of a Christmas card from the Mayor of Solihull was noted.

C 24 - 0251 External Committee Reports

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – Cllr Clive Hill confirmed that things were going well at the Hall and that Rev Tony Rindle was looking into the lease which currently had approximately 7 years to run.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – Cllr Clive Hill advised that there was no update at this time as the Trust were not due to meet until early January 2025.
- c) **Airport Matters** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that, at the last ACC meeting, the Airport confirmed that it was monitoring aircraft over Barston and that noise levels do not appear to have changed, despite reports to the contrary. Cllr Kay stated that the S106a application had not been mentioned during the meeting and noted that it had been anticipated that the application would have been heard at the 4 December 2024 SMBC Planning Committee meeting, but this was not the case.
- d) **HS2 Update** – Cllr Mark Noble provided an overview of the last meeting which had included information on roadworks which were likely to require road closures (which would be announced as and when they were required). Issues with mud on the roads were noted and BBV had attended to provide a presentation.
- e) **M42 J6 update** - Cllr Philip Clover provided an update on the M42 J6 works noting that the B4545 was expected to open from 18 December 2024 although only one lane in each direction would be operational initially. Works continue on the airport link road and planting has started but not yet been finished. An issue with draining on the footbridge over the A45 was still to be addressed.

C 24 - 0252 Date of the next meeting: 8 January 2025 at 19:30

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

The meeting closed at 21:10