

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting
Wednesday, 9 April 2025 at 19:30
The Elmdon Lounge, Parish Hall, Elmdon Road, Marston Green

Present:

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

Clerk: Julie Brennan

Public: 2

C 25 - 066 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C 25 - 067 The Public

No matters raised.

C 25 - 068 Apologies

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Claire Kelly and Cllr Philip Clover.

C 25 - 069 Declaration of Interest and Dispensations

None.

C 25 - 070 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 19 March 2025

The Chairman asked those members present at the 19 March 2025 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 25 - 071 Actions update

C 25 – 058 Cllr Paul Powell confirmed that there were no plans to make the event on 8 May 2025 a joint celebration for VE 80 and VJ day.

C 25 – 064 a – Cllr Clive Hill advised that he represented the Parish Council on the Marston Green Village Charitable Trust and Cllr Carole Pearce was a trustee in her own right. He also noted that the Trust's AGM was due to take place shortly after which it was hoped more information would be available.

C 25 - 072 Recreation Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 19 March 2025 were noted. Cllr Clive Hill provided an overview of the matters covered.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Members noted the restrictions in the lease of the Amenity Land which meant that sheds were not allowed on the allotment site and therefore agreed to decline the request to install one.

Resolved: *that the request to install a shed on the Amenity Land was declined.*

C 25 - 073 Finance & General Purpose Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 24 March 2025 were noted.

- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) The Clerk advised that the items on the Asset List had been checked to confirm that they were still in existence and located in the areas shown in the Asset List. Members noted the Asset List.
- d) Members discussed the option to install a precast concrete garage next to the Pavilion to provide additional storage and free up some of the changing rooms. The cost of £6,639 to purchase a 12' by 24'3" garage plus £3,840 to create a suitable base was approved by majority vote with six in favour and one abstention.

Resolved: that a precast concrete garage measuring 12' x 24'3" should be purchased at a cost of £6,639 and a concrete base created at a cost of £3,840.

- e) Members discussed and approved the suggestion to budget £17,000 for works at the burial ground to include new fencing, the installation of sleeper walls to enclose the grave diggers pit and waste bins and the installation of a new slabbed path.

Resolved: that a budget of £17,000 was approved for works at the burial ground.

- f) The recommendation to subscribe to InspectEDGE at an initial cost of £862 with annual subscription fees of £183 to allow the electronic recording of playground inspections was discussed and approved.

Resolved: that the recommendation to subscribe to InspectEDGE playground inspection software at an initial cost of £862 with an annual subscription fee of £183 was approved.

- g) Members noted that the recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England in relation to Solihull had not taken into account the concerns raised by both the Parish Council and local residents. The recommendations were noted.

C25 - 074 Planning Committee

- a) The minutes of the meetings held on 25 February 2025 were noted.
- b) P25 – 026 & P25 027 (d) Telecommunications Mast at Bickenhill Road. Cllr Mark Noblet let Members know that the Committee had contacted the company who had made the pre-planning application to express the Council's disappointment at not being officially advised of the proposed base station. He also confirmed that a number of observations had been made on material considerations in relation to the actual planning application including the effect on trees and wildlife in the area (specifically barn owls), the scale and dominance and impact on residential amenity and the impact of traffic accessing the site.

C 25 - 075 Events Committee

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2025 were noted.
- b) The budget/expenditure report was noted.
- c) Cllr Paul Powell provide an update on plans for the VE Day 80 event on 8 May 2025. He advised that the Parish Hall will be holding an event between 4pm and 9:30pm and that the school would be providing art which would be on display inside the Hall. The beacon will be located in the grounds of St Leonard's Church and a search was on to find someone to light it at 09:30pm. Cllr Powell also confirmed that plans were progressing in relation to the Fun Day which was due to take place on 19 July 2025.

C 25 - 076 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 reports were approved.

C 25 - 077 First step towards Solihull's next Local Plan

Cllr Mike Kay let Members know that SMBC's original local plan had been rejected by the Government and this had led them to carry out a land availability exercise, the 'call for sites'. Issues with many of the sites indicated on the map such as access and the likely increase in traffic were discussed and the Local Plan Review document was noted.

C 25 - 078 Domain

Members discussed the suggested domain name of bmg-pc.gov.uk which was approved.

Resolved: *that the suggested domain name of bmg-pc.gov.uk was approved.*

C 25 - 079 Greenhouse:

Members discussed the request to install a 3m x 2m plastic greenhouse on plot 4b of the Elmdon Lane allotment site. The request was approved subject to the usual caveats that the structure must not be installed on a concrete or other type of permanent base, will be installed entirely at the plot holders risk and must be kept in good order.

Resolved: *that the request to install a plastic greenhouse on plot 4b of the Elmdon Lane allotment site was approved.*

C 25 - 080 Councillor vacancies x 3

The Clerk confirmed that the legal notice of vacancy was currently displayed in the noticeboards and the period for the calling of an election would expire on 29 April 2025. It was agreed that notices should be displayed in the noticeboards and a post made on Facebook to alert residents to the vacancies with a view to recruiting to the three vacant posts.

Action item: *Clerk to advertise the three vacant Councillor positions in the noticeboards and on Facebook after the notice of vacancy expires on 29 April 2025.*

C 25 - 081 Polling District & Polling Place review

The Notice of Review of Polling Districts, Polling Places and Polling Stations was discussed and noted.

C 25 - 082 External Committee Reports

- a) **Parish Hall Trustees** – The Hall continues to do well both financially and in terms of bookings and it is now managed by just one member of staff, the Hall Steward. The recent AGM had taken place and had been well attended.
- b) **Marston Green Village Charitable Trust** – The AGM is due to take place on 15 April 2025 after which it was hoped that matters will move forward in relation to applications.
- c) **Airport Matters** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that, at the meeting on 13 March 2025, the Airport had confirmed that it was in a good position with an increase of 11% on passenger numbers compared to last year. An extra 2 security lanes had been added which had provided for a 20% uplift in passenger throughput. He advised that Airport owned properties in Bickenhill Village had recently sold for well in excess of the auction estimates, despite their poor condition. The Airport are still awaiting the terms of reference for the committee set up to monitor night flying which had originally been made up of representatives from the Airport and SMBC only. It was requested that representatives from the ACC would be allowed to join the committee. Governance arrangements for this committee in terms of conflicts had also been called into question.
- d) **HS2 Update** – Cllr Mark Noblet advised that the next meeting was due to take place on 10 April 2025 and he would provide an update to the next Council meeting.
- e) **M42 J6 update** – Cllr Mike Kay advised that issues with signage continued which led to many motorists getting lost.
- f) **Catherine de Barnes Motorway Service Station Liaison Group** -Cllr Mike Kay let Members know that the first meeting would take place in May 2025 and that Cllr Philip Clover would attend as Cllr Mike Kay was unavailable.

C 25 - 083 Date of the next meeting: 14 May 2025 at 19:30

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

The meeting closed at 20:37