

Bickenhill Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 7th May 2008
At 7:45pm in the Parish Hall Marston Green

Present

Councillors Mr F Bunce Chairman
 Mrs M Wilden Vice Chairman
 Mr M Kay
 Mrs C Dowell
 Mrs V Jones
 Mrs L Green
 Mr J Williams
 Mrs L Poulson
Clerk Carole Picken
Public 3 members - Mr Laight, Mr Prusst, Mr Cook
535 **THE PUBLIC**

535.1 Mr Prusst stated that Enterprise were still parking on the grass verge in the village, Cllr Wilden advised that we will speak to Solihull MBC about the situation once again and discuss the issue of bollards.

535.2 Mr Laight asked about the roads, and if the meeting had taken place with Adrian Matthews, Solihull MBC.

Cllr Wilden stated that the meeting had taken place and they had visited all the sites causing concern however, we were still awaiting a report from Mr Matthews re the visit

536 **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Tom Hewlett

537 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None

538 **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Held on the 2nd April 2008

Cllr Bunce asked the members if they had read the minutes and if they could confirm that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Cllr Green

Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

539 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE**
2nd April 2008

540 **Minute No 508 WALC Committee**

Cllr Linda Poulson was appointed to the committee at the AGM tonight.

541 **Minute No 509 Conservation Committee**

Carry Forward: the action item to appoint a member to this committee

Action Item: Carry forward

542 **Minute No 510 The Pleck**

Carry forward Cllr Williams has now received a quote which will be taken to Recreation Committee on the 19th May 2008.

Action Item: Cllr Williams to take quote to Recreation Committee Meeting
19th May 2008

543 **Minute No 511 Cricket Club Lease**

Cllr Bunce proposed to the Council that we formalise the arrangement with the Cricket Club with a lease, licence or contract.

Action Item: Carry Forward

544 **Minute No 513 Risk Assessments**

The Clerk advised that a copy of the agreed and finalised Risk Assessments had been included with the Agenda and were now in place.

- 545 **Minute No 515 Newsletter**
 Cllr Poulson asked if everyone had seen the article in Criss Cross and it was agreed that this had been a very positive step forward.
 Cllr Poulson circulated a draft newsletter and it was agreed that following a meeting with Cllr Bunce and the Clerk to verify the facts and proof read, a draft would be circulated to Councillors, and it was requested that comments would be required within 48 hours so that a deadline of going to print be the 16th May 2008.
All in Favour
Action Item: Cllr Poulson to meet with Cllr Bunce and the Clerk and circulate information to Councillors
- 546 **Minute No 516 Re-cycling**
 Cllr Williams to speak to David Bell so that Cllr Bunce can update the school children.
Action Item: Cllr Williams
- 547 **Minute No 517 Memorial Stones**
 The Clerk advised that the policy was now complete and will be finalised at the Recreation Committee.
- 548 **Minute No 520 Sign at Recreation Ground**
 Cllr Bunce had spoken with a contact and was awaiting information regarding companies who could quote.
Action Item: Carry Forward Cllr Bunce to action
- 549 **Minute No 533 Airport Bus**
 Cllr Wilden to contact David Rowe regarding the Airport shuttle bus and the concerns raised.
Action Item: Carry Forward Cllr Wilden to action
- 550 **MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING Held on the 21st April 2008**
550.1 The Pavilion
 Quotes for the Fire Alarm and Intruder Alarm were being sought.
Proposed: Cllr Williams **Seconded: Cllr Green**
- 550.2 Play Equipment**
 Cllr Wilden stated that she was not happy about the removal of the play equipment and she wished to have it duly noted that we should look at replacement of the equipment as soon as possible.
 Cllr Wilden also stated that Cllr Bunce had not had this approved and she wished to have approval from full council that the equipment is removed.
 Cllr Bunce outlined that the play equipment was past its best the wet pore was badly damaged that it had failed the ROSPA inspection, he also stated that there were two issues here, one being the H&S risks, the cost or repair would out weigh the cost to remove, the other being that future planning should incorporate new equipment as and when funds would allow.
 The proposal is that the equipment is removed.
Proposed: Cllr Williams **Seconded: Cllr Mills**
All in favour with exception of Cllr Wilden who is against
- 550.3 Staff Training**
 Cllr Bunce explained that two courses for Chemical Spraying had been identified for the Assistant Groundsman Nikki Meek to attend which would result in Nikki obtaining a licence to use and spray chemicals, which means that the Council meets its legal obligations, as it forms part of the job description, it was therefore recommended that Nikki attend both courses.
 Also the course Essential Skills for Ground Staff which Paul Brownhill had attended last year was available on the 21st /22nd May and it was also proposed that Nikki should attend.
 The Council were all in agreement that the above courses should be made available to the Assistant Groundsman who had received no training in the last twelve months.
All in Favour

Cllr Bunce also brought to the attention of the Council that Paul Brownhill had requested courses in the use of a chainsaw and that a copy of his request was attached to the minutes of the Recreation Committee. Cllr Jones stated that the previous Groundsman had attended a two day course in the basic use of a chainsaw and that had met the requirements of the Council, Cllr Wilden agreed this had been the case. The council discussed at length the validity of the chainsaw courses and it was agreed that the request should be refused.

All in Favour

551 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE MEETING of the 28th April 2008

551.1 Fit-out Costs for the new Parish Office

Cllr Bunce advised that due to timescales of the new office being completed and the dates of meetings to approve quotes he wished to agree a baseline cost to purchase the IT equipment required for the Clerk, so that occupation of the new office was not delayed. A quote had been obtained for guideline purposes at £1460 and it was proposed that the spend should be no more than £1400, other quotes will be researched to obtain the best price possible.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Williams

551.2 Furniture for the Parish Office

Cllr Bunce advised that the Clerk had managed to source some high quality second hand furniture for the office at a cost of £190.00, saving the Council a substantial amount of expenditure.

Retrospective approval was being proposed.

Proposed: Cllr Dowell

Seconded: Cllr Williams

551.3 Removal of Play Equipment

As previously discussed in minute no 550.2 a quote to remove the equipment at a cost of £760.00 was proposed.

Proposed: Cllr Dowell

Seconded: Cllr Williams

551.4 Staff Training Costs

As previously discussed in minute no 550.3 approval of £350.00 to attend courses re spraying of chemicals, £199 re Essential Groundsman Course + £73.00 for two night's accommodation.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Kay

551.5 Lych Gate

Approval of £76.80 to purchase Log Roll, to raise the flowerbed.

Proposed: Cllr Green

Seconded: Cllr Jones

551.6 Top Soil

Approval of cost to purchase Topsoil for pitch renovation work at a cost of £267.75

Proposed: Cllr Dowell

Seconded: Cllr Kay

551.7 Key Cutting

Approval of costs of £39.20 for additional keys to the Amenity Land

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Poulson

551.8 Refurbishment of seating in Bar & Lounge Area

The Clerk outlined a request from Martin Jones Chairman of Marston Green Cricket Club. They had managed to source a quote to refurbish the bar area fixed seating and replace the table & chairs at approx £585.00. However following the meeting of Finance & General Purpose a quote had been requested to also include the Lounge area, the Clerk now had the revised quote of £2495 which now included replacement of the foam as it does not meet the current fire standards.

The Council discussed at length and it was agreed that with the recent refurbishment work on the Pavilion and budget constraints the Council could not agree to the request

All in Favour

556.6. Travelcare

The Clerk read a response received from Travelcare regarding the No 17 bus which confirmed that the changes would take place from the 1st June 2008.

Cllr Williams produced some photos taken of the No17 still causing problems and it was agreed that the Clerk write a letter and include the photos.

Action Item: Clerk to action

556.7. NALC Conference 2008

Invitation to the conference on the 20-22 May 2008 in the Winter Gardens in Eastbourne.

No one available to attend

556.8. Solihull MBC

Letter sent from Jim Harte to Cllr Williams whereby it was suggested that Marston Green could be included within the next trial, Cllr Bunce stated that he would like clarification on the matter so that we could go back to the school children with an update. Cllr Williams to contact David Bell as per Minute no 546.

556.9. Country Matter Magazine

Issue no 39 Winter/Spring

Cllr's Jones & Wilden took copies

556.10. Heartbeat Magazine

556.11. Solihull NHS Care Trust

Solihull Feedback Issue no1 April 2008

Copy to all Councillors issued

556.12. Letter from Honeyz on the Wood

The Clerk read a letter from Honeyz on the Wood requesting a donation to help support some workshops being held.

The Council discussed the matter and did not feel it appropriate to make a donation.

All in Favour

557 Roads & Right of Way

Cllr Dowell raised the issue of the dead flowers on the bus stop outside the station, it was agreed that we contact Solihull MBC to arrange removal.

Cllr Dowell also raised the issue of graffiti outside Morgan's, it was agreed that we contact Solihull MBC.

Cllr Green raised the issue of visitors to the clinic on Land Lane were parking on the grass verge to the rear of the clinic, it was agreed that the issue is raised with Solihull MBC.

Cllr Williams raised the issue of a disabled car parking facility at the Parish Hall; Cllr Wilden explained that this was in hand.

Action Item: Clerk to contact Solihull MBC re above points

558 Bus & Train Services

Nothing to report

534 Date of next meeting

Wednesday 4th June 2008 in the Parish Hall

Meeting closed at 21:50