

**Bickenhill Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009**  
**At 7:30pm in the Church Hall Bickenhill**

**Present**

**Councillors** Mr F Bunce Chairman  
Mr T Hewlett  
Mr C Hill  
Mrs V Jones  
Mr S Mills  
Mrs L Poulson  
Mrs M Wilden  
Mr J Williams  
Mr P Wood

**Clerk** Carole Picken

**Public** 3 members

**882 THE PUBLIC**

Mr Southwick wished to pass on his thanks to the Council for the endeavours to address the issues regarding the poor state of the roads around the village.

**883 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Lucille Green had offered her apologies and these were accepted.

**884 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

Cllr Mills: declaration of interest regarding quote from Universal Installations.  
Cllr Bunce: declaration of interest regarding Chairman's Allowance.

**885 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**

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

Cllr Wood advised that Minute No. 875 should read Environment Monitoring Working Group. Amendment duly noted.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Williams**

**886 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009**

**887 Minute No 851.2 Parking of Commercial Vehicles**

The Clerk advised that she had received information from PSCO Andy Burton who confirmed that there were no Byelaws affecting the parking of commercial/sign written vehicles on private drives.

**888 Minute No 857 Cricket Club Lease**

Cllr Bunce asked if there was someone willing to help him to sort out the issue of a lease. Cllr Hill volunteered to carry out some investigation on how to move this forward.

**Action Item: Carry Forward**

**889 Minute No 858 Sign at Recreation Ground**

Work is still on-going.

**Action Item: Carry Forward Cllr Bunce**

**890 Minute No 864 Donation request from Rainbow Playtime**

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Chairman's Signature



The Clerk advised that she had written to Rainbow Playtime regarding the donation to purchase a piece of equipment and as yet had received no response.

**891 Minute No 868 Marston Green Walk Around**

The Clerk reported that Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 10:00am had been confirmed by Kerrie Grandison, Solihull MBC.

**892 Minute No 869.1 Bench Request**

The Clerk advised that she had written to the resident.

**893 Minute No 869.5 Solihull in Bloom**

The Clerk had spoken with Solihull MBC who have shown an interest in the project and were going to request further information.

**894 Minute No 871 Financial Accounts**

The Clerk advised that the Financial Accounts for 2008/09 had been sent to Clement Keys on the 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

**895 Minute No 878.1 Letter from Resident re Franklin & Hawkins**

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to the resident. Cllr Wilden will make further enquiries with David Wigfield, Solihull MBC, regarding the planning application.

**896 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING  
Held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**Minute No 896.1 Millennium Wood – Local Nature Reserve**

Cllr Bunce asked if everyone had read the Recreation Committee minutes detailing the proposal from Gary Farmer, Solihull MBC.

Cllr Wilden stated that she was still not happy with this proposal and wished to have it confirmed that Solihull MBC would not take over the management of the wood. Cllr Wilden went on to say that the Parish Council had worked hard to negotiate the lease for Millennium Wood and she did not want to see this handed back to Solihull MBC.

Cllr Wilden also stated that she wished to have clarification over the following points, and that we should not move forward until this had been established.

- a. Permission to pursue designation from SMBC cabinet
- b. Legal designation
- c. Event to open LNR

Cllr Poulson stated that in her opinion the proposal was a good idea and the right way forward for the future of the wood. The Recreation Committee had all agreed that the proposal should be recommended. It was also recognised by the Committee that the Groundsman do not have the in-depth knowledge or skills to manage this area in the correct way, hence we had approached SMBC.

Cllr Hewlett advised that during his conversations with Gary Farmer there had been no talk or inference that SMBC would take over the management of the wood, only that they would work with the Parish Council to establish a five year plan and if you looked at the proposal, the first action is to carry out a Biological Survey, and then consult with the Parish Council.

Cllr Jones asked how much they were charging. Cllr Hewlett advised that SMBC would not be charging the Parish Council for the outlined work.

Cllr Poulson stated that SMBC were the experts and that we needed to move forward with the issue. We need to get the Biological Survey carried out to enable the next step, i.e. the consultation between SMBC and the Parish Council, to take place.



It was therefore resolved that we pursue the issue of the Biological Survey with Gary Farmer and once this is completed, we invite him to the Parish Council Meeting to discuss the issue further.

**All in Favour**

**Action Item: Clerk to write to contact Gary Farmer**

**Minute No 896.2 MGCC – Land adjacent to Recreation Ground**

Cllr Bunce advised that we had been approached by Marston Green Cricket Club regarding the land adjacent to the cricket outfield.

Cllr Bunce advised that the cricket club were looking to see if the fence/hedge could be removed and if possible a lease for the land so that the cricket boundary be extended. He went on to say that the Parish Council needed to assess the situation and decide the course of action over the points raised in the minutes of the Recreation Committee.

The proposal of the Parish Council is that it should be the Parish Council that contacts the land agent to discuss the options and this should be discussed further at the Recreation Committee Meeting.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Mills**

**Action Item: Clerk to contact Agent**

**Minute No 896.3 Marston Green Horticultural Society**

The recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to inform MGHS to dispose of the baskets.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Poulson**

**Action Item: Clerk to write to MGHS**

**Minute No 896.4 Allotment Plot – Recreation Ground**

The Clerk advised that we had been in touch with the resident and that a release form had been signed. The Recreation Committee would now plan a schedule of works to be carried out.

**897 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE MEETING Held on Monday 22<sup>ND</sup> June 2009**

**Minute No 879.1 CCTV Equipment**

The proposal is to accept the quote to purchase the equipment and to ensure that the installation costs do not exceed £400.

**Proposed: Cllr Wood**

**Seconded: Cllr Williams**

**Action Item: Clerk to organise**

**Minute No 879.2 Chairman's Allowance**

The proposal of the F & GP Committee is to increase the allowance to £312.00, Cllr Poulson thought this was not enough and suggested that it should be £500.00. Cllr Jones stated it was more of a gift to cover the ad-hoc expenses incurred. Cllr Rowe thought this would be more like a salary. Cllr Wood thought it was too much of a significant jump. Cllr Hill stated that the payment should be subject to review each year.

The Clerk advised that following a recommendation from the Internal Auditor that the payment should go through the payroll system. She had raised the issue with WALC, who had advised that we pay the allowance using, Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1972 and therefore, not subject to Tax and National Insurance.

The proposal of the Council is that we pay a Chairman's Allowance of £312.00 using Section 15 of the Local Government Act 1972.

For the purpose of the minutes Cllr Bunce, Chairman had no involvement or formed part of the discussion regarding the above proposal.

**Proposed: Cllr Jones**

**Seconded: Cllr Wilden**

**All in Favour - 7**

**Abstained - Cllr Poulson and Cllr Hewlett**

**Minute No 879.3 Jet/Murco Card**



It was proposed that the Clerk investigate which card is preferable and process the application.

**Proposed: Cllr Mills**  
**All in Favour**

**Seconded: Cllr Rowe**

**898 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE**

**Held on the 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2009**

Cllr Bunce asked if there were any comments regarding the proposals put forward by the Planning Sub Committee regarding the planning applications received. The proposal is to accept the recommendations of the Planning Sub Committee.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Wood**

**All in Favour**

**898.1 Matters Arising from the Planning Sub Committee**

- a. Hire a Consultant to train and assist with planning application 2009/965 up to £200.00 cost
- b. Information to be placed on the website
- c. Investigate the option of a mail shot
- d. Carry out a survey

**All in Favour**

**899 DONATION – MARSTON GREEN SCOUTS**

A letter from Marston Green Scouts had been received requesting a donation to assist with the costs of the Gala Day. The costs were to purchase 8 road closed signs at a cost of £12 each, total £96.00, plus the cost of £100.00 to cover the hire of the two way radios.

There was some discussion regarding the purchase of the road signs and it was agreed that Cllr Wilden should ascertain if this was the case.

It was therefore proposed that if the Scouts had purchased the road closed signs then we should donate £200.00.

If the signs had not been purchased then a donation of £100.00 is to be made.

*It was Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under section 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. The expenditure a donation of either £200.00 or £100.00, to Marston Green Scouts, to assist with the costs of the parade and the health & safety and welfare of the children during the Gala Day Parade.*

**Proposed: Cllr Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr Poulson**

**All in Favour**

**Action Item: Cllr Wilden to confirm situation regarding the Road Closed Signs**

**900 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ALLOTMENT HOLDER MEETING**

Cllr Wilden proposed that due to the issues to be discussed and the sensitive nature it was more appropriate that the discussion be held in Camera.

It was therefore agreed that the issue be suspended and discussed later.

**All in Favour**

**901 SERVICES OF A LOCUM CLERK**

Cllr Bunce advised that as the Clerk will be absent from the September meeting due to personal commitments, the Council have a requirement to pass a resolution for a Locum Clerk cover the meeting and produce the minutes. Cllr Bunce stated that WALC had advised that we pay from the NALC scale.

It was proposed that a resolution be passed to employ the services of a Locum Clerk at £12.20 per hour.

**Proposed: Cllr Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr Rowe**

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Chairman's Signature

**All in Favour**

- 902 ARRANGE A DATE FOR A MEETING OF THE STAFFING PANEL**  
The Clerk asked the Staffing Panel Committee members for dates to hold a meeting to review the Council's Disciplinary & Grievance Procedures.  
**Action Item: Cllr's Bunce, Rowe, Hewlett, Green and Jones to provide dates**
- 903 AIRPORT MATTERS**  
Cllr Wood advised that he had spoken with Cllr Jim Ryan regarding the Airport Working Party. Cllr Ryan has suggested that we write to Cllr Stuart Davies who chairs this meeting requesting representation from Bickenhill Parish Council.
- 904 INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
Nothing to report.
- 905 FINANCE – PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION**  
See attached sheets detailing the payments for authorisation.  
The proposal is to authorise payment of the detailed expenditure.  
**Proposed: Cllr Wood** **Seconded: Cllr Williams**
- 906 CORRESPONDENCE**  
**Minute No 906.1 Letter from St Leonard's Day Centre**  
Thanking the Parish Council for the donation of £230.00  
  
**Minute No 906.2 Solihull MBC – Challenges & Choices**  
All responses have now been summarised into a single document which has been approved for publication by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development & Regeneration. This can now be viewed on [www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/ldf)  
**Action Item: To be discussed at the next Planning Sub Committee**  
  
**Minute No 906.3 Charity Commission – News**  
Cllr Jones took this information
- 907 ROADS & RIGHT OF WAY**  
Cllr Williams advised that he had been approached by a resident requesting a pedestrian crossing by the Florist and Pharmacy on Station Road. It was agreed that the issue be raised with Kerrie Grandison on the annual walk-around of the village.  
  
Cllr Mills advised that he was meeting with Richard Timothy, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, SMBC on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2009 to have a walk-around of Bickenhill Village.
- 908 BUS & TRAIN SERVICE**  
Cllr Williams stated that there is still an issue with the no 17 bus and that 4 had been parked outside the station the other day and this was still happening on a regular basis.
- 909 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**  
Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009 to be held in the Parish Hall, Marston Green.



Meeting closed at 21:30

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized initial 'A' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the bottom.