

Bickenhill Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 2nd September 2009
At 7:30pm in the Church Hall Bickenhill

Present:

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

Locum Clerk Mrs D Weir

Public 8 members
 PS Liam Dalton and PC Dee Commander

The Chairman welcomed Mr Adam Nicholls to the meeting. Mr Nicholls gave a presentation to members on the ANITA Project which was being funded by the Department of Transport. The project also received funding from Birmingham Airport. He outlining his terms of reference as Project Manager for the ANITA Project for Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council. He had been seconded to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council to undertake work for WSP Development & Transportation and was based at Moat Lane Depot, Solihull.

It was generally felt that Birmingham destinations were not very well served by public transport and that an improvement in bus services was required to Birmingham Airport and the NEC. It was also felt that improvements to the infrastructure were necessary. It was proposed that existing services to Birmingham International Station would be enhanced and whilst improving the existing services, that the improvements should not be to the detriment of other road users. The project also incorporated improvements to cycling and walking routes which had been discussed with the appropriate Officer at the Borough Council. These would link up to Birmingham International Station.

It was commented that signs had indicated the work was commencing on the 20th July 2009, but no work had started.

Cllr Williams queried why there had been no public consultation on the scheme which would impact considerably on the parish. Mr Nicholls advised that the information was in the public domain, but it had not been widely publicised. Mr Nicholls stated that if members wished, he was more than happy to attend a public meeting hosted by the Parish Council or at the local library when the project and issues raised could be addressed. He advised that because he had been seconded to the Borough Council, any meeting would need to be arranged on one of the two or three evenings during the week when he was available.

The Chairman asked members of the public if they wished to raise any issues. Mr Inshaw stated that he had been going to ask if the Parish Council were aware of the ANITA Project, but it was apparent they had not been consulted. He wanted to know how the proposed expenditure could be justified.

Mr Laight and other members of the public queried other issues associated with the Project, such as bus services, proposals with regard to traffic signals and the roundabout.



Mr Nicholls stated he did not have details as to specific expenditure for the work proposed under the Project. He referred to various Borough Council partnership group discussions with regard to the Project and stated that he could give a fuller response to questions raised by the Parish Council and members of the public at a future meeting, if this was arranged.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nicholls for attending the Parish Council Meeting. He stated there were a lot of questions raised which required answers and on behalf of the Parish Council asked Mr Nicholls to make arrangements for a public meeting with the Clerk, Carole Picken, when she returned from her honeymoon.

Minute 910/2009 – Public Forum

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.

Minute 911/2009 - Apologies

Cllr Hewlett and Cllr Rowe tendered apologies due to being on holiday and these were accepted.

Minute 912/2009 – Declaration of Interest

There were none declared

Minute 913/2009 – Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st July 2009

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st July 2009 had been circulated. Following a proposal by Cllr Mrs Wilden, seconded by Cllr Mrs Green

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Minutes be approved as a true and accurate record.

The Chairman welcomed PS Liam Dalton and PC Dee Commander to the meeting. PS Dalton and PC Commander introduced themselves to members and advised that they hoped to attend future parish council meetings when they are available.

Minute 914/2009 – Matters Arising from Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st July 2009

Minute 888/2009 - Cricket Club Lease

The Chairman reported that this matter was being progressed. A meeting had been held on the 8th July to formulate matters at which the Clerk had been present and an update would be given at the next Parish Council Meeting.

Minute 889/2009 - Sign at Recreation Ground

Members noted that the matter was ongoing. Costings were awaited and the Parish Council were also to consider signage for the Garden of Memory.

Minute 890/2009 - Request for donation from Rainbow Playtime

The Chairman reported there had been no further developments since the last meeting.

Minute 892/2009 - Request for bench

The Chairman reported there had been no further developments since the last meeting.

Minute 894/2009 – Financial Accounts

The Chairman reported there had been no further developments since the last meeting.



Minute 895/2009 – Letter from Resident re Franklin & Hawkins

Cllr Mrs Wilden reported that she was progressing the delay regarding the planning application with the Planning Officer, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

Minute 896.1 Millennium Wood – Local Nature Reserve

The Chairman reported that this matter had been covered in the Recreation Committee Minutes.

Minute 906/2009 – Solihull MBC – Challenges & Choices

Members noted that this item would be discussed at the next Planning Committee Meeting

Minute 915/2009 – Minutes of Recreation Committee Meeting held on the 20th July 2009

Members noted that Cllr Green was not present at the Recreation Committee Meeting as recorded in the minutes.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Minutes be approved as a true and accurate record subject to amendment that Cllr Green was not present at the meeting.

Minute 916/2009 – Matters Arising from the Recreation Committee Meeting held on The 20th July 2009

Minute No 236.2 – Millennium Wood

Members discussed the responses given by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council regarding the proposals for a Management Plan to be drawn up to enhance the Millennium Wood Site. Cllr Mrs Wilden confirmed that she was happy with the responses given.

Minute No 236.6 – Marston Green Cricket Club - proposed Lease

The Chairman reported that the Recreation Committee had recommended legal advice be sought with regard to the Cricket Club's request for a lease prior to any discussions with the Cricket Club and the Parish Council were in contact with the Land Agent to discuss possible options.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that this item be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting for Cllr Hewlett to update members.

Minute No 237 – Birmingham CC re Licence to Access Amenity Land

Members discussed the new carpark proposed for Elmdon Lane and the requests for an access/kissing gate. The Chairman advised there were no problems and the matter was ongoing.

Minute No 238 – Order for Shrubs

Following a proposal by Cllr Mrs Wilden which was seconded by Cllr Williams

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Clerk be authorised to purchase 45 shrubs in the sum of £112.50 plus VAT for planting at the amenity land allotments and the ex allotment on the Recreation Ground.

Minute No 239 – Purchase of New Dog Bins

Following a proposal by Cllr Hill, which was seconded by Cllr Williams

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Clerk be authorised to accept the quotation from Broxap



for two dog bins at a total cost of £204.00 plus VAT.

Minute No 241 – Millennium Wood - Plaque

Following a proposal by Cllr Mrs Wilden, which was seconded by Cllr Jones

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the action taken by the Recreation Committee to accept the quotation from C H Day in the sum of £468.00 for a replacement plaque be noted.

Minute No 242 – Amenity Land Gate

IT WAS RESOLVED;- that this item be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting in order that the Chairman can clarify one or two issues with Cllr Hewlett.

Minute No 243 – Recreation Ground- Overspill Carpark

Cllr Mrs Poulson advised that a further quotation was awaited for purchase of barriers for the overspill carpark.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that this item be deferred to the next Parish Council Meeting pending receipt of the additional quotation.

Minute No 244 – Red Telephone Box – St Peters Lane

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that a) Cllrs Mills, Williams and Cllr Mrs Green be delegated to paint the telephone box on behalf of the Parish Council, the Clerk to be authorised to purchase 1 litre of red paint or sufficient paint to paint the telephone box.

Minute No 245 – Website Update

Cllr Mrs Poulson advised members that she was hoping up-to-date statistics for usage of the website would be available for the next Meeting.

The Chairman continued with the published Agenda for the main Council Meeting.

Minute 916/2009 – Letter from Allotment Holder – Plot 5 Elmdon Lane

The Chairman reported receipt of a letter from Mrs D Learoyd dated 18th August 2009 regarding her allotment plot 5A in response to his letter dated 13th July 2009.

Members noted that differences had been resolved and the matter would be placed on the agenda of the next Council Meeting for an update.

Minute 917/2009 – Minutes of Planning Sub Committee Meeting held on 21st August 2009 – Recommendation

Following a proposal by Cllr Mrs Green which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Wilden:

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the Minutes of the Parish Council's Planning Sub Committee Meeting be approved as a true and accurate record subject to amendment to list of planning applications approved by the Borough Council – Application 2009/965 – 51 Station Road, Bickenhill for change of use had been refused and was not approved as stated.

Minute 918/2009 – Disciplinary & Grievance Procedure – Recommendation of Staffing Panel Committee

Cllr Wood reported the recommendation of the Staffing Panel that the Parish Council accept the Disciplinary & Grievance Procedure subject to the following amendments:



- 1) Para 2) Misconduct deletion of xii Poor Communication, xii Poor Planning, xiv Poor productivity, xv Poor hygiene and/or personal appearance
- 2) Para 8.6 ii amended to read The disciplinary sanction originally imposed cannot be increased upon appeal
- 3) Para 9.13 amended to read If the Employee wishes to appeal against the Council's decision he/she must notify the Council in writing within five working days of receiving notice of the Staff Committee's decision pursuant to '9.12' above
- 4) First Sample Letter 'help' to be amended to 'held'
- 5) The right contained in the Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure and the sample letters, for the employee to be accompanied at a hearing, to be consistent with representation recommended in the ACAS Code of Practice

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the recommendation of the Staffing Panel be approved, subject to the Clerk seeking clarification on employees right to representation as detailed in (5) above being consistent with the ACAS Code of Practice

Minute 919/2009 – Airport Matters

Cllr Wood updated members on airport matters. He outlined two incidents that had occurred on 25th July and the responses received from the Environment Team at Birmingham Airport. The first incident involved a Mahan Air Airbus A310 turning too quickly after a Runway 33 departure. Cllr Wood stated he had been advised that the airline has subsequently modified the Flight Management System on their aircraft to improve adherence to the Noise Preferential Route and have requested a weekly update of their track-keeping performance. In addition, the Fleet Manager is to attend future Operation Pathfinder meetings at Birmingham Airport.

The second incident concerned a full power Engine Ground Run that was requested for a Flybe Embraer 195 at 2245 and which involved a change to the taxi route. The response Cllr Wood received from the Environment Team was as follows:-

"Although this event does not represent a violation of the Section 106 Agreement, we acknowledge that it does not fully meet with the spirit of the Agreement. The Airport Company is disappointed that this event has occurred. Please be assured that we have taken this matter seriously. The Section 106 Agreement is a highly respected document and the Airport Company has taken appropriate internal action in response to this event. Dialogue has taken place with those involved and a formal reminder of the sensitivity of night movements has been sent to the ODMs, ATC and the airline involved.

The Airport Company will report to the Environment Monitoring Working Group on this matter to offer the details of our investigations. As part of our regular dialogue with our Operations Team, they have expressed interest in joining the Environment Monitoring Working Group. This will enable improved sharing of environmental and operational knowledge within the Group."

Cllr Wood stated that he was now in receipt of the "Night Flying Policy", the Airport Operational Instruction "Conditions Governing the Ground Running of Aircraft Engines", the "Aircraft Noise Control Outside the Night Period" policy and "Arriving and Departing Aircraft, Policies and Procedures".

Members considered the draft response to Birmingham International Airport's Draft Noise Action Plan prepared by Cllr Wood. He suggested the Parish Council could also submit the response as part of the response from the Environment Monitoring Working Group.

IT WAS RESOLVED:- that the response prepared by Cllr Wood be submitted as the Parish Council's response to the Airport's Draft Noise Action Plan and also as part of the response from the Environment Monitoring Working Group.

Minute 920/2009 – Internal & External Committee Reports
Parish Hall – St Leonards Day Centre

Members considered a letter from St Leonards Day Centre. The Chairman confirmed this item was being moved forward.

Minute 921/2009 – Finance

That the payments made for July and August as set out in the list circulated to members and appended to the Minutes be duly noted.

Minute 922/2009 – Correspondence

Members noted receipt of the following correspondence:-

- a) letter from George Taplin thanking Parish Council for the donation to Marie Curie
- b) Solihull MBC – Overview & Scrutiny Annual Report 2008/09
- c) Solihull MBC – The Solihull Partnership – On Borough: an equal chance for all Sustainable Community Strategy for Solihull 2008-2018
- d) Solihull MBC – The Compact Plus for Solihull – An agreement to improve relations between the Solihull Partnership and the third sector
- e) Solihull Safer Communities Plan – Working to reduce crime & disorder and make communities feel safer
- f) Warwickshire Rural Community Council – Country Matters Magazine/Greening your Community Plan – for Parish Plans/Future Proofing your Community event
- g) Solihull Care Trust (NHS) Annual Report 2008/09
- h) Solihull Shop Mobility – Copy of leaflet for each councillor
- i) Smith of Derby – Service of Pillar Clock – Garden of Memory
Service of Clock carried out on 4th August 2009. Cost for 2010 will be £630. Invoice forwarded to Community Affairs, Birmingham International Airport.
- j) Email via Parish Council Website regarding Marston Green Station/London Midland Service
- k) Letter from resident enquiring if financial assistance could be given to support her studies in childcare in connection with her employment with Rainbow Playtime Playgroup – Members noted that the Parish Council could not make donations to individuals and suggested the resident be advised to try the Heidi Fund.
- l) Solihull MBC – Questionnaire regarding the local Library Services
- m) Fieldwork Magazine
- n) Newsletter – WALC June 2009

Minute 923/2009 – Roads, Rights of Way and Street Lighting

Cllr Mills raised the problem of taxi drivers parking their vehicles in the layby in Church Lane. They were using the red route for the bus lane and also tyres had been dumped in Church Lane.
IT WAS RESOLVED: - that the Clerk contact Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Highways Department to see what measures it could implement to overcome the problems discussed.

Cllr Hill stated that the hedge in the central reservation by the Tavern was overgrown and should be cut back, but he understood it would not be cut back until October.
IT WAS RESOLVED: - that the Clerk contact Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council's Neighbourhood Co-ordinator to request the overgrown vegetation be cut back.

Minute 924/2009 – Bus & Train Services

Cllr Mrs Jones stated she had noticed a decline in the use of local bus services. She referred to the new train timetable which would be due out on the 12th December 2009.

Minute 925/2009 – Date of next meetings

Wednesday, 7th October 2009 in the Parish Hall, Marston Green.

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.30 pm.

Minutes of Bickenhill Parish Council Full Council Meeting
Held on Wednesday 2nd September 2009 at 7:30pm



Chairman's signature