

Bickenhill Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 1st October 2008
At 7:30pm in the Parish Hall Marston Green

Present

Councillors	Mr F Bunce	Chairman
	Mrs M Wilden	Vice Chairman
	Mrs V Jones	
	Mr J Williams	
	Mrs L Poulson	
	Mr M Kay	
	Mr S Mills	
	Mrs L Green	
Clerk	Carole Picken	
Public	5 members	

644 THE PUBLIC

Mr Prusst informed the Council that following his previous issue with low water pressure he had contacted STWA and they had installed two new valves and the situation had improved.

Mr Southwick wished to raise the issue of the state of the road in Elmdon Lane, Cllr Wilden informed that a meeting with Solihull MBC had taken place earlier summer and the issues had been raised. Mr Inshaw asked if the Parish Council were informed by Solihull MBC when road works were planned, Cllr Bunce advised that this is not the case.

Mr Southwick asked if the Council would like a Xmas tree for the village as he had one in his garden which he was willing to donate. Cllr Bunce thanked Mr Southwick and stated that we would indeed be grateful for the donation.

Action Item: Cllr Bunce to speak with Ground staff to arrange collection

645 APOLOGIES

Cllr Tom Hewlett and Cllr Celia Dowell

646 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Poulson and Cllr Wilden in relation to Marston Green Over Opposing Development and Cllr Steve Mills re quote from Universal Installations.

647 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on the 3rd September 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 Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

648 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 3rd September 2008

649 Minute No 616 Holly Lane/Moseley Drive

The Clerk advised that she had spoken with Solihull MBC and they have confirmed that the drain on Holly Lane has been attended to; however, the drain outside The Picnic Basket was still outstanding.

650 Minute No 622 Conservation Committee

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

Action Item: Carry forward

- 651 Minute No 623 The Pleck**
Carry forward: Cllr Williams has now received a quote which will be taken to Recreation Committee
Action Item: Cllr Williams to take quote to Recreation Committee Meeting
- 652 Minute No 624 Cricket Club Lease**
Cllr Bunce had spoken with the Cricket Club and advised that any fees in connection with the lease will be the responsibility of MGCC. Lease to be developed
Action Item: Carry Forward
- 653 Minute No 626 Sign at Recreation Ground**
Cllr Bunce had spoken with a contact and was awaiting information regarding companies who could quote. This is to be included into next year's budget.
Action Item: Carry Forward Cllr Bunce to action
- 654 Minute No 631.2 PA Coomber System**
It was agreed that now that we had the storage space, the equipment should be returned to the Parish Council.
Actions Item: Cllr Wilden will arrange
- 655 Minute No 631.5 Allotment Holder Prizes**
The Clerk advised that no-one had yet requested the prize money. Cllr Jones to speak to the society and ask that they put the request in writing to the Clerk
Action Item: Cllr Jones to speak to Society
- 656 Minute No 640.9 Election Costs**
The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to WALC
- 657 Minute No 640.11 Asset List to F & GP**
The Clerk confirmed that the Asset List had been issued at the F & GP meeting on 22nd Sept 2008.
- 658 Minute No 641 Marston Green Station – Bridge**
The Clerk confirmed that Solihull MBC had carried out a jet wash of the bridge.
- 659 MINUTES OF THE RECREATION COMMITTEE
Held on the 15th September 2008**
- Minute No 659.1 Memorial Bench**
Cllr Bunce advised that he is to contact a local carpenter to ascertain if the bench could be repaired.
Action Item: Cllr Bunce
- Minute No 659.2 Red Telephone Box – St Peters Lane**
Cllr Poulson advised that she had researched the subject and if we wished to stop the removal of the telephone box the following options were available,
1. Adopt the Phone Box
The costs would be £1, we would have to maintain it however, and the phone would be removed.
 2. Sponsor the Phone Box
The costs would be £500 per year, it would be maintained and the telephone (card system) would be retained.
- The residents who had been spoken to in Bickenhill had expressed their wish to retain the telephone box.
Cllr Williams agreed and wished to have it minuted that he would be prepared to paint the box each year; Cllr Mills and Cllr Green stated that they would be more than happy to help.

Cllr Wilden proposed that the Parish Council should adopt the phone box.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Jones

All in Favour

Action Item: Cllr Poulson to progress request

Minute No 659.3 Marston Green FC

Cllr Bunce advised that it had been brought to the attention of the Council that Marston Green FC were training at the Recreation Ground and that our paying customers were experiencing some difficulties. Cllr Bunce advised that it was his intention to speak to Marston Green FC before we seek further guidance.

Action Item: Cllr Bunce to speak to Marston Green FC

Minute No 659.4 Remembrance Day Parade

Cllr Bunce asked Cllr Wilden is she was happy to make all the arrangements for the Parade or if she requires any help. Cllr Wilden stated that she was happy to carry on alone. There was a requirement for Marshalls and Cllr Poulson asked if this could be put on the website. It was agreed that this would be a good idea.

Cllr Wilden stated that the Clerk had provided the Risk Assessment and copies of Insurance and that signs would need to be ordered.

Cllr Bunce asked if Cllr Wilden could provide him with template for the signs and he would progress.

Action Item: Cllr Wilden to provide requirements for Marshalls, details to be placed website. Requirements of specification for signs, arrange orders for road closure signs, and barriers.

Minute No 659.5 Relocation of Lych Gate

Cllr Bunce asked the Council if the relocation of the Lych Gate should be considered, but he did clarify this will be dependent on if it is in a fit state to be moved, and the costs.

There have been numerous discussions on where it should be relocated, Cllr Bunce would like to retain it within the Garden of Memory, while Cllr Wilden would like it to be located within the Burial Ground. Cllr Green was very much against the relocation to the Burial Ground.

Cllr Bunce put to the Council that before any decision is made that perhaps the Council should ask the Village their opinion as it had been at the current site for sixty years. However, before this can happen we will need to ascertain if it can be moved and the associated costs.

Minute No 659.6 Groundsman Report

Cllr Bunce advised the Council that attached to the minutes of the Recreation Committee is the latest report from the Groundsman. He wished to bring to the attention of the Council that paragraph four he completely disagrees with and is not his understanding of what really happened.

Cllr Bunce sought clarification from Cllr Williams.

He asked if he had read the report and if he agreed with what had been stated by the Groundsman. Cllr Williams informed the Council that he had been present with Cllr Hewlett at the time and the information given by the Groundsman who was not present at the time was incorrect.

**660 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE MEETING
Held on the 22nd September 2008**

Minute No 660.1 Approval of costs for Winter Bedding

Approval of £180.00 quote obtained by the Groundsman for winter bedding to plant the formal gardens was being requested.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Green

Minute No 660.2 The Pleck – Aubrietia

Cllr Bunce advised that he had researched the planting of the Aubrietia and while you can plant the seeds in the Autumn, plants should be purchased in the Spring, it was therefore agreed that we should plant the wall in the spring.

Minute No 660.3 Millennium Wood – Wildflower Meadow

Cllr Bunce outlined the proposal from the Recreation Committee which is to plant a couple of trial areas 1m x 1m. However, the Finance & General Purpose Committee had stated that this should be left until the Spring.

Cllr Poulson asked for clarification as she was confused about the set up of the Committees. It would appear from the minutes there are four items whereby F&GP have overruled the proposals made by the Recreation Committee and wished to have the role of the committees clarified.

Cllr Bunce stated that it was the role of the Recreation Committee to identify the work/projects and that these proposals were then taken to the F&GP Committee for Financial approval. Cllr Bunce asked Cllr Wilden for clarification and she agreed that this was the role of the committees. Cllr Wilden stated that this was correct and that F&GP look at it purely from a financial aspect.

Cllr Poulson stated that it would appear that the Recreation Committee are coming to one conclusion and F&GP override and come to another, and she would have to disagree that the decisions are always based on a financial aspect.

Cllr Bunce agreed that there should be Terms of Reference around the function of the Committees and this was something that needed to be done. However, if we just look at the issues for now and agree what proposals we are going to proceed with.

Cllr Bunce asked if the proposal of the trial area should proceed, if we have the manpower, or should the project be left until the Spring as recommended by F&GP.

Cllr Williams proposed that it be left until the Spring

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded Cllr Wilden

Minute No 660.4 Mower

Following much discussion about the condition of the Mower and the proposals put forward by the Recreation Committee, it was being proposed that the Mower should be serviced by a reputable supplier at the end of the season.

Proposed: Cllr Green

Seconded Cllr Williams

Minute No 660.5 Hedge Cutter

Following discussion over the options it was agreed that the blade be replaced for financial reasons

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded Cllr Wilden

Cllr Williams did however state that the fitting of the new blade should be over seen by himself or Cllr Hewlett. Cllr Green stated that she thought that this was not the responsibility of a Councillor and should be fitted by the supplier.

Minute No 660.6 Uniforms

Proposal that we purchase new uniforms for the Ground staff at approx costs £230.00

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded Cllr Kay

Minute No 660.7 Rabbit Fencing

Cllr Bunce advised that this topic had been discussed and following a discussion with our Pest Control supplier, it had been confirmed that the fencing should go to a depth of at least 12 inches, however, there was a possibility that a badger could become entangled/trapped in the fencing and we would be breaking the Wildlife &

Countryside Act which covered the issue of badgers being protected. It was agreed that this issued should once again be considered

Minute No 660.8 Groundsman House

It was being proposed that we accept the quote of £1260.00 to replace the porch to the house with a UPVC. The Clerk advised that the money was available in this year's budget.

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded Cllr Wilden

**661 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SUB PLANNING COMMITTEE
Held on the 26th September 2008**

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 Green

Seconded: Cllr Williams

662 AMENITY LAND – BIRMINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Clerk advised that she had written to the Airport about the resident using the area on the Amenity Land outside his gate as a dumping ground as requested. The Airport had responded and asked if the Parish Council would still like to take responsibility for this area. Also had a date to remove the chain link fence been agreed.

The proposal is that we pursue this option and that the fence will be removed by the end of March 09

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded Cllr Poulson

Action Item: Clerk to advise the Airport

663 DONATION TO MARGARET FRANCIS

Cllr Bunce advised that Mrs Francis had been most helpful in providing information and photographs for the website and that it was being proposed that a donation of £50.00 be made to Mrs Francis's chosen charity; Macmillan.

Mrs Francis has also requested that all the information that she holds be stored as an archive by the Parish Council.

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Wilden

Cllr Poulson also took this opportunity to update the Council on the Website and that 10 hits had been recorded following Criss Cross and 15 following the article re Caroline Spelman.

664 AIRPORT MATTERS

Cllr Williams advised that there was a Focus Group Meeting planned for the 8th October 2008 and Cllr Mills will try to attend.

665 INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report

666 FINANCE – PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

See attached sheets detailing the payments for authorisation.
Proposal is to authorise the detailed payments

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Green

667 CORRESPONDENCE

Minute No 667.1 CCLA for Charities

Report & Accounts for half year to 30th June 2008

Minute No 667.22 Solihull MBC
Overview & Scrutiny Newsletter – Sept 2008
Cllr Williams took this information

Minute No 667.3 Solihull MBC
Advice to Member – BIA PLANNING APPLICATION
Copy to all Councillors issued

Minute No 667.4 Town & Parish Standard Issue 3
Cllr Bunce took this information

Minute No 667.5 Communities & Local Government
The making & enforcement of byelaws – Consultation Paper
Cllr Poulson took this information

Minute No 667.6 WALC TRAINING DAYS

Briefing Event for All Chairmen & Aspiring Chairmen – 15th Nov 2008

Changes to the Town & Country Planning System – 6th December 2008
Cllr Wilden to attend this course

668 ROADS & RIGHT OF WAY

Cllr Green stated that she was unhappy with the misuse of the disabled space outside the shops on Station Road; Cllr Wilden stated that it was a white marked bay and was not enforceable by law.

Cllr Poulson advised that all information regarding the Centro Planning Application was now on our website.

669 BUS & TRAIN SERVICE

Cllr Williams advised that there had been 5 No 17 buses at the station last week and that he was going to take this issue up with Centro.

670 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 5th November 2008 at the Parish Hall, Marston Green

Meeting closed at 21.10