

**Bickenhill Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on**  
**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7:30pm**  
**Parish Hall Marston Green**

**Present**

**Councillors:** Mr Frank Bunce - Chairman  
Mrs Lucille Green – Vice Chair  
Mr Clive Hill  
Mrs Linda Poulson  
Mrs Margret Wilden  
Mr Jim Williams  
Mr Phillip Wood  
Mr David Rowe  
Mr Tom Hewlett  
**Clerk:** Carole Cox

**Public:** 4 members and Police Sergeant Liam Dalton

**942 THE PUBLIC**

Mr Prust raised the issue of the sign outside the picnic basket. Cllr Wilden confirmed that she had spoken with SMBC Planning Dept but would chase them regarding the issue.

Mr Southwick stated there were still problems with parking at the Village Hall. Cllr Williams advised that the issue had been raised and people advised.

Mr Southwick also raised the issue of the poor state of repair of Bickenhill Road. The Clerk advised that Solihull MBC had responded to advise that there were no funds available this year, but the work had been identified as critical and hopefully this will be addressed early part of next year.

Mr Laight asked the Council if they had seen the Midlands Today interview, where a resident of Marston Green had raised the issue of anti-social behaviour and young people congregating in the Garden of Memory. Cllr Wilden advised that we were trying to address the problem. Cllr Rowe expressed his concern that we do nothing for the young people of the village and surely this is the issue which needs to be addressed. Cllr Wilden said that there are high costs to running a youth club. Cllr Bunce advised Cllr Rowe that if he wished to research the ideas, facilities, costs etc and bring it back to Council then the options could be discussed.

Mr Southwick wished to thank the Council and ground staff regarding the upkeep of the Garden of Memory and The Pleck, he stated that the village had never looked as good as it had this year. The Council thanked Mr Southwick and would pass on his thanks to the ground staff.

**943 APOLOGIES**

Cllr Steve Mills and Cllr Velma Jones had offered their apologies and these were accepted.

**944 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None were offered.



**945 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING Held on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

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

Cllr Rowe advised that Minute No. 940 should read "VOSA" not VOSPA.

Cllr Wood suggested that we add a comment regarding the seven year option incurring no costs.

**Proposed: Cllr Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr Rowe**

**All in Favour**

**It was RESOLVED** that the minutes are a true and accurate record with amendments duly noted.

**946 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Held on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Minute No 888 Cricket Club Lease**

Cllr Bunce advised that he and Cllr Hill had met and prepared a draft document and it was now being recommended that we proceed to get legal advice in preparation of the final lease.

**Proposed: Cllr Green**

**Seconded: Cllr Wood**

**All in Favour**

**It was resolved** that legal advice for the final lease be sought.

**Action Item:** Cllr's Bunce and Hill are to proceed with legal advice

**Minute No 899 Sign at Recreation Ground**

Work is still on-going.

**Action Item:** Carry Forward Cllr Bunce

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

The Clerk advised that she had sent out the cheque on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

**Minute No (Recreation 245) Website Update**

Cllr Poulson advised that the website had received 109 visits in October, with the majority from London, Birmingham and Solihull. The history page is the one most visited.

**Minute No 931.1 Recreation Ground – Overspill Car Park**

The Clerk advised that work to install the barriers is now underway.

**Minute No 931.2 Red Telephone Box – St Peters Lane**

The Clerk advised that the re-painting of the phone box was now complete, thanks to Cllr Mills and Mrs Mills.

**Minute No 931.4 Xmas Trees & Xmas Tree Lights**

The Clerk confirmed that the orders had been placed.

**Minute No 931.5 Remembrance Day**

Cllr Wilden stated that all was in hand with the arrangements, there was now a full complement of Marshalls and a meeting was planned for the 5<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009 to discuss duties etc.

The Clerk advised that the letter informing residents of the road closures had been delivered to all properties in Land Lane, Hall Drive, Elmdon Road, Hidcote Grove, St Leonards Close, Rotherby Grove and Somerton Drive. Also the Remembrance Day Parade signs were now in situ on the relevant lampposts and the ground staff would be picking up the barriers on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Nov 2009.

Cllr Bunce stated that he had asked the Vice Chair, Cllr Green, to lay the wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr Poulson also advised that Paul Quirk would be taking photographs on behalf of the Parish Council for the next issue of the Newsletter.

Cllr Williams wished to express his thanks to Cllr Wilden for all her hard work in organising the event.



**Minute No 931.10 Centro Car Park**

Cllr Bunce advised that the majority of the work had been completed, there are some outstanding issues one being the kissing gate. We have been advised that SMBC Highways were still to inspect and approve the entrance/exit.

**Minute No 935 Birmingham International Airport**

The Clerk confirmed that she had written to BIA confirming the changes on the Space Change Focus Group, from Cllr Williams to Cllr Wood.  
Cllr Wood confirmed that he had also received written notification confirming this.

**Minute No 935 Bank Mandate - Bickenhill in Relief**

The Clerk advised that Cllr Jones and she would need to visit the bank to formalise the arrangement.

**Minute No 939 Parking on  
Grass Verge – Elmdon Road**

Cllr Green advised she is still on the case.

**947 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Minute No 947. 1 Millennium Wood – Gary Farmer**

Cllr Hill wished to say how impressed he had been with the work carried out by Gary Farmer.  
Plans for the Wildflower Meadow were now underway with Gary Farmer and an area within the wood has been prepared.  
Cllr Williams agreed and advised that the Greenagers had invited him to a meeting next year to talk about Millennium Wood.

**Minute No 947.2 Millennium Wood – Installation of Plaque**

The Clerk advised that we were in receipt of two quotes to carry out the work one of £340.00 and £100.00.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to accept the quote of £100.00

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Williams**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed to accept the quote for £100.00

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.3 The Recreation Ground- Gate onto Coleshill Road**

The Clerk advised that a quote had been sourced from the original company who had erected the fence along Coleshill Road. To install a new kissing gate to replace the metal gate with the wooden gate from storage and to extend the fence towards the brook at a cost of £725.00.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to accept the quote of £725.00

**Proposed: Cllr Wilden**

**Seconded: Cllr Poulson**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the work to be carried out

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.4 Orders for Shrubs and Winter Planting**

The Clerk advised that two orders were being recommended. One as previously discussed for the purchase of 22 various shrubs at a cost of £180.00 for the Garden of Memory and the second to purchase winter bedding plants for the formal gardens at a cost of £175.00

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is duly noted as the funds are within the Recreation Budget.

**Proposed: Cllr Wilden**

**Seconded: Cllr Williams**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the work to be carried out



**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.5 Tree Work Garden of Memory & The Pleck**

The Groundsmen had identified two trees within the Garden of Memory and one tree in The Pleck which were dead and therefore needed to be removed. A quote to remove the trees at a cost of £600.00 with an additional cost of £120.00 to remove the tree stumps.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to place the order for all the tree work at a cost of £720.00 as funds are within the Recreation Budget.

**Proposed: Cllr Wilden** **Secoded: Cllr Williams**  
**Seven in Favour** **One Abstain** **One Against**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the work to be carried out

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.6 Recreation Ground Hedges**

The Groundsmen had identified two hedges within the Recreation Ground which had become very overgrown and required cutting back with more of an industrial piece of equipment due to the thickness and height of the branches.

A quote had been sourced to carry out this work at a cost of £350.00.

It is envisaged that once these have been cut back then the on-going maintenance of the hedges will be carried out by the Groundsmen.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to place the order at a cost of £350.00 as funds are within the Recreation Budget.

**Proposed: Cllr Green** **Secoded: Cllr Rowe**  
**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the work to be carried out

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.7 Amenity Land Hedge**

Cllr Hewlett had requested that we obtain a quote to cut back the hedge along the allotments to enable the top and both sides to be cut back. This quote was for £175.00. Again, it is envisaged that once these have been cut back then the on-going maintenance of the hedges will be carried out by the Groundsmen.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to place the order at a cost of £175.00 as funds are within the Recreation Budget

**Proposed: Cllr Poulson** **Secoded: Cllr Rowe**  
**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the work to be carried out

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.8 Recreation Ground**

The Groundsmen had suggested that a quote be obtained to weed and fertilise the whole of the Recreation Ground with a recommendation that the work is to be planned for early spring.

The quotes were £500 to weed and £500 to fertilise.

The Council discussed the fact that no renovation work on the grounds had been completed for a number of years and therefore agreed with this proposal.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to place the order at a cost of £1000.00 as funds are within the Recreation Budget

**Proposed: Cllr Wilden** **Secoded: Cllr Williams**  
**Six in Favour** **Two Abstain** **One Against**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the work to be carried out

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.9 Recreation Ground – Verti Drain of Football Pitches**

A quote had been sourced to verti drain the pitches to improve drainage, the cost is £250.00 per pitch.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to place the order to verti-drain all three senior pitches at a cost of £750.00 as funds are within the Recreation Budget.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe** **Secoded: Cllr Hewlett**  
**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the verti drain to be carried out

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.10 Purchase of a new Line Marker**

The Groundsmen were requesting a second line marker to act as a back up and enable both Groundsmen to work in tandem to mark the pitches. The costs of £556.92 and £505.00 to purchase had been obtained. The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to place the order to purchase as a capital at a cost of £505.00

**Proposed: Cllr Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr Rowe**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the purchase of a new line marker

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the order

**Minute No 947.11 Training Course – Basic Chainsaw Course**

The proposal is to send Nikki Meek on a basic chainsaw course with National Proficiency Test (NPTC) certification at a cost of £350.00. The course date is early December at Morton Morrell College. Cllr Wilden also stated that Nikki should be attending a Groundsman's Course. The Clerk advised that a course had now been identified by Nikki which would commence September 2010.

The Recommendation of the Recreation Committee is for N Meek to attend the course at a cost of £350.00

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Poulson**

**Eight in Favour**

**One Against**

**A resolution** was therefore passed for the on-going staff training

**Action Item:** Clerk to arrange with Morton Morrell

**Minute No 947.12 Replacement of the Parish Council Notice Board in the Garden of Memory**

The Clerk had identified two companies who could supply a hardwood notice board with a routed header 450 x 650h. The cost is either £837.00 or £834.00. The Committee also discussed the position of the notice board and that it should be in a more central position on Elmdon Road within the Garden of Memory to be more visible and avoid vandalism.

**Action Item:** It was agreed that the Clerk contact Arlen Signs to provide further information firm costs and produce a visual.

**Minute No 947.13 Burial Ground Rules & Regulations**

The Clerk had issued the revised regulations to the Parish Council It therefore the proposed to adopt the final draft.

**Proposed: Cllr Hewlett**

**Seconded: Cllr Williams**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed to adopt the final draft of the rules & regulations

**Action Item:** Clerk to formalise as a Council procedure

**Minute No 947.14 Allotment Rent Review**

The Council agreed that there would be no price increase for 2010 rents however; the allotment holders are to be advised with the agreements for 2010 that 10% increase would be applied in 2011.

**Proposed: Cllr Poulson**

**Seconded: Cllr Williams**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed that there would be no increase for 2010 with notification to allotment holders of a 10% rise for 2011

**Action Item:** Clerk to send out new agreements for 2010 and notification of 2011 rise in rent

**Minute No 947.15 Allotment Rules & Regulations**

The Recreation Committee agreed that the rules & regulations do not require any amendments for the coming year.

**Proposed: Cllr Williams**

**Seconded: Cllr Wood**

**All in Favour**



**A resolution** was therefore passed that no amendments be made to the current rules & regulations

**Action Item:** Clerk to formalise as a Council procedure for 2010 agreements

#### **948 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE**

**Held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 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 Poulson**

**Seconded: Cllr Wilden**

**All in Favour**

**A resolution** was therefore passed to accept the recommendations of the Planning Committee

#### **949 DONATION RE POPPY APPEAL**

The Clerk stated that following the purchase of a wreath for Remembrance Sunday she wished to clarify what the Parish Council wished to donate; previous years have seen a donation of £80.

It was proposed by Cllr Poulson that we should donate a total of £100.00 this year and this was agreed by all.

**Proposed: Cllr Poulson**

**Seconded: Cllr Wilden**

**All in Favour**

**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 £100.00 to the Poppy Appeal to assist War Veterans

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise the cheque

#### **950 ADOPTION OF THE NALC CODE OF PRACTICE FOR HANDLING COMPLAINTS**

The Clerk advised that she had circulated the Code of Practice and that a resolution to adopt was now required unless anyone had any issues. The resolution is to accept the Code of Practice for Handling Complaints as issued by NALC.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Poulson**

**All in Favour**

**It was Resolved** that the Council adopt the Code of Practice for Handling Complaints as issued by NALC.

**Action Item:** Clerk to formalise as a Council procedure

#### **951 AIRPORT MATTERS**

Cllr Wood advised that he had attended the meeting of the Environmental Working Group where the bird scaring activities had been discussed. The airport had agreed that an increase of activity had been required due to the increase in wood pigeons. They also confirmed that they do use the flares as a last resort. However, they also informed the Committee that another exercise of thinning the trees would be required and as and when further information was available a letter would be sent out to residents.

Cllr Wood also informed the Council that the Airport had met with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust regarding the pond at the Fordrift and they were taking advice from WWT regarding what action to take. BIA would be providing feedback to the Parish Council.

Cllr Wood also stated that he had been given a copy of the Air Quality Monitoring Report 2008. The report had been produced by a company AEA Technology.



The next BIA meetings were the ACC planned for the end of November then the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2010 and 24<sup>th</sup> February 2010 for the Air Space Change Process Focus Group.

**952 INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Cllr Wilden stated that there was nothing from the Parish Hall Trustees to report.

**953 FINANCE – PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION**

See attached sheets detailing the payments for authorisation.

The proposal is to authorise payment of the detailed expenditure.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Hill**

**All in Favour**

**It was Resolved** that the payments are accurate and are to be processed

**954 CORRESPONDENCE**

**Minute No 954.1 Solihull Shopmobility**

A copy issued to all Councillors

**Minute No 954.2 Solihull MBC Correspondences**

a. E-mail from Alison Lush sent to all Councillors via e-mail on the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

The Council would like further information it was agreed that we should invite Alison Lush to the next Parish Council Meeting.

**Action Item:** Clerk to issue an invitation

b. E-mail from Kerrie Grandison re Litter Pick in the village on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2009, sent to all Councillors on the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

The Clerk asked if there were any further volunteers.

**Action Item:** Clerk to advise SMBC

c. Public Rights of Way in Bickenhill

It was agreed that we talk to the local Ramblers Club to gain their feedback.

**Action Item:** Cllr Poulson to speak to the Rambler Club

**Action Item:** Clerk to advise SMBC

d. Temporary Road Closure for Bickenhill Remembrance Day Parade.

**Minute No 954.3 BIA – Notification of Runway Closures**

**Action Item:** Information to be placed on Parish Council Website

**Minute No 954.4 Bickenhill Parish Council Newsletter E-mailed by Cllr Poulson on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2009 for comments**

Cllr Poulson asked if everyone had read the draft Parish Council Newsletter and if there were any comments. The Final would be produced on Monday and circulated for approval with a view to going to the printers by Wednesday.

**All in Favour**

**Minute No 954.5 Donation to Marston Green Scouts re delivery of Newsletter**

The proposal is that we donate £100.00 to Marston Green Scouts for the delivery of the Newsletter.

**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 £100.00 to Marston Green Scouts for the delivery of the Parish Council's Newsletter to all residents within the Parish.

**Proposed: Cllr Rowe**

**Seconded: Cllr Hill**

**All in Favour**

**Action Item:** Clerk to raise cheque



**Minute No 954.6 Article in Criss Cross – Marston Green Lions**

The Lions are looking to loan a 4x4 vehicle with a tow bar for the Santa's Sleigh from Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2009.

The proposal is that the Parish Council Pick Up could be offered to the Lions. They would need to provide us with a named driver so that they could be added to the Insurance for a temporary period. It was also agreed that the nominal costs of the Insurance would be paid for by the Parish Council.

**Proposed: Cllr Wilden**

**Seconded: Cllr Green**

**All in Favour**

**It was Resolved** to loan the Parish Council Pick-Up to the Lions and to incur any costs in additional Insurance Cover

**Action Item:** Cllr Hill to speak to Marston Green Lions

**955 ROADS & RIGHT OF WAY**

Nothing to report

**956 BUS & TRAIN SERVICE**

Cllr Williams stated that a new timetable had been issued

**957 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2009.** To be held at the Parish Hall, Marston Green.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:45

