

Bickenhill Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 2nd December 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
Mr Steve Mills
Mrs Velma Jones

Clerk: Carole Cox

Public: 3 members of the public

958 THE PUBLIC

Mr Prust asked about the car park on Elmdon Lane and why the work had stopped. Cllr Bunce advised that it was a planning issue regarding access and the approval of the highways and therefore a Solihull MBC matter.

Mr Southwick stated that he thought the Garden of Memory looked really good and the Xmas Tree was great. Cllr Bunce thanked him and said he would pass on his comments to the Groundsmen.

Mr Southwick also raised the issue of the bund and the cutting down of the trees and he wished to clarify if all the trees were being removed. Cllr Bunce advised that we had been informed by Birmingham International Airport that this was the case and apparently a letter has been sent to residents advising them of the work.

Mr Laight raised the issue of the Planning Application for Marston Green Station and the re-configuration of the inter-change, raising his concerns regarding the loss of on street car parking spaces.

959 APOLOGIES

None

960 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Mills re quote for Burial Ground work and Cllr Bunce re Letter requesting a Memorial Football Match.

961 PRESENTATION FROM ALISON LUSH, SOLHULL MBC re Northern network

Mrs Lush advised that an idea had been formulated to create a forum within the North of the Borough which would have representatives from residents associations, SMBC and the police.

The forum would discuss common problems and any ideas on how to resolve these on a broader aspect with also a view to sharing best practice. A trial meeting had taken place and they were now looking at how the Parish Council can have an input.



The Parish Council asked what they were trying to achieve long term and who would be picking up the issues and if the forum had been given a budget to resolve issues.

While the general opinion was that anything that could be done to resolve issues was a good way forward, the Parish Council's view was that most of these issues were raised either at the Parish Council Meetings or through the Councillors.

Cllr Bunce thanked Mrs Lush for her attendance and did state that he thought it would be a good idea if a representative from her team attended the Parish Council Meetings once a quarter. Mrs Lush stated that she agreed and would speak to the Co-ordinators to arrange this.

Mrs Lush left the meeting.

**962 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on the 4th November 2009**

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

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

**Proposed: Cllr Wilden
All in Favour**

Seconded: Cllr Poulson

**963 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Wednesday 4th November 2009**

Minute No 888 Cricket Club Lease

Cllr Hill advised that a prepared draft document was in place and it was now just a matter of seeking legal advice in preparation of the final lease.

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 935 Bank Mandate - Bickenhill in Relief

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

Action Item: Carry Forward Cllr Jones

Minute No 947.2 Millennium Wood – Installation of Plaque

The Clerk advised that weather permitting the plaque would be fitted on Thursday 3rd December 2009

Minute No 947.3 The Recreation Ground- Gate onto Coleshill Road

The Clerk advised that the work had been completed.

Minute No 947.4 Orders for Shrubs and Winter Planting

The Clerk advised the order had been raised.

Minute No 947.5 Tree Work Garden of Memory & The Pleck

Minute No 947.6 Recreation Ground Hedges

Minute No 947.7 Amenity Land Hedge

Minute No 947.8 Recreation Ground – Weed & Feed

Minute No 947.9 Recreation Ground – Verti Drain of Football Pitches

The Clerk advised that the above orders had been raised.

Minute No 947.10 Purchase of a new Line Marker

The Clerk advised the order had been raised and Line Marker received.

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



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 advised that the procedure had been formalised as part of Council Procedures.

Minute No 947.14 Allotment Rent Review

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 Clerk advised that the procedure had been formalised as part of Council Procedures.

Minute No 949 Donation re Poppy Appeal

The Clerk advised that a cheque had been issued and an official receipt received.

Minute No 950 Adoption of the NALC Code of Practice for Handling Complaints

The Clerk advised that the procedure had been formalised as part of Council Procedures.

Minute No 954.5 Donation to Marston Green Scouts re Delivery of Newsletter

The Clerk advised that this had been issued.

Minute No 954.6 Marston Green Lions

Cllr Hill will speak to the Lions re the loan of the pick up.

Action Item: Cllr Hill

**964 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING
Held on Monday 16th November 2009**

Minute No 964.1 Allotment Rules & Regulations

Cllr Hewlett wished to amend the Rules & Regulations to include no use of Sprinklers & Soak-a-Hose. The Clerk advised that a resolution had been passed at the last Parish Council Meeting to accept the current rules and regulations.

It was Resolved that a paragraph could be added to the agreement letter due to be sent out shortly which could state,

"With the spiralling costs of water the use of Sprinklers and Soak-a-Hose Systems is not encouraged by the Parish Council".

The recommendation is that this issue could be added to the regulations next year.

Proposed: Cllr Hewlett

Seconded: Cllr Poulson

All in Favour

Minute No 964.2 Additional Allotment Plots

Cllr Hewlett also advised that in order to prepare the three new plots it was a requirement to hire a rotovator at a cost of £50/70 per day.

Cllr Jones stated that we should ask Solihull MBC for their assistance.

It was Resolved that if SMBC were not able to assist then a cost of £100.00 is agreed to hire the rotovator.

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

Minute No 964.3 Elmdon Lane Allotments

Cllr Wilden had requested the Recreation Committee to discuss the feasibility of the allotment holders moving their bins to the new fence line.

It was Resolved the Council could see no problem with this request however, ample space should be allowed and nothing should be resting on the fence.

All in Favour



Minute No 964.4 BIA Pond at Elmdon Lane/The Fordrift

The Council were aware that Cllr Wood has been dealing with this issue and therefore,

It was Resolved that Cllr Wood will liaise with the Airport and residents with a view to including this topic on the January 2010 agenda, if BIA could send along representatives.

All in Favour

Minute No 964.5 Remembrance Day Feedback

Cllr Bunce advised that he had been pleased with the service this year and that the PA System had worked really well, he also suggested that we should thank Cllr Wilden for all her hard work in organising the event.

Cllr Bunce thought that there were still learning points to be gained each year and with this in mind had asked the Clerk to collate the issues which had been discussed and which could improve the service for next year.

The Clerk advised that the following points had been raised with her:

i. Stand for Microphone

Rev Roy Allen had asked if a stand for the microphone could be provided next year.

ii. Order of Service for laying of Wreaths with announcements

Mr Laight had mentioned that the laying of the wreaths had been a bit rushed and in no order.

The Council agreed that an usher could be provided to direct people when to go forward to lay the wreath.

It was also discussed that a list of who is laying the wreaths be printed within the Order of Service.

Rev Roy Allen could also make the announcements via the PA system so that the public attending the service were aware of who was laying the wreaths.

Cllr Green agreed with this point.

iii. Additional Music

The company providing the PA system had suggested to Cllr Wilden that music could be played prior to the service. The Committee discussed this option but did not think it was appropriate.

iv. Involving local groups with laying of wreaths

The Council agreed that we should involve more of the local groups next year and the Parish Council could approach the groups to ask if they wished to lay a wreath.

It was Resolved that the above points are incorporated into next year's planning.

All in Favour

Minute No 964.6 Additional Shrubs

Additional shrubs had been purchased for the Garden of Memory.

It was Resolved that retrospective approval is duly noted.

Proposed: Cllr Rowe

Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

**965 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE MEETING
Held on the 23rd November 2009**

Minute No 965.1 Burial Ground Path - Relayed

Cllr Bunce advised that the Recreation Committee had discussed an outstanding job to re-lay the path within the Burial Ground. The work had been ratified at full council back in April. However, we are experiencing problems contacting the supplier to obtain a date when the work would be carried out.

A further quote had now been obtained at a cost of £1290.00 and it was the recommendation of the committee to cancel the previous order and proceed with the revised quote.



The F & GP Committee agreed with the proposal and that the funds were available for the additional £240.00.

It was Resolved that the Clerk should raise the purchase order and cancel the previous order.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden
All in Favour

Seconded: Cllr Green

Minute No 965.2 Burial Ground Path - Extended

Cllr Bunce also advised that the Recreation Committee had requested an additional quote to extend the path as previously discussed by the council. The quote was for £1305.00 with a saving of £100.00 if the work to relay and extend were carried out at the same time.

The F & GP Committee agreed that this work had been previously discussed and funds are available within the budget.

It was Resolved that the Clerk raise the Purchase Order

Proposed: Cllr Wilden
All in Favour

Seconded: Cllr Hill

Minute No 965.3 Order for Grit Bins

The Groundsmen had requested a new grit bin for the Burial Ground and an order for Rock Salt total cost £233.10

The Council discussed the view of liability and it was agreed that we should endeavour to grit and open the Burial Ground as a priority.

Cllr Hewlett stated that he was making enquiries about the possibility of a free bin.

It was Resolved that the Clerk raise the Purchase Order

Proposed: Cllr Green
All in Favour

Seconded: Cllr Wilden

Minute No 965.4 Sports for All

Cllr Bunce advised that following a recent announcement regarding grants available from Sports for All. The Recreation Committee had discussed the feasibility of improving the facilities within the Pavilion for Ladies changing rooms, showers, Ladies Ref Room and refurbishment of Gents Showers.

The recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to employ the services of an Architect to assess how these arrangements could be facilitated and to draw up plans in order that we can proceed with obtaining quotes and submitting a grant application to Sports for All.

Cllr Poulson advised that she had researched the grant application and it was possible to obtain a grant for a feasibility study and plans.

It was Resolved that Cllr Poulson and Cllr Hill research and applies for the grant.

Proposed: Cllr Wood
In Favour – 10

Seconded: Cllr Mills

Abstain - 1

Minute No 965.5 E-mail from West Midlands Pension Fund

The Clerk advised that she had been contacted by West Midlands Pension Fund regarding an employee who had been ill health retired by the Parish Council in March 2006.

WMPF state that contributions to the pension fund are applicable and that this could be a significant sum. WMPF will be contacting the funds actuary to establish the current pension liability and they will contact the Clerk and advise the current position.

Cllr Hill stated that he did not think we would be liable but would need to check the paperwork to be sure. Cllr Bunce stated that we may need to seek legal advice.

It was Resolved that the Council may need to seek legal advice.

Minute No 965.6 Setting the Precept 2010/11

Cllr Bunce advised the recommendation of the Recreation Committee is to increase the precept by 2% in view of the current economic climate.

Cllr Rowe agreed that this would seem a viable option and having considered the projects for next year it was agreed that the recommendation of 2% increase should be put forward to the Parish Council Meeting for ratification.



The Clerk advised that Solihull had not agreed the Council Tax Base for this coming year. However, using last year's figure of 2503 the 2% increase would equate to a 0.96p increase per annum for a Band D premise.

It was Resolved that a 2% increase on Precept is to be applied.

Proposed: Cllr Green

Seconded: Cllr Wilden

All in Favour

966 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PLANNING SUB COMMITTEE

Held on the 27th November 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 Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Rowe

All in Favour

A resolution was therefore passed to accept the recommendations of the Planning Committee which included sending a letter to residents regarding the planning application 2009/1779 Marston Green Station and the re-configuration of the interchange.

967 AIRPORT MATTERS

Cllr Wood advised that an Airport Consultative Committee meeting was held on 25th November 2009. The main point of interest was that Solihull MBC had requested that the airport reduced the night time noise violation limit from 87dB to 85dB. This reduction is covered by the new Section 106 agreement and will come into force with the runway extension. However, Solihull MBC was requesting that the airport adopt the new limit earlier, as a voluntary measure. The airport was opposed to the idea.

968 INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nothing to report

969 FINANCE – PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

See attached sheets detailing the payments for authorisation.

The proposal is to authorise payment of the detailed expenditure.

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Hill

All in Favour

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

970 CORRESPONDENCE

Minute No 970.1 Solihull Community Foundation

EFS Community Grants Leaflets – issued to all Councillors

Minute No 970.2 Thank You from Rainbow Playtime

Minute No 970.3 Campaign to Protect Rural England

Stop the Drop and a Parish Warden Scheme

Minute No 970.4 Birmingham Airport Letter

Re: Main Noise Bund – Landscaping

Minute No 970.5 Charity Commission Newsletter

Minute No 970.6 War Memorials

Maintenance Repair & Protection – Penalties for Vandalism

Minute No 970.7 Solihull MBC

Proposed Speed Limit Changes on A and B Classified Roads

Minute No 970.8 Sustainable Communities Act Amendment Bill

Empowering Parish & Town Councils



Minute No 970.9 Letter Mr Steve Wragg

Request to hold a memorial football match for Adam Wragg at the Recreation Ground on the 27th December 2009.

The Council discussed the request and agreed that a pitch be made available free of charge however, due to the xmas holidays we have no staff working and therefore cannot offer the Changing Room Facilities.

A resolution was therefore passed for the pitch to be offered but with no option of using the changing rooms in the Pavilion.

All in Favour

Minute No 970.10 Thank you letter from Marston Green Junior School

971 ROADS & RIGHT OF WAY

Cllr Poulson was concerned regarding the parking on Elmdon Road Bridge and it was agreed that she would contact Solihull MBC to report the issue.

Action Item: Cllr Poulson

972 BUS & TRAIN SERVICE

Nothing to report

973 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 6th January 2010. To be held at the Parish Hall, Marston Green.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 22:10

