

Bickenhill Parish Council
Minutes of the Council Meeting held on
Wednesday 4th August 2010 at 7:30pm
St Peter's Hall Bickenhill

Present

Councillors:

Mr Frank Bunce - Chairman
Mr Clive Hill
Mrs Linda Poulson
Mrs Margret Wilden
Mr Jim Williams
Mr Steve Mills
Mr Phillip Wood
Mr David Rowe
Mr Tom Hewlett
Mrs Velma Jones

Clerk: Carole Cox

Public: 6 members and Police Sgt Dalton

1089 THE PUBLIC

Cllr Bunce asked Cllr Sleigh to provide an update following the public meeting on the 21st July 2010.

Cllr Sleigh advised that the public meeting had been very well attended and following the meeting MGOOD had organised a petition of some 1500 signatures which had been delivered to the Mayor at Solihull MBC earlier this week.

Cllr Sleigh had attended a meeting yesterday of the Overview Scrutiny Management Board. One of the recommendations of the meeting is that the land on Coleshill Heath Road is withdrawn from the policy and is to remain as greenbelt; also that SMBC revisits all of the sites initially identified across the borough and gain the views of the communities.

There was also a discussion regarding Parish Plans and their status and the requirement for a statement on the impact that these plans have within the planning process. Also Land Trust was discussed whereby a small development of properties could be developed as long as it meets the requirements of the village.

Cllr Sleigh clarified that there would be a need to develop more houses but that the recommendation is to assess the building needs and not focus on the building numbers.

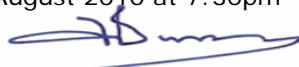
A resident asked Cllr Sleigh if the housing numbers set by the previous government are still in place. Cllr Sleigh advised that the density targets are no longer in place and that the Regional Spatial Strategy had been scrapped.

A resident asked if any ruling on infrastructure had been agreed. Cllr Sleigh stated that one of the criteria would be sustainability. In fact the head teacher of the Junior School had written to SMBC about the numbers currently within the school and the strain on the school another 270 houses would have.

Cllr Bunce thanked Cllr Sleigh for the update and asked the public if there were any other issues.

A resident offered his thanks for sorting out the parking issue on Elmdon Lane/Newlands Lane. He went on to say that there was still an issue at 104 Digby Drive and the resident dumping double glazed units in the front garden. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write again to SMBC

Action Item: Clerk to write to SMBC



1090 UPDATE FROM POLICE SGT DALTON

The crime figures remain low in Marston Green with no major problems or concerns and there have been few reports of ASB outside the village shops. There had been a shooting incident on Willow Way, Chelmsley Wood and problems with ASB outside the shop. There had been a number of letters of complaint from residents regarding ASB outside the shop and the police are now looking at obtaining a Dispersal Order.

Cllr Poulson asked if the issue of contacting his team had been resolved. Sgt Dalton clarified the correct e-mail address and explained that the voicemail message had disappeared from the extension number and this was being looked into. Sgt Dalton also issued a leaflet of useful contact numbers.

1091 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Green

1092 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Cllr Bunce regarding Chairman's Expenses/Allowance.

Cllr Wood regarding a donation to Marston Green Residents Association.

Cllr's Wilden and Williams regarding, a donation to St Leonard's Community Group.

1093 MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on the 7th July 2010

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.*

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

1094 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 7th July 2010

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 979.4 Amenity Land Lease

Item to be discussed later on the agenda.

Minute No 1043.2 Gas Boiler & Landlord's Certificate

As this is a legal requirement an emergency quote should be sourced.

***Action Item:** Carry Forward Cllr Hewlett to advise of supplier*

Minute No 1064 Annual Accounts to Clement Keys

Item to be discussed later on the agenda.

1095 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Held on 19th July 2010

Minute No 1095.1 Grant Application

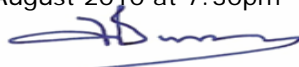
Cllr Bunce advised that the Recreation Committee had discussed the proposal and plans to extend the Pavilion and were recommending that we pursue the option of a grant application.

Proposed: Cllr Rowe

Seconded: Cllr Hewlett

All in Favour

***A Resolution** was passed that Cllr Hill and Cllr Poulson progress with an application for a grant to extend the Pavilion*



Minute No 1095.2 Willow Garden

Cllr Bunce outlined the plan/quote to renovate the Willow Garden however, it was agreed that due to the cost and current situation this project should be shelved and reviewed later in the financial year.

Minute No 1095.3 Burial Ground

The Recreation Committee following legal clarification from NALC had made two slight amendments to the rules and regulations. Cllr Bunce outlined the changes and these were ratified.

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Hill

All in Favour

A Resolution was passed to amend the rules and regulations

Minute No 1095.4 Burial Ground – Grave Plot

The Clerk advised that letter had been sent to the resident and that the 28 day deadline would end on the 10th August 2010 at which stage the Clerk would send another letter to advise that the graves would be turfed with a copy of the original letter and this would be posted by recorded mail.

All in Favour

Action Item: Clerk to write to resident

Minute No 1095.5 Grass Cutting on the Amenity Land

The Recreation Committee had discussed the issue further and the options were, leave it as it is or to incur the additional costs of £200.00.

Cllr Wilden proposed that we take the option to leave as it is.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Williams

In Favour: 8

Against: 2

A Resolution was passed to amend the rules and regulations

Action Item: Clerk to write to resident

Minute No 1095.6 Groundsman's Course

The Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged with Warwickshire College and a suitable course had been identified for Nikki Meek. The course over 2 years would cover amenity and horticulture and was due to start in Sept. A meeting every other month would be arranged between the college and the Clerk to discuss progress and course content.

1096 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE MEETING - Held on 19th July 2010

Minute No 1096.1 Roof Repair

Retrospective approval was requested for £395.00 to carry out emergency repairs to the roof of the archive office.

Proposed: Cllr Wood

Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed and duly noted

Minute No 1096.2 Ashes Plot

The recommendation of the committee is to accept the quote.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Hewlett

All in Favour

A Resolution was passed to raise the order

Action Item: Clerk to raise the order

Minute No 1096.3 Millennium Wood

After much discussion with both committees it was agreed that this project be shelved for the time being and reviewed later in the financial year.

All in Favour

Minute No 1096.4 Recreation Ground – Gate Post

The recommendation of the committee is to accept the quote.

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Rowe

All in Favour

A Resolution was passed to raise the order

Action Item: Clerk to raise the order

Minute No 1096.5 Danger Water Signs

The recommendation of the committee is to accept the quote.

Proposed: Cllr Wood

Seconded: Cllr Hill

All in Favour

A Resolution was passed to raise the order

Action Item: Clerk to raise the order

Minute No 1096.6 Goal Posts

The recommendation of the committee is to accept the additional cost.

Proposed: Cllr Hewlett

Seconded: Cllr Rowe

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed and duly noted

Minute No 1096.7 Planters

Following the return of the planters an emergency order was placed for the bedding plants therefore, retrospective approval was being sought.

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Rowe

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed and duly noted

Minute No 1096.8 Chairman's Expenses

Cllr Rowe outlined the recommendation of the committee is to pay the expenses incurred by the Chairman when he represented the Parish Council at the Royal Garden Party.

Proposed: Cllr Williams

Seconded: Cllr Wilden

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed for the expenditure

Action Item: Clerk to arrange payment

Minute No 1096.9 Review of Budgets

The committee were proposing that a transfer of funds be made to the BMM account.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Poulson

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed to transfer funds

Action Item: Clerk to arrange transfer

Minute No 1096.10 Chairman's Allowance

Cllr Rowe outlined the recommendation of the committee for the annual allowance payment to the chairman.

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Hill

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed for payment of allowance

Action Item: Clerk to arrange payment

Minute No 1096.11 VAT Return

HMRC were now requiring the quarterly VAT return to be completed online, it was therefore recommended that a resolution be passed to confirm this. Audit controls would be checked through the F & GP Committee.

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

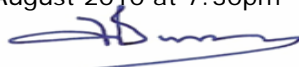
Seconded: Cllr Williams

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed for the online submission of VAT returns.

1097 EXTERNAL AUDIT

The Clerk advised that the 2009/10 Annual Report had been completed by Clement Keys, who had returned an Unqualified Audit Opinion. The Clerk also advised that the Audit Closure Notices had been posted.



1098 NAMING OF NEW ROAD

Cllr Bunce advised that we had been consulted by Solihull MBC about the naming of the new road located off Coleshill Road. The options were,

1. Marston Court
2. Culey Close
3. Digby Court
4. Canterbury Close
5. Newlands Close
6. Martin Court

Cllr Bunce outlined the reasons behind each of the proposals and much discussion regarding option 6, which was in connection with Leah Martin a lady who had contributed to the village throughout her life. Cllr Wilden proposed we ask Solihull MBC to consider Leah Close as an alternative.

A vote was taken on each of the suggested names and it was agreed that if Leah Close could not be considered then Culey Close is the preferred option.

Proposed: Cllr Wilden

Seconded: Cllr Poulson

All in Favour

Action Item: Clerk to write to SMBC

1099 AMENITY LAND LEASE – Birmingham International Airport

The Clerk had circulated a copy of the lease via e-mail and Cllr Hill brought the following point to the attention of the Council.

- ❖ Allotment Land – Max Area shall not exceed 10% of the total area
- ❖ The Airport can lop top or treat trees, shrubs or grassland in the interest of bird control and aviation safety
- ❖ That we require the Landlord's permission to plant trees shrubs
- ❖ Not to allow cars to be parked on the premises
- ❖ If the lease is to expire then a Schedule of Dilapidations could be produced and any associated legal fees would have to be incurred by the Parish Council

Cllr Wood wished to clarify some points within the lease.

Cllr Bunce asked for a proposal to accept the lease.

Proposed: Cllr Poulson

Seconded: Cllr Wilden

In Favour: 9

Against: 1

A Resolution was passed to notify Birmingham International Airport

Action Item: Clerk to write to the Airport

1100 AIRPORT MATTERS

Cllr Williams advised that he had attended the PSST Meeting and that Megabus were operating a bus service to major cities within the UK. There was still an issue with the funding of the buses to serve the ANITA project which needed to be resolved.

Cllr Wood advised that a meeting of the Environment Monitoring Working Group had taken place. Cllr Wood attended the meeting and raised a question regarding grass cutting on the noise bund backing on to Digby Drive. A resident had pointed out to Cllr Wood that the grass is normally cut 3 to 4 times per year, but had not been cut so far this year. The response from the airport was that there is a plan for cutting the grass on the bund, but they did not have the details to hand and would provide an answer through a Secretary's note in the minutes of the EMWG meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding the waste strategy consultation started by Solihull MBC. Cllr Wood informed the council of the plan by Birmingham Airport to introduce Visual Reference Points (VRPs) early next year. The aim of this exercise is to reduce the number of incursions into the airspace around Birmingham Airport by unauthorised aircraft, but it will have no impact on the Parish. At the previous EMWG meeting, Cllr Wood asked whether the new Pret a Manger café near the main Departures entrance to Terminal 1 would have a smoking area. The airport confirmed that approximately 20% of the seating (located outside) would be a designated smoking area.

Cllr Wood updated the council regarding the application for a seat on the Airport Working Party (AWP). There is now a new chair of the AWP and, following consultation with Cllr Jim Ryan, Cllr Wood would like to re-send the request to the new chair, Cllr John Windmill, and a copy to Cllr Jim Ryan. The council approved the request to re-send the letter.

All in Favour

A Resolution was therefore passed to re-send the letter

Action Item: Clerk to arrange letter

Cllr Wood also pointed out that there are a significant number of "go-arounds" at Birmingham Airport and that it was his opinion that there would be benefit for the airport, through the EMWG, to monitor and report on the subject. Every "go-around" has pollution and noise impacts on the local area, so by monitoring the occurrences it is hoped that common factors can be identified and solutions put in place to minimise the number of events. After discussion, Cllr Bunce suggested that we should ask the Airport about the monitoring of these events so that the council had more information in order to reach a consensus.

Action Item: Cllr Wood will confirm with the airport whether these events are currently monitored.

1101 INTERNAL & EXTERNAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Cllr Poulson stated that she had attended the Solihull Partnership Meeting. However, the meeting had concentrated on the Bickenhill side of the Parish, which had different issues to that in the North. Another meeting for the north was the following evening which she could not attend, but the meeting had been very useful discussing different social trends.

Following the Public Meeting on the 21st July 2010, the council discussed the best way forward.

It was proposed that the council arrange a meeting with representatives from the Parish Council, MGOOD and the Residents Association and it was agreed that two/three members from each group would be sufficient. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the way forward and how the needs/requirements of the community could be assessed.

1102 FINANCE – PAYMENTS FOR AUTHORISATION

The proposal is to authorise payment of the detailed expenditure.

Proposed: Cllr Hill

Secoded: Cllr Rowe

All in Favour

A Resolution was passed to accept the expenditure

1103 CORRESPONDENCE

Minute No 1103.1 Letter from Solihull MBC – Invitation to Standards Committee Event On 28th Sept 2010

Cllr Wilden, Cllr Bunce and the Clerk will attend

Action Item: Clerk to write to SMBC

Minute No 1103.2 Solihull Shopmobility Newsletter

Copy issued to each Councillor

Minute No 1103.3 Letter from Marston Green Residents

The Clerk read the letter from the Residents Association who were requesting a donation. It was proposed and agreed that a donation of £150.00 be made.

Proposed: Cllr Hill

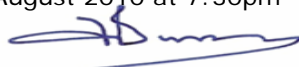
Secoded: Cllr Rowe

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 of £150.00 to support with the on-going costs of running the residents association.

Action Item: Clerk to arrange donation

Minute No 1103.4 Charity Commission News



Minute No 1103.5 Letter from Resident

The Clerk read the letter from the resident who was asking the council for suggestions on how to stop passing dog walkers depositing their dog poo bags in her bin on bin collection day and the issues of people not picking up after their dogs. The council discussed the matter and agreed that while they sympathise with the resident there is really nothing that the Parish Council can do to help resolve the issue.

Action Item: Clerk to reply to resident

Minute No 1103.6 Fieldwork Magazine

Minute No 1103.7 Letter from Marston Green Community Groups for Young People

The Clerk read the letter which was requesting a donation of £700.00 to support the group who are running different activities to support the children from the community of Marston Green.

Cllr Bunce asked the council what the general feeling was, do we support the group and if so to what level. There was some discussion over the activities provided by the group and the general feeling was that the level of donation requested was high. Cllr Poulson therefore put forward a proposal that we should support the group and suggested that a donation of £250.00 should be made. Cllr Hill stated that he agreed with this proposal and would therefore second it.

Proposed: Cllr Poulson **Seconded: Cllr Hill**

In Favour: 5 **Against: 3** **Abstain: 2**

It was therefore 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 of £250.00 to support with the group with the on-going costs of running the activities for the children.

Action Item: Clerk to arrange donation

1104 ROADS & RIGHTS OF WAY

Cllr Williams advised that following the annual walk-around with Solihull MBC, new bins are to be provided outside the shops and the one bollard had been repaired. SMBC will also arrange for the lamp posts to be numbered and had supplied a current location plan. The hedge along the centre would be cut back as soon as possible.

Cllr Mills commented about the poor state of repair of St Peter's Lane, Bickenhill and also, following maintenance by e-on who had cut down branches, which they had left in the hedge close to Bracey's Nursery.

Action Item: Clerk to write to SMBC

1105 BUS & TRAIN SERVICES

Cllr Wilden advised that the damage to the footbridge had been reported however, she was concerned about the general state of the bridge.

Cllr Wilden reported that a sign had been erected on the Elmdon Lane car park stating Station Users Only, which is not the case as users of Sheldon Country Park can also use the car park. It was agreed that we should contact Centro about the sign.

Action Item: Clerk to write to Rob Bird, Centro

1106 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 6th October 2010

To be held in the Parish Hall, Marston Green.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 21:30

