

Parish Council of Balsall

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th October 2012 at 7.30pm at The Jubilee Centre, Balsall Common

Present

Cllr Raymond Ritchie (Chair), Cllr Lucas, Cllr Lloyd, Cllr Judy Lea, Cllr King, Cllr Douglas Money, Cllr Peter Lea and 8 members of the public to include, Cllr Don Hitchcock (Berkswell Parish Council) and David Felthouse (Chair, Residents Association)

Headings are those set out on the Agenda

1. Apologies

Cllr Ian Hedley and Cllr Trudi Thomson

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Judy Lea declared a personal interest in item 11

3. To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 10th September 2012

The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 10th September 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Public Forum

It was resolved to suspend Standing Orders to allow public participation to be brought forward.

Cllr Hitchcock wished to draw the Parish Council's attention to the recent publication by SMBC on the area. Cllr Hitchcock read out the statement. It referred to SMBC recognising the importance of the natural environment and this will be taken into account for all new development. Cllr Don Hitchcock also asked if Balsall Parish Council would consider making a contribution towards the purchase of new plans. Chair advised that the item is not on the Agenda but would be considered in the future.

Cllr Don Hitchcock also advised that a resident had raised concerns over the state of the Cemetery.

Mr Longfield read out an article in the Solihull News and asked for comment. Chair advised that the parish Council were unable to comment and the matter should be taken up with the reporter.

Mr Longfield also raised a question relating to Chadwick End Village Hall and the debts owing to it. Chair advised that he was not in a position to answer but Chadwick End Village hall would be considered later in the agenda at item 10.

Mr Nash stated that he wished to know what action was being taken against the nursery and invoices. Chair advised that he was not prepared to answer questions relating to the nursery.

Mr Nash refused to accept the answer and continued to demand a response. The meeting was disrupted by Mr Nash as he would not allow public questions to continue.

Chair asked Mr Nash to allow other members of the public to speak.

A resident, being an owner of a field at Magpie Lane gave a presentation regarding item 6.2 that was brought forward. He was aware of the Council's decision to object to his application to divert a public footpath. He was not aware of the previous meeting when the application was considered. He made arrangements to attend the September meeting but this was changed from the advertised date and as a consequence he missed the meeting.

He provided plans and explained the reason for the diversion. He advised that SMBC have only received one objection. SMBC would not tell him who had complained but it is his belief that this person is Cllr Lloyd, however he stressed that if he was wrong he will apologise. Cllr Lloyd did not comment upon this. He has worked closely with SMBC footpath officers to discuss the diversion and undertaken measures to ensure that the public will continue to have access to a footpath. The diversion is only a few metres. This is needed to protect his horses and to avoid the public allowing dogs to run around and create a mess all over the field.

Cllr Lloyd advised that he had not seen the map provided by the landowner and he had asked for the matter to be referred to the Rights of Way Committee but the Parish Council had dealt with application. His objections relate to maintenance of the diversion.

Cllr Lloyd stated that stiles had been put that did not comply with the Disability Discrimination Act. The landowner stated that this is a rural footpath and the stiles were put up following discussion with SMBC and they had been provided by SMBC at great cost to him.

Cllr Lloyd stated that there had also not been proper consultation by SMBC. He stated that the Ramblers Association had not been consulted.

Clerk advised that SMBC required notification as soon as possible if the view of the Parish Council was to change.

Cllr Ritchie proposed to make representation to SMBC to support the proposed route on the map.

RESOLVED that the Parish Council make representation to SMBC to support the proposed route on the map.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1. Letter from Balsall Lions enclosing donation of £300 for Christmas lights
- 6.2. E-mails from resident concerning Magpie Lane
- 6.3. Letter from SMBC regarding Highway encroachment

7. Station Road – Pedestrian Crossing

7.1. **PROPOSAL** – To consider and respond to proposal by SMBC regarding the new scheme for signs following safety audit

RESOLVED – That the Parish Council does not support the scheme. The Parish Council would like SMBC to look at long term solutions to provide a proper crossing to include:-

- Rumble strips across both ends of the shopping zone
- High friction red surfacing either side of the crossing point
- Green surfacing of the crossing point strip itself

8. Cemetery – Clerk provided an update of the work being undertaken by Jack Moody Limited and hoped that the lower section of the Cemetery will be cleared by the end of October 2012

9. Community Governance Review – The letter from SMBC was read out by the Chair. Cllr Lucas wished to clarify the position regarding financial reserves. A set figure is allocated for reserves each year. There are no further reserves as all money is allocated each year.

RESOLVED – That the Parish Council take advice relating to the assets and reserves relating to West Ward

10. Reports from Committees

10.1. **PROPOSAL** – To agree representatives for Committees following the suspension and disqualification of members

RESOLVED – That the following members are appointed to the following Committees:-

Jubilee Committee – Cllr Judy lea

Planning Committee – Cllr Lucas and Cllr Ian Hedley

Solihull Champions – Cllr Raymond Ritchie

Conservation Advisory Committee – Cllr Peter Lea

Birmingham International Airport Consultative Committee – Cllr Douglas Money

Birmingham International Airport Passenger Services Committee – Cllr Douglas Money

Air Space Committee – Cllr Peter Lea

Tree Warden – Cllr Richard Lloyd and Cllr Trudi Thomson

- 10.2. HS2 – Cllr Paul Lucas provided an update and advised that the tunnel project is being pursued. We now have the support of Caroline Spelman. As for blight and compensation, we have not had any advice from the government
- 10.3. Birmingham Airport – Cllr Lloyd advised that the airspace is a major item. The draft routes have been altered. The routes will be subject to consultation
- 10.4. Joint Working with Berkswell – Cllr Peter Lea advised that this was still at the early stages. Cllr Peter Lea considers that additional representatives will be required from each Parish Council

11. Accounts & Governance

- 11.1. Bank Mandate – update – Clerk advised that all paperwork has been submitted to the bank and the change is being processed
- 11.2. Financial Report – Clerk gave a financial report and comparison against the budget
- 11.3. Audit – update – This item has been adjourned to be dealt with at a later date
- 11.4. **PROPOSAL** - To approve list of Payments for Approval and Payments Made
RESOLVED – That subject to Lady Katherine Trust providing evidence of the debt, the accounts are approved for payment
- 11.5. **Code of Conduct – PROPOSAL** – To consider and agree that the Parish Council adopts the NALC template Code of Conduct
Cllr Lloyd objected to the proposed Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the matter be deferred to the next parish Council meeting

- 12. Tenancy at the Police Shop, Station Road, Balsall Common – **PROPOSAL** – To consider and agree the Tenancy agreement for Office premises for the Parish Council
Resolved - that the matter is dealt with as a confidential item. Members of the public left except Mr Nash who refused to leave. Due to this, the meeting was adjourned
This item has been adjourned to a meeting to be held at a later date

Due to a member of the public refusing to leave to enable confidential matters to be discussed, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 9.50pm

Signed..... Dated.....

Cllr Raymond Ritchie
Acting Chair
Balsall Parish Council