

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at George Fentham Meeting Room
7.30pm TUESDAY 4th FEBRUARY 2014

Present
Councillor Mr M James (Chairman)
Councillor Mr M Blomer
Councillor Dr G Lewis
Mr T Beresford
Mr J Robinson
Mr D Coleman
Mrs J Richardson (Clerk)

ACTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Mr Tim Beresford who has replaced Mr Nigel Holmes.
The Chairman expressed his gratitude for the contribution Mr Holmes has made during his time on the Maintenance Committee.

M13/48 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mr Pearson.

M13/49 Minutes of Meeting 16th October 2013.

These have already been adopted by a full Parish Council meeting.

M13/50 Matters Arising

M13/43 – It was noted that the Church wall has now been repaired.

M13/51 The Common, Catherine De Barnes

Councillor Lewis gave a brief update: Through the winter months there has been little work done, but now an effort to improve the condition of the grassland is being considered. The cuttings need to be removed following a cut, to reduce the richness. This would cost £800.00 for 2 cuts by Solihull MBC, Councillor Lewis will contact the farmer who currently cuts the grass to enquire if he has a contact who could quote, and Mr Adams will contact an alternative company for a quote.

A working party has been scheduled for 22nd of March, 10.00am to 12.00pm. Mr Robinson will investigate whether the scouts would be able to help, and report back to councillor Lewis.

JR

M13/52 Churchyard

Mr Coleman reported on the following:

Repair of the Churchyard Wall - The Church wall was started on 6th January and completed within a week.

Tree works -Tree surveys are ongoing to ensure that all trees are maintained in a safe and healthy condition, a complete survey being carried out every 5 years.

Refurbishment of the kitchen and toilets in the Church Hall – this is all now completed.

Grasscutting – To continue with Dawsons, as previously.

M13/53 Recreation Ground and Spinney

Scout and Guide HQ – Mr Robinson expressed his concern regarding the condition at the bottom of the field, which remains in a mess due to donated items being stored there, prior to being burned. Mr Beresford will contact Mr Ball to improve the situation.

TB

Sports Club – Mr Adams will contact Mr Pearson to investigate the poor condition at the rear of the Club House.

PA

Spinney – The Chairman has discussed with Mr Dave Grimshaw, the need to survey The Spinney to identify any tree work necessary. Councillor Lewis considers that a tree specialist should look at trees in The Spinney and on the village green to ensure that the parish council are protecting the public as much as possible. It was agreed that a full survey will be completed.

A working group has been arranged for 5th March for 30 volunteers (including SMBC) to work on the paths. The Chairman will liaise with Mr John Doidge regarding the day.

CHAIR

Mr Grimshaw will also plant 120 trees on that day. Councillor Lewis advised that additional trees could be obtained from The Woodland Trust if necessary.

Mr Adams confirmed that access could be gained through the arboretum.

M13/54 School Field and Play Area

School Field - Complaints continue to be received about dog fouling and dogs being walked in the school field. Following a discussion, it was agreed that new signage should be used to try and deter owners from allowing their dogs on the field. The Chairman will pursue.

CHAIR

The Chairman reported that reports had been received of children building dens in the playing field and going into gardens. Agreement had been reached with Mrs Gaughan, that prickly shrubs should be planted as a deterrent.

Allotments – Councillor Bowen asked if the school could be encouraged to use an allotment again and Councillor Lewis reported that at the Solihull in Bloom awards evening, an inspirational presentation had shown how allotments were being used by other schools in the borough, and the relevance in the curriculum.

Although it was understood the school did not have a teacher available to continue the allotment, Mr Beresford and The Chairman will pursue with the school.

TB
CHAIR

M13/55 Any Other Business

Fentham Hall - The Chairman advised that Fentham Hall were having new toilets installed, which should be completed in the next 2 weeks.

Car Park Drains - Councillor Lewis reported that the drains on the recreation ground car park had been jetted by Environmental Services, who had advised that they were in poor condition. Although it is highway water, it is the parish council's responsibility to keep the drains clear. Mr Adams considers that the responsibility should be with Solihull MBC if it is their water passing through parish council drains.

Councillor Lewis advised that SMBC are notifying the parish council in writing, and then responsibility can be challenged.

Pot Holes – Councillor Bowen has spoken to Tom Rodgers (SMBC) regarding the problem with potholes in the village. Councillor Lewis advised that SMBC were not intending to repair any until Severn Trent have completed their work.

M13/56 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is arranged for 4th June 2014.

Meet at 7.00pm at Recreation Ground Car Park.

The meeting closed at 8.25pm

