

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM
on
WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2012

Present **Councillors Mr C Bowen**
 Dr G Lewis
 Mr M James (Chairman)
Dr A Smyth
Mr J Robinson
Dr C Boxall
Mr R Parker
Mr N Holmes
Mr D Colman
Mr C Parker (SMBC)

ACTION

The Chairman welcomed David Colman to the meeting.

M12/18 APLOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Blomer, Mr J Eccleston and Mr D Grimshaw.

M12/19 Minutes of Meeting of 19th October 2011.

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

M12/20 Matters Arising

12/11 **War Memorial** - Councillor Bowen has received a quote of £6400.00 from a stonemason for the repair of the corroding Portland stone of the War Memorial. This would cover the cost of re-pointing and labour for re-engraving. Councillor Bowen will obtain a second quote.

CB

It is anticipated that the full amount will be able to be covered from grants and airport funding.

12/11 **Fentham Road Traffic Calming** - Mr Holmes enquired about funding for the Fentham Road traffic calming scheme. Councillor Lewis gave a brief summary explaining how 106 funding of £33000.00 had been used: £10000.00 for bus shelters and £8000.00 for speed measures. £15000.00 was designated for a zebra crossing, but was not used as the cost would be £30000.00 and there was not a suitable place to put one. This remaining £15000.00 could therefore be utilised for any other improvements.

Work already completed on Fentham Road was detailed: 20mph signs done, entrance road alterations, bollards altered, footpath re-surfaced and the kerb extended.

Councillor Lewis will contact Solihull MBC and request an account of how much they have spent, how much is left out of the £15000.00 and what funding streams are available.

GL

Safer Routes To School - Councillor Lewis wrote to George Fentham School in September 2011 requesting them to re-submit their request but received no reply. Mr Holmes confirmed the school had previously applied and obtained funding of £6000.00 which had been used for a new footpath. The Safer Routes to School fund is now closed.

Councillor Lewis confirmed that double yellow lines on Fentham Road at the junction of High Street will go ahead as part of Phase 1 in the traffic restrictions to be completed in the village.

George Fentham School Crossing – Councillor Lewis confirmed Solihull MBC have approved a school crossing person, but this is not funded yet. Hopefully funding will be available for 12 months and then it will be reviewed. 12/16 Chris Parker confirmed that quotes are being obtained to replace the handrails stolen from Packhorse Bridge, and that funding will be available from the budget before April.

CP

M12/21 The Common, Catherine De Barnes

Councillor Lewis reported that 2 working parties had taken place, the first being supported by 12 volunteers. A lot had been achieved and the area was now much improved. A further 2 working parties have been arranged for 25th February and 31st March (10am – 12pm).

Solihull MBC will advise on the wet areas and Councillor Lewis will also contact the business adjacent to the Common who specialise in drainage for any help or advise available.

GL

Ray Parker confirmed there was no problem in continuing maintenance work on The Common. The progress being made is very good.

John Robinson will make enquiries as to whether the scouts would be able to be involved.

JR

Dr Boxall reported that an application to Birmingham Airport would be made when further work is completed and a clearer picture of what is needed was available. Dave Cuthbert will progress this.

M12/22 Churchyard

David Colman gave a brief summary: Two trees had been felled and a new tree will be planted for the Diamond Jubilee to replace a sycamore.

Permission has now been obtained to reduce the hedge in front of the vicarage and so this will be done if funds are available.

The grass cutting will be considered this year as some cutting has been done in the dark which is not ideal.

Working Parties do a large amount of work on a voluntary basis to maintain the Church yard.

For Information – A wireless theft alarm system is going to be installed to the Church roof. When this is completed, the organ, which was damaged by water following the theft of the lead from the roof, will be repaired.

Church Hall – New furniture has now been ordered following the ‘Auction of Promises’ fundraising event.

The councillors commented on how good the Church yard was looking.

M12/23 Recreation Ground and Spinney

Dog Fouling - The Chairman reported that the bag dispensers had now been installed and were being used. A dog waste bin was now sited on Shadowbrook Lane which should be emptied by Solihull MBC.

It was noted that the dog waste bin on Marsh Lane had again not been emptied recently and so Chris Parker will follow this up.

CP

Drug Problem – The Chairman reported that a problem with drug use had been identified in the Recreation Car Park and that the police are monitoring the situation. Some discussion took place as to the effectiveness of installing CCTV cameras, but it was thought that the problem would just be moved elsewhere in the village.

Spinney – Ray Parker summarised recent work completed which included

cleaning the banks to the pond which had opened it up well. Progress had been good due to the good weather. Councillor Lewis confirmed that the request for equipment had been agreed and the items could be purchased and then the Parish Council would re-imburse.

Woodland Trust – An application to get a free pack of around 400 trees in the autumn will be made to the Woodland Trust as part of the Diamond Jubilee Year Celebration. If successful, these could be used to screen the railway on Old Station Road and for more planting at The Spinney.

The clerk will email Ray Parker to decide which tree pack would be most suitable.

Ray Parker gave details of a 'bonding day' which is being arranged by Trish Willetts – this is provisionally arranged for October 4th and Ray Parker will contact John Eccleston to confirm toilet facilities can be made available.

RP

M12/24 School Field and Play Area

Nigel Holmes confirmed that the school would still like to use the allotment. There are stakes in the ground around the play area which could be dangerous to the children now the borders have been reduced, The Chairman confirmed he would make the necessary arrangements to have them removed as soon as possible as they were no longer of any use.

MJ

Nigel Holmes stated subsidence has affected the block paving in parts of the nursery car park which could be dangerous. The Chairman said he was aware of this problem and confirmed that the work had already been completed for most of the areas, any remaining areas will be completed as soon as possible.

MJ

It had been identified that a small repair to the play area equipment was necessary, this is in the process of being completed.

M12/25 Any Other Business

Councillor Lewis has received a letter from a resident regarding the poor lighting down the path to Peel Close. Chris Parker confirmed he was aware of this issue and had already spoken to the Street lighting Department who had contacted the resident to inform them the cost involved would be too high to install lighting in this area. Chris Parker will contact the resident again to discuss.

CP

A discussion took place about installing lighting on the path to the Recreational Car Park and Councillor Lewis will obtain costings and report back.

GL

David Colman informed the meeting that the church yard notice board is in need of replacing but can not be done straight away as it is regulated by Birmingham Diocese.

M12/26 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be arranged for 30th May 2012. The clerk will notify all Maintenance Committee Members.

CLERK

The meeting closed at 8.25pm