

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at George Fentham Meeting Room
7.30pm Wednesday 10th June 2015

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

ACTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Mr James for chairing the committee over the last few years. The committee are pleased that Mr James will remain on the committee as a representative of the Fentham Trust.

M15/01 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr D Coleman and Mr J Robinson.

M15/02 Minutes of Meeting 4th February 2015.

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

M15/03 Matters Arising

M14/21 – Pot Holes – SMBC Highways are proposing to resurface the High Street and Meriden Road from Eastcote Lane to Diddington Lane, but as Severn Trent have not yet completed their connections, Highways will resurface as far as the railway bridge. Following a meeting with Highways to identify the preferred working times; 4 days or 2 nights. The Parish Council have opted for the work to be completed over 2 nights which is expected to be the least disruptive to residents. The work is scheduled to be completed late August or early September.

Hampton Festival – Councillor Lewis has attended the festival meeting and reports that planning is now well on the way. The weekend will begin on Friday afternoon with golf and then Beeches in the evening, and end on Sunday evening with a quiz at The White Lion.

Mr James advised how important it is that care is taken not to damage the grass.

The Parish Council will have a stall and Councillor Lewis confirmed she would be available.

Councillor Sandells is concerned about cars parking around the village green; Councillor Lewis will raise the issue of parking at the next festival meeting.

M14/26 – Patrick Bridge, Meriden Road – It has been confirmed that the bridge is too narrow for central markings. Councillor Sandells suggested 'narrow bridge' markings should therefore be used. Highways will be contacted.

CLERK

M15/04 The Common, Catherine De Barnes

The Dell - Councillor Blomer advised that the Deed of Easement has now been completed, and payment is with the solicitors. The developer has now started work and a site meeting has been held between the parish council and Damson Homes (working for Piper Homes). Damson Homes have a meeting arranged with a tree surgeon on Thursday, which Councillor Lewis

will attend.

Discussion continues regarding the surface of the access road.

Tyre tracks across The Common – The Tarplin family continue to drive across the Common to reach their land, having had legal advice that they have a right of access. The Parish Council have been given legal advice contradicting this.

SMBC have requested that the Parish Council, as legal owners of the land, complete the work to repair the damage caused due to vehicles being driven over the common. The Tarplin family consider that the parish council haven't maintained the drainage of the common which has resulted in the damage.

Parish Council solicitors have advised to wait and see if an application for easement is made by the Tarplin family.

Councillor Sandells suggested fencing off to allow pedestrian access only.

Japanese Knotweed – a small amount of Japanese knotweed has been identified, which is being removed.

M15/05 Churchyard

Mr James advised that an agreement has now been reached for cutting the grass during the wild flower season, when it is necessary to leave some areas of the churchyard with grass longer.

Funding is still being sought to repair the surface of the car park.

M15/06 Recreation Ground and Spinney

The Chair reported that the fence along Shadowbrook Lane needs to be replaced; quotes have been received which are between £500-£600. Councillors agreed that this work should go ahead and the Chair will contact the contractor.

CHAIR

The committee discussed the necessity for the gate to be replaced and it was felt that if a gate was added from the Arboretum it would not be necessary to replace the one by the Spinney. The Chair will investigate if the Fentham Trust intend to install a gate as has been previously suggested.

CHAIR

The storage area at the rear of the clubhouse is still very messy and there is a large proportion of rotten wood in the fabric of the building. The Chair will look at the lease and report back to the next meeting.

Marquee – the Parish Council have approved the erection of a marquee for the Sports Club 50th celebration in September, Councillor Lewis reminded the committee that it has been agreed that the marquee can be erected on the Thursday, and must be removed on Monday; this will need to be monitored by the Parish Council.

M15/07 School Field and Play Area

The gate at the bottom of the field continues to be locked. Signs have been removed again and so need to be replaced.

M15/08 Any Other Business

Under 7's Play Area – Councillor Sandells reported that some maintenance has been completed on the play area and he has replaced one of the signs.

Footpath from Railway Bridge to Recreation Car Park – The Chair suggested deferring remedial work until next year when the condition of the path can be reviewed and if necessary can be completed at the same time that the Fentham Trust completed their paths to the new pond area, which will greatly reduce the cost. This was agreed and Councillor Lewis will arrange the work following receipt of a further quote.

It was suggested that the laurel should be cut back down the length of the path.

Allotments – Mr James confirmed that he is happy to continue being responsible for the allotments. A problem filling the water tank from the school has now been resolved.

Gas Venting Station, Old Station Road – Councillor Sandells will trim back the overgrown shrubs from the gas venting station.

DS

Best Kept Village – The Chair reminded everyone that the village tidy-up is on Saturday 11th July from 10.00am – 12pm. The clerk will print flyers to be on the Parish Council stall at the festival.

CLERK

Councillor Lewis advised that she would be available to show the judges round if the clerk could arrange for them to come on Wednesday 15th July.

Conservation/Wildlife – Councillor Lewis suggested representatives from the maintenance committee informally meet with the Conservation Group to put together a plan for the wildlife/conservation work in the village. Any necessary work identified in the tree survey should also be scheduled. The committee agreed and Councillor Lewis will arrange.

GL

Rabbits – The rabbit population appears to be increasing around the recreation ground area from the play area to the new pond. Although councillors do not feel there is a significant problem at the moment, the rabbits will be monitored.

M15/09 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is arranged for 7th October 2015.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm