

# HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

**THE MEETING ROOM**

on

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

**Present:**      **Councillors: Mr C Bowen**  
                         **Mr M James**  
                         **Mr G Juniper**  
                         **Dr G Lewis (Chair)**  
                         **Mrs A Rolf**

**In Attendance**                      **Mr Phillip Lloyd Williams**                      **(SMBC)**  
   **Mrs Helen Wood**    **Clerk**

Action  
(by when)

## **10/57 APLOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

## **10/58 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation

## **10/59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

## **10/60 CURRENT ISSUES AFFECTING PARISH COUNCILS**

The chair welcomed Mr Phillip Lloyd Williams, SMBC's Monitoring Officer who stated that he was visiting parish councils to observe practice and be available for any questions.

Mr Lloyd Williams proceeded to brief the meeting on some current issues affecting parish councils.

The current Standards Regime relating to the Code of Practice was ceasing and a new regulatory framework for parish councils would be put in place where pecuniary interests would need to be formally declared and a discretionary framework put in place for parish councils to regulate their affairs. There was scope for parish councils to decide a common framework to adopt through organisations like WALC or SAC.

There will be parish council elections in May 2011 alongside Borough Elections and a Referendum on alternative voting in parliamentary elections.

In May 2012 there will be elections for a newly created Police Commission which will be of interest to local communities. This is one of a range of reforms to make public services more accountable.

There will be changes to the governance of NHS with strategic planning carried out by locally appointed directors and greater control of services by GPs.

There were a number of significant local consultation exercises being carried out currently by SMBC, most important being the consultation on the Local Development Framework. It was important for parish councils to respond as this document helped to shape local services for a number of coming years. The chair thanked Mr Lloyd Williams for his helpful comments and his re-

assurance that the borough had confidence in the way this parish council was operating.

### **10/61 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

**The minutes were approved as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Rolf.**

### **10/62 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES**

10/36 Funding for the appointment of a School Crossing Patrol  
Councillor Juniper stated that the school had not been asked to contribute to the costs of a school crossing patrol warden and was unlikely to have the funds as their budget was tight.

10/48 Capping of Parish Council Precepts  
The chair confirmed that parish council precepts were not likely to be capped.

10/58 Replacement of Parish Clerk  
The chair confirmed that 18 applications had been received and 5 selected for interview on 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **10/62 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE 20<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2010**

**The minutes were approved as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

### **10/63 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

M11/17 Planting of Flower Tubs  
The Gardening Club had planted the tubs for the winter and it was agreed that they looked very attractive.

M11/18 Cricket Nets  
It was noted that the cricket nets had not been taken down for the winter. There had also been damage to the grass after vehicles had driven across it. Councillor James agreed to raise these issues with the Sports Club.

M11/26 Remembrance Day Parade  
3 Councillors were attending the church service and parade. Sufficient stewards had volunteered.

M11/23 Telephone Box  
The communications group were taking responsibility for the box and it was on their next meeting agenda.

MJ (18/1)

AR(18/1)

### **10/64 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. SMBC Consultation concerning the Local Development Framework.  
It was noted that the parish council needed to respond by early January 2011. The chair and vice-chair would formulate a response and circulate to other councillors.

GL(31/12)

2. PAYE notification that payment not received.  
The clerk confirmed that the payment had been made and cheque

cleared at the local post office. Inland revenues had been informed.

3. ROSPA Annual Safety Report on the Playground

The report confirmed that the playground equipment needed no remedial work.

4. SMBC letter confirming their responsibility for flood areas.

Information noted.

5. Letter from Zurich Insurance confirming cover for volunteer marshalls on Remembrance Sunday.

6. Request from George Fentham School PTA requesting permission to erect a circus tent on the school field. Further information was needed and this would then need to be an agenda item on the next meeting.

MJ(18/1)

7. Draft Appraisal of the Hampton in Arden Conservation Area commissioned by Solihull MBC and approved at their conservation committee meeting to go forward for public consultation. Concerns were expressed at the lack of consultation with the parish council so far. However it looked as if the report would be good for the village and we would be able to comment at the next consultation phase, it should be an item on the next meeting agenda.

8. Confirmation from SMBC that the work on the footpath from Hampton Gate to Station Road was about to commence.

9. Ward newsletter which also confirmed that our new link officer was Chris Parker.

10. List of dates for Police Surgeries for 2011.

11. A letter from a resident of Station Road requesting funding for landscaping improvements, it was felt that we would be unable to contribute at the present time.

### **10/65 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

Councillor Rolf reported back that there had been two meetings of the group. The home page of the website had been updated and new photos added. The local businesses page was still being reviewed.

The major project being discussed was the production of a quarterly newsletter starting in January 2011. The proposal was to produce a 2 page newsletter delivered to all households by councillors. Topical issues would be raised plus promoting the web site and particularly the village diary. A small budget for printing would need to be provided in next year's budget of approximately £ 500.

The next meeting of the communications group was on 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Councillor Lewis' house.

### **10/66 FEEDBACK ON YOUTH ISSUES**

Councillor Dove was not present to make a report, it was believed that there had been some further discussions with young people but no specific progress made so far.

### **10/67 FEEDBACK ON MEETING WITH SMBC RE FENTHAM ROAD**

The chair reported on the recent meeting with Councillor Sleigh and SMBC re Fentham Road. (The remaining Section 106 funds (£15000) and hopefully the school's bid for Safer Routes to School Funds would fund the changes.)

Proposal one was to make the whole of Fentham Road 20mph, plus a re-designation as a pedestrian zone. The street landscape would be changed

with all entrances to Fentham and Butchers Roads marked with raised brickwork and narrowed slightly. In areas where no pavement existed, by the pink cottage and between the school and Marsh Lane, a pedestrian walkway would be marked on the road surface.

Proposal two, which would require more funds, would be the same as one but with some improved landscaping particularly near the library and shops plus the removal of some unnecessary signposting.

In addition the possibility of the school employing a school crossing patrol to take pupils across Marsh Lane was being considered. This would encourage parents with cars to use Fentham Hall car park to drop off pupils so reducing the traffic flow in Fentham Road at school opening and closing times. (Councillor James was awaiting costings prior to putting this proposal to the governing body.)

Mj (30/11)

It was now necessary to consult residents affected by proposals plus parents by circulating a letter re the proposals and asking for comments to be sent to the clerk. Councillor James agreed to contact SMBC to arrange for coloured copies of proposals to be printed and then our letter could be sent, (the chair to write.)

GL.MJ  
(31/12)

### **10/68 PARKING PROBLEMS IN ROADS SURROUNDING THE STATION**

Over the last 6 weeks there had been a number of complaints from villagers and a petition with over 200 names from residents of Old Station Road, Fiddlers Green and The Grove about the increase of street parking when the station car park became full. At times up to 40 cars had been noted on Old Station Road, around the Village Green, outside Station Cottages and on the service road opposite the station. Whilst those causing an unlawful obstruction were receiving fixed penalty notices there was little the police could do about cars parked legally.

Councillor Lewis had had several lengthy discussions with Ward Councillor Sleigh and the neighbourhood police officer and reported that there was no easy or quick solution, any action taken would have some adverse consequences for residents of the village and needed to be carefully considered and properly consulted upon. Possible solutions were double yellow lines, timed restrictions on parking and residents only parking but all options appeared to have disadvantages. It was therefore recommended that the parish council seek more information on the reasons for the increased parking by asking SMBC to commission a traffic survey of the station users. This would allow the parish council together with SMBC to seek appropriate solutions.

GL(30/11)

### **10/69 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY ON PARISH COUNCIL**

An application to fill the vacancy had been received from Mr Mike Blomer. There being no other applications the parish council were pleased **to resolve to co-opt Mr Mike Blomer as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor Rolf.**

HW(30/11)

### **10/70 DEVELOPMENT OF FITNESS GYM AT THE RECREATION GROUND**

The chair reported that the Lottery application had been turned down. Nevertheless it may still be possible to seek other grant sources including the Airport and SITA. It was considered advisable to seek a third contractor.

HW(31/12)

### 10/71 PURCHASE OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR VILLAGE GREEN

Councillor Bowen reported from his site meeting with SMBC which had quoted the sum of £790 to put in an electrical supply and £1086 to provide and install the lights. It was decided not to proceed with this work due to the prohibitive cost but to look at cheaper solar powered options that would not require an electricity supply.

CB (30/11)

### 10/72 SPORTS CLUB REQUEST TO RE-TARMAC FOOTPATH

The Sports Club had requested the parish council to consider re-surfacing the path from the car park to the Sports Club. After discussion the meeting decided it could not assist due to budget constraints but did give permission if the Sports Club still wished to proceed.

### 10/73 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following applications;-

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 1. 10/1597 The Spinney         | No objection  |
| 2. 10/1785 White Lion          | No objection to fire escape, objection to smoking shelter |
| 3. 10/1793 47 Old Station Road | No Objection  |

### 10/74 FINANCE

The clerk presented the half yearly accounts and schedule of payments. She confirmed that although the maintenance budget was predicting an overspend, the other income line in the budget could be used to vire additional funds into the budget. **The accounts were accepted as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor James.**

The clerk reminded councillors that the next meeting was to set the budget for 2011/12. It was agreed that the clerk email all councillors for them to request any additional expenditure items to be considered for inclusion.

### 10/75 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting was scheduled for 5<sup>TH</sup> January at 7.30pm, (Budget Meeting) and 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm, ( Regular Meeting)

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm