

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM

On
WEDNESDAY 12th NOVEMBER 2014

Present: **Councillors: Dr G Lewis (Chair)**
 Mr M Blomer
 Mr C Bowen
 Mr M James
 Mr J Doidge
 Mrs C Sellars
 Mr D Sandells
SMBC **Cllr A Rolf**
 Mr T Rogers
Clerk: **Mrs J Richardson**

14/67 CHAIR'S WELCOME & APOLOGIES

ACTION

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting, and Councillor Sandells to his first meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Sleigh (SMBC).

14/68 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest relating to the business of this meeting.

14/69 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

14/70 UPDATE FROM SMBC

Mr Rogers gave the following update:

Drains, Shadowbrook Lane – New drains and gully covers have been installed. Highways will inspect the slabs to see if they need to be removed.

Venting Station, Old Station Road – The vegetation has not been cleared as it is not clear who is responsible. If SMBC are not responsible, the parish council will complete the work.

TR

CCTV, Play Area – The police have confirmed that there would be no problem installing CCTV.

Marsh Lane Car Park – CCTV is not possible as there are no posts. Councillor Lewis requested the police make more regular visits to the area.

CHAIR

Marsh Lane Resurfacing – will be completed when the weather permits.

Pavement Sweeping – The compact sweeper was removed from villages to save money. Write to Alison Lush to ask for pavements to be swept at least quarterly.

CHAIR

Action Plan 2015 – SMBC Neighbourhood Team may be able to help with some chainsaw work in The Spinney after agreement with David Grimshaw.

Councillor James asked if the streetlights were going to be cleared of vegetation. It was suggested that the councillors could identify any problem streetlights when they delivered the next newsletter, and then this could be reported back to Mr Rogers.

CLLRS

Councillor Bowen reported a number of large bags which had been dumped on Marsh Lane. Mr Rogers will investigate.

TR

Councillor Bowen asked Mr Rogers if the grid on the footpath from The

White Lion to Fentham Road can be cleared before the winter to ensure it is safe. TR

Mr Rogers advised the councillors that he is now responsible for covering Knowle and Dorridge.

14/71 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 10th SEPT 2014

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

14/72 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

14/50 Network Rail – A meeting was held in September where Network Rail advised they were to continue felling trees. They agreed to plant hedging inside the fence on Old Station Road, and resurface and renew the drains on Station Road.

It was agreed with The Chair and Councillor James that they would access through 2 places on parish council land. 10 semi-mature trees would be given to the parish council, together with as many whips as requested.

The Chair has met with Dave Grimshaw and it was agreed that the trees could be accommodated around the car park area.

The Chair is continuing to pursue a ramp to the platforms being installed on completion of the work. CHAIR

14/50 Play Area – The play area is being very well used. There are some muddy places developing, and it was decided that additional matting could be installed. The clerk will check costs. CLERK

14/73 MINUTES OF THE MAINTENANCE MEETING OCTOBER 15TH 2014

The minutes were approved as **proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Blomer.**

14/74 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

M14/13 Catherine de Barnes Common is looking very good following the work completed by Community Payback Team. After Christmas, The Chair will meet with local residents to identify any further work they would like to see at The Common. CHAIR

14/75 CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting:

- Invitation to a talk about village tree surveys at The Manor Hotel, Meriden.
- email regarding our request for vehicle weight restrictions on High Street.
- email about Solihull Police wanting to recruit to a Key Individual Network.
- Notification about a Government Consultation regarding greenbelt and travellers.
- WALC newsletter.
- email asking for a representative for a WALC sub-committee for smaller councils.
- emails from WALC regarding training events.
- email about Winter Warmth Campaign.
- Letter received from a resident about parking on Old Station Road.
- email from London Midland informing that the steps will be re-surfaced in January or February 2015. The ticket office being secured so the bridge can remain open is on the reserve list.
- a business plan for fibre optic broadband has been received following a meeting with students from Warwick University.
- email from Solihull Music Service requesting the use of the recreation

ground for performances on 3 dates in June. The Chair will contact them to discuss further as the councillors were concerned about parking issues. CHAIR
-email about community led housing event.

14/76 REPORT FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP MEETING 4TH NOVEMBER 2014.

The Chair thanked Councillor Bowen for arranging the very successful Remembrance Day parades over the last 8 years.

Councillor Bowen summarised the meeting:

YOUTH ISSUES: The results of the Neighbourhood Plan Consultation Questionnaire were discussed which identified a gap in the needs of older children and teenagers. The most popular request is for a youth group. The possibility of joining up with the Scouts group if there is a change of leadership in the future was also discussed. A request for ideas will be included in the Autumn Newsletter, and Councillor Bowen will arrange for a similar notice to be put onto the Council website. Responses will be reviewed at the next meeting and a person nominated to take this issue forward. CB

SOLIHULL NEIGHBOURHOOD IN BLOOM: Hampton-in-Arden was awarded 'Most Engaged Village' and judges were very impressed with the continued involvement of the Council in so many organisations. We were awarded a certificate and a £50 Notcutts voucher, which will be added to the £100 voucher from last year to buy a weeping flowering cherry, which the Gardening Club will plant on the verge next to Meriden Road by Lapwing Drive.

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATION ISSUES: The website has been updated and Councillor Lewis agreed to continue updating it on a monthly basis. Councillor Bowen will send the clerk a short piece for the website relating to facilities for young people. CB

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Councillor Doidge has been shadowing Councillor Bowen through the process to enable him to take over from 2015.

FACEBOOK/TWITTER: Councillor Sellars is keen to take this forward, and will meet with Councillor Sandells to discuss it further, and then report back. CS/DS

NEWSLETTER: The Autumn edition will be four pages and will be ready for printing by 17th November. CB

MAKE UP OF COMMUNICATION GROUP: Councillor Rolf confirmed she will be stepping down from The Communication Group. Councillor Lewis and the rest of the group thanked her for her work in establishing the Communication Group and the Website.

Following discussion, Councillor Sellars agreed to take over the role of chair, with support from Councillor Bowen, who will remain Vice-Chair.

Councillor Sellars will shadow Councillor Bowen on the Winter Newsletter to ensure a smooth handover prior to May elections.

Councillor Rolf noted that the Parish Council Annual Meeting on 14th April 2015 clashes with Solihull Full Council meeting and as such ward Councillors are unlikely to be able to attend. Clerk to write to Ward Councillors concerning a change of date. CLERK

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Wednesday 7th January 2015 to follow the budget meeting at the Parish Office.

Councillor Bowen thanked Councillor Rolf for all her help and support during their time on The Communication Group together.

14/77 BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT UPDATE

Councillor Blomer confirmed that the modified option 6 trial starts tomorrow

and the Airport state it is as close as it can be to the 'Hampton Turn' route. The Chair suggested waiting for a month to see how the trial goes. Councillor Sandells advised that the current noise monitoring equipment is located at The Crescent, but would be better placed in the centre of the village. A further meeting of local residents groups is being arranged and the constitution of the ACC will be considered then.

14/78 HS2 UPDATE

Councillor Doidge advised that 11th December was the date given to appear before the HS2 Select Committee.

A response has been received from HS2; with nothing being offered.

The Chair and Councillor Doidge met briefly with the Select Committee at Patricks Farm.

Diddington Lane closure continues to be challenged by Packington Estates.

14/79 CATHERINE DE BARNES COMMON

Deed of Easement – Prior to the meeting, Councillor Blomer circulated details regarding the request for a Deed of Easement across part of the Common to gain access to a new housing development on land adjacent to The Dell. As the proposed access would utilise an existing unauthorised access across the Common the Council appointed Ladders Solicitors to act on its behalf in respect of all legal matters and Nick Russell Associates to negotiate the most advantageous terms and conditions.

The original planning application for five detached houses has been superseded by a revised proposal for three bespoke detached bungalows which, it is understood, is likely to gain approval shortly.

Negotiations over the terms and conditions have now been concluded. The legal terms and conditions are understood to be straightforward and the other terms can now be agreed as follows:

- 1.The surface of the roadway to be agreed with the Parish Council which, at all times, should be dressed with stones and not to be surfaced with tarmac.
- 2.The consent of the Parish Council to be obtained before any works are carried out, except in an emergency.
3. A payment of £25,000 to be made to the Parish Council.
- 4.Legal fees not exceeding £5,000 plus VAT and surveyors fees not exceeding £1,500 plus VAT to be met by Piper Group.

Councillor Blomer recommended approval of the Deed of Easement for the new housing development on the terms and conditions as set out above.

Following a discussion, Councillors agreed some additional safeguarding conditions should be specified: the access road should be a maximum width of 3.6 m which is necessary for emergency vehicles and dust carts, it's use should be restricted to the occupiers of the Dell and the 3 bungalows, and that no parking should be allowed on the access road, it should be 'pass and repass' only.

Taking this in to consideration; **Councillor Blomer proposed a resolution be passed to grant easement subject to the additional points being agreed: this was seconded by Councillor Doidge.** MB

Right of Way, Mrs Brenda Tarplin – Councillor Blomer has been approached by Mrs Tarplin's sons, who have power of attorney for Mrs Tarplin, and maintain they have had right of access for 4 generations over The Common to their 2 parcels of land adjacent to the canal.

Councillors are not aware that there is any vehicular right of way, Councillor Blomer will challenge the suggestion and complete further investigations. MB

14/80 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

The presentation at The Hampton Society AGM was attended by approximately 80 villagers.

The working group have met and Councillor Blomer confirmed steady progress is being made. Comments are awaited from Sarah James, and then the plan will be shared with statutory consultees. The next draft will be completed early in 2015, and then it will be ready for public consultation.

14/81 OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS TABLE

The Chair reported that following her meeting with Table Tennis UK, it has been suggested that 2 outdoor tables could be installed; one near the clubhouse and one close to the scout and guide HQ.

Graham Hollway is to obtain a price for a concrete and gravel base.

Councillor Doidge suggests a porous base should be used, and Councillor Sellars considered that rubber matting should be used to maintain as much grass as possible.

All councillors agree in principle to the table tennis tables being installed.

14/82 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

Hampton Library – Councillor James has attended a meeting with Solihull MBC, who are trying to improve library services in Hampton; investigating the possibility of community support to extend opening hours and communicating their range of facilities to villagers.

14/83 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor Doidge circulated details of all planning applications currently outstanding, prior to the meeting, but made the following comments:

The Pleck Travellers site – appeal scheduled for February 2015.

The Dell, Catherine de Barnes – observations sent regarding no garages.

Arden Brickworks – Observations sent.

Ring of Bells Garage – A meeting with SMBC has been held and observations sent supporting the development but to retain the rear wall.

Muslim Cemetery – 1 application has been refused, and 1 withdrawn.

Engine Mews – observations sent.

8 Old Station Road – observations sent regarding no garage.

1 Meriden Road – observations sent regarding access to the garage.

Land at Woodhouse Farm for Stables – observations sent regarding additional accommodation.

The owners of Woodhouse Farm are concerned about the planning applications for the land they have sold; they are investigating a possible covenant concerning the access road.

Development, The Grove – Councillor Blomer circulated a basic plan of a proposed development rear of 2 and 3 The Grove. Councillor Blomer has been approached by the owner of 2 The Grove to obtain comments from the parish council. Councillors agreed that they were unable to comment until a formal detailed application is made.

14/84 FINANCE

The Summary of Accounts and Authorisation of Payments were accepted as **proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor James.**

The Chair advised that a letter from the chief executive of SMBC via WALC indicates that some council tax support funding will be received again next year.

Councillors agreed that £20,000 of our reserves should be invested for a fixed term of 1 year with the interest rate of 1%., and then other options could be considered in the future. CLERK

14/85 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Dates for meetings of the Parish Council in 2014 will be as follows:

Parish Council Budget Setting

7th January 2015

Parish Council

14th January 2015

Maintenance Meeting

15th October 2014

The meeting closed at 10.00pm