

# HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at  
**THE MEETING ROOM**

On  
**WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

**Present:**      **Councillors: Dr G Lewis (Chair)**  
                         **Mr M Blomer**  
                         **Mr C Bowen**  
                         **Mr M James**  
                         **Mr J Doidge**  
**SMBC**          **Cllr B Sleigh**  
                         **Mr T Rogers**  
**Clerk:**          **Mrs J Richardson**

## **14/91 CHAIR'S WELCOME & APOLOGIES**

**ACTION**

The Chair welcomed councillors to the meeting.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Sandells, Councillor Sellars and Councillor Rolf (SMBC).

## **14/92 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

The Chair reminded councillors that the Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests should be updated if councillors had any change in circumstances; a new completed form should be passed to the clerk.

## **14/93 UPDATE FROM SMBC**

Mr Rogers from the Neighbourhood Team advised that he no longer covered the Bickenhill area, although any issues could still be emailed to him.

The Chair requested an update on the following items:

Slabs, Shadowbrook Lane – This had been passed to Harvey Speed, the Drainage Engineer to resolve.

Overgrown Vegetation, Old Station Road – Mr Rogers will make enquiries and report back.

**TR**

Pavement Sweeping – Mr Rogers confirmed that currently this would only be done when requested. A request has been made for a regular service to ensure the footpaths are safe to use, especially for prams and mobility scooters.

Councillor Doidge thanked Mr Rogers for arranging help with a chain saw in The Spinney.

Councillor Sleigh gave a brief update on the following:

Railway Station–The Access For All scheme is funded by the Government and administered by Network Rail. Hampton-in-Arden station is not on the current funding programme and Councillor Sleigh is trying to identify the criteria and prioritisation. The Chair advised that she continued to pursue Network Rail to provide a ramp to the platform as part of the Station Road improvements, it is estimated that £500,000 would be required for this work.

The station car park is currently having maintenance and resurfacing work

carried out.

Proposed Motorway Service Station – Following the public meeting at Catherine de Barnes, Councillor Sleigh advised the need to respond to the Pegasus Consultation in a broad manner, not detailing specific concerns. He noted that a MSA was not in the Local Plan, that other refuelling opportunities nearby at Monkspath and at Hopwood had not been mentioned by the developer and felt that the service station was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

ACC Consultation – A meeting is arranged for 15<sup>th</sup> January to formulate a response.

Garden City – Consultation is about to end concerning land around the Interchange Hub being taken out of the Green Belt if HS2 goes ahead.

HS2 and Diddington Lane–Anne Brereton would be making some information available concerning the agreement between Packington Estate and HS2.

The Chair thanked Councillor Sleigh for attending.

#### **14/94 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair welcomed Miss Thelma Borley who raised the following issue:

Prior Notification has been received by local residents regarding a possible change of use from offices at Howard House, Marsh Lane, to 26 residential units. Mrs Borley is concerned about the volume of extra vehicles this would create on Marsh Lane. Councillor Doidge will investigate. JD

#### **14/95 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2014**

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

The Chair asked if councillors felt it was appropriate for draft minutes to go on the website to offer a more up to date service. All councillors agreed providing it was clear that they were unapproved.

#### **14/96 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING**

14/72 Network Rail – Are close to completing the planned tree work. 12 semi-mature trees and 3 sacks of daffodils have been provided by Network in recognition of access given across Parish Council land and all have now been planted around the recreation car park by volunteers.

The Chair is continuing to press for a ramp to the Birmingham platform being installed as part of the ongoing work. Network Rail are still assessing the scheme and the necessary funding of around £500,000. Councillor Doidge stressed the need to continue to campaign on this matter as Stetchford did. CHAIR

14/72 Play Area – Arrangements have been made for additional matting to be installed where the grass is worn.

14/72 No Dog Signs, School Field – The Chair advised that signs asking people not to walk their dogs on the school playing field continue to be removed. Councillor James will speak to Mrs Gaughan, the Head, about the possibility of locking the gate leading to Peel Close. MJ

14/75 Fibre Optic Broadband – No further contact has been received from the students at Warwick University.

14/75 Weight Restriction for Traffic Using High Street – The request for a vehicle weight restriction on High Street is going to be considered at the SMBC council meeting in February 2015.

Traffic Restrictions – A letter has been sent by SMBC to the shops and pub on High Street seeking their views on yellow lines being introduced outside their premises. Councillors were surprised that they had not been notified

about this as they had previously resolved that such restrictions were not necessary. The Chair to contact the council officer involved.

CHAIR

14/76 Annual Meeting – It was agreed that the meeting should not change for this year, as no suitable alternative date was available.

14/77 Airport – Councillor Blomer advised that Option 6 trial is continuing and the airport are giving very positive feedback about it on their website. The ACC and stakeholder's meeting have been rearranged for 5<sup>th</sup> February. Councillors agreed that the Chair and Councillor Blomer will formulate a response to the ACC restructuring consultation by 21<sup>st</sup> January.

14/78 HS2 Select Committee – Councillor Doidge advised that a link to the transcript of our appearance before the Select Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> December is on the parish website, and that the presentation was very well received. Petitioners from the parish council and Hampton Society were met by the HS2 QC before they went into the committee and promised a review of the viaduct and flooding. The Chair has arranged a follow up meeting with HS2. The agreement between Packington Estate and HS2 to work on an option to keep Diddington Lane open is a concern which we will monitor closely.

On behalf of all councillors, Councillor Blomer thanked the Chair, Councillor Doidge and Hampton Society for the excellent way they have dealt with the Select Committee. Their presentation resulted in the following comment being made by the chair of the HS2 parliamentary select committee:

*The Hampton-in-Arden petitioners presented their case formidably. We are confident that their impressive abilities will contribute to reaching sensible outcomes with HS2 and Solihull on their particular issues of concern, especially viaduct design and flooding. If there are unresolved problems, they should feel free to inform us and there will be time to call them back.*

14/79 The Dell, Catherine-de-Barnes Common – Councillor Blomer confirmed that planning approval was granted in December. An application has now been made by Piper's agents for access works to the Common.

MB

Councillor James questioned whether the map showing the paths was accurate? Councillor Blomer will check and clarify this, together with whether the change of ownership of the Dell is an issue, parking concerns adjacent to the Dell, maintenance agreements, and whether the agreement is with the new build only, or includes the Dell.

Councillor Blomer advised that there are currently very long delays at the land registry. Any money will be paid to the parish council on completion. SMBC have issued Tree preservation orders on trees around the boundary.

14/80 Neighbourhood Plan – Councillor Blomer advised that the response has now been received from SMBC, which raises a number of points. Councillors Blomer, Doidge and Sellars will go through the items raised and complete a new, revised plan.

MB/JD/CS

£1400 of funding is still in the parish council budget and will need to be spent before 31<sup>st</sup> March. A quote for printing will be obtained by Councillor Blomer.

MB

#### **14/97 MINUTES OF BUDGET SETTING MEETING JANUARY 7th 2015**

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

#### **14/98 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING**

The revised budget figures have been issued to all councillors.

### **14/99 CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting:

Severn Trent – a letter received regarding outstanding work.

Hampton News – a phone call received expressing concern about a new newsagent and convenience store opening on Fentham Road. As no change of use is involved planning permission is not required.

WALC – letter detailing meetings. The clerk to register the Chair for the Annual Meeting.

CLERK

Network Rail – letters received by residents regarding further tree work.

Bench – a letter received regarding the possibility of a resident purchasing a bench.

War Memorials – letter regarding 1<sup>st</sup> World War and memorials. Councillor Bowen will pursue.

CB

SMBC – email from governance regarding transparency code.

Network Rail – letter about work on the station car park.

Social Care – letter regarding a review of adult social care.

Train Station Access – a letter from an elderly resident about difficulty accessing the platforms. Forwarded to Network Rail.

Catherine de Barnes – an email regarding the amount of surveying taking place on Solihull Road, we now know this is for the MSA.

### **14/100 REPORT FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP MEETING 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2015.**

Councillor Bowen summarised the meeting:

**YOUTH ISSUES:** No responses have been received to our request in the Autumn Newsletter and website for ideas for facilities for older children and young adults. Councillor Sellars will visit the Youth Bus to meet the youth workers to see what is needed.

The Sports Club is planning some form of redevelopment in the next couple of years and this might offer the opportunity to provide improved youth facilities. The chair suggested the Sports Club review the results of the Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire which supported improved youth facilities and a swimming pool. The Parish Council will be involved with redevelopment plans and it was suggested that Duncan Ballard, the vicar, should be involved in any discussions about youth provision.

**CHERRY TREE PLANTING:** Two trees funded from The Best Village prize have been planted at the end of Meriden Road and remaining funds will be given to the Gardening Club for the village planters.

**FACEBOOK:** A draft page has been set up for the Parish Council on Facebook (it cannot yet be accessed by the public). The group felt it would be beneficial to set a trial period to see how it went and aim to get the page live by the Spring Newsletter. The Council approved the Social Media Policy drafted by Councillors Sellars and Sandells.

**WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATION ISSUES:** The website home page will be updated and new photos added by the Chair.

It was noted that it is unusual for Council websites to provide as many personal details about individual councillors and so it was suggested that perhaps a review of the information included on the website should be undertaken in May 2015 once the new Council is in place.

**NEWSLETTER:** The winter newsletter will be prepared at the end of February and published and distributed at the beginning of March.

Councillor Bowen will provide Councillor Sellars with training regarding the preparation of the Newsletter and confirmed he will be happy to assist in production of the Newsletter post May 2015 if necessary.

#### **14/101 QUALITY STATUS**

NALC have replaced the Quality Council Scheme with the Local Council Award Scheme which was launched on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Our status as 'Quality Parish Council' means we can apply for automatic transition to the Foundation Level, free of charge, before 31<sup>st</sup> January 2015. The Chair proposed that this was done and a decision could be made at a later date as to whether we apply for one of the 2 higher levels. All councillors were in agreement.

CLERK/  
CHAIR

#### **14/102 PROPOSED REDEVELOPMENT OF HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN SPORTS CLUB**

The Sports Club have been pledged £250,000 for 3 consecutive years, by a Charitable Trust, to build a swimming pool attached to the Club House. They will endeavour to raise match funding in order to rebuild the clubhouse at the same time leaving the squash courts in situ.

At present there are only outline plans and the architect has met with Lawrence Osborne (SMBC) who was supportive of the idea. He felt that the car park would be large enough and that the improved amenity would justify loss of the mature oak tree if this was necessary but several trees would be needed to replace it.

Councillors agreed with the clubs intention to commission a survey of the tree to gauge its longevity and the extent of its root system before approving any plans.

The maintenance cost of the pool would be considerable and the Hampton Gym have expressed an interest in relocating their business to the area above the pool which they would also manage. The Chair has asked the sports club if a youth club could be incorporated.

Councillor Blomer advised that the development plan supports the result of the Neighbourhood Plan and should be supported. All councillors agree to support the redevelopment in principle.

#### **14/103 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION FROM REDEVELOPMENT OF THE DELL, CATHERINE DE BARNES**

Councillor Blomer advised that a contribution could be received from the developer, but costs from land registry would need to be deducted from this.

Catherine de Barnes residents should be consulted before a decision is made regarding future spending at the common.

All councillors agree that any money received should be put into a separate account so it is clear where it is being spent.

#### **14/104 TIMETABLE & STRATEGY FOR COUNCIL ELECTIONS MAY 7<sup>th</sup> 2015**

The Chair advised that the Governance Review of the parish council is almost complete and we should soon be granted an increase from 7 to 9 councillors.

It was agreed to hold an Information Event in the Parish Meeting Room on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March between 10.30 and 12.00 when anyone interested could meet the existing councillors.

Nomination papers must be returned by 9<sup>th</sup> April.

#### **14/105 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS**

The Chair confirmed that Hampton Festival will be going ahead on 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2015.

#### **14/106 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

Ring of Bells Garage, Solihull Road – planning has been passed with a condition that the rear wall is re-built with old brick to a lower level.

21 The Crescent – 2 different applications have been submitted.

26 Diddington Lane (Rabbit Rescue Centre) - This application is not yet on the website, Councillor Sellars is dealing with it.

Motorway Services – The response has now been sent.

UK Central – A response is required by 16<sup>th</sup> January. Councillor Doidge to prepare draft.

#### **14/107 FINANCE**

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

#### **14/108 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Dates for meetings of the Parish Council in 2015 will be as follows:

Parish Council

11<sup>th</sup> March 2015

Maintenance Meeting

4<sup>th</sup> February 2015

The meeting closed at 9.40pm