

# HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

**THE MEETING ROOM**

on

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2010**

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

**Clerk:            Mrs Helen Wood**

## **10/42 APLOLOGIES**

Action  
(by when)

There were no apologies.

## **10/43 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The meeting was attended by Miss Thelma Borley who was wished comment on agenda item re neighbourhood watch. Miss Borley expressed the view that filling in forms was not always the best way of ascertaining residents' interest in Neighbourhood Watch and she felt there was general apathy for involvement in the Scheme.

## **10/44 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Rolf declared an interest in any discussions re planning application 10/1213.

Councillor James declared an interest in Agenda item 8, Appointment of Fentham Trust Trustee.

## **10/45 CURRENT AIRPORT DEVELOPMENTS**

The meeting welcomed Mr Steve Hill, head of planning and environment, and Mr Jack Wilson, head of environmental projects, from Birmingham Airport to present the latest developments at the airport. It was confirmed that in spite of a reduction in passenger numbers the 2 terminals were being combined, (The 1 terminal Project), and current planning (subject to identifying funding) was to have the runway extension operational by 2014.

The airport continued to invest in environmental projects to mitigate the effect on the local community. Community engagement continues to be a priority for the airport and the council was reminded that the airport would welcome an application of up to £3000-00 to their Community Fund.

It was confirmed that the Airport management did support the plans for HS2 because of the perceived benefits to the business community in the West Midlands but had made no commitment to fund the interchange station.

The airport has a link with google earth via it's website enabling the public to view flight paths, noise contours, noise insulation schemes, monitoring of air quality etc. and a copy of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual report on the 106 agreement with Solihull MBC was presented.

## 10/46 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> JULY 2010

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

### 10/47 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

#### 09/103 Additional Allotments

Councillor James confirmed that the meeting with SMBC's allotments officer and Fentham Trust's surveyor had not yet taken place.

MJ (10/11)

#### 10/21 Public Liability for Volunteers

The clerk would chase up with the Insurers that they would cover the volunteers working in the Spinney.

HW(10/11)

#### 10/32 Recreational Trust Meetings

It had been confirmed that a trustees meeting had now taken place and a new committee had been elected with Karen Juniper as Chair and Peter Adams as Treasurer.

#### 10/32 Damage to School Play Area.

Councillor James reported that the contractor had made good the damage to the grass but he was not happy with the stone path that had been laid and was liaising with the contractor to improve the surface.

MJ (17/10)

#### 10/32 Conservation Work at Catherine de Barnes Common

The chair had contacted a representative from the Residents' Association who was keen to progress the work. It was suggested that the parish council contact the Residents Association to request a representative to sit on the Maintenance Committee in order to continue the conservation work.

HW (17/10)

#### 10/32 Maintenance and future use of the Telephone Box

Councillors James and Bowen agreed to form a small working party. It was suggested that Trevor Honeyset and Linda Minton from the community might be interested in helping.

MJ/CB(17/10  
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#### 10/32 Christmas Lights on the Green.

Councillor Bowen agreed to contact SMBC to arrange for the necessary wiring alterations. It was agreed to purchase lights up to the sum of £100 from the maintenance budget as **proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

CB (10/11)

#### 10/36 Improvements to the Safety of Pedestrians in Fentham Road.

The chair confirmed that we were meeting with SMBC again on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Councillor James was awaiting the costings for the employment of a school crossing patrol warden, funded by Fentham Trust and the School.

MJ/HW(17/1  
1)

### 10/48 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. The chair confirmed that she had received the resignation of Councillor Smith with immediate effect. It was decided that the

- process of filling the vacancy should begin immediately.
2. Consultation on proposals to cap Parish Council precepts along with other local authorities. NALC had responded on behalf of parish councils asking that this legislation only apply to councils with precepts above £500.000.
  3. Notice of a conference by Sustain on "The Big Society". The chair would attend on behalf of the parish council.
  4. Consultation on SMBC,s Stronger Communities Strategic Plan. The chair was concerned that there was no mention of our parish council, we were included in 'rural parishes'.
  5. Consultations on the Community Right to Build. The chair commented that this had the potential to be a very useful power if a village body wished to develop affordable housing or other community developments in the future.
  6. Notice that the next local council elections would probably remain on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2010.
  7. Request for comment to new licensing policy.
  8. Complaint from the Village Stores re a road closure to High Street that was incorrectly applied by Severn Trent and adversely affected his business.
  9. SMBC's Quarterly report on maintenance work to footpaths.
  10. A request from the Union representing Royal Mail workers for the parish council to support their petition objecting to the proposed break up of the Service. It was felt inappropriate for the parish council to respond.
  11. Notification of WALC's AGM on 27<sup>th</sup> October. (The chair to attend).
  12. A letter from Richard Timothy following his resignation from post of Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, the Chair had sent a letter thanking Richard for all he had done for the village.

#### **10/49 APPOINTMENT OF FENTHAM TRUST TRUSTEE**

Two applications had been received for the vacancy including the retiring trustee and Mr Malcolm James, the vice-chair of the parish council. The parish council discussed the merits of the candidates having regard to the previous policy that, where appropriate, trustees should serve a maximum of two terms of office. After a ballot, the parish council appointed Mr Malcolm James by a majority vote, **as proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

#### **10/50 UPDATE ON SPEEDWATCH**

The chair presented a report from Gary Wood on the progress of Speedwatch. There was evidence that the Scheme together with the Speed Visors was working and incidence of speeding especially along Meriden Road was reducing.

The chair asked for the parish council's thanks be sent to Mr Wood for co-ordinating the Scheme.

#### **10/51 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

Councillor Rolf confirmed that the Communications Group meeting had been re-scheduled to 13<sup>th</sup> October 7.30 at 4 Fentham Close.

AR (10/11

### 10/52 PROGRESS ON YOUTH ISSUES

Councillor Dove reported that he had discussions with some young people and was hoping to hold a meeting soon.

MD (10/11)

### 10/53 FEEDBACK FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH MEETING

The meeting was attended by three police officers, a neighbourhood co-ordinator from Balsall Common, two neighbourhood watch co-ordinators from Hampton-in-Arden and three residents. Councillor James reported that although there had been a disappointing turn out the meeting had been positive. It was decided to make the Neighbourhood Watch information available at various village functions and hope to raise the profile steadily. It was hoped to launch 3 new schemes following the meeting.

HW (10/11)

Pc Jones agreed to produce a monthly "crime sheet" summarising crimes in the area.

### 10/54 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY ARRANGEMENTS

Councillor Bowen confirmed that all arrangements for road closures and administrative arrangements had been completed. A meeting for volunteer marshals would be held nearer the date of the service, (November 14<sup>th</sup>). Councillor James confirmed that he would be reading the lesson during the service on behalf of the parish council.

### 10/55 HIGH SPEED RAIL 2, UPDATE ON THE LATEST POSITION

Hampton Society's September meeting was well attended with Caroline Spelman promoting the benefits of HS2 for the West Midlands. Heart of England High Speed Rail Action Alliance, the group opposing the rail link, had organised a walk along the local route on September 4<sup>th</sup> which was reasonably supported too.

Councillor Juniper tabled a motion to be considered at the next meeting which the parish council might want to adopt. The dilemma for the parish council was to continue to oppose the scheme or work to mitigate the effects on the environment and for residents near the proposed route.

It was agreed that the chair attend Hampton Society's committee meeting to consider the possibility of working together to present a common view. The parish council would consider adopting a policy on their stance at the next meeting.

GL (10/11)

### 10/56 DEVELOPMENT OF FITNESS GYM

The parish council had received a quotation from a contractor which was within the original budget figure of "up to £30000." Another contractor was visiting us on September 20<sup>th</sup>. A third contractor would need to be identified to ensure Best Value. The parish council agreed in to support the **principle of building an outdoor gym at the recreation field subject to full consultation with the community and identifying grant funding for the project, as proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor James.**

HW (10/11)

## 10/57 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following applications:-

- |                                 |              |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. 10/1058 7 The Crescent       | No objection |
| 2. 10/1189 The Elms             | No objection |
| 3. 10/1293 Arden Brickworks     | No objection |
| 4. 10/1280 186 Old Station Road | No objection |
| 5. 10/1288148 Old Station Road  | No objection |

The meeting also retrospectively approved the objection to planning application 10/1213 21 Bellevue Terrace registered with Solihull MBC prior to the meeting.

## 10/58 RESIGNATION OF CLERK

The chair confirmed that the clerk has resigned from her post to spend more time with her family but was willing to work until another clerk was appointed and furthermore would work with the new clerk for one month to ensure continuity. The chair thanked the clerk for her contribution to the successes of the parish council in the last 4 years.

It was agreed that all councillors would be circulated with the job description and person specification and add any comments as required. The post would be advertised locally and the interview panel would be chair and vice-chair plus Councillor Juniper.

## 10/59 FINANCE

The clerk presented the quarterly 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 James and seconded by Councillor Juniper**

## 10/56 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting was scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm