

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

THE MEETING ROOM

on

WEDNESDAY 16th September 2009

Present Councillors:
Mr C Bowen
Mr G Juniper
Dr G Lewis
Mr M James
Mrs. A. Rolf
Mr R Smith

09/41 APLOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

Apologies were received and accepted for the absence of Councillor Adams

09/42 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/43 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The meeting was attended by Mr Richard Timothy from Solihull MBC to advise on matters connected with the Council.

Miss Thelma Borley spoke about the parish plan and raised some aspects of the plan that had been affected by recent developments; housing, waste disposal and Solihull MBC's environmental champion scheme. The chairman thanked Miss Borley for her interest and confirmed that her comments would be considered as part of the finalisation of the plan.

HW (30/10)

09/44 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29th JULY 2009

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

09/45 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

09/25 "The Engine" S106 Monies.

A reply had just been received from Paul Tovey that no progress had been made towards purchasing the bus shelters; the vehicle activated sign was ordered and the traffic calming in Fentham Road would be installed in 4-6 weeks time. The purchase of a 2nd speed visor was delayed until we received advice from the police on the best siting, possibly once Speedwatch had commenced. It was agreed that Paul Tovey should be invited to the re-arranged meeting with SMBC Councillors re traffic problems. Mr Timothy agreed to help to re-arrange this meeting.

HW (30/10)

09/10 Progress on the setting up of Speedwatch

PC Sharon Williams had confirmed that Hampton's training was next but one on her list and should be arranged before the end of the year.

09/15 Improvements to the Common

The chair thanked Mr Timothy for all his hard work towards the

improvements to the Common and suggested that all councillors see the new boardwalk and kissing gate, creating a much improved environment for people to enjoy the Common.

09/15 Improvements to the footpath from Lapwing Drive to the Crescent
Mr Timothy agreed to follow up with the Footpaths officer any progress with this issue. The landowner had been informed of SMBC's intentions.

09/36 Location of the Sign at the Recreation Ground
The sign had now been erected to the left of the left footpath.

09/46 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. E mail from a parishioner re walking in Hampton. The chairman agreed to contact him for further information. The clerk would find out more about the Walk England Initiative. GL (30/10)
2. Letter from BT publicising a grant to extend computing facilities to the community with a laptop and broadband available. The clerk agreed to liaise with Bernice Griffiths from Hampton Community Crafts who was considering putting on a future course for computing for beginners, so we could make a joint bid. HW (31/12)
3. The quarterly report on footpath maintenance.
4. Letter from SMBC re Chester Road improvements.
5. Consultation letter from SMBC re library opening hours.
6. Letter from WALC re training on the power of Well Being, (which we were unable to attend). A number of councillors thought this was an important topic and the clerk was asked to put it on November's agenda and invite Alison Hodge to the meeting to brief us. HW (30/10)
7. Letter from SMBC re a twice yearly meeting between cabinet and Standards Committee and chairs of Parish Councils to improve communication.
8. Letter from SMBC for a meeting between chairs and clerks and Standards Committee to take place in January, in order to improve working relationships.
9. Booklets from Solihull Partnership on a range of issues including consultation with the third sector which included parish councils. Mr Timothy would look into how parish councils could take part in the consultation process more formally.

09/47 VACANCY FOR A TRUSTEE TO THE GEORGE FENTHAM (HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN) CHARITY

3 applications had been received for the post of Trustee. After discussion the council decided to extend the post of trustee to Mr Nigel Pettman for a further term. The other candidates were thanked for their interest in the work of the Trust. HW(30/9)

09/48 VACANCIES FOR TRUSTEES TO THE RECREATIONAL TRUST

3 applications had been received for the 2 vacant posts as Trustees. After discussion, the council decided to offer the posts of trustee to Mr Ronnie

Bowker and Mr Graham Holloway. The other candidate was thanked for his interest in the work of the Trust.

HW(30/9)

09/48 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP

Councillor Rolf reported that the group had met once since the last meeting. We were still awaiting a response from Illumen on the request for assistance in re-designing the web site. Mr Ian Geddes from 2G Design who had designed Meriden's web site had confirmed his willingness to look at our web site and suggested a likely fee of £400- £500 plus £30 per hour to update it. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Ian to discuss our requirements.

AR(26/10)

On the question of a parish newsletter, the group recommended that before going to the time and expense of publishing a newsletter, we should do small things to improve communication with parishioners such as publicising the parish surgeries more extensively, having a parish council file in the library and publishing The Chairman's newsletter on the notice board. The issue of a newsletter would be re-visited once the web site work was complete.

09/49 PROGRESS ON THE PARISH PLAN

The chairman confirmed that the draft plan was written and the Parish Plan working group was meeting on Tuesday next to discuss publication.

GL MJ.CB
HW(22/9)

09/50 REQUEST FROM SPORTS CLUB RE BOULES PITCH

Councillor James put forward a request from the Sports Club to extend the current boules pitch to 2 pitches and align them at right angles to the current pitch. This will encroach on part of the field and require some grass to be replaced with hardcore but the patio and surrounding area would be landscaped and made more attractive. The main advantage would be to expand a popular sport for villagers and improve the appearance of the area around the club house. After some discussion it was **agreed to allow this proposal as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor James.**

MJ(30/9)

09/51 APPLICATION TO SITE THE FISH AND CHIP VAN ON THE RECREATION FIELD

Some concerns remained about whether to allow the van to trade on the car-park. The clerk was asked to clarify why Mr Lang still wished to use the car park as he needed a street trading licence any way and this was his main reason for the request originally. Subject to his reply if he wished to trade on the carpark, we would allow it for a trial period of six months at a weekly fee of £20, subject to him obtaining all the required Solihull MBC documentation

HW(30/9)

09/52 PURCHASE OF PHOTOCOPIER

The clerk explained that by using Solihull MBC's contracts, we were already demonstrating best value and could obtain very competitive prices. The quotation from Danwood to purchase was approximately £700 with an annual service charge of about £30 based on current usage. As a number of community groups used the photocopier it was suggested the Fentham Trust could be asked for a contribution of half the cost of the machine. **It was**

resolved to purchase a photocopier as proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor James.

HW(30/10)

09/53 LOCATION S FOR BULB PLANTING

The chairman explained that Mr Timothy in liaison with environmental champions had arranged a bulb planting day on 13th October at 14.00 and asked for volunteers plus suggestions as to which roads to plant them. It was agreed to plant them at the following locations;-

The Green, near the notice board,

Top end of the left hand Meriden Road service road and all the right hand bank,

Side of Lapwing Drive,

Diddington Lane under the trees,

The banks of the Recreation Ground.

09/54 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following applications;-

- 09/1385 – Fentham Hall Overflow car-park; no objection
- 09/1404 32 Lapwing Drive; objection due to a precedent being set for other neighbours to put in applications.
- 09/1425 20 Meriden Road. Crown lift trees; no objection.
- 09/1444 177 Old Station Road; no objection.
- 09/1446 55 Fentham Road; no objection.
- 09/1454 1 Shadowbrook Lane; no objection

GJ(30/9)

09/55FINANCE

The clerk presented the first accounts and schedule of payments until the end of August 2009. **These were accepted as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Smith.**

The clerk was asked how we proposed to fund the purchase of the photocopier. The clerk recommended a virement of £200 from reserves to capital, making £700 available and also a virement of £300 to write out the bank interest income line as interest received on deposits was now only 0.5%.

This was agreed as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor James.

HW(30/9)

09/56 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 18th November at 7.30pm.

The meeting thanked Mr Richard Timothy for attending and for his advice on a range of issues.

The meeting closed at 9.40 pm