

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

THE MEETING ROOM

on

WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH 2010

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

In attendance: Helen Wood (Clerk)

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

09/97 APLOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

There were no apologies.

09/98 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/99 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Thelma Borley attended the meeting and raised 3 issues;-

1. That the new bus shelter at the top end of the village was not replaced with a wooden one.
2. The road surface at Shadowbrook Lane was in poor condition. Mr Timothy replied that he was aware of the issue but was hoping that this road would be re-surfaced in the new financial year.
3. Was the parish council aware of the initiative, "Safer Solihull"? The chairman confirmed that we had received papers on this initiative.

09/100 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20 JANUARY 2010

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

09/101 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

09/25 The Pathway from Lapwing Drive

David Keaney from SMBC had now met with Dr Taylor to agree the type of re-surfacing and work would start in the new financial year.

09/89 Progress on the Parish Plan

The Parish Plan was now available for distribution to the village and other interested parties. It was planned to distribute it immediately after Easter with a letter inviting everyone to the Annual Meeting. The chair had also contacted the press to arrange an article. We would also be sending the plan to key people at SMBC and all councillors in order to raise the profile of the parish council. The chairman thanked everyone who had contributed to the production of the plan.

HW (20/4)

09/93 Parking near the War Memorial

The chairman confirmed that a letter had been sent to residents of the Engine development plus individual letters on windscreens of offending cars. There did seem to be an improvement to the situation.

09/102 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY

The minutes were agreed as **proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Bowen**

09/103 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

M10/27 Community Volunteers in the Village

The chairman confirmed that the letter to parishioners concerning the Annual Meeting would include a request to collect E mail addresses and have a prize draw to encourage registration.

M10/28 Additional Lighting near Scout Hut

It was confirmed that a spotlight had been ordered to be erected on the lighting column near the Scout Hut which would light up the path.

M10/34 Further Flower Planting

It was confirmed that Mr Holmes had arranged for 3 more planters to be placed in the village which the Gardening Club would maintain.

M10/35 Building Works at George Fentham School.

Following concerns about car parking by contractors on the Playground, Councillor James agreed to arrange a site meeting to discuss Health and Safety issues.

MJ(19/3)

M10/37 Additional Allotments

The Fentham Trust had agreed in principle to consider making some land available for further allotments at the end of Fentham Hall car-park. Councillor James agreed to contact SMBC's allotments officer and arrange a site meeting to look at what we may need to do to prepare the land.

MJ (12/5)

M10/32 Maintenance issues at the Church

Councillor Bowen informed the meeting that the wardens had arranged for the churchyard to be tidied up. It was requested again that the parish council contribute to the one-off cost of trimming the hedge between the car-park and the vicarage. It was agreed that we would contribute 50% up to a maximum of £250

CB(31/3)

09/104 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. A letter from Solihull MBC's Network Manager asking for a meeting to discuss traffic management issues. An interim meeting had been arranged with his representative, Paul Tovey.
2. A letter from a resident of Lapwing Drive asking for assistance re housing needs. After discussion, it was decided that the parish council should write to Fentham Trust re the need for more social housing in

- the village. HW(12/5)
3. A letter from Dawsons notifying us of a small grass cutting cost increase. This was noted.
 4. Notification of the Best Kept Village competition in May, with judging on 12th May. Councillors Lewis and Bowen agreed to accompany judges between 3.45pm and 5.15pm. It was agreed to arrange a village wide litter pick up day on Saturday 8th May at 9.30; (meet at Parish Office). HW(30/4)
 5. 2 letters from the Chair of the Scouts and Guides Supporters Association; the first giving us details of trustees and annual accounts etc.; the second asking for improved lighting to the area around the Scout Hut. (This had been ordered.)
 6. Usual quarterly report on footpath work carried out by SMBC.
 7. New guidance from Standards Board re the Code of Conduct.
 8. Confirmation from Fentham Trust that they will raise the issue of leasing land for an allotment at the next trustees' meeting.
 9. Correspondence from a resident of Eastcote Lane re the state of the footpath from Meriden Road to Eastcote Lane. Mr Timothy confirmed that he was aware of the issue and was working to resolve the matter. It was agreed to write to the resident confirming the actions taken. HW(30/4)
 10. Letter from the Restorative Justice Team offering volunteers to work on community projects. The Vice chair confirmed that he would be seeking further information as to how the volunteers might be able to help with maintenance work about the village.
 11. Some information on the type of outdoor equipment that could be purchased for an outdoor fitness centre. The Sports Club would be asked for their views. HW(12/5)

09/105 FISH AND CHIP VAN RENT

The meeting approved the Chairman's action to reduce the Fish and Chip van proprietor's contribution to £10 per week for parking on the Recreation Ground **as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

09/106 CO-OPTION TO VACANT PARISH COUCILLOR POST

Before considering the vacancy caused by the resignation of Councillor Peter Adams, the chair wished to place on record the thanks of the parish council for the faithful years of service of Councillor Adams and his contribution to improving life in the village.

The council had received two very strong applications and a discussion on the merits of the two candidates was held. Following a vote, the parish council **appointed Mr Martin Dove to fill the vacancy by a majority vote with one abstention.** HW(30/4)

09/107 APPLICATION FOR THE SITING OF CRICKET NETS AT THE RECREATION GROUND

The working party set up to look at proposals in detail had met with cricket section and Sports Club representatives and agreed the position of the nets on the Recreation Ground. However this area of the field did not have suitable drainage so the cricket section were considering this and other issues including funding before coming back to the parish council with a

response. A request was considered to allow a cricket team from Knowle to use the pitch on Saturdays, it was felt that this should be a decision for the sports club but councillors were pleased that they had the opportunity to comment.

09/108 FEEDBACK FROM PLANNING TRAINING ATTENDED BY COUNCILLOR SMITH

The chair reminded the meeting that as part of all councillors' professional development, it was now the intention to ask councillors who had attending training and other meetings to feedback what they learnt from the session. Councillor Smith then reported that the training had been very helpful particularly the advice on the kinds of areas that parish and town councils could take account of when considering planning applications. Councillor Smith observed that some councils had monthly planning sub-committees that were often attended by members of the public. The chair commented that the number of applications received for our parish possibly did not justify this number of meetings.

09/109 WALC ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The clerk fed back from the conference as no councillors were able to attend. The theme of the day was community engagement with sessions on the Code of Conduct, innovative methods of communicating with the public and how to make council meetings more effective. The clerk reported that the most valuable part of the day was the opportunity to talk to other local council representatives and urged councillors to try to attend next year's conference.

09/110 PROGRESS ON UPDATING THE WEBSITE

Councillor Rolf reported that the layout for the website had now been agreed and demonstrated the layout (although no screens were yet active.) The sub group were now writing the contents pages and it was hoped that the website would be up and running for the Annual Meeting.

09/111 PROGRESS ON SPEEDWATCH

The chair presented a report from Gary Wood, the co-ordinator which confirmed that 4 sessions had been carried out with statistics showing that speeding motorists made up between 3% and 5% of the traffic. The camera could only be used at the police initiated sites. 9 volunteers were still to be trained at a training session on 15 May.

09/112 PROGRESS ON SETTING UP A YOUTH FORUM

The chair reported that she had met with Solihull Youth Service who had some funding available to set up youth projects in rural areas. The next step was to get together representatives from other youth groups in the village to decide how to proceed and include an article in the next issue of the Chronicle.

GL(12/5)

09/113 PARKING PROBLEMS IN BUTCHERS ROAD

The chair reported that she had received a confidential letter re the difficulties in parking in Butchers Road exacerbated by residents of High Street now parking there. The police re-action was to consider introducing parking restrictions but that may also inconvenience other residents whose visitors may want to park on the road. Also the parish council had consistently opposed yellow lines in the village as not being conducive to the village atmosphere. After discussion, it was agreed that the parish council was unable to offer an immediate solution

HW(30/4)

09/114 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following planning applications,

- 10/107 Old Station Road
- 10/114 1 Meadow Drive
- 10/220 27 Shadowbrook Lane
- 10/169 Corbets Close

The parish council made no objection to the planning applications.

09/115 FINANCE

The clerk presented the accounts and schedule of payments to the end of February and confirmed that the budgets were all on target as reported at the previous meeting. In answer to queries, the clerk confirmed that the Insurance invoice came in at the end of the year so would be paid. The figures for VAT received and VAT paid out were always slightly different as the re-claiming of some of the VAT paid out crossed financial years. **The accounts were approved as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor James.**

09/116 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 12th with the parishioners' Annual meeting scheduled for April 20th.

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

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm