

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

THE MEETING ROOM

on

WEDNESDAY 18th November 2009

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

09/57 APLOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

There were no apologies.

09/58 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

09/59 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation

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

09/60 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 2009

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

09/61 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

09/25 "The Engine" S106 Monies.

The bus shelters are being installed early December and the speed activated signs in the next couple of weeks. The old busshelter is being given to the Scouts and Guides to place in their field as a shelter for their activities.

09/10 Progress on the setting up of Speedwatch

We now have a 20 volunteers and training is commencing in December with the target of starting in January 2010.

09/15 Improvements to the footpath from Lapwing Drive to the Crescent

It is now imperative to receive the land owner's views on the proposal as the funding for these improvements is only available to be spent this financial year. Councillor Adams agreed to speak to Dr Taylor.

PA (30/11)

09/22 Training on the Power of Well Being

The chair advised that we should only undertake the training when there were activities that we wished to undertake which would require us to use the power of well being.

09/30 Re-Design of the Web-Site

Councillor Rolfe advised that she had not been able to arrange a meeting with Ian Geddes due to family sickness but she was still hopeful to arrange this in the next couple of weeks. The chair had spoken to another web designer at a recent conference and expressed the view that if a meeting was not arranged by the end of the month we should consider other options.

AR(30/11)

HW(30/11)

09/62 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 OCTOBER

On matters of accuracy, Councillor Adams asked for minute M10/23 to be amended to read that tree planting would start early December and tree sponsorship was possible including a memorial tree. Subject to this amendment, **the minutes were adopted as proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Rolfe.**

HW(20/1)

09/62 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

M10/16 Location of Grit Bins

The location of the grit bins for the winter was imminent and Councillor James would inform councillors on proposals.

MJ(30/12)

M10/17 Rubbish around the Sports Club

Councillor James confirmed that the Sports Club were organising a "tidy up" day on 21 November. The Sports Club had also been asked to remove the orange nets around the cricket square.

M10/19 Waste Bin on the Playground

The bin was still not being emptied. Mr Timothy confirmed that the problem seemed to be because it was on private land but he would seek a definitive answer whether it was to be included on the Council's schedule.

M10/21 Parish Council Assistance with Churchyard Maintenance

It had been agreed that the parish council would try to organise a working party after Christmas to help with maintenance in the churchyard as the PCC seemed to be having trouble recruiting volunteers and the churchyard was an important feature of the village. However if there was formal maintenance work required where a contractor was needed, then the PCC would need to put a formal written request to the parish council for financial assistance which could be considered at a future parish council meeting.

MJ(31/12)

09/63 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. Letter from Society of Local Council Clerks encouraging the clerk to join. Clerk agreed to talk to other local clerks to ascertain benefits of membership.
2. Newsletter from Solihull MBC Scrutiny Committee.
3. Letter fro Solihull MBC informing us that Solihull was outright winner this year. The chair was intending to talk to the Gardening Club to see if they could be involved with the Parish Council to site and maintain more planters in the village next year.
4. E mail from NALC asking local councils to obtain the support of their MP to amend the Government Bill on Sustainable Communities that

HW(31/12)

GL(20/1)

- did not include a role for parish councils. (Councillor Juniper would raise this with our MP.) GJ(31/12)
5. Application form BT to enter a competition to win a laptop and broadband for the community. (The clerk confirmed that she would be making an application together with Hampton Community Crafts. HW(20/1)
 6. A letter enquiring about the availability of an allotment. (As the clerk confirmed that there were a number of applications on the waiting list, then we should seek to identify some further land in the village for use as an allotment. The idea of a community orchard was also mentioned.) HW(20/1)
 7. The annual report 2008 for George Fentham (Hampton-in-Arden) Charity.
 8. The ROSPA safety report for the playground which indicated the need for new chains on 1 swing. The report had also mentioned the danger of grass cuttings being left on the surface which could become slippery. It was agreed that any future contract should include the specification for brushing the surface. HW(20/1)
 9. The quarterly report on minor works to public footpaths etc.
 10. Solihull MBC's strategy on walking and cycling routes. The chair agreed to look on the website to see if there was an opportunity to promote a cycle path in the village.)
 11. WALC training courses for the next 3 months. (The clerk to attend 19 January course and Councillor Smith to attend 13 February course.) HW(31/12)

09/64 MEETING WITH DISTRICT COUNCILLORS, SOLIHULL MBC RE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS IN THE VILLAGE

The clerk circulated a note of the meeting. The chair felt it had been a useful meeting with important actions arising out of the meeting. They were:-

- Paul Tovey (SMBC) would commission a new survey of traffic using the village roads so we can have access to up to date information.
- The parish council efforts should be directed at increasing the awareness of existing speed regulations in the first instance.
- Paul Tovey will identify the companies whose HGVs travel through the village and if a pattern emerged, to contact these companies and suggest alternative routes avoiding the village.
- 2 new speed activated calming signs would to be erecting in the next few weeks. (The introduction of Speedwatch should also help to slow down traffic.)
- The parish council would request that West Midlands' Police mobile speed van be used more frequently in the village
- Councillor Juniper as a school governor to talk to head re the Sfer Schools Initiative
- Parish Council would amend Action Plan to give greater priority to traffic calming initiatives.

- The group agreed to meet in approximately 3 months time to review progress

09/65 FEEDBACK FROM SOLIHULL AREA COMMITTEE 1 OCTOBER

Councillor Bowen reported back that it had been a useful meeting with Alison Hodge (WALC) talking about the power of Well Being. The chair had asked for any agenda items for the forthcoming January meeting between SMBC and Parish Councillors, to be forwarded to her.

09/66 FEEDBACK FROM CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR'S MEETING WITH SMBC MONITORING OFFICER

The chair and vice-chair had recently met with Philip Lloyd Williams SMBC's monitoring officer. We had explained that as a quality council we wanted to be taken seriously by Solihull MBC and wanted to investigate ways of working more closely. Mr Lloyd Williams indicated that this was also part of his agenda and would investigate ways of using our parish council as a showcase parish council who could take more responsibility for delivering more services.

09/67 PROGRESS ON PUBLICATION OF THE PARISH PLAN

The plan had now been finalised and was ready for publication. The steering group were meeting with Deborah Martin-Williams(SMBC) next Friday, who had agreed to assist with publication. Councillor James would talk to Graham Holloway. Councillor Adams had a contact printer who may also help with layout.

09/68 AN E MAIL DATA BASE OF PARISHIONERS

The chairman explained that she thought it would be useful to collect E mails of parishioners who might be interested in receiving alerts of relevant parish council news or "volunteering" opportunities. Councillors supported the suggestion but it was agreed that we should check with WALC on the legal implications of asking for such information. The clerk would contact WALC to discuss the proposal before making a final decision.

HW(20/1)

09/69 PERMISSION FOR CONTRACTORS TO CROSS PARISH COUNCIL LAND DURING SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

A letter had been received from the Diocesan Property Services to ask permission for contractors to cross the footpath by the school whilst extensions were being carried out. **It was resolved to agree to this request as proposed by Councillor Rolf and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

HW(30/11)

09/70 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following applications;-

- 09/1653 50 Meriden Road; Objection as out of keeping with the street scene.
- 09/1673 2 the Crescent; no objection
- 09/1744 8 Old Station Road: whilst better than previous proposals,

objection on basis of part demolition of architecturally interesting house, proposed houses too big and too close to houses in Fiddlers Green

- 09/1740 1 Meriden Road; objection on basis of proposed houses too high when compared to neighbouring properties.

GJ(30/11)

09/71 FINANCE

The clerk presented the accounts and schedule of payments to the end of September and confirmed that the budgets were all on target and there was still £800 in contingency which might be needed for publishing the Parish Plan. **The accounts were approved subject to a minor correction on page 2, reserves as at 1st April 2009 should read £24449.45 as proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor James.**

HW(30/11)

09/72 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for January 6th at 7.30 (Budget Meeting)
The meeting thanked Mr Richard Timothy for attending and for his advice on a range of issues.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm