

# HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at  
**THE MEETING ROOM**

On  
**WEDNESDAY 19<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2012**

**Present:**      **Councillors: Mr C Bowen**  
                         **Mr M Blomer**  
                         **Mr M James**  
                         **Dr G Lewis (Chair)**  
                         **Mrs A Rolf**  
                         **Ms Bonita Bryant**  
                         **Mr T Rogers (SMBC)**  
**Clerk:**           **Mrs J Richardson**

## **12/45 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **12/46 APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Doidge.

## **12/47 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

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

## **12/48 WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION** (Agenda item 9 brought forward)

Councillor Bowen introduced David Bellamy from Bellamy and Waterhouse who explained two options for restoring the War Memorial. The stone work could be fully cleaned and repaired and the lettering could then be hand engraved in situ. Alternatively the names of the fallen could be engraved on granite panels 20mm thick which would be pinned to the existing memorial. This could be a longer term solution as Portland stone is soft and wears away with time whilst granite is more durable. An example of the engraved granite was shown to councillors. Following discussion, the Chair proposed that traditional methods should be employed, hand engraving into the original stone, this was seconded by Councillor Blomer. Councillor Bowen will progress. Mr Bellamy left the meeting at 7.40pm. CB

## **12/49 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Chair welcomed Miss Thelma Borley to the meeting.

Miss Borley is concerned that an accident could occur because the entrance and exit signs to the White Lion car park have not been replaced. Councillors James and Bowen have previously spoken to the Post Office and White Lion about signage, Councillor Bowen will pursue the issue.

Miss Borley is also concerned about the damage being caused to the verges on Marsh Lane, below Bellemere Road, by cars and horse boxes. Councillor James will look into the matter. CB

Miss Borley stated that dustbin lorries turning at the village green could be causing some of the repeated damage to the wall around the war memorial. Councillor Bowen will contact Highways to discuss options to protect the wall. MJ

The Chair thanked Miss Borley for attending the meeting.

**12/50 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 18<sup>th</sup> JULY 2012**

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

**12/51 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING**

11/71 Neighbourhood Plan – Councillors Doidge and Blomer have had a preliminary meeting, summarised by Councillor Blomer, regarding a draft to present to council. It was agreed that the planning committee should form a Neighbourhood Plan steering group. The initial task would be to identify whether the Parish Plan could be updated to form the Neighbourhood Plan and to define ‘the neighbourhood area’; would the Hampton in Arden section of Catherine de Barnes be included in this.

Councillor Blomer is confident that a neighbourhood plan can be achieved, it is a complicated process and it has to be shown that residents have been fully consulted, however once completed it will have legal standing.

11/93 Traffic Restrictions OSR– The public consultation for Phase 2 ended on September 7<sup>th</sup>, the outcome is not yet known.

Parking on the bend outside the Old Station Road offices continues to be a serious safety issue for traffic. Discussions with Wyckham Blackwell regarding the provision of temporary, landscaped car parking in the field to the north of Station Farm are ongoing. Councillors would consider any plans that are submitted to SMBC planning.

11/109 The new wooden bus shelter has been installed on Solihull Road and looks very in keeping.

12/35 Parish Surgeries – Police are to continue with surgeries and have organised dates on a variety days. It was felt that publicity should be improved as this would be more difficult for the public to remember. Councillors agreed there would be a councillor in attendance. GL

**12/51 CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting:

1. Approximately £800.00 from match-funding should be received from George Fentham School PTA for benches at the play area. Councillor Bryant will pursue.
2. WALC Annual Report and notification of AGM on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2012.
3. SMBC Conservation Committee papers.
4. Letter from the Woodland Trust stating their opposition to HS2. BB
5. Notification of Grant Thornton UK LLP as External Auditors.
6. A letter from a resident asking for a cycle route to be put through the village; referred to SMBC footpaths officer.
7. A letter from a resident about stiles installed in The Manor grounds; SMBC have arranged for these to be replaced with lynch gates.
8. Email from a resident about poor lighting on path between Fentham Road and Peel Close. Tom Rogers to pursue. The Chair suggested solar lighting was considered.
9. A letter from a resident of Nesfield Grove requesting help with compensation for HS2; chair has replied in detail.
10. A letter from a resident of Meadow Drive asking if The Fentham Trust was considering purchase of individual houses to provide affordable homes: the Trust Chair says not. TR
11. Letter suggesting parents use Peel Close as a drop-off area for school; The Chair will contact Mrs Gaughan.
12. A letter from a resident regarding speeding cars in Old Station Road:

speedwatch informed.

13. A letter about the number of gravel lorries speeding through the village. It has been ascertained that they are travelling from the Shirley Parkgate Development to Cornetts End Lane and a speedwatch was specifically organised to quantify the problem. SMBC Highways have the results and are investigating. GL
14. Notification of HS2 information day in Kenilworth on 20<sup>th</sup> October.
15. Correspondence regarding various possible footpath improvements.

### **12/52 REPORT FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> September 2012.**

Councillor Rolf summarised the meeting:

The Website – This continues to be updated regularly. It was agreed that Hampton Kidz webpage should be cancelled for the time being as it has not been used. The clerk will contact Ian Geddes. CLERK

The Newsletter – The autumn newsletter is due at the beginning of November, items need to be with Councillor Bowen by mid October.

Youth Issues – Councillor Bryant has booked the Fentham Meeting Room for the first Tuesday of each month in 2013 to meet with the young people and will decide on the format of the meetings after doing some further research.

### **12/53 UPDATE OF PLAYGROUND/OUTDOOR GYM FACILITIES**

£10,000 has been received from The National Lottery fund following the application by Councillor Doidge for funding of outdoor exercise equipment. The Chair has asked The Sports Club, Recreation Trust and Fentham Trust if they are able to offer any match-funding.

Councillor Doidge has submitted an application to SITA for £40,000 to fund under 7's play equipment at the Recreation Field and existing play area.

### **12/54 REMEMBRANCE DAY ROAD CLOSURES**

Councillor Bowen confirmed that an application has been made for temporary road closures. Details will be advertised in the Chronicle and a memo will be delivered to residents of High Street.

### **12/55 NEW STANDARDS REGIME**

All councillors have now signed the new Code of Conduct and when all Disclosing Pecuniary Interests forms are signed, the Clerk will forward to SMBC. A briefing for Councillors and Clerks on the New Standards Regime will be attended by all on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at Council House. CLERK

### **12/56 VILLAGE PHARMACY ARRANGEMENTS**

All councillors retrospectively backed the action of the Chair and Councillor James in sending a letter to each house asking residents to think carefully before using a postal prescription service detailed in a letter from the village surgery. It was felt that we should support the village pharmacy for fear of losing this valuable facility.

### **12/57 YOUTH BUS**

Rev. Duncan Ballard has reported that the youth bus project is progressing well. Councillor Rolf will contact him and organise a meeting to explore what the role of the parish council could be in the future. AR

## **12/58 MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE ISSUES**

Councillor James has been liaising with Tom Rogers to try and identify SMBC responsibilities for maintenance, to ensure that all areas are covered.

## **12/59 HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – THE DELL, CATHERINE DE BARNES**

Mr Bennett, The Dell, Catherine de Barnes contacted the council to seek it's opinion regarding future development on the site. The Chair and Councillor Doidge attended a site meeting with Mr Bennett and his architect at which an indicative plan was presented for a housing development with vehicular access across the common land. A planning application has not yet been submitted to SMBC.

GL

Councillors felt that, before they could comment, legal advice would be needed concerning access across the common. The Clerk will write to Mr Bennett expressing this view making it clear that he should be prepared to cover any resulting legal costs.

CLERK

## **12/58 REPORTS FROM VARIOUS MEETINGS**

CENTRO – The Chair summarised the 6 monthly meeting with CENTRO on 11<sup>th</sup> September: CENTRO will make the agreed payment towards the bus shelter as soon as it is installed. The Clerk will forward an invoice to them and notify them to install timetables in the shelter.

The contract for the 82 bus service is due for renewal in June 2013 and to identify village needs for ongoing bus services, a questionnaire will be produced by CENTRO to be delivered with the next newsletter.

GL

The Minister of State for Transport has recently approved the reduction in hours of the station ticket office to 7.00am – 10.00am on weekdays and 9.00am – 2.00pm on Saturdays, a ticket machine will not be provided. CENTRO will push urgently for better access to the platforms when the office is closed and the Chair will write to London Midland.

HS2 – Representatives of Hampton in Arden organised a meeting with HS2 to discuss issues specific to the village. It was devastating to be told that the horizontal alignment of HS2 would not be altered to take the route further from the village, only a tunnel under Burton Green and distancing from Chelmsley Wood was being looked at. The parish council continues to be represented at all meetings to do with HS2 and do as much as possible to achieve mitigation.

PLANNING – Gary Palmer from SMBC planning department attended a meeting with Councillor Doidge and the Chair to look at ways of improving notification of planning meetings. It is hoped that email notification can be used in the near future to increase the number of days notice the parish council are given.

SMBC – A meeting with Trish Willetts and Tom Rogers, SMBC Neighbourhood Team. The Spinney, Wild Flower Meadow, flower planters and George Fentham Arboretum were entered, by Councillor Doidge, for a Royal Horticultural Society and Heart of England in Bloom Neighbourhood competition. They earned an award being assessed as 'outstanding'. Trish Willetts has suggested that we should consider entering the 'Village Award Category' next year.

The 15<sup>th</sup> of November has been agreed as 'Environment Champion Day' where about 30 volunteers will apply bark to the Spinney paths and plant 420 trees awarded from The Woodland Trust. SMBC will provide the bark and also 500 daffodil bulbs to be planted around the village at a later date.

### **12/59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Details of recent planning applications had been circulated by Councillor Doidge. Objections have been made to the following applications:

2012/1075 Old Ring of Bells – Change of use to Art & Antiques Shop. Objection lodged on 9<sup>th</sup> August regarding parking, loading, noise, access, narrow road, dangerous corner, emergency vehicle access, Sunday working.

2012/1175 2 High Street - Fell 2 trees in conservation area. Objection sent 13<sup>th</sup> August to recommend sensitive pruning.

### **12/60 FINANCE**

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

### **12/61 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Dates for meetings of the Parish Council in 2012/13 will be as follows:

14<sup>th</sup> November 2012

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 – Budget Setting

16<sup>th</sup> January 2013

13<sup>th</sup> March 2013

16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 – Annual Parish Meeting (Tuesday)

8<sup>th</sup> May 2013

Maintenance Meetings

24<sup>th</sup> October 2012

6<sup>th</sup> February 2013

The meeting closed at 9.22pm

UNAPPROVED