

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

THE MEETING ROOM

on

WEDNESDAY 20th January 2010

Present Councillors: Mr P Adams
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.

09/79 APLOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

There were no apologies.

09/80 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lewis declared an interest in any discussions concerning planning application 09/2018.

09/81 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms Thelma Borley attended the meeting and raised 2 concerns;-

1. the new bus shelters did not afford much protection against the rain.
2. there was a street light at the bottom of Marsh Lane that was out of action.

Councillor Lewis agreed to explain outside the meeting why the particular design of bus shelter had been chosen. The street lamp issue had already been noted.

Mr John Eccleston representing Hampton Sports Club attended to brief councillors on proposals to locate cricket practice nets on the parish council's recreation field and seek permission (see agenda item13). Mr Eccleston explained the necessity for nets in order for the cricket section to improve their skills and practice year round. He asked the councillors to consider the following questions;-

1. does the parish council support the proposal?
2. is the proposed location suitable?
3. are there any cost or other considerations for the parish council to take account of before agreeing to the proposal?

Mr Eccleston answered a number of questions of clarification about the choice of nets, funding streams and ongoing maintenance. Mr Eccleston was thanked for his attendance.

09/82 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2009

The minutes were approved **as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor James subject to a correction to spell Councillor Rolf's name correctly.** The clerk was asked to indicate who was chairing the meeting and her own attendance in future minutes.

HW (17/3)

09/83 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

09/25 "The Engine" S106 Monies.

The bus shelters have been installed and generally the re-action of residents has been favourable. The installation of speed activated signs had been delayed due to bad weather but were going in next week.

09/10 Progress on the setting up of Speedwatch

We now have 9 people trained and 11 more volunteers waiting to be trained. The delivery of equipment to the co-ordinator was likely to be in the next couple of days with a view to commencing under police guidance early February.

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

Dr Taylor, the landowner was meeting Richard Keane, SMBC's footpath's officer soon but unfortunately due to the delays in contacting Dr Taylor, the funding had been diverted this financial year to other projects. However it was hoped to be funded from 2010/2011's budget.

09/30 Re-Design of the Web-Site

Councillor Rolf briefed the councillors on the very useful meeting between Ian Geddes, the web designer and the communications sub committee and circulated a letter from Mr Geddes containing his proposals to re-write the site according to the sub committee's design. The meeting approved the appointment of Mr Geddes to work with the Communications sub committee to re-design the site as budgetary provision had been made for this development in the current and the next financial year.

(AR/HW
28/2)

09/62 Problems with location and re-filling of Grit Bins

A number of concerns had been raised individually with councillors about the shortage of grit bins and the lack of re-filling. Mr Timothy explained that there had been less bins allocated to Hampton-in-Arden this winter due to budget constraints but hopefully now the bad weather had abated the empty bins could be filled. He would personally chase up those that had not been re-filled.

09/64 Parish Council meeting with district councillors and Paul Tovey

Whilst the meeting on traffic problems had been helpful, it was important to chase up the actions agreed. The clerk was asked to arrange another meeting with Paul Tovey to receive some feedback.

HW(28/2)

09/84 MINUTES OF BUDGET COMMITTEE HELD ON 7 JANUARY

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

09/85 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

09/76 Risk Assessment

The clerk agreed to chase up with the insurers the need to insure volunteers working on parish council owned land.

HW(17/3)

09/86 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. Letter from member of Hampton Local History Group objecting to proposals for the telephone box to have available walking maps for distribution to the public. The chair explained that plans as to how to use the telephone box were still at the planning stage and the Local History Group would be asked to join a small working group to consider proposals. HW(17/3)
2. Letter and certificate for the clerk confirming her qualification in the power of well being a pre-requisite for any parish council considering using the new powers of well-being. The chair thanked and congratulated the clerk and reminded the meeting that the parish council had agreed not to consider being trained until an issue arose needing the power of well being to be used. HW(28/2)
3. Letter from WALC asking for nominations to a future Buckingham Palace Garden Party. It was agreed for the Chair to be put forward.
4. Letter from Solihull MBC informing the parish council that SMBC were no longer empty the bins on the playground. (This was one of the issues raised at the meeting with Jim Harte demonstrating Solihull MBC's disappointing responses to parish council matters and subsequently Jim had intervened by re-instating the emptying of bins on the playground and the Recreation Ground. It had been agreed that SMBC would write again about this matter giving us a reasonable period of notice if they intended to cease emptying the bins so we could make alternative arrangements.)
5. Letter from a resident of Marsh Lane complaining about the absence of a grit bin on Marsh Lane.
6. Invitation to attend a new W. M. Police Initiative on consulting with other bodies. (Councillor James attended the meeting on behalf of the parish council but felt that there was not much to feedback from this initial meeting.)
7. A letter from SMBC informing us of number of households for calculation of the precept. It was noted that the numbers had decreased by one.
8. Confirmation of the parish council's application to win a laptop and broadband; results to be announced in March.
9. SMBC's Walking and Cycling Strategy consultation document. (Chair would reply).
10. A letter from Philip Lloyd Williams, SMBC's Monitoring Officer offering if the parish council would like him to attend a future parish council meeting. It was agreed to ask Mr Lloyd Williams to attend the March meeting. HW(31/1)
11. The Sustain newsletter.
12. Letter from Happy Plaice Fish and Chip Van stating that he was unwilling to pay the fee of £20 a week that the parish council had agreed to levy for using the Recreation Ground for trading. Mr Lang would be informed that the parish council would not consider at this stage changing their previous decision. GL(31/1)
13. Letter received by a resident of Station Road from Network Rail, referred to the parish council, acknowledging continuing problems with maintenance of the road. The parish council would continue to monitor the situation.
14. Letter inviting the parish council to enter the Warwickshire Best Kept Village competition. (The parish council would not be entering.)

15. Letter from an individual living outside the village requesting a bungalow at Fentham Green. (This was referred to Mr Rex Walker.)

09/87 FEEDBACK FROM SOLIHULL AREA COMMITTEE 13 JANUARY

This meeting had been cancelled due to inclement weather.

09/88 FEEDBACK FROM CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR'S MEETING WITH JIM HARTE, FROM SMBC

The chair and vice-chair had recently met with Jim Hart, Director of Environmental Issues at SMBC ON December 14th and had the opportunity to raise some issues of concern around the relationship of the parish council with SMBC. One issue emerged was that although we were part of Bickenhill ward, we were not receiving any newsletters from the Neighbourhood Team so were unaware of the many initiatives around improving neighbourhoods. Mr Hart agreed to discuss with his team on establishing closer ways of working.

09/89 APPROVAL OF THE PARISH PLAN

The plan had now been almost finalised with a couple of minor changes to the text and was ready for publication. The steering group were very happy with the design and layout of the document produced by Paul Howard, a graphic designer recommended by Deborah Martin-Williams(SMBC), who had been very helpful in assisting the parish council with production. Councillor Rolf drew attention to an omission in the Action Plan, 5.5, where there was no entry in the section relating to the parish council's relationships with sporting activities. It was agreed to add a general action to liaise with the Sports Club and consider in detail at a later date.. Once these small changes were agreed with the designer, the plan would be printed, seeking quotations from at least 3 printers. The parish plan was therefore **approved, as proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor James.**

HW(5/2)

09/90 APPLICATION FOR THE SITING OF CRICKET NETS AT THE RECREATION GROUND

The detailed proposals and plan circulated by Mr Eccleston were discussed at length. There was general agreement that the siting of the nets behind the astro-turf was acceptable as this area was little used by the public and unobtrusive. There were concerns expressed that the system proposed required a concrete base and large metal poles to be erected to support the netting which may be unsightly. After discussion, it was agreed that whilst the parish council agreed in principle a proposal to site cricket nets at the recreation ground, we needed to look further into certain aspects of the proposals, such as the possibility of seeing the designs in more detail and implications for the lease. A small working party to include the chair, vice chair, councillors Juniper, Smith and Bowen would meet with the Sports Club with the intention of reporting back to the next parish council meeting for final approval.

GL(17/3)

09/91 DATES FOR MEETINGS 2010/2011

The clerk circulated a list of proposed dates for meetings in 2010/11 which

were agreed.

09/92 PARISH COUNCIL SURGERIES

The chair asked for volunteers to assist in attending parish council surgeries. It was agreed that Councillor James would attend 9 February, Councillor Bowen would attend 9 March and the chair would attend April and May’s surgeries.

CB/MJ(17/3)

09/93 PARKING ON THE ROAD AND PAVEMENT NEAR THE WAR MEMORIAL

There was discussion about the problem of increased parking of cars around the land attached to the village green and war memorial caused by residents and visitors from Engine Mews where there was very limited parking. This was unsightly and causing some obstruction but it was agreed that there was little the parish council could do about it apart from asking for parking restrictions which would not be supported in a village environment. It was decided that the chair would write a letter to be circulated to residents asking for consideration to be given to not parking and allowing parking on the recreation field car park as an alternative.

GL(28/2)

09/94 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting ratified the decisions of the Planning sub-committee who considered and made decisions on the following planning applications;-

- 09/1778 28 Bellemere Road No Objection
- 09/1805 22 Fentham Road No Objection
- 09/1815 32 Fentham Road No Objection
- 09/1917 147 Old Station Road No Objection
- 09/2018 71 Meriden Road Objection

09/95 FINANCE

The clerk presented the accounts and schedule of payments to the end of December and confirmed that the budgets were all on target as reported at the budget meeting. A virement schedule was approved which made small adjustments to the office expenses and professional fees budgets with the main portion of the contingency allocated to the budget line to print the parish plan. **The accounts were approved as proposed by Councillor Rolf and seconded by Councillor James.**

09/96 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for March 17th with a maintenance meeting scheduled for February 17th.

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

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm

