

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (DRAFT)

Held at

THE GEORGE FENTHAM HALL

On

TUESDAY 20th APRIL 2010

PRESENT: Councillors: Mr. C. Bowen
Mr. M. Dove
Mr. M. James
Mr. G. Juniper
Dr. G. Lewis
Mrs. A. Rolf
Mr. R. Smith
Clerk: Mrs. H. Wood

District Councillors: Mr. A. Martin
Mr. R. Sleigh

and 44 parishioners.

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Gill Lewis, Chairman of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced those sitting on the stage. The chairman confirmed the appointment of Mr Martin Dove who was co-opted onto the parish council following the resignation of Councillor Peter Adams. She paid tribute to the many years of devoted service that Mr Adams had given to the parish council and the community.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Mrs Spelman MP and District Councillor Jim Ryan and village residents, Stan Field, Coralie Hammond, Diana and Alan Thomas, John Doidge and Ursula Smyth.

3. **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The Clerk read the minutes of the last meeting held on 21st April 2009. Subject to an amendment to the address of Messers Goodall and Doidge to Diddington Lane,

Mr Eccleston proposed the minutes be accepted and this was seconded by Mr Minton. The minutes were signed as a true record.

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair presented the council's annual report for the year 2009/10, highlighting the achievements of the parish council during the last year.

A copy of her presentation is attached to the minutes.

The Chair concluded by referring parishioners to the council's Annual Report which contains a detailed account of the year's activities.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 2009

The accounts for 2009/10 are presented in the Annual Report, together with the budget for 2010/11. The Chair explained that reserves were at quite a low level following several major projects but would be built up over future years to provide funding for large items of expenditure such as car park re-surfacing and replacing the play equipment.

The parish precept had again been kept at the 2008/9 level but with rising costs particularly maintenance, the budget was very tight.

There were no questions re the accounts.

6. THE COUNCIL'S NEW WEB SITE

Councillor Rolf presented the new web site which was due to go "live" by the end of April. She explained that the communications working group, supported by a resident Elliot Sellars, had re-designed the web site as the old web site was not up to date and was difficult to navigate. The new web site had drop down menus which made it easier to use. The parish council section was separate from the "community" section which would have direct links to web sites of other groups within the village. Councillor Rolf encouraged groups to use the diary to publicise events within the village and send articles to be included in the home page.

Mr Purchase, Arden Court

Mr Purchase asked how we intended to publicise the web site. Councillor Rolf replied that the notice boards and local shops would have details.

Mr Walker, Elm Tree Rise

Mr Walker asked for the address of the web site. Councillor Rolf confirmed that it was, www.hamptoninarden.org.uk

7. UPDATE ON HIGH SPEED RAIL LINK 2

The chairman gave a presentation on the current proposals for the high speed rail link from Birmingham to London which would pass through the village to the east of Diddington Lane. She gave details of the route drawing attention to the likely position of the railway station and adjacent parking areas. The chair also gave information on the likely design of the viaducts and bridges which would cross roads and countryside nearby and the likely frequency of trains.

The chair explained that current government consultation was concerning the proposed Exceptional Hardship Scheme which would compensate homeowners affected adversely by the plans. It was generally felt that the scheme was not fit for purpose, the closing date for comment was 20th May 2010, and in other areas, action groups were forming to try to improve the compensation offered. Consultation on the broader proposals was likely in the autumn. The parish council wished to gauge the view of residents and after circulating details to all households had received about 10 replies. The likely next step would be to organise a public meeting with other parish councils affected by the rail link to decide how the local community felt, and how we might be able to influence the proposals to protect the local environment.

Ms Blunt, Meriden Road

Ms Blunt asked whether a possible change of government might change plans. The chair replied that the proposals had all party support.

Mr Sohota, Fentham Close

Mr Sohota asked whether any other routes had been considered and were there maps available to look at on these routes? The chair replied that there were 5 possible routes outlined in the command document but this was HS2 Ltd preferred option, details of all the routes could be found on HS2 web site..

Mr Eccleston, Old Station Road

Mr Eccleston commented that he had obtained maps of the proposed route which were available for inspection at the Sports Club.

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr Kirby, Elm Tree Rise

Mr Kirby commented on the chairman's report concerning the Speedwatch initiative and expressed support for the approach of sending letters to offending motorists. The chair explained that the volunteers did not have the power to initiate prosecution but if there was evidence of repeat offenders then it was likely that the police would send out an official speed camera. The main objective of Speedwatch was to educate motorists to comply with speed limits

Mr Goodall, Diddington Lane

Mr Goodall enquired when the parish council intended to review the objectives recorded in the Parish Plan. The chair explained that the working group would continue to meet to review progress and report back each year at the Annual Meeting with parishioners

Mr Sohota, Fentham Close

Mr Sohota asked why it was not possible to site a pedestrian crossing on the High Street near the Engine development. The chair explained that this was being considered alongside other proposals to make pedestrian safety a high priority.

Mr Holmes, Fentham Road

Mr Holmes made reference to the continuing danger to children walking to school due to the absence of pavements in part of Fentham Road and although he had raised this issue a number of times, no progress had been made other than the introduction of a 20mph speed restriction plus signage. Councillor Sleigh confirmed that such measures as road humps were unpopular with residents but that traffic issues around Fentham Road were being considered including the possibility of a one way system.

Mr Purchase, Elm Court

Mr Purchase commented that the entrance out of Fentham Road at the bottom of the hill near the War Memorial was very dangerous and may be made more safe if a large mirror could be positioned there.

Dr Smyth, Fentham Road

Dr Smyth expressed concerns that a one-way system was being considered for Fentham Road. The chair gave assurances that residents would be fully consulted before any changes were made.

Mr Eccleston, Old Station Road

Mr Eccleston asked whether more could be done to discourage dog owners allowing their dogs to foul the recreation Ground. Councillor James commented that the parish council was aware of the problem but felt that the way forward was a campaign of education for dog owners who offended.

Councillor James on behalf of Residents of Crocketts Court

Councillor James had been asked to raise the issued of inconsiderate parking at Fentham Hall car-park which often obstructed their garages. Mr Adams commented that the newly proposed temporary car-park extension might ease the parking problem but the situation would be monitored more closely and if necessary new parking restriction signage and road painting considered.

Mr Houston, The Crescent

Mr Houston asked for an update on the position of the travellers' site at Shadowbrook Lane. Councillor James reminded the meeting that this site was unauthorised but had been allowed on appeal.

Mr Goodall, Diddington Lane

Mr Goodall asked District Councillors what was Solihull MBC's policy on the need for extra travellers' pitches in the borough. Councillor Sleigh confirmed that as part of the requirements of the West Midlands Regional Assembly, Solihull had identified a need for 26 extra public pitches based on the size of our population but there was no decision made on identifying possible sites.

Mr Wood, Fentham Close

Mr Wood asked what progress had been made in encouraging more neighbourhood watch schemes in the village. The chair replied that the parish council had been busy with other priorities but that this was likely to be a priority for 2010/11.

Miss Borley, Marsh Lane

Miss Borley expressed the view that there was no interest in the village to expand neighbourhood watch as she had personally tried with no success.

Mr Eccleston proposed a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for their voluntary work on behalf of the parish during the year, also a round of applause for the Parish Council for another successful year.

The Chairman thanked Mr Eccleston and parishioners, especially groups such as the Sports Club, Fentham Trust and Conservation Group who do so much to improve the village environment. She also thanked everyone for attending. She closed the meeting by reminding everyone that there would be an annual litter picking morning at 9.30 at the George Fentham Meeting Room on 8th May, prior to the best kept village judging on 12th May.

The draw for those wishing to register their email address was won by Mr Roy France.

The meeting ended at 9.20pm