

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM

On
WEDNESDAY 21st SEPT 2011

Present: **Councillors: Dr G Lewis (Chair)**
 Mr M Blomer
 Mr C Bowen
 Mr J Doidge
 Mr M James
 Mrs A Rolf
Clerk: **Mrs J Richardson**
SMBC: **Mr Chris Parker**

11/44 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Dove.

11/45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

11/46 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair welcomed Mr John Eccleston, Hampton Sports Club, who raised the issue of irresponsible dog owners not cleaning up after their dogs and placing waste in incorrect bins. Mr Eccleston explained that notices had been put up around the recreational ground to try and improve the situation. He apologised if the wording on the notices was incorrect and requested the Parish Council agreed to signage.

The Chair said the Parish Council had tried to encourage the use of dog bins with articles in the Village Chronicle and Parish Council Newsletter, but admitted that it had not been as effective as hoped. It was agreed to work with the Sports Club to address the problem providing signs attributable to the parish council.

The Chair welcomed Miss Thelma Borley to the meeting, who wanted to bring the following issues to the attention of the parish council:

1. The mortar used in the repair of the wall around the war memorial was not in keeping with the original mortar. It was explained that urgent repair work took place, following damage by a lorry, using the best possible match. Advice and funding were currently being sought from the War Memorial Commission to allow restoration to the war memorial and it's surroundings.
2. Would the drains on Shadowbrook Lane have any further work done on them? Mr Chris Parker, from Solihull MBC, informed Miss Borley that a proportion of Shadowbrook Lane will be re-surfaced in the near future, but he wasn't aware that any further work was scheduled for the drains.

The Chair thanked Mr Eccleston and Miss Borley for their contributions.

11/47 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 27TH JULY 2011

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

11/48 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

11/28 Best Kept Village – Councillor Bowen informed the meeting that he had sent his comments to the judges and was still waiting for a reply.

Bulb Planting – Mr Parker said that unfortunately, this had been postponed, but would be re-scheduled for October 14th.

Airport night flying policy consultation– Councillor Bowen confirmed he had completed the response. The clerk to forward a copy to the Chair.

HS2 – The Chair confirmed that the public consultation had concluded and the results were being analysed by a company on behalf of the government.

Gypsy Sites Consultation– Councillor Doidge informed the meeting that he had sent a response to SMBC on behalf of the parish council. An acknowledgement had been received, but as yet, no reply. All Councillors confirmed they had seen the document.

11/49 CORRESPONDENCE.(FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

1. A letter has been received about a memory walk, to raise funds for the Alzheimers Society.
2. A letter from SMBC explaining the scaling down of the Conservation Advisory Committee.
3. Letter from IEA with a document entitled HS2 The Next Government Disaster!
4. Solihull Partnership, notification of a meeting 27th September 2011, Your Opinion Matters (police).
5. Letter from the Royal Horticultural Society about match-funding.
6. Notification from the website provider of a change in ownership.
7. Example of the dog fouling sign removed from the recreational ground.
8. Letter from National Grid, notifying us of their Customer Liaison Vehicle visiting the village in July.
9. Copies of letters sent to Solihull MBC from Mrs Jones and Mr Hudd regarding the Fentham Road traffic calming scheme.
10. Letter from Richard Lloyd, HHAG, requesting that we write to SMBC supporting a request to establish a HS2 Consultative Committee. Councillors agreed to support this and the Chair will write the letter.
11. Letter about the QE II Fields Challenge, to obtain funding for children's play areas. Councillor Doidge to progress as we would seem to fit the criteria.
12. Notice of WALC AGM 27th October, Chair to attend.

11/50 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING 14TH SEPT 2011

Councillor Rolf summarised items from the meeting and read a report from Councillor Dove:

Youth website - The hamptonkidz.org.uk website is now fully operational. The ongoing maintenance and updates are being completed by four youths from the village.

Meetings will be held on a monthly basis to plan events and additions to the website. It is proposed that the initial advertising be done through the parish newsletter.

Youth groups – A mid-week venue is being sought, with a view to try and establish a youth group which would hopefully appeal to non-sporting community. The Hampton Gym will be approached, together with other local venue options.

Telephone Box – The scouts are continuing to work on the design of the phone box interior. It was confirmed that the phone box could not be re-located and must remain red.

Newsletter – The deadline for the next quarterly newsletter is the end of October. Among the items to be reported on are updates on the following: HS2, Planning issues, Conservation, Airport, OAP lunch group, recreational facilities and parking.

An Eastcote Lane resident has requested that the parish newsletter be delivered to residents of Eastcote Lane. Whilst this area is geographically close it is not within the parish, however following discussion it was agreed to deliver the newsletter and other parish publications there in future.

11/51 FENTHAM ROAD TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME

The Chair explained that Solihull MBC have been working with the Parish Council, and other stakeholders, for 18 months on a scheme to enhance the safety of pedestrians on Fentham Road. Comments received from a few residents concerning the final version of the plans have been taken into consideration and amendments made. There will no longer be a painted walkway, the scheme does not involve any parking restriction orders.

11/52 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – LOCALISM AND PLANNING

Councillor Blomer reported that at the recent SMBC LDF conference pressure was put on urban and rural communities to identify areas for housing and workplace development. SMBC stated that they could give no guarantee as to the type of development that would result if land was identified.

All the rural communities agreed that they needed affordable housing units for their young and elderly residents and not large family homes. This was identified in our Parish Plan 2010 and supported by SMBC housing department currently having 24 Hampton residents on their waiting list for a 1 bed-roomed property.

It is possible that the village might be able to ensure that future development is directed towards affordable housing for people living in the village, or who have a connection with it, by way of Community Land Trusts.

It was agreed that Councillor Doidge and Councillor Blomer should attend a Community Land Trust training event in Birmingham on the 19th October. It is hoped that representatives of the George Fentham Trust would join them as the two organisations will need to work together.

Councillor Doidge reminded the meeting that a response to the LDF was needed by November. The clerk will find out exact dates to ensure the deadline is met.

11/53 HIGHWAY RESTRICTIONS

The Chair reviewed parking restrictions which the parish council had requested from SMBC to address station overflow parking in Old Station Road. The scheme has now received funding from SMBC and council officers are keen to review parking restrictions throughout the village while funding is available. Their concern is that if cars are displaced from Old Station Road parking will become a problem elsewhere and funding may no longer be available to address the new problem.

The proposal is for wide spread use of double yellow lines which parish councillors felt would make life impossible for many residents. It was agreed that this is a very important issue and a sub-group consisting of the Chair,

Councillor James, Councillor Bowen and Councillor Blomer should be created to look at it in much more detail. The clerk will arrange a meeting.

11/54 BANK SAFETY DEPOSIT BOX

The Chair explained that the parish council's bank no longer had the facility to store our safety deposit box, storage was being contracted out to a private company in Glasgow.

Following a discussion, it was unanimously agreed to retrieve the fire proof box and retain it in the office. Any documents of interest to the History Group, could be released to them for safe-keeping. The Clerk will contact the bank.

11/55 RETROSPECTIVE CONSIDERATION OF CIRCUS TENT

Following review of previous minutes the Chair confirmed that the decision for the circus to be held on the school playing field should have been voted on by the council as an agenda item. Councillor Lewis apologised for this oversight and Councillor James apologised for giving permission personally.

All councillors supported the decision in retrospect.

11/56 REMEMBRANCE DAY ROAD CLOSURES

Councillor Bowen confirmed that all documentation was complete. The road will be closed from 10.30am to all traffic (including bikes).

11/57 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There were no objections to recent applications.

11/58 FINANCE-

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

11/59 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th November 2011

Maintenance Meeting 19th October 2011

The meeting closed at 9.10pm