

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at

THE MEETING ROOM

on

WEDNESDAY 29th July 2009

Present Councillors:

**Mr C Bowen
Mr G Juniper
Dr G Lewis
Mrs. A. Rolf
Mr R Smith**

09/22 APLOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

Apologies were received and accepted for the absence of Councillors James and Adams

09/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Miss Thelma Borley raised the issue of the Parish Plan and asked when it would be published. She also expressed concern that when it was published there would be parts of the Plan that would be out of date. The chair acknowledged that the parish plan would always represent issues at the time when the plan was written but it would be very helpful if Miss Borley put her comments in writing to the clerk for consideration when the plan was finally drafted.

09/24 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13TH MAY 2009

The minutes were approved as proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Rolf.

09/25 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

08/87 "The Engine" S106 Monies.

The chair confirmed that Solihull MBC had received a quotation of £17,000-00 for 2 new bus shelters on the green. The sum allocated in the 106 money was £10,000-00 therefore Solihull MBC had advised that we should only order one. The clerk had sought a quotation for a cheaper design which for 2 shelters with fitting would cost just over £10,000. **The meeting approved the clerk informing Solihull MBC that we wished to proceed with the cheaper design and therefore would request that SMBC purchase these on our behalf as proposed by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Juniper**

HW(14/8)

The meeting also approved the location of a vehicle activated speed sign on Meriden Road near Diddington Lane and some speed restriction signage in Fentham Road.

There was no progress on the zebra crossing as the funding available (£15000) was insufficient to fund a crossing. After some debate about the dangers for pedestrians crossing Meriden Road, it was agreed that we arrange a meeting with ward councillors to discuss a way forward.

(HW 16/9)

09/05 The Tennis Courts Improvements

The tennis courts and associated planting was now complete with one or two issues outstanding. The contractors were looking at a drainage problem where water was seeping onto the car park and damaging the tarmac surface.

09/15 Improvements to the Common

Mr Timothy informed the meeting that new contracts were being obtained and he was hopeful that the improvement works would commence shortly.

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

Mr Timothy confirmed that the Footpaths' Officer had obtained funding to lay a compacted hardstone surface to the above footpath plus a new wooden gate, subject to consultation with the landowner, Dr Ann Taylor, 26 Meriden Road. It was advised that Solihull MBC receive her consent in writing and Councillor Juniper would raise the issue with her informally.

(GJ16/9)

09/26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 17TH JUNE 2009

These were approved as proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Smith.

09/27 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

09/28 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE OF 18TH FEBRUARY

These were approved as proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Bowen

09/29 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE OF 17TH JUNE 2009

These were approved by Councillor Bowen and seconded by Councillor Smith

09/30 MATTERS ARISING

M10/04 Access to Tennis Courts and Kids Zone

The meeting expressed serious concerns that it had always been the understanding of the Parish Council that the 'kids zone' would be available for various uses by different groups such as pre school, scouts and guides, however the tennis club had now stated that the courts could only be used for playing tennis and only by tennis club members. Free access to the courts for villagers when the courts were not needed by tennis club members was also queried and the clerk agreed to check the lease. (It was subsequently confirmed that free access only applied to children.) It was agreed that this matter would be discussed further with the tennis club.

HW(14/8)

M10/08 Church yard maintenance

Councillor Bowen confirmed that he had drafted a letter on Councillor James' behalf asking for a meeting with the vicar to discuss maintenance of the church yard which had received poor marking in the best kept village

competition. The chair asked that a copy of the letter be sent to the church wardens.

(CB16/9)

The state of the car park near Packhorse Bridge had also been mentioned. Mr Timothy agreed to ensure that it was regularly checked for litter. Councillor Juniper informed the meeting that Packington Estates wanted to encourage more access for walkers to their bird reserve near this area which would make this area even more busy. Councillor Juniper agreed to provide the clerk with a report to be circulated to all councillors.

(GJ31/8)

M10/09 Community Projects

Mr Timothy informed the meeting that he had been able to secure some volunteers to paint the play area on 19th August. The clerk agreed to contact Mr Timothy with a schedule of what needs to be done after a site meeting with Councillor Rolf.

(HW14/8)

09/31 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. Draft Housing Extension Guidelines from Solihull MBC. Clerk had replied commenting that they were very helpful.
2. Draft Airport Noise Action Plan (to be discussed later in the meeting)
3. SMBC Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report
4. Letter from Telecom registering our ownership of the Telephone Box
5. Letter of thanks from children of George Fentham School for the allotment and photos of their produce
6. Letter fro Mrs Fuller re the Chronicle article on re-cycling
7. Accounts from Sports Club for year ending 31/3/08
8. Letter from Sports Club re problems at the Recreation field car-park

09/32 VACANCIES FOR TRUSTEES, RECREATIONAL TRUST AND FENTHAM TRUST

There were 2 vacancies on the Recreational Trust from October 2009 when the period of office for John Rayson and Nigel Pettman end. There is also a vacancy on Fentham Trust from October 2009 when the period of office of Nigel Pettman ends. The meeting agreed to advertise the vacancies and write to the existing trustees asking for a letter of application if they were willing to stand again.

HW(14/8)

09/33 FEEDBACK FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP

Councillor Rolf reported that the group had met once since the last meeting but had made little progress as Ruralnet had ceased trading therefore were unable to help. The clerk was discussing proposed changes with our current company Illumen while Councillor Rolf would talk to the web designer of Meriden's web site.

It was suggested that the communication group consider publishing a paper copy quarterly newsletter to raise the profile of the parish council including a diary of events. The group agreed to consider the implications.

HW(31/8)
AR(31/8)

09/34 FEEDBACK FROM AIRPORT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Councillor Bowen circulated a briefing paper re proposals. He confirmed that the focus group will not meet again during 2009 as the airport's main consultation was the Noise Action Plan. He encouraged councillors to complete the consultation pro-forma. There was a further meeting planned for 20 August from 17.00. Councillor Juniper reminded the meeting that the Hampton Society had arranged for the Airport's chief executive to talk to a meeting on 2 September at 19.30.

Councillor Bowen further confirmed that there were no immediate plans for airspace changes but the focus group meetings in 2010 will look at the airport's continuous descent approach policy.

09/35 FEEDBACK FROM SOLIHULL AREA COMMITTEE 2/6/09

The chair reported that the main theme of the meeting was reports by 2 officers of Solihull MBC. Sarah Barnes from the Neighbourhoods team described the Neighbourhoods project, where the main objective was to ensure that all public services in Solihull delivered better services to meet local needs. She invited parish councils to think about how they might be involved in ensuring that more people locally had a voice in how local services were delivered.

Philip Lloyd-Williams, the monitoring officer, spoke about the high number of complaints about parish councils being referred to the Standards Committee. He stated that this was damaging the reputation of parish councils with SMBC Councillors and would result in parish Councils not being taken seriously. The chair will be asking for a meeting with Mr Lloyd Williams to discuss some of the issues he raised.

(GL31/8)

09/36 LOCATION OF THE RECREATION FIELD SIGN

The meeting discussed the most appropriate siting of the recreation field sign. **It was resolved to delegate the final decision to the chair and vice-chair as proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Juniper.**

(GL,MJ31/8)

09/37 APPLICATION TO SITE THE FISH AND CHIP VAN ON THE RECREATION FIELD

The Fish and Chip Van would no longer be trading from the village green as they did not have the appropriate licences, they had asked for the Parish Council's permission to park on the recreation car-park to trade. Following advice from Mr Timothy, **it was resolved to delay the decision until the following meeting to enable the council to find out what licences the traders did not have, as proposed by Councillor Smith and seconded by Councillor Rolf.** It was also felt important to establish what risks the parish council undertook by giving permission and whether we needed insurance to protect us from such risks.

(HW31/8)

09/38 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following applications;-

1. 09/842 177 Old Station Road, no objection
2. 09/1062 6 Diddington Lane, no objection
3. 09/1063 Arden Brickworks, objection on the basis of the noise, dust and air pollution and proximity to residents of Old Station Road
4. 09/1086 37 Bellemere Road, no objection
5. 09/1023 Diddington Hall, no objection but clerk to find out the nature of the disability of the children at the proposed special school

09/39 FINANCE

The clerk presented the first quarter's accounts and schedule of payments. **These were accepted as proposed by Councillor Juniper and seconded by Councillor Lewis**

The auditor's report had recommended some improvements to the paperwork provided for the audit which had been agreed with the clerk.

The meeting considered the effectiveness of internal control, noting that the financial regulations were last reviewed two years ago and the clerk kept up to date with best financial practice as evidenced by her recent qualification and the parish council's successful quality status award.

09/40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 16th September at 7.30pm.

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

The meeting closed at 9.55 pm