

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM
on
WEDNESDAY 30th MAY 2012

Present **Councillors Mr C Bowen**
 Mr M Blomer
 Mr M James (Chairman)
Mr P Adams
Mr J Robinson
Mr J Eccleston
Mr R Parker
Mr D Colman
Mr T Rogers (SMBC)
Mrs J Richardson (Clerk)

ACTION

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

M13/01 APLOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Lewis, Mr N Holmes and Dr C Boxall.

M13/02 Minutes of Meeting 8th February 2012.

These have already been adopted by a full Parish Council meeting. Mr Coleman identified that agenda item M12/22 stated 2 trees had been felled, when in fact only 1 had been felled, the clerk will amend.

CLERK

M13/03 Matters Arising

12/20 **War Memorial** - Councillor Bowen has received three quotes and will now apply to the airport for a grant, having confirmed with the Chairman that the war memorial is owned by the Parish Council. Councillor Bowen will meet with Councillor Lewis and the Chairman to progress the matter and also to try and obtain further funding.

CB
GL
MJ

12/20 **George Fentham School Crossing** – The Chairman confirmed Solihull MBC have approved a school crossing person, but this is not funded yet. George Fentham School is being contacted to ensure that it is still what they want before any further funding possibilities are considered.

Mr Adams felt that it was not sensible to have a safe crossing over Marsh Lane and then allow junior school children to walk along a dangerous road to school.

M13/04 The Common, Catherine De Barnes

Working parties had taken place, the last one being last Saturday. Mr Rogers stated that the area had all been cleared, and mowed recently, and they were now considering what to do in the future.

M13/05 Churchyard

David Colman informed everyone that Dr Alan Smyth had asked if Mr Coleman could succeed him. This was proposed by Councillor Bowen and seconded by the Chairman.

Mr Coleman summarised recent work completed:

All trees had been checked and catalogued within the Church grounds and vicarage, and would be subject to a 5 year thorough inspection and an 18 month cursory inspection in the future.

The vicarage hedge had been cut back, being lowered to around 7' and the tree in the front of the vicarage will have the canopy raised.

An oak tree has been planted to replace the sycamore – this will be known as the Jubilee Tree.

The grass cutting has kept the Church yard in a reasonable condition.

Following the lead theft last March, the roof alarm has now been installed on the Church roof and the repairs completed to the organ.

Plans for the Church Hall are to upgrade the kitchen and the toilets, and to include a disabled toilet.

It is hoped that a new sign will be installed by the lych gate.

Councillor Bowen enquired if Mr Coleman would be interested in a Fleethire working party being involved with any future maintenance – Mr Coleman would be pleased for them to be involved, provided some notice was given.

M13/06 Recreation Ground and Spinney

Woodland Trust – Mr Parker confirmed that an application to get a free pack of around 400 trees in the autumn had been made to the Woodland Trust as part of the Diamond Jubilee Year Celebration. These should be available in October. Some of these trees could be used for screening the Recreation Ground following the removal of trees by Railtrack.

Diamond Jubilee - Mr Eccleston informed everyone the marquee had been delivered and erected that day, and would be taken down on Tuesday or Wednesday. Tickets had been selling well and it was good that the Recreation Ground will be open for all villagers to increase awareness of the facilities on offer.

The Chairman suggested that a 'Welcome Pack' should be re-introduced to village newcomers as some residents are not aware of the Recreation Ground. This was always given to anyone moving in to the village but over the last few years had not been kept up. Mr Coleman will look in to it and liaise with the Communications Group. Mr Eccleston will do an article for the newsletter.

JC

JE

Old Football Pitch – Mr Adams explained that The Fentham Trust are waiting for a plan to change the old football pitch into an arboretum or spinney, with the possibility of planting trees and obtaining sponsorship.

Arboretum – Mr Adams summarised recent work at the arboretum:

An inspection of the arboretum has identified 7 trees in need of replacing. Problems continue with the name plaques getting broken. Approximately 50 plaques have already been replaced and so stronger plaques are now being used to try and prevent further damage and replacement being necessary.

M13/07 School Field and Play Area

Allotments - Councillor Bowen has received a complaint that the school allotment is still not being used, The Chairman will contact them again to confirm they will be using it in the future. There are a number of people on the waiting list and so any alternative sites will be considered if identified.

MJ

A quote for £950.00 has been received for picket fencing to be put round the allotments to try and prevent children running across them. This will be considered if the problem persists, but was considered to be expensive. Mr Eccleston suggested that hedging would improve the problem.

Play Area Seating – The Chairman has received requests for additional

seating to be provided close to the play area. Following a discussion, it was suggested that Wyckham Blackwell could be approached, together with Fleethire who have indicated they would like to make a donation to the village in some way.

M13/08 Any Other Business

Best Kept Village – Councillor Bowen informed everyone that it was not really possible to compare the villages and we came 3rd in the competition. The Chairman considered it was probably not appropriate to enter the competition in the future, but was important the village tidy-up was continued.

Mr Rogers commented that the other villages used a car to travel around the judging sites, Hampton-in-Arden was the only one who chose to walk the route. This could have meant that less things were seen by the judges than in the other villages.

Arden Run – Mr Eccleston explained the event will take place on 24th June and the roads will be closed. It is the 9th year that the 9 mile run has taken place and both Knowle and Dorridge running clubs work with Hampton-in-Arden - the event is now very well thought of.

Handrail, boardwalk at end of Marsh Lane – Councillor Blomer asked Mr Rogers if he could investigate the replacement of the stolen metal handrail with a wooden one. Mr Rogers will contact Steve Fisher to obtain a quote.

TR

Volunteers – Mr Parker has arranged a provisional date of October 4th for Trish Willetts to bring volunteers, Mr Eccleston confirmed toilet facilities would be available.

Overhanging hedge – The Chairman will speak to the property owners where the hedge is overhanging the footpath between High Street and Fentham Road.

MJ

Fentham Road/Station Road – Mr Parker was grateful to Fleethire for doing the strimming between Fentham Road and Station Road. It is hoped that it can be maintained.

M13/09 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting is arranged for 24th October 2012.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm