

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT

THE GEORGE FENTHAM HALL

ON

TUESDAY 17 APRIL 2018

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| PRESENT | COUNCILLORS | MR M BLOMER (CHAIR) MR T BERESFORD MRS C SELLARS MR K BLANCH MR D SANDELLS MRS V WOODALL Mr R SLEIGH OBE Mrs A ROLF |
| | CLERK | MRS J BARNES 23 PARISHIONERS |

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Mike Blomer, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Dave Cuthbert, Cllr John Doidge and Evan and Carol Grant.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chair gave parishioners a chance to read the Minutes from last year's Annual Meeting.

4. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair presented a verbal report of the Council's work during the year 2017/18, highlighting achievements and detailing work still in progress and referred parishioners to the Annual Report which contains a more detailed account of the year's activities.

Each of the Councillors presented their individual reports, providing parishioners with an opportunity to raise questions at the end of each section. The chair presented the planning report on behalf of Councillor John Doidge in his absence.

The Chair expressed his regret that Councillor's Doidge and Cuthbert had been unable to attend the rescheduled Annual Meeting. The Chair explained that both Councillors had arranged their diaries around the original date but that due to a diary clash with Solihull Council the date was moved in order to accommodate Ward Councillors Bob Sleight and Allison Rolf. The Chair confirmed his apologies to both Councillors Doidge and Cuthbert

and thanked the Ward Councillors for attending.

5. STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2016

The unaudited accounts for 2017/18 were presented in the Annual Report, together with the budget for 2018/19. Particular reference was drawn to the Community Infrastructure Levy.

The Chair explained that a list of payments in excess of £100 was also shown within the report, together with a list of Parish Council assets.

QUESTIONS ON ACCOUNTS

Mr Ian Wasse, Old Station Road

Mr Wasse enquired why "*recovery of cricket pitch funds*" appeared in both income and expenditure. Councillor Beresford confirmed that during the cricket season the grass is cut more regularly, the Parish Council pays for that but then recharges the cost.

Mr Wasse also asked how CIL money is apportioned and whether it is possible to attribute it towards road surfaces where repairs are needed. Ward Councillor Sleigh explained that is not what CIL money is for and that any such requests would be for the attention of the Highways Team at Solihull Council.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Maintenance

Mr Ian Wasse, Old Station Road

Enquired whether the Parish Council is responsible for the area at the bottom of Marsh Lane by the river. Councillor Beresford confirmed that the Parish Council is responsible and that he had noted some works were ongoing in that area and that he would keep an eye on it going forward.

Pedestrian Safety and Traffic Calming

Mr Alan Warren, Bellemere Road

Mr Warren expressed his concern over the increasing presence of cars being parked by the train station and being left for long periods of time on Meriden Road and enquired whether anything could be done to stop the problem from getting any worse. Mr Warren also enquired whether it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to open a dialogue with West Midlands Trains.

Councillor Beresford explained that the Parish Council face a difficult balance as, at present, the Station has free parking. In the past the then London Midland had mooted the idea of introducing charging for the parking but that the Parish Council had resisted that as it would push the traffic into the surrounding roads and other village carparks.

Ward Councillor Sleigh echoed the comments made by Councillor Beresford and explained that all would continue to monitor the situation and if necessary, enter into further

communication with West Midlands Trains.

General Questions/Comments

Tony Worthington, Lapwing Drive

Mr Worthington noted that both he and his wife had been taking a refuse sack down to the footpath by the old Cricket Ground and collecting dog poo bags on a regular basis and enquired whether the Parish Council would consider putting a sign up reminding residents to place their bags in a bin. Councillor Beresford explained that he had not previously been made aware of this and would look into the matter.

The Chair explained that the Parish Council spends in the region of £1,600 per year on dog bags and their removal for the recreation ground using in excess of 19,000 bags. The Chair confirmed the Parish Council will continue to fund dog bags but did note that the number of bags used does appear excessive.

Mr Roger Shinton, Belle Vue Terrace

Mr Shinton stated how important it is to ensure that the keeping of records is carried out diligently and noted that a possible link with the Hampton Library could be beneficial. The Chair agreed with Mr Shinton and confirmed that this is something that requires more thought.

7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked the many residents of Hampton in Arden who devote a great deal of their time and effort in supporting the organisations which make the Village such a great community in which to live. He also thanked those present at the meeting for attending and thanked the Councillors for their hard work and support.

Ward Councillor Sleight thanked the Chair and all the Councillors who volunteer for the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9:20pm.