

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

D R A F T MINUTES

Held at: The George Fentham Meeting Rooms, Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden

On: Wednesday 13 July 2022

Start: 7:30pm

End: 9:47pm

PRESENT

Councillors

Mr Mike Blomer (Chairman)
Mr Roger Waring
Mr Peter Green
Mr Dave Cuthbert
Mr Giles Cook
Mr David Sandells
Mr Dave Cuthbert
Mr John Eccleston
Mrs Min Grimshaw
Mr Ken Blanch
Mrs Cat Sellars

Clerk

Mrs Julie Barnes

Public

Alan Smith
Lesley Cuthbert
Sheila Blomer
Darryl Stokes

ACTION

22/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Vice chairman Tim Beresford and Councillor Alexander Clayson.

22/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- Councillor John Eccleston – President of Hampton in Arden Sports Club and Recreational Trust Trustee.
- Councillor Dave Cuthbert – Catherine de Barnes Residents Association and Trustee of the Catherine de Barnes Village Hall.

22/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Alan Smith – Old Station Road

Alan Smith spoke in his capacity as a resident (whilst noting that he is also an employee of Solihull MBC), in reference to Phase 2 Pedestrian and Road Safety measures planned within the village. Refer to agenda item 22/30 for further information.

Darryl Stokes – Marsh Lane

Enquired whether any progress had been made regarding the broken gate at the bottom of Marsh Lane. The clerk confirmed that Solihull MBC were looking into various options.

Mr Stokes also enquired whether it would be possible to install a bollard at the new build out next to the War Memorial. Councillor Blanch confirmed that a request could be put forward but that the design was undertaken by Solihull MBC Highway engineers.

22/27 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2022

The draft Minutes taken and prepared by Julie Barnes were approved as **proposed by Councillor Cat Sellars, seconded by Councillor Giles Cook** with all members being in favour.

22/28 MATTERS ARISING

- 22/03 – amendment required.
- 22/09 – Solicitors working on a draft lease.
- 22/10 - £25 donation made.

22/29 FEEDBACK FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The clerk confirmed that Solihull MBC had sent a maintenance team out to both villages to do a full road and footpath clean. Councillor Eccleston confirmed that both villages were looking much tidier as a result.

In Councillor Beresford's absence the clerk gave a brief update and confirmed that a copy of the Maintenance Minutes taken on 8 June were included for members' information.

Councillor Sandells confirmed that he would continue to investigate achieving a better price to replace the frog swing on the school play area. **DS**

22/30 FEEDBACK ON PEDESTRIAN AND ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES
Hampton in Arden Scheme

Councillor Blanch referred to his report circulated in advance confirming that it was always envisaged that a further scheme would be needed following initial works.

Members had recently met with Solihull MBC Highways engineers and formal discussions were now taking place about what Phase 2 would look like. Costs were likely to be in the region of £66,000 to £70,000. The Parish Council has secured £50,000 from the HS2 Road Safety Fund so would need to fund the remaining £20,000 from CIL reserves of which an agreement was already in place.

Both Mr Smith and Mr Stokes expressed their preference for what they would like the scheme to look like and members thanked them for their comments noting that they would be taken on board.

Catherine de Barnes Scheme

The Parish Council continue to await confirmation from Skanska that this scheme will be funded via the National Highways Designated Fund.

22/31 FEEDBACK FROM THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTWAY REPRESENTATIVE

Councillor Waring referred to his report circulated in advance noting in particular: -

- The Path alongside the Kenilworth Road had reopened but its condition remains unsatisfactory. Representations have been made to HS2.
- The broken stile to the rear of Fentham Hall is to be replaced with a gate.
- Wire covering on the broadwalk (Packhorse Bridge) needs repair. The clerk has reported this to Solihull MBC.
- There are several other ongoing issues that Councillor Waring continues to investigate and will report further on at our next Parish Council meeting. **RW**

22/32 FEEDBACK FROM CIL COMMITTEE

Councillor Green referred members to his report circulated in advance confirming that since the last meeting the CIL Committee had approved a further payment of £2,200 to the Festival Committee for a replacement marquee.

Reserves are held in the sum of £60,000 for the Pedestrian and Road Safety Schemes in both Hampton and Catherine de Barnes. £36,000 is held in reserve for the Catney Play Area. Available funds are therefore now £12,800.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that residents fully supported the installation of an all year/weather replacement flooring at the Under 7s play area and that he would submit a further application to HS2 in due course. Councillor Green confirmed that sums would therefore continue to be held to match fund this project. **KB**

22/33 FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Councillor Sellars referred to the Minutes taken on 7 July and circulated in advance for information. Articles for the next newsletter would be required by no later than 21 July.

Several articles were discussed in more detail with members being given various actions. **ALL**

22/34 FEEDBACK FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Cuthbert referred to both the running report and more detailed supporting report, circulated in advance to all members.

Reference was made to Ashtree Grove, a new Bloor/David Wilson Homes Development planned within Hampton. Members discussed the proposals in more detail noting that the existing application is an outline only and that the developer will look to make alterations to it. A meeting with the developer and their representatives was scheduled to take place on 15 July.

Solihull Local Plan

Councillor Cuthbert noted that stated in his report and confirmed that a webcast would take place on 8 August.

22/35 FEEDBACK FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

Councillor Cuthbert and Green confirmed that following further work a new version 12 had been prepared. A meeting will be convened later in July to consider that draft in more detail.

22/36 PARISH COUNCIL BASIC ALLOWANCES FOR 2022/23

The chair noted that Solihull MBC had recently published revised Parish Councillor allowances for the current financial year explaining that the Parish Council had always resolved not to accept any payments other than out of pocket expenses.

Councillor Cuthbert **proposed that the Parish Council should not accept any payments other than out of pocket expenses.** This was **seconded by Councillor Blanch** with all members being in favour.

22/37 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY PLANNING

The chair noted that Councillor Clayson was now unable to lead this year's planning. Councillor Sandells confirmed he would take over the management of it. **DS**

22/38 HAMPTON IN ARDEN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The chair referred members to his report circulated in advance. Solihull MBC have increased the fee for providing Christmas lights on the Hampton in Arden Village Green from £985.20 to £1,794 without any forewarning. The Parish Council have explored other options and are able to reduce this sum to £780. Solihull MBC have stated that the Parish Council will not be allowed to use their power supply and, as a result, the Parish Council are now looking into the costs of installing their own supply.

The chair sought members approval for both himself and the clerk to continue investigations into an alternative supply with an update to be provided by email when further information was available. **Chair/
Clerk**

All members were in favour.

22/39 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMPLAINT – OUTCOME

The chair reminded members of a Freedom of Information Complaint that had been made by a local resident. The Parish Council had cooperated fully up to and including the complaint and was able to provide detailed evidence of that to the Information Commissioner's Office. Following a full and detailed review the Commissioner found that the Parish Council had dealt with the enquiry satisfactorily and effectively and dismissed the complaint made by the resident.

22/40 ADOPTION OF CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

The chair referred to his report seeking members view on how best to proceed with the adoption of a climate change policy.

Councillor Sellars felt that a working group should be formed to ensure this matter was given the attention it deserves and agreed to head up that committee.

Councillors Grimshaw, Waring and Green all agreed to join Councillor Sellars and a meeting will be arranged shortly. **CS**

22/41 CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence is received by email and is forwarded to Members as a matter of course with the majority being of a routine nature. Examples are regular consultations from SMBC on planning applications, updates and training opportunities from WALC and NALC, notifications from HS2 and National Highways (Skanska). The following are those that depart from the routine:

13/05 – WALC – Formation of new company Limited by Guarantee

30/05 – WRCC – Warm Hubs comes to Hampton

10/06 – ICO – Complaint decision

24/06 – WALC – UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

01/07 – Severn Trent – Flooding in Old Station Road

07/07 – Travel WM – New operator for X89 bus service

22/42 **REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS**

West Midlands Counter Terrorism Meeting

The Clerk and Councillors Green and Eccleston had tonight attended a briefing with West Midlands Police regarding what policing will be in place over the course of the Commonwealth Games.

Skanska

Members had met with the new Community Liaison Officer, Steve Van der Park. An acknowledgement was received that extensive mistakes had been made. Promises made to the Parish Council over a period of years had now been redacted. A further meeting is planned for September when a full and detailed report should be provided by Skanska. A drive around will take place in August with several members attending.

Meeting with Saqib Bhatti MP

Councillor Cuthbert was due to meet with Mr Bhatti MP and Philip O'Reilly to try to reach a resolution regarding Mr O'Reilly's ongoing issues with National Highways.

The George Fentham Trust Representatives

Councillor Cuthbert enquired what members views were regarding the lack of reports received from representatives/Trustees of The George Fentham Trust. The clerk confirmed she had spoken with Councillor Beresford in advance of the meeting who had confirmed he was happy to provide a report where matters affected the Parish Council.

WALC

Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that WALC is now a Limited Company. 5 Directors had been appointed. A further 5 would be sought.

22/43 **FINANCE**

The quarterly accounts and payments for 3 months ending 30 June 2022 were accepted as **proposed by Councillor Grimshaw, seconded by Councillor Eccleston** with all members being in favour.

22/44 **DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

Parish Council Meeting, 14 September 2022

Maintenance Meeting, 4 October 2022

Parish Council Meeting, 9 November 2022

MEETING CLOSED AT 9:47pm

Reports detailed in the minutes are attached.

Minutes taken and prepared by Clerk, Julie Barnes