

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM

on
WEDNESDAY 9th February 2011

Present **Councillors Mr C Bowen**
 Dr G Lewis
 Mr M James (Chairman)
Dr A Smyth
Mr J Eccleston
Mr J Robinson
Mr Chris Boxall
Mr R Parker
Mr P Adams

M11/28 APOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr N Holmes and Mr A Minton.

M11/29 Minutes of Meeting of 20th October 2010.

These have already been adopted by a full Parish Council meeting.

M11/30 Matters Arising

1. Matters arising from items on the Agenda will be dealt with under the relevant agenda item.
2. Councillor Lewis outlined progress of the parking problems being experienced on Old Station Road and the traffic calming in Fentham Road.

M11/31 Recreation Ground

1. Work on the hedges and trees adjacent to the squash courts has been completed, together with the re-tarmacing of the footpath. The Chairman commented that the finish of the footpath was disappointing. Mr Eccleston explained it was the result of the work being completed during frosty weather, and confirmed that it would be repaired.
2. The parish council is still pursuing the development of an outdoor fitness gym and will continue to try and obtain a grant to proceed with the work. GL
3. Mr Parker commented that The Spinney is now generally looking good with just a few small areas of maintenance being required. There are also a few saplings which need to be removed. Seating and picnic tables were being considered. Mr Eccleston to contact Mr Minton to try and locate a number of benches/picnic tables with a possibility of re-locating them to The Spinney. JE
4. Mr Adams confirmed George Fentham Trust would be trimming some of the hedges which abounds The Spinney. PA
5. Councillor Lewis explained the precept had been increased slightly to

cover essential maintenance which has been neglected due to no increase in the precept during the last 3 years.

M11/32 Grass cutting

The grass cutting contract is in the process of going to tender, ready for the new contract in April 2011 and it was agreed that the existing schedule was adequate for the purpose of the tendering process.

JR(28/2)

Mr Adams informed the meeting the football field is no longer used. The Recreational Trust is to decide on it's future use.

MJ

M11/33 The Play Area

Shrubbery has been cut back around the play area, and some of the trees are being cut back on the boundary of the school field. Mr Parker commented that the stumps at the play area should be removed.

M11/34 The Common

Mr Boxall representing the Residents' Association explained that there was still further work needed to maintain the Common as a heath and not a park. Advice is being sought to identify what is possible in the various zones of the common. A plan is currently being developed to split the necessary work into small projects and then a planning document will be produced. Mr Boxall will contact Pete Peters to try and locate old photographs of the area with a view to restoring the common to it's original condition.

CB

M11/35 The Churchyard

There are a number of trees from the church overgrowing the road in the area opposite Church House. This tree work still needed to be arranged as it hadn't been possible to complete the work while the road was closed during the Remembrance Sunday road closure.

Dr Smyth explained that there was a need for more burial ground to be made available, this could possibly be created at the left-hand side of the car park if the ground was levelled.

Councillor Bowen suggested the sub-group involved with church issues should be kept aware of the situation.

M11/36 Forward Maintenance Plan for 2011/12

Concern was raised over the responsibility of maintenance of the footpath between Fentham Road and Station Road which is in need of some work clearing the borders. Councillor Lewis will contact the council to see if they will take responsibility, if not it will be necessary to find volunteers.

GL

To plan future maintenance work, an annual plan should be developed to discuss at the next meeting. Liaison will be made with Mr Parker to consider the work required.

MJ

Any Other Business

M11/37 Drain across footpath near Fentham Road

It was noted that the drain was blocked leading to the pathway flooding. The chair agreed to contact SMBC.

MJ/CB

M11/38 Hedge at No. 8 Old Station Road

It was noted that the hedge onto Old Station Road is very overgrown and causing an obstruction to pedestrians. Solihull MBC have written to the owner to request the hedge be cut back. If this work is not completed in the next week, the council will do the work and bill the property owner.

CB

M11/39 Packhorse Bridge

West Midlands Police are to take-up the problem of people using an area around Packhorse Bridge as a toilet.

CB

M11/40 Fentham Road Street Lighting

The lighting is in the process of being installed.

M11/41 Beeches Restaurant

It was noted that the parish council were aware of the strong kitchen smells from the Beeches Restaurant and the issue would be resolved soon.

CB

M11/42 Street light opposite 8 Old Station Road

It was noted that trees were covering the light opposite 8 Old Station Road.

M11/43 Footpath between Lapwing Drive and The Crescent

The new footpath from Lapwing Drive through to the Crescent is now completed and it was commented that although it was a big improvement, it was shame there was a break in the path which resulted in people having to cross a muddy area. Councillor Lewis explained that it was not possible to lay a hard surface path unless the land owner gave permission.

M11/44 Parish Council Newsletter

Councillor Bowen confirmed that the new quarterly newsletter had been produced and would be delivered to all residents in the near future. The clerk would email a copy to Mr Boxall.

CB(28/2)
JR(14/2)

M11/45 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 8th June at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

