

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM

On
WEDNESDAY 9th JULY 2014

Present: **Councillors: Dr G Lewis (Chair)**
 Mr M Blomer
 Mr C Bowen
 Mr M James
 Mrs A Rolf
 Mrs C Sellars
 SMBC **Mr T Rogers**
Clerk: **Mrs J Richardson**

14/24 CHAIR'S WELCOME & APOLOGIES

ACTION

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Doidge and Ward Councillor Sleigh.

14/25 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest relating to the business of this meeting.

14/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

14/27 UPDATE FROM SMBC

The Chair informed the meeting that this item had been placed early on the agenda to encourage representatives of SMBC to attend meetings and welcomed Mr Rogers our neighbourhood co-ordinator.

Hedges, High Street - Mr Rogers advised that a letter had been sent to Hampton Manor regarding overgrown hedges on High Street. Councillor Blomer explained that some of the road frontages are the responsibility of homeowners. Mr Rogers confirmed that further action will be taken if no response is received.

T ROGERS

Drains – Problem drains are listed to be jetted. There is not a regular schedule to prevent blockage, unfortunately SMBC only react when there is a specific issue.

Cleaning Schedule – Mr Rogers will forward the schedule to the clerk.

T ROGERS

Street Cleaning – A special sweep has been arranged prior to judging the Neighbourhood in Bloom 'Best Village' competition.

Verges – To preserve wildlife, most verges will only be cut back 1 meter from the kerb for a trial period.

Canal and Rivers Trust Walk – Solihull MBC are working with the Trust and Neighbourhood Police to identify ways of improving the safety, amenity and appearance of canals passing through the borough. A walk from Olton to Knowle has been arranged for Tuesday 15th July, the Chair will join the walk for the Hampton-in-Arden section.

CHAIR

Fly Tipping - Councillor Sellars reported fly tipping in the car park at Packhorse Bridge, and Councillor Rolf a sofa at the side of Solihull Road.

The Chair asked if CCTV is ever used for regular fly tipping locations such as Marsh Lane? Mr Rogers will raise the issue at the next SMBC meeting.

T ROGERS

Tree Surveys – SMBC use Glendales for tree work and Mr Rogers will forward contact details for SMBC’s Tree Officer, Clive Wilshire.

T ROGERS

14/28 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 14 MAY 2014

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

14/29 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

14/06 The clerk will update the financial regulations to allow for on line banking, and circulate before the next meeting.

CLERK

14/06 Councillor Bowen circulated the Asset Register which he is developing requesting any amendments from Councillors.

14/11 Construction of the Under 7’s Play Area is underway. A further donation of £1000 has been promised from Severn Trent £100 from Hampton Surgery and £500 from the Hampton Society making it possible to purchase some benches.

It will be necessary to have a safety notice indicating the age limit, liability etc and one for sponsors – Councillor Sellars will draft something suitable.

C SELLARS

14/11 Network Rail Tree Felling – Caroline Spelman is now unable to attend the meeting on 1st August. Councillors felt strongly that the meeting should go ahead and will need to be effectively chaired as affected public have been invited.

Network Rail has confirmed that they won’t do any major tree work until October, but will need to do some remedial work.

14/03 Conservatory, Engine Mews – Councillor Blomer is waiting for a response from the conservation officer regarding the conservatory of 5 Engine Mews.

14/30 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MAINTENANCE MEETING 4 JUNE 2014

The minutes were approved as **proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor James.**

14/31 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

M14/06 Tree Survey – The Chair raised the issue of public safety from trees on parish council land as we have not had a formal survey in relation to public liability. In the first instance Midland Forestry, who are qualified to provide such a survey and do so for Hampton Church, have agreed to advise concerning the issues involved and provide a quote for the survey and ongoing management, it may be necessary to obtain further quotes.

Councillor Bowen expressed his concern about the safety of trees on the Village Green and would like to identify which trees the parish council is responsible for. The Chair will contact Mr Grimshaw, who organises the Hampton Society Conservation Group, to explain the situation.

CHAIR

M14/07 Dog Waste – Councillor Rolf is concerned about dog waste at the recreation ground as dog walkers have been seen not picking up after their dogs. Councillors discussed the option of dogs only being allowed on the recreation ground if on a lead. This will be put on the agenda at the next meeting, and included in the newsletter.

The Chair reported that ‘no dogs’ signs were constantly being removed from the school playing field. Councillors felt it was necessary to put more permanent signage up.

M14/08 Railway Bridge – Councillor James will ask Trevor Honeysett to clean the railway bridge.

M JAMES

14/32 CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting:

1. An email regarding a resident driving dangerously which has been passed to the police.
2. An email regarding preschool now having a full committee.
3. Letters received about the increase in aircraft noise levels.
4. Correspondence from National Table Tennis – the Chair will pursue.
5. Letter from Birmingham Airport advising that they will enforce tree height restrictions.

14/33 REPORT FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP MEETING 2nd JULY 2014.

Councillor Rolf summarised the meeting:

Solihull Neighbourhood in Bloom – The village tidy-up on Saturday 12th July has been well advertised and it is hoped that there will be approximately 20 volunteers, coordinated by the Chair. Councillor Rolf and Councillor Bowen will specify the priority areas for cleaning and will arrange for SMBC to sweep the pavements on Friday.

C BOWEN
A ROLF

The judging will be on Wednesday July 16th, the Chair and Councillor Bowen will show the judges around.

CHAIR
C BOWEN

Newsletter – The Surgery will help with the distribution of the newsletter as theirs will go out at the same time. Catherine de Barnes Residents Association could be approached to deliver in Catherine de Barnes, and if necessary the outlying properties could receive their Newsletter by post.

Councillor James suggested that the final draft of the Newsletter should be reviewed by the Chair and Clerk to ensure that facts were completely up to date before printing. Although this was the custom previously, Councillor Bowen didn't feel it was necessary.

Councillor Bowen will follow up on the printing quote from Ink Tree.

C BOWEN

The Chair asked if it might be possible to change the date of the next Communications Group meeting as it clashed with a Hampton Society talk by Councillor James. Councillor Rolf will look into this.

A ROLF

The website continues to be updated regularly, although the use of the village diary is still disappointing.

Councillor Rolf will stay on the Communications Group for the time being and the Chair confirmed that the other councillors would step in and support the group as necessary.

14/34 BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT UPDATE

The sudden increase in noise experienced since the trialling of 2 new southerly take off routes has seriously concerned parishioners. The parish council publicised a 'Hello' meeting being held in the village by the airport on 21st June and over 100 residents attended to make their feeling known, email addresses were collected in order to keep people up to date with developments.

Two local pilots have worked with Caroline Spelman M P to produce a petition which Mrs Spelman has now deposited in Parliament requesting that the flight path options are reviewed and a route similar to the Hampton Turn is reassessed. The Chair organised collection of signatures, 880 from Hampton, 1300 from Balsall and 25 from Barston.

Letters have been received from the airport stating that the Parish Council and Hampton Society will no longer be on the ACC where they will now be

represented by a Ward Councillor. The village will have only one representative on a new Community Consultative Group, the elected chair of which will represent views of the CCG to the ACC. Subsequently some groups, the Hampton Society but not the Parish Council, have been reinstated on the ACC for the duration of the flight path trials. The Chair contacted the airport to see if this was an error but was advised that there needed to be representatives of community groups but the council requirement was met by the ward councillors. Councillors agreed that whilst the previous ACC was too large to be effective a community as close to the runway as we are should certainly have an individual voice on it. It was suggested that the Chair should write to BAL insisting that Hampton should be represented on the ACC. In the meantime we should accept a place on the CCG and discuss with the Hampton Society from which body the representative should come.

Councillor Blomer suggests waiting until after the Hampton Society Meeting on Tuesday 15th July before taking action.

14/35 SPORTS CLUB – FUNDING OF CCTV AND OTHER ISSUES

Following a number of complaints regarding unacceptable noise levels from a party at the sports club the Chair and Councillor James had a meeting with Graham Hollway to discuss issues to do with the lease. The Board of Directors of the Sports Club has changed recently and Mr Hollway has taken over management of the Clubhouse.

A further meeting is to take place with Graham Hollway and Chris Barnes, the club Chair, on 28th July to review the lease, licence and agree procedures for major events planned at the club.

There has been some vehicle crime on the Recreation Field Car Park recently and Graham Hollway asked if the Parish Council would contribute to upgrading the CCTV to enable car number plates to be identified. It was agreed that, at it's September meeting, the parish council would consider contributing half the cost, approximately £200 - £250. In the meantime the work has gone ahead at a cost in excess of £900.

Councillors felt that they could not agree to a contribution until a further meeting is held with the sports club to identify why the work was completed without obtaining quotations which are necessary for this level of expenditure.

CHAIR
M JAMES

14/36 SEVERN TRENT WORKS

Work has now started in Marsh Lane, with the promise from Severn Trent that more workers will be on site, and for longer hours.

14/37 TRAIN STATION ACCESS

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight is now a member of the Integrated Transport Authority and it was agreed to write him a strongly worded letter concerning the need for a major capital project to allow access for all at our railway station.

14/38 HS2 UPDATE

The Chair gave an update: The parish council petition to the Select Committee has been accepted and is likely to be heard sometime after September. The latest consultation on property compensation needs a response by September; it does not appear that anybody in Hampton will benefit from the new arrangements.

Packington Estate are campaigning to keep Diddington Lane open when

HS2 is built and have sent a letter to residents of Diddington Lane urging them to support this plan. The Parish Council has always understood that Diddington Lane will be closed to prevent it being used as a rat run to the new station and together with the Hampton Society have delivered a letter to affected residents to give a balanced view.

Now that petitions have been deposited HS2 Ltd are starting to negotiate with petitioners on some of the smaller issues. SMBC tell us that talks with HS2 suggest that a majority of haulage will take place along the trace of the railway, and rural roads will only be used as a last resort. The Burton Green tunnel is said to be non-negotiable, and the current state of flooding in the Blythe Valley is being further investigated.

SMBC have just issued a prospectus for the concept of a large 'Garden City' to be developed around the Interchange Station which would have a major effect on our village as would an additional motorway junction south of J6.

14/39 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Blomer reported that the working party were currently studying some of the plans which had been successfully completed elsewhere. Information from our surveys has been collated, and the plan will be re-drafted in the coming weeks.

14/40 PARISH COUNCILLOR RESIGNATION

Following her election as Ward Councillor for Bickenhill, Councillor Rolf's letter of resignation was received and accepted by the Parish Council.

The Chair congratulated Councillor Rolf and thanked her for her contribution to the work of the council over the last 5 years. It was agreed that the position should be filled by co-option. The Clerk will advertise for 14 days to identify if an election is necessary, and then the Councillor Vacancy Advert will be put on the noticeboards and in the next newsletter. Councillors agreed that a working party of the Chair and Vice-Chair will meet with candidates and then report back to the full council.

CLERK

Councillor Bowen thanked Councillor Rolf for all her hard work on the parish council.

The Chair reported that she had made enquiries regarding increasing the number of parish councillors from 7 in order to deal more effectively with the many important issues which are affecting the village. It is possible to request an increase in numbers by writing to the Governance Committee of SMBC with a rationale detailing why the parish feel it is necessary. If approved the additional posts could be in place for the elections in May 2015.

Councillor Blomer considered that it would be beneficial to increase the councillors by 2. All councillors agree to go ahead.

CHAIR

14/41 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

None

14/42 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor Doidge circulated details of all planning applications currently outstanding, prior to the meeting. Councillor Blomer made the following comments:

2012/2004 The Pleck – This is likely to go to a public enquiry.

2013/1743 The Dell – A meeting and site visit has been held with the solicitor representing the parish council to discuss terms of easement which will need to be very precise including ongoing arrangements and funding for

management and maintenance of the access way. The planning application is reported to have changed to 3 bungalows and to convert The Dell into 3 units.

2014/949 Rose Cottage – Consideration will need to be given to the vegetation which will need to be cleared and access.

2014/860 Ring of Bells Garage – Comment will be made on the height of the rear wall.

1c Meriden Road – A new application has just been received for a conservatory (3rd application). Previous applications have been refused due to the close proximity of a TPO tree.

14/43 FINANCE

The Summary of Accounts and Authorisation of Payments were accepted as **proposed by Councillor Lewis and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

14/44 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Dates for meetings of the Parish Council in 2014 will be as follows:

10th September 2014

12th November 2014

Maintenance Meetings

15th October 2014

The meeting closed at 10.05pm