

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held via

MICROSOFT TEAMS

on

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2020

MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Mr Mike Blomer (Chair)
Mr Tim Beresford (Vice Chair)
Mr Dave Cuthbert
Mr David Sandells
Mr Ken Blanch
Mr Peter Green
Mr Giles Cook
Mr John Eccleston
Mr Alexander Clayson
Mrs Catherine Sellars

CLERK

Mrs Julie Barnes

ACTION

20/19

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mike Hulme.

20/20

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- John Eccleston, President, Sports Club.
- Dave Cuthbert, Residents Association and Trustee of Catherine de Barnes Village Hall.
- David Sandells, Sports Club Member.

20/21

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

20/22

SMBC NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

SMBC Economy and Infrastructure Directorate has recently completed a re-shaping process within Communities, Neighbourhood, and Regulatory Services. The chair notified members that new working arrangements for SMBC team members are now in place meaning the Parish Council no longer has a single point of contact in Sue Hughes.

The clerk notified members that the new system was working well to date.

Councillor Cuthbert, (in his capacity as SAC chairman), stated that various meetings had been had with SMBC about the new working arrangements and he would continue to liaise with SMBC and neighbouring Parish Councils should any issues arise. **DC**

20/23 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD ON 13 MAY 2020

The minutes from the AGM were approved as **proposed by Councillor Blanch and seconded by Councillor Eccleston.**

20/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

20/08 19/102:- Update from Sue Hughes
Cherry Tree, Catherine de Barnes: Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that removal works had been completed and the area had been tidied.

Peel Close, kerb stones: the clerk confirmed that the kerb stones have been put on a "low risk" list for repair. That repair is likely to take some time.

Hampton Lane/Trench:- the chair confirmed that the repair had not yet taken place. Clerk to chase. **Clerk**

19/08 – Maintenance:

Fallen Tree/Network Rail. The clerk confirmed that the removal of this tree has been stalled due to the impacts of Covid-19, Network Rail have an investigation team on standby and will report further in due course. **Clerk**

The Common: Councillor Cuthbert noted that the Catney Sign was now in place and had been warmly received by residents.

Councillor Cuthbert noted that considerable works were required to Catney Common in order to restore it. Councillor Beresford will attend a site visit with Councillor Cuthbert in order to ascertain what works are required and report further. **TB/DC**

20/17 Any other business
Catherine de Barnes Village Hall: Councillor Cuthbert noted that no further progress had been made to date. **DC**

Allotments: The clerk confirmed that following a recent inspection two further plots had become available that had been released to residents on the Parish Council waiting list.

Neighbourhood Plan: The chair noted that several meetings had been held with the working group. The survey was now completed and awaiting printing. An application would be made in due course for a grant from Locality Planning.

Old Station Road, Oak trees: The chair confirmed that a TPO application has now been made for a number of large oak trees along Old Station Road.

Councillor Cuthbert enquired whether a TPO application could be made for the large Oak on Lugtrout Lane. The chair requested Councillor Cuthbert provide a location plan to the clerk. **DC**

20/25 FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Due to Covid-19 the Communications Subcommittee had been unable to meet. Councillor Sellars sought members views on whether to deliver a hard-copy newsletter in August. All members agreed with all volunteering to assist with

delivery should it be necessary.

Councillor Sellars ran through articles and requested sight of those by Friday 17 July. **All**

20/26 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor Cuthbert referred members to the report circulated and noted in particular:

51409 – MSA: A further modified application has been received incorporating environmental changes. The Parish Council will submit a response in due course. **DC**

00709 – 1 Oakfields Way: This application has now been approved subject to several conditions.

03208 – The Brickworks: Councillor Cuthbert explained that the existing planning permission for this site expired in November 2019. An application has been made to continue operations on the site for a further 10 years. A significant number of objections have been received.

Members considered the application in more detail alongside Councillor Cuthbert's report. Councillor Sandells provided a detailed map analysis to members.

All members agreed that this application should be treated as a new application with the Parish Council having strong grounds to put forward an objection. A referral to the Planning Committee will be requested. Councillor Cuthbert will prepare a response for the chair's approval. **DC**

M42 Junction 6 Improvements: Members were notified that on 21/05/2020 the Secretary of State granted consent for this project to proceed. Highways England have handed the project over to Skanska, one of the main contractors, to implement. Councillor Cuthbert has requested a virtual meeting with Mr J Compton at Skanska and will report further in due course. **DC**

225 Lugtrout Lane: Councillor Cuthbert noted that significant outbuildings have been seen by residents that are without planning permission at this location. Planning enforcement are aware and are looking into the situation. The Parish Council will maintain a watching brief.

Oak Farm: Councillor Cuthbert noted that the most appropriate development for the site, and for the community, would be a care village of the kind detailed in Planning Application 01215. Members recognised that the site would therefore need to be removed from the Green Belt in the Local Plan and the Parish Council would therefore propose to support this on those grounds only. Councillor Cuthbert noted that the Parish Council would strongly resist any suggestion of removing other land from the Green Belt along Friday Lane.

All members confirmed that they would support Catherine de Barnes Ward Councillors and the Residents Association view on this matter.

Councillor Cuthbert will arrange a virtual meeting with Gary Palmer at SMBC to discuss further. **DC**

20/27 PARISH ONLINE – DIGITAL MAPPING SERVICE

Members were recently invited to attend a training course for Parish Online, a digital mapping service. The service enables local councils to list and manage assets, produce neighbourhood plans, view boundaries, addresses, SSI's, listing buildings, flood zones and create, annotate and print maps. Councillor Green attended the training session and was extremely supportive of the system.

The service costs £108 per annum with all members being able to access the system. Initially, the Parish Council is able to sign up to a free 90 day trial.

All members agreed.

Clerk

20/28 OAK TREE – HAMPTON IN ARDEN SPORTS CLUB

The chair reminded members of the ongoing discussions over the refurbishment or replacement of the club house located on the Recreation Ground.

The club house is suffering from subsidence and following investigation, the club's insurers have ascertained that the cause of the subsidence is the large Oak tree that overhangs the club house. The Parish Council is aware of the tree's significance in the village and has been liaising with the club to avoid its removal.

The chair noted that the tree is not subject to a TPO and referred members to his report circulated in advance of the meeting about the club's insurer's various findings.

The chair noted that the club's management are keen to find a solution that doesn't include the felling of the tree but also require an "*in principle*" approval for its clearance should other alternatives fail.

Members considered the request in more detail and reluctantly agreed that the Oak tree can be felled in the event that it is absolutely necessary subject to an assurance from the clubhouse that:

- a) any rebuilding of the clubhouse would have avoided the tree being felled; and
- b) that a replacement oak tree or trees will be provided at a location to be agreed with all costs being borne by the Sports Club.

The chair will notify the Sports club accordingly.

MB

20/29 RECREATIONAL TRUST – REPLACEMENT ASTRO PITCH / FUNDING

The chair referred to his report circulated in advance and reminded members that approval had recently been granted to the Hampton in Arden Recreational Trust (HIART) to undertake replacement works to the astro-turf at a cost of £240,000. Certain issues with payment have subsequently come to light and the Parish Council has investigated various ways in which it could support the Trust. Unfortunately, the Parish Council has been unable to find a solution and a decision by the Parish Council is therefore not necessary at this stage.

20/30 MEMORIAL BENCH REQUEST – THE SPINNEY – HAMPTON IN ARDEN

The chair referred to his report noting that a request had been received by the family of Martin Cadman (via the George Fentham Trust), for a memorial bench to be placed in the Spinney. All members agreed.

Clerk

20/31 PEDESTRIAN AND ROAD SAFETY PROGRESS

Councillor Blanch confirmed that a virtual meeting had taken place with Paul Tovey, head of Highways at SMBC. As a result, the Parish Council had been invited to apply for funds under the HS2 Road Safety Fund with some match-funding. The Parish Council have submitted that application. Councillor Blanch confirmed that such an application will not prevent the Parish Council from putting forward further submissions at a later date.

Councillor Cuthbert enquired whether the plan should now be updated to include Catherine de Barnes. Councillor Blanch confirmed he would meet with Catherine de Barnes ward councillors separately in order to do so.

**DC/KB/JE/
GC**

The chair noted that the Parish Council had received a complaint from a Hampton in Arden resident regarding the lack of available parking on Butchers Road. A request has been made for both parking restrictions to be implemented along with a request for designated resident parking bays. Councillor Blanch confirmed he would consider this request in more detail alongside the existing Pedestrian and Road Safety Plan.

KB

20/32 CIL PROJECTS

The chair referred members to his report noting that as CIL monies are now slowly building up it is suggested that a list of potential projects that could be considered for funding under the agreed guidelines be set up.

Councillor Blanch had prepared and circulated a spreadsheet detailing all current potential CIL projects. All members agreed with the current list and members will continue to monitor and add to the list, reviewing it at each Parish Council meeting.

All

The clerk confirmed she would put the document on One Drive for editing and viewing purposes.

Clerk

Clerk to add to list:

2.3 – Butchers Road – Resident’s parking requests.

2.4 – Field Lane closure.

20/33 COVID 19 PAYMENTS

The chair informed members that the Meriden Rotary Club had donated £100 to the Parish Council towards helping residents who might require assistance during the Covid-19 pandemic. Additionally, SMBC had also made grants to all town and parish councils in the Borough. The Parish Council had received £3,107 as a contribution towards potential lost income resulting from the outbreak.

The chair noted that the George Fentham Trust has taken the lead in helping residents, particularly the elderly and vulnerable and, to date, no expenditure has been incurred by the Parish Council. Consequently, the chair suggested that the donation from Meriden Rotary Club is forwarded to the Trust. All members agreed.

Clerk

20/34 ALLOTMENTS (PICKET FENCE)

During the March Parish Council meeting Councillor Clayson had enquired whether it would be possible to place a picket fence around the allotments. Enquiries were made and two quotes obtained totalling in excess of £1,500 plus VAT.

Councillor Clayson expressed concern that children could injure themselves and it was important that they were discouraged from playing on the plots. A query was also raised over whether the Parish Council had sufficient insurance cover in such an event.

Councillor Sellars confirmed that she would put an article in the next newsletter to remind parents and could also send an article out on "Class List" (a communication app used by many of the parents within the school). Councillor Beresford would also write to the headteacher.

CS

TB

The clerk will send some wording over to Councillor Sellars for the Class List and will also clarify with insurers over the level of cover currently provided.

Clerk

20/35 CORRESPONDENCE

Virtually all correspondence is received by email (any correspondence by post is a rarity now) and is forwarded to members as a matter of course. Listed below is a selection of emails received (excluding items relating to Covid-19 and the numerous notifications from LM and Balfour Beatty Vinci about ongoing HS2 work):

13/05 – WALC Newsletter
21/05 – Solihull CAVA Newsletter
27/05 – WALC Newsletter
03/06 – NALC Newsletter
05/06 – West Midlands Combined Authority Newsletter
10/06 – WALC Newsletter
16/06 – CSW Broadband update
23/06 – SMBC – HS2 Community & Business Fund

20/36 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that the SAC AGM was due to take place on 09/07/2020.

DC

20/37 FINANCE

The quarterly accounts and payments for 3 months ending 30 June 2020 were accepted as **proposed by Councillor Cuthbert and seconded by Councillor Beresford.**

20/38 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The chair enquired whether members had any other business to discuss:

Councillor Blanch confirmed to members that a request for the road closures had been sent to SMBC in readiness for Remembrance Sunday.

Councillor Beresford enquired whether any further information had been forthcoming about the recent damage to the war memorial. The clerk confirmed it had not and Councillor Beresford requested that the damaged wall now be repaired. **Clerk**

20/39 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The chair confirmed the dates for the next meetings:

Parish Council Meeting: 9 September 2020

Maintenance Committee Meeting: 7 October 2020

Meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Minutes taken, prepared and presented by Julie Barnes, Clerk

DRAFT