

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

MINUTES

*Held at: The George Fentham Meeting Rooms, Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden
On: Wednesday 31 January 2024 at 6:30pm*

PRESENT	Councillors	Cllr Mike Blomer (Chairman) Cllr Tim Beresford (Vice Chairman) Cllr Cat Sellars Cllr Ken Blanch Cllr Peter Green Cllr Alexander Clayson Cllr Piers Reid Cllr Roger Waring Cllr Dave Cuthbert Cllr Giles Cook Cllr John Eccleston
	Clerk	Mrs Julie Barnes
	Public	10 members of public.

NO.

ACTION

1. CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

The chair thanked members for attending this extraordinary meeting at Hampton in Arden Parish Council. The purpose of the meeting being for members to decide upon whether they wished to approve a CIL grant of £75,000 to the GP surgery in Hampton in Arden in order that they may convert the Lodge (previously the Caretaker's Cottage) into additional clinical space to allow them to cope with increased demands.

The chair handed over to the clerk who confirmed that whilst a possible *Conflict of Interest* had been noted from Cllr Tim Beresford in relation to his role as a Trustee for the George Fentham Trust, legal advice had been taken and it had been confirmed that he is fully entitled to both contribute and vote at this meeting.

Apologies were noted from Councillor Sandells. All other members present.

2. CIL REPORT FROM CLLR PETER GREEN

Cllr Green referred to his report circulated in advance [*a copy of that report is attached to these minutes for full transparency*], noting that whilst the CIL Committee does hold delegated authority, it was felt in this instance that a full council meeting was required in view of the amount being sought.

In addition to this, it was important to note that the CIL Committee does not

currently hold sufficient funds to pay the entirety of this application and a discussion around that was therefore required. Cllr Green provided members with an update on the financial position and the solution to that situation as detailed in his report.

Members were then provided with a detailed overview of the purpose of CIL, a detailed breakdown of the surgery's position to include its current boundary, the services that it offers to those residents that fall within it and what it intends to do if successful in obtaining a CIL grant.

The floor was then opened for members to discuss the issues in more detail.

T3. STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS

Cllr Giles Cook

The catchment of the surgery remains in issue. At present, it currently does not cover the entirety of the Hampton in Arden Parish. NHS guidance appears to suggest that the surgery can accept patients from outside of their boundary on a discretionary basis. The surgery has however confirmed to the Parish Council that they will not be willing to do so in the future and therefore it remains the case that a small number of Catherine de Barnes residents will not have access to the GP surgery in Hampton in Arden.

Despite that, Cllr Cook has been alerted to some residents outside of the GP catchment area being patients of the surgery and noted that this does therefore demonstrate that a discretion has been possible in the past. It was felt that there should be an argument that by purposely *excluding* certain residents from having access to the surgery, the surgery was preventing themselves from being entitled to CIL funding.

In addition, Cllr Cook wished to place on record that the surgery is a private entity and was keen to ensure the Parish Council does not set a precedent on this basis noting that the CIL Committee had previously turned down funding for this reason. It is vital that if a grant is provided to allow the surgery to cope with increased demand that it is used as such in the future for the residents of Hampton in Arden parish.

Members discussed Cllr Cook's comments in detail, in particular noting that the surgery were not prepared to offer a discretionary acceptance of the small number of residents who did not fall within their GP boundary but did fall within the Parish of Hampton in Arden.

In relation to the funding of a private entity, as they are part of the NHS, they should be regarded as private contractors. This is the mechanism by which GP surgeries exist. Cllr Green stated that, furthermore, the Fentham Trust lease will commit the surgery to maintaining its current form for at least the next 15 years thereby providing some additional protection. It was noted that SMBC and Govt guidelines confirmed that the enhancement of primary health services was also a recommended use of CIL funding.

Cllr Dave Cuthbert

Echoed the comments made by Cllr Cook.

Cllr Ken Blanch

Wished to remind members that prior to the boundary extension the GP surgery

boundary did indeed cover the entirety of the Parish as it then stood.

Cllr Sellars

Enquired whether the GP surgery had approached anyone else for funding, noting that the GP boundary extended to Bentley Heath, Balsall Common, Berkswell etc.

Cllr Cook was able to confirm that the surgery was only entitled to apply for CIL funding from within their Parish and that was therefore Hampton in Arden. It was noted that an application for funding had also been made to the George Fentham Trust.

The Chairman used his discretion to open the floor to questions from the public. The following statements were made: -

Lesley Cuthbert – Catherine de Barnes

Wished to remind members that the Parish had been extended in recent years to include all of Catherine de Barnes and that it was important to remember that members had been appointed to represent all of those people.

Ian Wasse – Hampton in Arden

Ian enquired whether the Parish Council had received a breakdown of the works required from the GP surgery and who would own the asset upon completion of the works.

Cllr Green was able to confirm that a fully costed quote had been provided to the Parish Council and that the surgery were confident they could complete the necessary works within budget. The Fentham Trust would continue to own the Lodge and the GP surgery would lease it from them.

4. **FORMAL VOTE**

As per the CIL recommendation, the Parish Council will fund part of the £75,000 from funds it currently holds. The George Fentham Trust have agreed, and provided written confirmation that, they will fund any shortfall on available CIL by making a payment direct to the GP surgery and will recover that sum from the GP surgery when further CIL funds become available. The Parish Council would therefore pay £35,000 to the GP surgery, with the Fentham Trust meeting the shortfall of £40,000 until further CIL funds became available, at which point that shortfall would be repaid.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Green that Hampton in Arden Parish Council should make a payment up to the estimate of £75,000 to the GP surgery in Hampton in Arden (with the deferred CIL payment being made when in receipt of further funds as detailed above). This was **seconded** by Cllr Beresford with **all members being in favour**.

It was further **proposed** by Cllr Blanch that those funds be provided to the GP surgery without further legal conditions. This was **seconded** Cllr Beresford with 9 members being in favour and 2 against. **The proposal was therefore passed.** However, all members agreed that along with payment of the agreed CIL grant, an enhanced request should be submitted that all residents within the Parish of Hampton in Arden be given access to the surgery, including those that fall outside of the GP surgery boundary but fall within the Parish of Hampton in Arden. A further request should fall alongside that being that the funds have been granted to ensure that the Lodge will remain as a clinical space thereby enabling the GP

surgery to achieve its vision of continuing to provide excellent primary care services in the heart of the community of Hampton in Arden.

Cllr Green will notify the GP surgery accordingly of the Parish Council's decision **PG** and seek a further meeting with them in relation to the additional requests.

The meeting was closed at 7:30pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Clerk, Julie Barnes