

# HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held at  
**THE MEETING ROOM**

On  
**WEDNESDAY 13<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

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

## **13/67 CHAIR'S WELCOME**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially members of the public.

## **13/68 APOLOGIES**

Mr T Rodgers (SMBC)

## **13/69 DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

The Chair declared an interest in relation to planning application 2013/1777 which is adjacent to her property.

## **13/70 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Keith White, Piper Homes – Planning Application at The Dell, Catherine de Barnes.

Mr White explained that he had agreed to purchase The Dell and the yard to the rear subject to planning permission for a housing development and had approached the parish council regarding formalising access across Catherine de Barnes Common. He said that the Dell has prescribed right of access over the common resulting from 40 to 50 years of use and he would seek to construct a cobbled roadway. This would be the favoured route of access but there were other options. Mr White confirmed he would be happy to meet with Catherine de Barnes residents to discuss the application.

Mrs Frances Cook, Catherine de Barnes Residents Association expressed concern about the safety of the access, and also the importance of The Common remaining attractive.

The Chair stated that the parish council would be guided by the opinions of the residents of Catherine de Barnes and will arrange a meeting with them.

Mrs Cook will be arranging a public meeting between Catherine de Barnes residents and Mr White.

Mr Chris Boxall, Catherine de Barnes resident, expressed concern about the legal position relating to access, and asked if it would be beneficial to wait until more information was available from legal advisers. Councillor Blomer stressed that the timeframe for planning comments was short and the various meetings should go ahead.

Mr White informed Councillor Blomer that alternative access could be directly from Bickenhill Lane, through the garden of The Dell.

Mr Chris Boxall – Catherine de Barnes Common grass cutting

Mr Boxall advised the meeting that he had received a reduced quote from Solihull Council Neighbourhood Rangers for grass cutting at the Common. The Chair will liaise with him.

CHAIR

Miss Thelma Borley

Miss Borley wanted to confirm that the parish council were aware of the following: The contractor replacing the water main had recently gone into liquidation leaving the work unfinished; heavy vehicles were driving over the island in Peel Close and 5 dwellings were going to be built on the garage site in Peel Close. The Chair thanked Mrs Borley confirming that the parish council were aware of the matters.

**13/71 MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013**

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

**13/72 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING**

13/52 Councillor Doidge reported he had visited the Armac site with Mr Wasse and a representative from Solihull Planning Department. Current work appeared to be legal, he will keep councillors up to date with any developments.

JD

13/53 As there has been no progress regarding access to the station, the clerk will arrange for the Chair to meet with Centro.

CLERK

A letter has been received from Caroline Spelman MP suggesting an approach be made to the Fentham Trust to fund the estimated £100,000 cost of installing an alternative access. Councillor James felt that it would not be an option as it does not fall under their remit as a charity.

Councillor Bowen asked whether the option of shuttering had been considered, and the Chair confirmed it had been investigated, but was not felt to be a secure enough solution.

The Chair advised that Hampton-in-Arden Station was on the list for full refurbishment, but as ranking was on footfall, the station was low on the list.

13/53 Councillor Bowen and the Chair attended the Solihull Neighbourhood in Bloom Presentation Evening, and were delighted that Hampton won the 'Best Village 2013'. More publicity will be given next year to try and encourage people to enter other categories.

Councillor Rolf thanked Councillor Bowen for his hard work and perseverance with the competition.

13/56 Councillor Rolf considers succession planning should be on the agenda for the next parish council meeting. The Chair will arrange a sub-group to report to the AGM in May.

CHAIR

13/62 The Remembrance Day Parade was a great success and the Chair thanked Councillor Bowen for the huge effort that had gone into achieving such a successful event and also for organising restoration of the War Memorial which looked magnificent.

**13/73 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013**

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

**13/74 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING**

M13/42 If a reduction of 20% in cost can be achieved, councillors felt it might be affordable for SMBC to cut the grass removing the cuttings on the

common to encourage wild flowers. The Chair will liaise with Chris Boxall. M13/44 Councillor Rolf questioned whether permission should have been sought nationally to remove the football pitches. Councillor James confirmed that it was not necessary in these circumstances. Councillor Doidge will contact the developer to discuss a path to the proposed play area.

CHAIR

### **13/75 CORRESPONDENCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)**

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting:

1. A letter from Mary Charlton regarding a power cable for Skylark. The Chair has advised that the parish council have no objection to this provided we meet the contractor to ensure work is safe.
2. An email from Duncan Ballard regarding prolonged parking of Skylark at the Recreation Field. Due to parked cars and ease of manoeuvring the bus, it is not always possible to park in the agreed position. Councillor James suggested that if the project is to be long term, a permanent parking place should be considered.
3. A letter from Caroline Spelman regarding HS2.
4. An email from a resident of Old Station Road regarding improvements to lighting, Tom Rogers is dealing with this.

### **13/76 REPORT FROM COMMUNICATION GROUP MEETING 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2013.**

Councillor Rolf circulated a copy of the minutes prior to the meeting, and briefly summarised them:

- The Youth Bus continues to be successful for younger children.
- The website home page will be updated in the next few weeks.
- The Autumn Newsletter will be ready for distribution in mid November. The doctor's surgery will have a newsletter ready at the same time and they will help with delivery. Councillor Bowen has negotiated with Solprint to maintain the current printing prices for this financial year.

Next meeting arranged for January 2014.

### **13/77 THE COMMON, CATHERINE DE BARNES – To approve professional advisors**

Councillor Blomer circulated a report detailing the necessity to appoint a legal advisor and a surveyor to deal with matters relating to the planning application for the Dell. All councillors agree the formal appointment of Helen Gough, Ladders Solicitors, and Nick Russell, Nick Russell Associates.

Councillor Doidge stressed the importance of making Solihull MBC Planning Department aware that there is an issue with the access to this proposed development. Councillor Blomer will contact SMBC to arrange a site meeting.

MB

### **13/78 CONSULTATION CONCERNING SOLIHULL HOUSING ALLOCATION SCHEME**

Councillor Blomer circulated a report prior to the meeting regarding the consultation on changes to Solihull Council's Housing Allocation Scheme, known as "Solihull Home Options" which concerns the policy for allocation of social housing in the borough.

Councillor Blomer considers that the changes proposed would be an improvement and it was agreed to support them

### **13/79 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS FOR VILLAGE GREEN**

Solar Lights have been used on the Village green fir tree for the last few Christmases but are unreliable. Solihull MBC have provided a quote for installing a permanent electricity supply on the village green of £1,382.00, and with 400 fairy lights £3,954.01. It was agreed that this was too expensive and the Chair will purchase solar lights again for this year.

CHAIR

### **13/80 CONDITION OF PARISH COUNCIL NOTICE BOARDS**

The notice board at the village green is in very poor condition and councillors agreed that if it is not possible to repair it, a new one should be purchased.

CLERK

### **13/81 REPORT ON HS2 AND CONSIDERATION OF PARISH COUNCIL AFFILIATION TO 51M GROUP**

Councillor Doidge explained that 51m is an alliance of many major local authorities along the route of HS2 who oppose the scheme and we have been offered the opportunity to join the alliance, free of charge.

Councillors felt more information was required before a decision could be made, the Chair will obtain more detail including whether there are any benefits, or financial commitment.

CHAIR

The Chair reminded councillors that the consultation concerning compensation ends on the 4<sup>th</sup> December, she and Councillor Doidge will prepare a response and circulate to councillors for comment.

JD  
CHAIR

### **13/82 SMBC AND LOCAL COUNCIL 'CHARTER FOR BETTER WORKING'**

The Solihull Area Committee of WALC has produced a charter which has been approved by SMBC. Deborah Merry is the link officer at the council and can be contacted if necessary, a link has been put on to our website.

### **13/83 REQUEST FOR FUNDING AND PLACEMENT OF BENCHES FOR PLAY AREA**

A request has been received asking permission to place a picnic bench next to the outdoor gym. Councillors have no objection to this, provided it does not create a litter problem.

The Parish Council have also received a request for financial help and permission to place 2 benches in the play area by the school. Councillor Rolf advised that it was now thought that financial help was no longer required. Councillors agree they are happy for the benches to be placed in the play area, but will need to agree the position with the maintenance committee, and then the parish council will arrange installation.

### **13/84 PACKHORSE WAY**

The Chair presented a map of the proposed Packhorse Way on footpaths from Berkswell Station to Hampton-in-Arden Station. Councillors gave formal approval of the plan and a small amount of funding for signs.

### **13/85 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Councillors agreed that the date for applications should be extended to 29<sup>th</sup> November and then all applications will be circulated to them. The Chair and Councillor Blomer will then meet informally with the applicants.

CHAIR  
MB

### **13/86 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

Councillor Blomer circulated a brief report prior to the meeting stating that the working party had agreed the content and format of the survey, and it was now with the printer. There are approximately 1000 envelopes to be

sent out, and Councillor Blomer hoped that there would be sufficient funds in the budget to post these. 28 days will be allowed for their return, and then analysis of the returned forms will begin early in the new year.

### **13/87 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS**

Quarry Liaison – The Chair reported that the heavy quarry traffic had reduced considerably following the installation of the new traffic signs.

WALC – that Warwickshire Rural Community Council had an oil syndicate for cheaper bulk purchases of domestic oil and LPG.

WALC are increasing their annual subscriptions by 2%.

Hampton Festival – The 2014 Festival will be a similar format to 2013 on 31<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2014, the scarecrow theme is book characters.

Hampton Society – The Chair wanted to congratulate Dave Grimshaw for his recent talk on wildlife.

Network Rail – A contractor working for Network Rail is proposing to cut to ground all trees along both sides of the railway embankment. The Chair has refused permission for access on Parish Council land until a meeting with Network Rail has been held. Caroline Spelman MP and Councillor Bob Sleigh have been notified.

### **13/88 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Having previously circulated details of recent planning applications, Councillor Doidge made the following comments:

2013/1620 Land at Catherine de Barnes Lane for a Dog Care facility – An objection will be sent.

### **13/89 FINANCE**

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

### **13/90 AOB**

Shadowbrook Lane Drains – The chair reported that analysis confirms sewage is present, but the source is not known. The drains have been cleared out to improve flow and the clerk will contact SMBC to include in their regular maintenance.

Regular Maintenance Work – Councillor Blomer reported that we had still not received a list from SMBC detailing their regular schedule of work. The Chair will contact SMBC to request regular meetings again with the Neighbourhood Team to try and improve the situation.

### **13/91 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

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

Parish Council Budget Setting  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Parish Council  
15<sup>th</sup> January 2014

Maintenance Meetings  
5<sup>th</sup> February 2014

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

