

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at

THE GEORGE FENTHAM HALL

On

TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Councillors:

Dr. G. Lewis (Chair)
Mr. M. Blomer
Mr. C. Bowen
Mrs C Sellars
Mr J. Doidge
Mr. M. James
Mr D Sandells
Mrs J Richardson
25 parishioners

Clerk:

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Gill Lewis, Chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Ward Councillor Bob Sleight, Alison Rolf and village residents Mr & Mrs Thomas, Moira Kyles and Mrs Helen Wood.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Chair gave parishioners chance to read the minutes from last year's Annual Meeting. Mr Goodall proposed the minutes be accepted and this was seconded by Mrs Doidge. The minutes were signed as a true record.

4. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT

The Chair presented a verbal report of the councils work during the year 2014/15, highlighting achievements, and detailing work still in progress and referred parishioners to the Annual Report which contains a detailed account of the year's activities.

Following a governance review by SMBC Hampton-in-Arden have been allocated 2 additional councillors, bringing the total to 9. Councillors Malcolm James and Clive Bowen have decided not to continue on the parish council and the Chair thanked them for their contribution and hard work over their time being a councillor and wished them well for the future.

Parishioner Mr Gerry Blake thanked the parish council for their work, especially thanking Councillors James and Bowen for their hard work during their time as parish councillors.

Nominations have been received and accepted from 7 parishioners, which include 2 new councillors, Tim Beresford and David Cuthbert; a further 2 councillors still need to be co-opted.

The Chair thanked Councillor Alison Rolf, who has been elected to Solihull Council, for her contribution to the work of the parish council, and also thanked Mr. Peter Adams for completing the internal audit each year, at no cost to the parish council.

5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31ST 2015

The unaudited accounts for 2014/15 were presented in the Annual Report, together with the budget for 2015/16.

The Chair explained that, to balance estimated expenditure and to compensate for a reduction in the Council Tax Support Grant, the precept has been raised by 2% for 2015/16. This is an annual increase per Category D hand household of 55 pence, to approximately £28.08.

Questions on the Accounts:

None

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr Peter Unwin, Fentham Road

In relation to the HS2 Hybrid Bill, Mr Unwin questioned why the parish council support the closure of Diddington Lane as he uses it daily and strongly disagrees with it being closed.

The Chair replied that following a request for opinions on this issue only one parishioner had written in support of the lane being kept open while many had supported closure.

Mrs M Doidge, Diddington Lane

Mrs Doidge feels that if Diddington Lane is not closed when HS2 is operational, traffic will use the entire village as a cut-through to the Interchange Station.

The Chair explained that HS2 have now prepared an alternative plan to keep Diddington Lane open however the lane would be re-built to a modern, higher standard which would encourage larger volumes of traffic.

Mr G Goodall, Diddington Lane

Mr Goodall stated that the proposal to close Diddington Lane came from HS2 and is written in to the Hybrid Bill. It was not suggested by the parish council.

Mrs A Jones, Mouldings Green Farm

Mrs Jones is concerned that more traffic will use the A452 past their farm if Diddington Lane is closed.

Mrs Jones is also concerned that SMBC have not cleared spoil from the verges, despite her requests. If the road is re-surfaced in May or June, please can SMBC ensure the verge is repaired at that time. The clerk will pursue.

8. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chair thanked the many residents of Hampton in Arden who devote a great deal of their time and effort in supporting the organisations which make the village such a great community in which to live. She also thanked those present at the meeting for attending, and thanked the councillors.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm