

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Held at
THE MEETING ROOM
on
WEDNESDAY 21st JULY 2010

Present: Councillors: Mr C Bowen
Mr M Dove
Mr M James
Mr G Juniper
Dr G Lewis (Chair)
Mrs A Rolf
Mr R Smith

Clerk: Mrs Helen Wood

In attendance: Mr David Deanshaw. Balsall Common Village Plan

10/24 APLOLOGIES

Action
(by when)

There were no apologies.

10/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

10/26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

10/27 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th MAY 2010

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

10/28 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM MINUTES

10/05 Neighbourhood Watch

Chair had met with Celia Davies, the local co-ordinator and she was keen to promote more schemes. A public meeting had been arranged for 9th September, 7.30pm in the Meeting Room to give further information.

HW(9/9)

09/103 Additional Allotments

The subject of land provision for additional allotments was discussed at a recent meeting of the Fentham Trust, their surveyor will be working with SMBC and the parish council to agree a plan.

MJ/RT(15/9)

09/104 Outdoor Fitness Equipment on the Recreation Ground

Following the Chair's visit to a national exhibition of play equipment, a meeting had been arranged with a potential supplier to visit the site on 11th August to consider our options. Any councillor was welcome to attend. When a likely cost is known grants would be sought to assist in funding.

10/08 Visit by Airport Representative

An airport representative was attending the September meeting of the parish council.

10/08 Request for Community Police Support Officer

A reply had been received to our letter requesting the deployment of a community support officer for the village but because of budget reductions, no new appointments were being made so this would not be possible.

10/29 MINUTES OF MEETING ON 9TH JUNE 2010

The minutes were approved as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Bowen

10/30 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

10/21 Public Liability Insurance for Volunteers

The clerk had written to the Insurance Company but was awaiting a reply.

10/22 New Internal Auditor

Mr Peter Adams had verbally agreed to be our new Internal Auditor.

10/31 MINUTES OF MAINTENANCE MEETING 9TH JUNE 2010

These were approved by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Bowen subject to a minor amendment on page 1, Nigel Holmes, not Malcolm Holmes.

10/32 MATTERS FOR ACTION ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

M11/03 Bus Shelter Signage

The out of date signage at the bus shelter had still not been replaced.

M11/03 Recreational Trust Meetings

A meeting had been arranged for 25th July.

M11/03 Damage by School Contractors to Field

A site meeting had been arranged this week to discuss reparation to the damaged area of field.

M11/04 Cricket Club Practice Nets

The nets had now been installed. The parish council was awaiting a request for permission to install a small pavilion on the recreation field.

MJ (15/9)

M 11/07 Conservation Work on the Common

Richard had confirmed that as there was no funding available this year, any further conservation work had to be scheduled using volunteers.

M11/10 Memorial Benches

A request for donations towards memorial benches to be placed at the Sports Club and near Lapwing Drive would be put in the Chronicle. It was noted that the cost would be approximately £600 per bench plus fitting.

M11/11 Telephone Box

No progress had been made to renovate the telephone box for use as an information centre. It was agreed that a working party should be formed to take this issue forward but there were no volunteers to take this project on.

10/33 CORRESPONDANCE (FOR INFORMATION ONLY)

The following correspondence was presented to the meeting

1. Letter from SMBC confirming the ceasing of emptying the Dog Bins from 1st July. The bins would be emptied by volunteers for a trial period, if it was felt that the task should be given to a contractor this would need to be budgeted for in next years precept.
2. SMBC's Neighbourhood Team Action Plan. The priorities affecting Hampton-in-Arden had been agreed at a meeting between the parish council and SMBC, it was noted that £8000 had been budgeted for priority projects in the whole of Bickenhill ward. HW(15/9)
3. Letter from Chetwode Parish Meeting to compile a list of parish councils affected by HS2.
4. Letter from our solicitors confirming closure of the file on the Deed of Variation for Catherine de Barnes Common as there had been no progress on proceeding with the proposed paving of the road.
5. Letter from Sustain publicising their sponsored walk on 11th September.
6. Letter from Sustain offering support for organisations involved in commissioning.
7. Letter from Public Authorities' Accountancy Association asking for support in principle for producing comparative statistics. This was considered a worthwhile initiative.
8. Consultation Document on SMBC's draft proposals on their Countryside Strategy. (Councillor James to respond.)
9. Letter from a company promoting the installation of Christmas lights. (Councillor Bowen to contact SMBC to obtain quote for using lighting columns as a source of power.) MJ (31/7)
10. Letter from the British Legion publicising their free handyman scheme for ex service personnel. CB (15/9)
11. Quarterly return from SMBC re work done on village footpaths. Also information that improvement work to the footpaths around the old cricket pitch should be commissioned in the next 4-6 weeks.
12. Result of Best Kept Village competition. (Parish council would decide at a later date whether to take part next year.)

10/34 FEEDBACK FROM SOLIHULL AREA COMMITTEE

The meeting received the Annual Report and officers were elected.

Sarah Barnes from SMBC talked about the work of the Solihull Partnership, (see report later in Agenda).

There was discussion regarding the increasing number of complaints to the standards board about parish councillors with advice on how to avoid conflict.

Chris Barr from Streetcare at SMBC talked about street maintenance plans.

10/35 FEEDBACK FROM SOLIHULL PARTNERSHIP FORUM

The meeting was chaired by Steven Munday, Director on Public health for Solihull and included representatives from the council, private sector and a number of voluntary bodies. There were 4 local partnerships forums identified with Hampton-in-Arden in the group including Knowle, Meriden, Dorridge and Balsall Common. The purpose of the Partnership was to encourage bodies to work together to exchange information and influence decision making towards establishing stronger, healthier safer more prosperous communities. Parish councils were asked to consider and identify their priorities in order to feedback by the next meeting in November. The impending change to the number 82 bus route was discussed at length because Meriden and Balsall common were being cut off from one another and it would no longer be possible to travel by bus from Hampton to Balsall Common. This would mean that pupils from Hampton-in-Arden would only have the school buses or train to travel to Heart of England School. As there had been no public consultation on the changes by the bus company or Centro groups were encouraged to take this further.

HL(15/9)

10/36 FEEDBACK FROM MEETING TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY IN FENTHAM ROAD

The chair reported the recent meetings with SMBC and a separate meeting with the school looking at issues hindering more parents allowing their children to walk to school and how to make Fentham Road safer for pedestrians.

SMBC had used an urban designer to formulate proposals changing the street scene to allow pedestrians and vehicles equal rights in Fentham Road. The 20mph speed restriction would be extended to the whole road and paved areas would be created at the entrance points from High Street, Marsh Lane and Butchers Road to simulate pedestrian crossings and indicate that pedestrians had priority. In order to reduce the traffic in Fentham Road during school hours it was proposed to encourage parents to use the Fentham Hall car park to drop off their children with the possible introduction of a school crossing patrol on Marsh Lane jointly funded by a local charity and the school. The parish council agreed that the one-off funding of **the purchase of equipment for the street crossing patrol officer up to a maximum of £500 be made from reserves as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Bowen.**

HW (31/8)

The next meeting with SMBC would be in late September to progress these improvements, but it was agreed that consultations with the residents was a key requirement of any proposed changes.

10/37 PROGRESS ON YOUTH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MT (15/9)

Councillor Dove reported that he hoped to arrange two meetings with the young people in the next few weeks so that by the next parish council meeting the group would have some proposals to put to the parish council

10/38 HIGH SPEED RAIL 2, UPDATE ON THE LATEST POSITION

The chair reported that the information meeting held on 1st June was attended by approximately 200 people who had proposed the setting up of an Action Group, called "The Heart Of England HS2 Action Group", to obtain more information and evaluate proposals. The parish council nominated the Chair to represent the parish council on this Action Group.

Councillor Juniper reported Caroline Spelman had stated that the proposal had multi-party support and would benefit the West Midlands economically, but she would further consider the plans for compensation to homeowners affected by housing blight.

10/39 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The meeting considered the following applications:-

1. 10/916 7 High Street No objection
2. 10/985 1 Meriden Road No objection but concern about access to driveway and reduction in on site parking at No 1.
3. 10/1014 The Crescent No objection
4. 10/1061 The White Lion No objection
5. 10/1033 4 Diddington Lane No objection
6. 10/1109 16-18 High Street No objection

The meeting also retrospectively approved the objection to planning application 10/893 the Storage Depot and after discussion of the amended proposals continued to object to the proposed heights of the stored bales.

10/40 FINANCE

The clerk presented the quarterly accounts and schedule of payments. After agreeing a small amendment to change the date on the budget statement to 2010/11, **these were accepted as proposed by Councillor James and seconded by Councillor Juniper**

10/41 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next full meeting was scheduled for 15th September at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm