

# HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## VIRTUAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD VIA

**Microsoft Teams**

ON

**TUESDAY 13 APRIL 2021**

**PRESENT**

**COUNCILLORS**

Mike Blomer  
Tim Beresford  
David Sandells  
Ken Blanch  
Peter Green  
Alexander Clayson  
Giles Cook  
John Eccleston  
Dave Cuthbert  
Min Grimshaw  
Roger Waring  
Julie Barnes  
15 parishioners

**CLERK**

### **1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Mike Blomer, chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Sellars. Apologies were also received from Ward Councillors Sleigh and Rolf.

### **3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The chair gave parishioners a chance to read the Minutes from the Annual Meeting last held in 2019. The Minutes **were approved as proposed** by resident Lesley Cuthbert and **seconded** by Councillor Alexander Clayson.

### **4. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT**

The chair presented a verbal report of the Council's work during the two years 2019/21, highlighting achievements and detailing work still in progress and referred parishioners to the Annual Report which contains a more detailed account of the two years activities.

Each of the Councillors presented their individual reports, providing parishioners with an opportunity to raise questions at the end of each section.

## **5. STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2021**

The unaudited accounts for 2020/21 were presented in the Annual Report, together with the budget for 2021/22.

The chair explained that a list of payments in excess of £100 was also shown within the report, together with a list of Council assets.

### **QUESTIONS ON ACCOUNTS**

#### **Chairman's Report**

No questions.

#### **Maintenance Committee**

##### Sue Keily, Meriden Road

Sought confirmation that the current allotment site would remain when the new allotment site is built off Eastcote Lane. Councillor Beresford confirmed that it would. The additional site will also allow the Parish Council to provide allotment plots for all those currently on its waiting list.

#### **Planning Subcommittee**

No questions.

#### **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

No questions.

#### **High Speed Rail HS2**

##### Sue Keily, Meriden Road

Wished to raise the recent removal of mature trees that had been taking place linked to both HS2 and the Junction 6 Improvement Scheme noting that residents are extremely sad and unhappy at the extent of the devastation.

Councillors Blanch, Cuthbert and Cook were all able to confirm that the Parish Council are in regular contact with both HS2 and Skanska (the appointed contractor for the J6 Improvement Scheme) and that they are all in fact working within their permitted guidelines. The chair referred residents to a recent statement on the Parish Council website from Skanska that provides more detailed information. Councillor Cook confirmed that Skanska will replant 7 new trees for every existing tree removed. The Parish Council will maintain a watching brief and ensure that the agreed replanting scheme does take place.

#### **Pedestrian and Road Safety**

##### John Timperley, Diddington Lane

Enquired when a decision may be made about the potential closure of Diddington Lane. Councillor Blanch confirmed that the decision rests with HS2 noting that they are required to prepare detailed designs which will then be assessed by Solihull Council Highway Engineers before a recommendation is given.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that in his option the Lane should be closed and that the Parish Council has put forward detailed documentation in support of such a closure, a watching brief is being maintained. The Parish Council remains in close contact with both HS2 and Solihull Council Highway Engineers.

### **Remembrance Sunday**

No questions.

### **Communications Subcommittee**

No questions.

### **Finance**

No questions.

## **6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

No questions.

## **7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The chair thanked the many residents of Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes who devote a great deal of their time and effort in supporting the organisations which make the Villages such a great communities in which to live. He also thanked those present at the meeting for attending and thanked the Councillors, all of whom are volunteers, for their hard work and support.

The meeting closed at: 8:46pm.