

HAMPTON-IN-ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

held via

MICROSOFT TEAMS

on

WEDNESDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2021 at 7:30pm

MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Mr Mike Blomer (Chair)
Mr Tim Beresford (Vice-Chair)

Mr Roger Waring
Mr Peter Green
Mrs Catherine Sellars
Mr Dave Cuthbert
Mr Ken Blanch
Mr Giles Cook
Mr David Sandells
Mr John Eccleston

CLERK
PUBLIC

Mrs Julie Barnes
Mrs Sheila Blomer

The chair welcome everyone to the meeting.

21/41

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Alexander Clayson, Min Grimshaw and Ward Councillor Alison Rolf.

21/42

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- John Eccleston, President, Sports Club and Recreational Trust Trustee.
- Dave Cuthbert, Residents Association and Trustee of Catherine de Barnes Village Hall.
- Tim Beresford – George Fentham Trustee and School Governor.

21/43

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

21/44

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2021

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting were approved as **proposed by Councillor Cuthbert and seconded by Councillor Blanch.**

21/45

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

21/29 – The Common: Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that the first cut had taken place on The Common. The clerk confirmed an invoice is still awaited from The Family Care Trust.

21/35 – Sports Club Lease: Councillor Beresford confirmed that the Parish Council have now written to the Sports Club confirming the Council’s agreement to a lease of 50 years. The Parish Council is currently liaising with the Sports Club to ensure that children within the village have access to the Tennis Courts.

21/46 FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

Councillor Sellars’ referred members to the Minutes circulated in advance noting in particular:

Councillor Sellars has been unable to contact Sarah Jones of Solihull MBC in order to make arrangements for a *Village Tidy* within both villages. The clerk will make enquiries as to who is now in charge of this at Solihull MBC.

Clerk

Councillor Clayson is currently looking into internet services within the village. It is hoped that fibre is due to launch shortly, and an article will go out to residents on this in the November newsletter.

Councillor Clayson has agreed to draft a policy relating to the Parish Council noticeboards within the two villages. This will be finalised shortly and sent onto the chair for his approval. The clerk will then arrange for this to be placed onto the noticeboards.

AC/Chair/
Clerk

Articles were agreed upon for the November newsletter.

ALL

The chair noted that the Christmas Light Switch on will be taking place on Friday 3 December 2021. The clerk will contact Father Christmas, the Church Choir and local businesses to let them know in advance. Councillor Blanch confirmed he would arrange the necessary road closure paperwork.

Clerk/KB

21/47 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Councillor Cuthbert referred members to the running report routinely updated on the Parish Council website. Reference was made to:

Motorway Service Area Appeals: The enquiry is scheduled to begin on 12 October 2021. The following website holds all relevant information www.solihull.gov.uk/msa. The Planning Subcommittee need to finalise their written submission.

Planning

Councillor Cuthbert requested the clerk now remove 159 Lugtrout Lane from the running report.

Clerk

02784 – Newlands Bishop Farm: Application remains pending.

1 Oakfields Way, Catherine de Barnes: Solihull Planning Officers are monitoring this property to ensure the works taking place are in accordance with the application granted.

Chestnut Farm (Barston PC): Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that Barston Parish Council have commissioned an independent planning consultant to prepare a response to the recent applications submitted. Barston will provide a copy when in receipt. The Parish Council do intend to submit a response.

Solihull Local Plan – Review: Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that Catney Residents Association will not be making a personal response. The Parish

Council have contacted Neil Pearce of Avon Planning Services and requested his expert opinion. A response is awaited. The clerk will chase this up along with confirmation of what his anticipated fees will be.

Clerk

86 Meriden Road – Enforcement: Works remain ongoing. Councillor Cuthbert will chase this matter up with the Solihull MBC Enforcement Team.

DC

21/48 **FEEDBACK FROM THE CIL SUBCOMMITTEE**

Councillor Green noted that an application had been received from the Catherine de Barnes Village Hall Trust for a play area costing £30,000 plus VAT. The Subcommittee has delegated authority to decide upon any incoming applications and it has been agreed that this application does meet the terms required to receive funding.

In this instance, Councillor Green queried whether the Parish Council may want to consider entering into a lease with the Birmingham Diocese/Catherine de Barnes Village Hall Trust to take over the purchase and ongoing maintenance of the play area in the future. Members considered this option in more detail, and, it was agreed **as proposed by Councillor Green, seconded by Councillor Eccleston with all (but one) members being in favour**. One abstention was recorded from Councillor Cuthbert due to his concern over a possible conflict of interest.

Councillor Cuthbert will arrange for a working group to meet to discuss further.

DC

Councillor Green noted that Solihull MBC's Community Infrastructure Levy Department has recently issued more guidance on the fund but was able to confirm that the Parish Council continues to fully comply with all available recommendations.

21/49 **FEEDBACK FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that the working group had recently met. Proposals had been submitted to Solihull MBC who had responded with constructive points for consideration, members considered and discussed this in more detail. A further meeting is required with Solihull MBC and Councillor Green will make contact to arrange this.

PG

Councillor Green will circulate the latest version of the proposed plan to all members following a further meeting with Solihull MBC so that they may consider the content and comment where appropriate.

PG

It was noted that the Parish Council will seek an agreement with Solihull MBC that any delays put in place by them will not affect the potential for the Parish Council to receive the increased CIL funding that currently only applies to part of the Parish.

PG

The chair thanked the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group for all their hard work, in particular Councillor Green for his valued input.

21/50 **PEDESTRIAN ROAD SAFETY UPDATE**

Councillor Blanch gave the following update:

Hampton in Arden Pedestrian and Road Safety Scheme

The first part of the scheme has now been completed. Barriers have been

removed and the new layout is operating successfully. Solihull MBC Highways Department will now monitor traffic movements over the coming months.

The Gateway at Eastcote Lane/Solihull Road has not yet been completed. Highways need to seek a revised traffic order. Solihull MBC Highways are required to complete the works within 16 months.

Works undertaken included a £9,000 contingency fund. The Parish Council have sent £25,000 over to Solihull MBC and a decision will need to be made as to whether those funds come from reserves or CIL funding in due course. The Parish Council currently holds £8,000 on account relating to monies received from WALC.

Catherine de Barnes Pedestrian and Road Safety Scheme

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the plan had been submitted to Solihull MBC Highways but that a response was awaited. The clerk will follow this up.

Clerk

Funding has not yet been obtained for this scheme, Councillor Cuthbert is involved in communication with the M42 Junction 6 Legacy Fund who are considering the application.

The Parish Council has recently attended a meeting with Solihull MBC Highways regarding a proposed Zebra Crossing in Catherine de Barnes. A traffic count will be put in place shortly. An Order has been issued and it is understood the crossing will be commissioned shortly after 1 October 2021.

21/51 CELEBRATIONS RELATING TO THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CEREMONY

The chair referred to his report circulated in advance and noted that there will be year long Platinum Jubilee Celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign.

An extended bank holiday will take place from Thursday 2 to Sunday 5 June 2022 providing an opportunity for people to come together and celebrate.

Members agreed it would be nice for residents to have an opportunity to celebrate this occasion locally and contact will be made with the various groups within the village to discuss the best way forward.

MB

21/52 UNDER 7S PLAY AREA SAFETY MATTING – APPLICATION TO HS2 COMMUNITY FUND

Councillor Blanch noted that the current Under 7s play area often becomes wet and muddy in the winter months and noted that it would be beneficial to install all weather safety matting.

It may be possible to obtain funding from the HS2 Community Fund. Initial enquiries seem to suggest that costs would be in the region of £16,000 to £18,000. The clerk will obtain further quotes. Councillor Blanch will then apply to the HS2 Community Fund.

Clerk/KB

21/53 WELCOME BACK FUND – LOCATION OF PLANTERS

The chair referred members to his report circulated in advance, reminding all that funds had been secured from the European Development Fund in the sum of £1,400 for additional planters and hanging baskets within both Catherine de

Barnes and Hampton in Arden.

Following a discussion, members agreed that due to location complications, it would not be necessary to proceed with the installation of additional hanging baskets. However, all members agreed that, if possible, it would be ideal to receive increased funding to purchase additional planters instead.

The location of new planters for below the *Welcome to the Village* signs in both Catherine de Barnes (Hampton Lane) and Hampton in Arden (Meriden Road) was agreed. The clerk will contact the fund facilitators to see whether this could be agreed.

Clerk

21/54 ROADS AND FOOTPATHS UPDATE

Councillor Waring provided a written report to all members noting in particular:

M121 – Hampton Manor Diversion: a meeting will take place with Highways Engineer Steve Hawley in due course.

M127/M129 – Broken Stile: The Barston Path alongside Fentham Hall. Further discussions are ongoing with Highways Engineer Steve Hawley with a view to replacing the stile with a gate. Councillor Waring sought members approval to press ahead, all members agreed.

21/55 CORRESPONDENCE

Most correspondence is received by email and is forwarded to Members as a matter of course. Most of the correspondence is of a routine nature, examples being regular consultations from SMBC on planning applications, updates and training opportunities from WALC and NALC, many notifications about ongoing HS2 works and, currently, many relating to Covid 19. The following are items which depart from the routine:

29/06 -SMBC -Contact details for Neighbourhood Team

29/06 - SMBC -Meriden Neighbourhood Plan Consultation

07/07 -SMBC -Consultation on Governments Decarbonisation Plan

22/07 -Travel for West Midlands -Travel Survey

21/08 -SMBC -Civic Honours

27/08 -SMBC -Members Allowances (to be reported in detail to the October meeting)

Particular reference was made to the following:

Remembrance Day Sunday Service: The chair confirmed that Revd. Stuart Dimes had contacted the Parish Council to enquire whether financial assistance could be provided to fund a suitable PA system for the Remembrance Day Sunday Service. Councillor Green had notified the chair that this would not qualify for CIL funding however, members were asked whether they would agree to the Parish Council providing funding anticipated to be in the region of £300. All members agreed in principle and the chair confirmed he would progress the matter further.

MB

Pop up Theatre: The Parish Council have been contacted by Solihull MBC to seek permission for a Pop Up theatre event to take place on The Recreational Ground on Sunday 26 September 2021. The clerk has posted details of the event onto our Facebook page and has arranged for Trevor Honeysett to open the gate for access. The event will be free to residents and is described as *family friendly fun*

Clerk

for all.

Notice from Information Commissioners Office, complaint regarding a freedom of information request: The chair notified members that the Parish Council had been referred to the ombudsman for investigation following a recent Freedom of Information Request. The investigation is underway, and the Parish Council will take legal advice should it be necessary.

George Fentham Trust, Catherine Eley:- The chair requested that the clerk clarify whether Catherine Eley wishes to continue as a nominated representative for the George Fentham Trust before being re-elected in October 2021. **Clerk**

21/56 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

SAC: Councillor Cuthbert recently attended a SAC meeting where he was appointed as chairman for a further year. Rosie Weaver was also appointed as vice-chair.

M42 Junction 6 Landscaping Committee: Councillor Cook confirmed he had attended a meeting in August and have sought clarification on when planting will take place. Information has not been received to date.

Councillor Blanch noted that following a meeting with Skanska it had been agreed that he would be provided with an opportunity to attend on site to receive a briefing on construction planning. The Parish Council have followed this request up but, to date, Councillor Blanch has not been invited to attend any meetings.

21/57 FINANCE

The quarterly accounts and payments for 5 months ending 31 August 2021 were accepted as **proposed by Councillor Blanch and seconded by Councillor Cuthbert** with all members being in favour.

21/58 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The chair confirmed the dates for the next meetings:

Parish Council Meeting: 10 November 2021

Maintenance Committee Meeting: 6 October 2021

Meeting closed at: 9.20pm

Minutes taken, prepared, and presented by Julie Barnes, Clerk.