

# HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT

The George Fentham Hall in Hampton in Arden

ON

WEDNESDAY 27 APRIL 2022

### PRESENT

### COUNCILLORS

Mike Blomer  
Tim Beresford  
David Sandells  
Ken Blanch  
Peter Green  
Giles Cook  
John Eccleston  
Min Grimshaw  
Roger Waring

Ward Councillor Alison Rolf (Solihull MBC)  
Ward Councillor Bob Sleigh (Solihull MBC)

### CLERK

Julie Barnes  
12 parishioners

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Dave Cuthbert, Alexander Clayson and Cat Sellars. Apologies were also received from resident Sue Keily.

### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The chair gave parishioners a chance to read the Minutes from the Annual Meeting last held in 2021. The Minutes **were approved as proposed** by Councillor John Eccleston and **seconded** by Councillor Tim Beresford.

### 4. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

The chair presented a verbal report of the Council's work during the last year 2021/2022, highlighting achievements and detailing work still in progress and referred parishioners to the Annual Report which contained a more detailed account of the last 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 2022

The unaudited accounts for 2021/22 were presented in the Annual Report, together with the budget for 2022/23.

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

## 6. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

### Chairman's Report

No questions.

### Maintenance Committee

#### Ian Wasse, Old Station Road

Ian referred to the Site of Special Scientific Interest off Shadowbrook Lane and enquired who looked after it and whether more could be done to make residents aware of it. Councillor Waring confirmed that The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust currently look after that site. Councillor Beresford confirmed that the Parish Council can investigate further.

#### Sarah White – Bellemere Road

Sarah enquired whether more could be done to deal with the blockages and sludge around the carpark at Marsh Lane. Councillor Beresford confirmed that the Parish Council are aware and are liaising with SMBC's drainage team who are looking into various options.

Sarah also enquired whether more could be done at River Blythe, Packhorse Bridge, noting that the area is now extremely polluted. Councillor Beresford noted that the Parish Council had not been made aware of this previously and would therefore investigate the matter.

#### Catherine Blunt – Meriden Road

Enquired whether additional planting could be put in on Meriden Road. Councillor Beresford confirmed that a request can be made to SMBC but noted that this was not something within the Parish Council's power. Sarah White on behalf of Hampton Society stated that this may be something *The Hampton Society* could help with and stated that she would investigate this further.

### Planning Subcommittee

#### Sarah White – Bellemere Road

Requested an insight into what SMBC propose for the future in terms of development. Ward Councillor Bob Sleigh explained that it had been agreed that the Solihull Local Plan is sound, and Solihull cannot therefore be imposed upon by its neighbours in terms of future development.

Councillor Sleigh explained that the Borough had faced difficulties in developing brownfield sites noting that traditionally developers prefer to develop greenfield sites. A fund has been made available recently to develop the brownfield sites, particularly in the Black Country. Councillor Sleigh noted that there are limited brownfield sites in Solihull.

The intention is to develop parts of the National Exhibition Centre site for residential purposes.

Sarah raised a further question regarding schools and GP surgeries enquiring what the plan was to support these services going forward. Councillor Sleigh confirmed that SMBC are aware of the importance of this and there is an increased onus upon developers to now include such services in their future plans.

Lesley Cable – Old Station Road

Enquired whether sewerage works and how they feed into the network would be considered when new sites were put forward. Councillor Sleigh confirmed that energy requirements and sewerage are all something that is considered by planners in detail.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan**

No questions.

**Community Infrastructure Levy (“CIL”)**

Lesley Cable – Old Station Road

Enquired what the process or mechanism was for gathering suggestions as to how CIL could be spent. Councillor Green explained that residents should put forward an application which the Parish Council would then consider.

Sarah White of Bellemere Road enquired whether CIL funds could be published with the wider village. Ward Councillor Alison Rolf explained that funding options are limited which does make it more difficult as a lot of projects would be excluded due to the type of funding that it is.

**High Speed Rail HS2**

Sarah White – Bellemere Road

Concern over the devastation on Diddington Lane. Contractors admitted that some additional hedgerow had been removed in error, it looked as though some replacement had taken place. *The Hampton Society* have a meeting with HS2 shortly and will be making enquiries as to what engagement is taking place between them and their contractors.

An inspection had found that 28 huge mature trees had been removed and a large section of hedging. Tree replacement isn't good enough. Councillor Blanch confirmed that he would investigate this further and try to seek further answers from HS2.

Lesley Cable – Old Station Road

Feels a conversation needs to be had regarding what is expected of HS2 in terms of replanting. Councillor Blanch explained that HS2 should provide that information to us but that yet, this information had not been provided to the Parish Council. Further enquiries can be made. Councillor Alison Rolf enquired whether *The Hampton Society* may like to join the HS2 advisory committee meetings with SMBC noting that it is a recorded meeting and it would provide an opportunity for *The Hampton Society* to raise issues direct. Sarah White and Lesley Cable confirmed that they would investigate this.

Councillor Sleigh explained that SMBC have very limited powers due to HS2s Statutory Powers but do get involved as much as they can to support wherever they can.

Ian Wasse – Old Station Road

Noted that residents were told that HS2 would allow members of the public to comment on the architecture of the viaduct. Councillor Blanch stated that the Parish Council have not yet been consulted on the design to date but noted that a consultation is underway. More enquiries would be made.

**Pedestrian and Road Safety**

No questions.

**Remembrance Sunday**

No questions.

**Communications Subcommittee**

Lesley Cable – Old Station Road

Noted that some parts of the community are gated and there is a difficulty therefore in reaching those residents. The chairman explained that the Parish Council encounter the same issues when delivering the Parish Newsletter.

**Public Footpaths and Rights of Way**

No questions.

**Aircraft Noise**

No questions.

**Finance**

**Ian Wasse – Old Station Road**

Noted that the reserve figures on page 13 of the report are incorrect, currently showing the year before. They will need amending. The clerk confirmed she would make that correction.

The accounts were **proposed by resident Christine Blanch and seconded by Councillor Peter Green. All residents were in favour save for the above amendment being made.**

**Questions from the Floor**

Sandy Wasse on Old Station Road

Enquired what the position was regarding the Tree Preservation Orders that had been placed upon several large mature oaks on Old Station Road. The clerk confirmed she would investigate this and revert further to Sandy.

Sandy Wasse: -

Notified Councillors and residents of the sad passing of Dave Grimshaw, a gentleman that did so much for the village, particularly around the Spinney and Recreational Ground. Sandy confirmed that his funeral would take place shortly and would circulate that information to the clerk for onward transmission to all councillors. Sandy enquired whether a tribute would be forthcoming, and the Parish Council confirmed that discussions are taking place alongside the George Fentham Trust and that it is intended to do so.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

The chair closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their attendance.

Special mention and thanks were made to Dave Grimshaw who had recently passed away.

Thanks were also given to all those in the community who continue to offer their support via various voluntary and statutory organisations. All his fellow Councillors who continue to devote a considerable amount of their time to the villages of both Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes. Thanks were given to the clerk for her continued support.

In addition to the above the chair noted that after 8 years of service Ward Councillor Alison Rolf would be standing down at the forthcoming elections in May. Special thanks were provided to Alison for all her help and support over the years.

Ward Councillor Sleigh addressed residents to thank everyone for their support and to provide special thanks to the Parish Council who work hard for residents on a voluntary basis and who have built up an excellent reputation within Solihull MBC.

The meeting closed at 9:51.