

## HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

### DRAFT MINUTES

*Held at: Catherine de Barnes Village Hall, Catherine de Barnes.*

*On: Wednesday 8 March 2023*

*Start: 7:30pm*

*End: 9:03pm*

#### PRESENT

#### Councillors

Cllr Mike Blomer (Chairman)  
Cllr Tim Beresford (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr David Sandells  
Cllr Ken Blanch  
Cllr Peter Green  
Cllr Alexander Clayson  
Cllr Piers Reid  
Cllr Roger Waring  
Cllr Dave Cuthbert  
Cllr Giles Cook  
Cllr John Eccleston

#### Clerk

Mrs Julie Barnes

#### Public

Mrs Sheila Blomer  
Mrs Lesley Cuthbert  
Mrs Frances Cook

#### NO

#### ACTION

#### 22/109 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Catherine Sellars received and accepted.

#### 22/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 22/111 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

#### 22/113 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JANUARY 2023

The draft Minutes taken and prepared by Julie Barnes were **approved as proposed by Cllr Tim Beresford, seconded by Cllr John Eccleston** with all members being in favour.

#### 22/114 MATTERS ARISING

None.

#### 22/115 FEEDBACK FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Beresford noted that a copy of the last minutes had been circulated to members in the attached report pack. No comments were received.

Cllr Eccleston noted that the public footpath sign near Wellmeadow Grove required repair. The clerk will report this.

Clerk

**22/116 DAMAGE TO WAR MEMORIAL  
AGREEMENT BY MEMBERS – INFORMATION ITEM**

The chair referred members to his report. Cllr Eccleston provided an update on the funding options noting that it was unlikely the Parish Council would be successful. The chair recommended that repair works be undertaken by M Power and Sons Limited at a cost of £3,099.00 plus VAT with funds being made available from reserves. **It was proposed as recommended by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Cook with all members being in favour.**

**22/117 FEEDBACK ON PEDESTRIAN AND ROAD SAFETY SCHEMES/HS2  
/JUNCTION 6 IMPROVEMENT SCHEME  
HS2**

Cllr Blanch referred to his report circulated in advance.

Cllr Reid raised a concern over the quality of replacement vegetation being planted and enquired whether it was possible for the Parish Council to push for more mature trees. Cllr Blanch confirmed he would request the plans for our area and consider this in more detail.

KB

Junction 6 Improvement Scheme

Cllr Blanch referred again to his report noting that the Parish Council had recently met with Highways England, and it was hoped that our various applications to the Designated Fund Schemes were now progressing.

Due to the strength of feeling by residents regarding the continued disruption caused by the various road closures the Parish Council has arranged for a public meeting to take place, headed up by National Highways and Skanska, taking place on 20 March at Fentham Hall.

**22/118 FEEDBACK FROM THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTWAY  
REPRESENTATIVE**

Cllr Waring referred members to his attached report noting his concern over Packhorse Bridge. Both he and the clerk to the Parish Council have been reporting this to Solihull Council for some considerable time without success. The Parish Council have recently also engaged Ward Cllrs Bob and Gail Sleigh to seek their support.

Cllr Waring has recently been made aware of the removal of hedges and undergrowth on The Crescent. He will investigate that further shortly.

RW

**22/119 FEEDBACK FROM CIL COMMITTEE**

Cllr Green confirmed that the CIL Committee have recently awarded £3,000 to the George Fentham Endowed School within Hampton in Arden for the provision of new play equipment. No further proposals are outstanding.

**22/120 UNDER 7S PLAY AREA/FLOORING PROGRESS REPORT.**

**AGREEMENT NEEDED ON AVAILABLE FUNDING AND NEXT STEPS.**

The clerk enquired whether members wished to maintain a reserve in CIL to fund this potential project. It was agreed that this reserve would be held. Members considered various options and it agreed that the clerk would look to obtain a quote for a hardcore surface to be laid at the Under 7s play area with a rubber mulch to be laid over the top.

Clerk

**22/121 FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE**

In Cllr Sellars absence the clerk confirmed that there was no further update at present.

Cllr Clayson enquired whether it would be possible to obtain a list of resident's names of support in both villages to put forward a case for better broadband facilities. The clerk will arrange that to be done at the upcoming Village Festival.

Clerk

**22/122 FEEDBACK FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Cllr Cuthbert referred to the running report attached noting in particular:

Retrospective Planning Applications

More applications are being received retrospectively with no penalty to the applicant. The Planning Committee have written to Mr. S Bhatti MP to seek his support in lobbying for this type of application to be stopped.

Newlands Bishop Farm

Cllr Cuthbert noted that Catherine de Barnes Residents Association had recently held its AGM. Residents expressed their frustration over various ongoing applications by Newlands Bishop Farm. A subsequent meeting is planned, and further information will be provided following that.

86 Meriden Road

An enforcement notice has been prepared but not yet issued.

Cllr Cuthbert noted a concern that the Parish Council does not always get notified of applications in certain circumstances e.g., permitted development or Certificate of Lawfulness. He is liaising with Solihull MBC to see whether a change in the system could be made to allow for this to happen.

**22/123 FEEDBACK FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Cuthbert referred to his attached report and reminded members that the Consultation is still live until 22 March. No further reports.

**22/124 FEEDBACK FROM FUNDING WORKING GROUP**

Cllr Eccleston referred members to his attached report noting that he will continue to investigate any possible funding pots he becomes aware of.

**22/125 CLERK'S PENSION, APPLICATION TO WEST MIDLANDS PENSION FUND**

The chair referred to his attached report in which he noted that the clerk had requested that arrangements are now made for her to join a suitable pension scheme. The chair noted that his report had stated that Solihull Council's support would be required. However, Solihull MBC have since confirmed that this is not something they do. West Midlands Pension Fund have clarified that this will not be an issue but it will change the rate payable by the employer.

Members are recommended to agree to an application being made by the Parish Council for membership of the West Midlands Pension Scheme and, if accepted, to nominate Julie Barnes as a scheme member. **This was proposed by Cllr Beresford and seconded by Cllr Green with all members being in favour.** MB

The chair will notify the West Midlands Pension Scheme accordingly.

#### **22/126 CORRESPONDENCE**

Most correspondence is received by email and is forwarded to Members as a matter of course with the majority being of a routine nature. Examples are regular consultations from SMBC on planning applications, updates, and training opportunities from WALC and NALC, notifications from HS2 and National Highways (Skanska). The following are those that depart from the routine:

03/01 – SMBC – Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill – reforms to national planning policy.

03/02 – Warwickshire Rural Community Council – Warm Hubs News.

17/02 – Solihull Community Development Team – updates.

20/02 – West Midlands Combined Authority – Commonwealth Games Underspend.

01/03 – SMBC – Consultation on Economic Strategy 2023 - 32

#### Solihull Economic Strategy 2023-32

Cllr Cuthbert stressed the importance of responding to this consultation. Members discussed a response, noting that it was important that broadband speeds be improved for those working from home within the villages of both Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes. Members were asked to provide their views by email to Cllr Cuthbert who would then draft a response for submission.

#### **22/127 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS**

None.

#### **22/128 FINANCE**

The quarterly accounts and payments for 11 months ending 28 February 2023 were accepted as **proposed by Councillor Tim Beresford seconded by Councillor Peter Green** with all members being in favour.

#### **22/129 DATES OF NEXT MEETING**

Annual General Meeting: 10 May 2023

Annual Parish Residents Meeting: 24 May 2023

Maintenance Meeting: 14 June 2023.

***MEETING CLOSED AT 9:03pm.***

***Reports detailed in the minutes are attached.***

*Minutes taken and prepared by Clerk, Julie Barnes*