

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT

The George Fentham Hall in Hampton in Arden

ON

WEDNESDAY 24 MAY 2023

MINUTES

- | PRESENT | COUNCILLORS | |
|---------|-------------|---|
| | | Mike Blomer Dave Cuthbert David Sandells Ken Blanch Peter Green Piers Reid John Eccleston Cat Sellars Alexander Clayson |
| | | Ward Councillor Bob Sleigh (Solihull MBC) Ward Councillor Gail Sleigh (Solihull MBC) |
| | CLERK | Julie Barnes 75 parishioners |
- 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Councillor Mike Blomer, chair of the Parish Council, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Particularly Ward Councillors Bob and Gail Sleigh. Special congratulations were given to Ward Councillor Bob Sleigh on his recent re-election.

The chair began the meeting by giving a statement regarding the Parish Council's position on the recent parking difficulties faced by residents within the village.
 - 2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received in advance and accepted from Councillors Beresford, Cook and Waring.
 - 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The chair gave parishioners a chance to consider Minutes from the Annual Meeting last held in 2022. The Minutes **were approved as proposed by Rvd. Stuart Dimes and seconded by Janet Hilton.**

4. STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2022

The unaudited accounts for 2022/23 were presented in the Annual Report.

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

Following consideration of the same by residents no further questions were raised regarding the Parish Council's accounts.

5. QUESTIONS ON INDIVIDUAL REPORTS

Chairman's Report

No questions.

Maintenance Committee

No questions.

High Speed Rail (HS2)

Sarah White, Bellemere Road

Enquired what disruption could be expected when HS2 started building the viaduct.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that there would be a one-way traffic system in place along Meriden Road and a continuation of the traffic lights.

Unnamed resident

Enquired when HS2 expected to start the work on the viaduct.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that works are planned for the latter part of this year.

Unnamed resident

Enquired whether additional dust was coming from the HS2 works.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that dependent on wind direction it could either be HS2 or the M42 Junction 6 Improvement Scheme works.

Unnamed resident

Asked if there was any further information regarding a dedicated cycle lane.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the Parish Council had submitted a scheme to the *National Highways Designated Fund Scheme* to introduce a footway and cycle lane along Solihull Road but that no decision had yet been communicated regarding the outcome of that.

Lesley Cable, Old Station Road

Enquired whether any funding had been obtained from HS2?

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the HS2 Road Safety Fund had paid for Phase I of the Road Safety works within the village and the Phase II works which are planned for this year. No funds had been received from National Highways to date.

Ian Wasse, Old Station Road, a resident, noted that funding had also been granted for the Eastcote Lane Community Allotments and for the installation of a Community Orchard on the Eastcote Lane site from HS2's community fund.

Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety

Julie Rackham, Hampton Court.

Enquired whether the Parish Council are speaking with Solihull MBC Highways regarding the effect that Soho Tavern is having on the local community & whether the upcoming proposed works would help in any way to alleviate the issue.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the current proposals and Phase II works do not include the effect of Soho Tavern. However, the Parish Council do know that Phase III works approved by Solihull MBC do include the introduction of Average Speed Cameras which will cover the High Street and Meriden Road.

Councillor Blanch noted that the Parish Council have opened communication with Solihull MBC Highways Department to see what can be done regarding the parking issues resulting from the opening of Soho Tavern.

Adam Pilarski – Elm Tree Rise

Asked whether consideration had been given to a 20mph limit through the village?

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the matter had been given consideration and discussed with Solihull MBC Highways Department confirming it did form part of the Parish Council's long-term plan.

David Jennings, Engine Mews

Noted that Fentham Road is 20mph but that the sign is covered by trees.

The chair confirmed a request would be made for overhanging vegetation to be cut back.

Rvd Stuart Dimes - High Street

Enquired where the new gateway would be situated on Solihull Road?

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the gateway would be located close to the existing 30mph signs on Solihull Road.

Alun Thomas, Diddington Lane

Enquired what the Parish Council would be doing to offer protection on Diddington Lane?

Councillor Blanch reminded residents that HS2 had recently announced that Diddington Lane would remain open. As a result of that, the Parish Council had reiterated the need for traffic calming along the Lane and recommendations had been made. It is understood that any works to Diddington Lane would be done after Phase III had been completed.

Mr Thomas further enquired whether anything could be done in the interim period to address the dangerous turning?

Councillor Blanch confirmed that he would raise this with Solihull MBC Highways Department.

Jonathan Salmon, Fentham Road

Wished to receive assurances that the Parish Council and Ward Councillors had spoken to both Solihull MBC and the Rural Policing Teams, and that enforcement action and parking enforcement officers had been requested.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that the Parish Council had written to Solihull MBC Highways Department and had also been in communication with the local rural policing team. A Parking Enforcement Officer's attendance had been requested. No response had yet been received from Solihull MBC. Contact had also been made with rural policing teams and

they had been in touch to say they were aware of recent issues and would be increasing patrols in the area confirming they do have authority to ticket any cars that are illegally parked.

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight addressed Mr Salmon confirming that he had also been in communication with Solihull MBC and the local rural policing team regarding the issue. Councillor Sleight did however remind all residents that the Parish Council had previously undertaken a consultation for double-yellow lines along Marsh Lane and residents had voted against such a scheme. An Enforcement Officer could not therefore legally ticket vehicles without any restrictions in place and that the best course of action here was to engage with the local rural policing teams.

Mike Purcell, Bellemere Road

Enquired whether instead of double-yellow lines there may be another way of introducing parking restrictions i.e., certain hours of the day.

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight confirmed that this was an option that could be investigated further but urged residents to consider the impact any such scheme would have upon them as residents.

Carol Anderson, Corbetts Close

Noted a concern that if parking restrictions were put in place in certain parts of the village it would only push the problem further into the village.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that without parking restrictions motorists were entitled to park wherever they wished if they parked legally.

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight confirmed that it was possible to zone entire areas and noted that residents could apply for that via the Council website but again urged residents to consider the possible impact of such a course of action.

Jo Letterese, The Crecent

As a relatively new resident to the village Jo Letterese enquired whether Councillors could confirm if the recent parking difficulties linked to Soho Tavern were present when it was the Beeches Restaurant.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that there were parking difficulties, but they were less severe than are being experienced at present.

Rvd Stuart Dimes – High Street.

Wished to note that Soho Tavern isn't the only cause of parking pressures within the village stating that it is a village wide issue. Reference was made to the previous weekend when there was a big wedding at the church, a wedding in the Fentham Hall and increased attendance at Soho Tavern due to its recent opening. A large influx of motorists into the village but very difficult to blame one area.

Nick Worthington Lapwing Drive.

Noted that vehicles were parked in front of the garages belonging to residents of Crockett's Court. Soho Tavern had tonight stated that the George Fentham Trust had agreed to this. A request was made that those vehicles park elsewhere.

The chair confirmed that he did know that The George Fentham Trust had not agreed to such a parking arrangement and that this would be followed up.

Sue Keily – Meriden Road

Enquired whether a booking system could be introduced at Soho Tavern to try and reduce the flow of traffic coming into the village?

The chair confirmed that Soho Tavern's management had clarified to The George Fentham Trust that a booking system would be introduced shortly.

Nick Worthington Lapwing Drive.

Enquired whether it would be possible to re-open the top end of the carpark to allow for a one-way system?

The chair noted the request, this would be put to the George Fentham Trust, however the Parish Council were aware that it is a narrow exit and furthermore it was originally closed to allow a clear access point for emergency service vehicles due to the location of the Doctor's surgery.

M42 Junction 6

Julie Rackham, Hampton Court.

Enquired whether the news regarding Smart Motorways would impact the currently approved planning proposal in place.

Councillor Blanch confirmed that it was the Parish Council's understanding that this was a material change, a new application would therefore need to be submitted but noted that further clarification was awaited.

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight confirmed that in conjunction with Saqib Bhatti MP and Councillor Dave Cuthbert, a meeting had taken place whereby subsequent correspondence had been issued to the Minister for Transport. All parties believe that the current proposals are now no longer proceedable, but further information is awaited.

Nick Worthington, Lapwing Drive.

Enquired when Solihull Road would re-open?

Councillor Blanch confirmed that SKANSKA have told the Parish Council that it will reopen by 21 June 2023.

Mike Grundy, High Street

Enquired if it was still the case that Catherine de Barnes Lane would close when Solihull Road reopened?

Councillor Blanch confirmed that was the case. Although Catherine de Barnes Lane will be closed on a phased basis it would still be impassable. Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that official signage will divert motorists via the Damson Parkway route rather than through the village.

Stuart Dimes, High Street

Requested that any conversations with National Highways/Skanska included ensuring that a route remained accessible to Bickenhill.

Planning Subcommittee

Jonathan Salmon, Fentham Road

A request was made that the Parish Council confirm that there were no conflicts between members who may be both Councillors and Trustees. In addition, an enquiry was made regarding what representations were made to planners in relation to the increased area being utilised by the Soho Tavern.

The chair firstly confirmed that only one member is also a trustee and that is Vice-Chairman Councillor Tim Beresford. The chair confirmed that Councillor Beresford had noted his interest and therefore did clearly declare a conflict. Councillor Cuthbert, chair of the Planning Committee confirmed that whilst the Parish Council did submit a response on the increased paving area and extraction system, no comment was made regarding parking.

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight stated that planning permission was already in place for the restaurant and therefore representations were not made regarding the scale and capacity. Councillor Sleight also noted that several retrospective applications had subsequently been lodged noting that the legal position was that whilst these matters were outstanding enforcement action could not commence. Solihull Council were involved in ongoing discussions with the occupier.

Retrospective applications were still outstanding and, as such, Ward Councillor Bob Sleight and Councillor Dave Cuthbert committed to submitting a response to Solihull MBC Planners regarding increased capacity and the effect that was having upon parking difficulties within the village.

Helen Wood – Elm Tree Rise

Wished to note concerns that if a retrospective application for the extractor system did fail then that would result in a greater smell of food within the nearby vicinity of the restaurant which would cause more concern.

Russell Sullivan – Elm Tree Rise

Enquired what the position was regarding the licencing of the Soho Tavern premises and what it was allowed in terms of capacity?

Ward Councillor Bob Sleight confirmed he would investigate the position.

Stuart Dimes, High Street

Enquired where the new proposed development was on Old Station Road.

Councillor Cuthbert confirmed that the proposed development was located by the Grove, down past Wyckham Blackwell, on the right-hand side.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

No questions.

Community Infrastructure Levy (“CIL”)

No questions.

Climate Change Committee

Alun Thomas, Diddington Lane

Wished to thank the Parish Council for all their hard work on Climate Change since he had addressed them at a Parish Council meeting the previous year.

Jo Letterese, The Crecent

Enquired whether more could be done to encourage residents to walk more and use their vehicles less.

Councillor Sellars confirmed that this is on the agenda for the Committee to consider in more detail and agreed that more could be done in this area.

Stuart Dimes, High Street

Stated that he would be happy for the Church Carpark to be adopted as a designated school parking area so that a lollipop lady could be then based on the High Street to allow parents to cross safely.

Councillor Sellars thanked Rvd. Dimes and said that would be investigated further by the Committee.

Remembrance Sunday

Stuart Dimes, High Street

Thanked the Parish Council for their support with the PA System, Marshals and Central Fast Response Team but enquired whether more could be done in terms of seating by the war memorial.

Councillors Sandells explained that in the event of bad weather the agreement was that the service would revert to the church, it was felt that was still the best course of action. Investigations could be made regarding the provision of seating.

Communications Subcommittee

Resident all voiced their appreciation for the Newsletter. A special thanks went to Councillor Sellars for all her hard work producing this for residents.

Julie Rackham, Hampton Court.

Pre-Covid the Village used to hold Police Surgeries; an enquiry was made as to whether these been re-introduced post covid as residents were not aware if that was the case.

The chair confirmed that unfortunately, despite repeated requests to the rural policing team, it had not been possible to get a regular commitment for these surgeries to take place.

Public Footpaths and Rights of Way

Jo Letterese, The Crescent

Noted that the second public footpath from The Crescent towards the village is now not passable due to overgrown vegetation. It is understood an elderly resident has in the past maintained the footpath but enquired whether Solihull MBC could take ownership of it.

The chair confirmed he would ask Councillor Waring to investigate this.

7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

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

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. Residents thanked the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 9:35pm.