

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES

Held at: George Fentham Meeting Rooms, Marsh Lane, Hampton in Arden.

On: Wednesday 3 January 2024

Start: 7:30pm

End: 9pm

PRESENT

Cllrs

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

Clerk

Mrs Julie Barnes

Public

Sheila Blomer

ACTION

24/92 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs David Sandells and Cat Sellars.

24/93 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.

24/94 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

24/95 BUDGET SETTING 2024/25

Members considered the draft budget and accompanying notes and discussed in detail the financial pressures that will be placed upon the Parish Council in the coming financial year.

It was proposed by Cllr Beresford that an increase of 5% be applied to the next financial year. This was seconded by Cllr Reid with all members being in favour.

The clerk will notify Solihull MBC accordingly.

Clerk

24/96 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8 NOVEMBER 2023.

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

24/97 MATTERS ARISING

24/76 School Playing Field and Play Area – Goal Posts: - Cllr Beresford noted that he is continuing to source an appropriate replacement. **TB**

Play Area Inspection Report: - Cllr Cuthbert enquired whether an inspection schedule was now in place. The clerk confirmed she is waiting to hear back from Cllr Sandells and will chase this up. **DS**

24/85 and 24/86 Remembrance Sunday and Christmas Light Switch on Event: - The chair confirmed that both events went well and thanked members of both the council and community for their support.

24/89 – Electric Vehicle Charging Points: - Cllr Eccleston enquired where we are with this application. Cllr Beresford will review recent email communication and comment further in due course. **TB**

24/98 FEEDBACK FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Cllr Beresford noted that stated in 24/97 above. Nothing further to report at present. The Maintenance Committee are due to meet next month.

24/99 FEEDBACK FROM THE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Cllr Blanch referred to his report in the attached report pack, providing a brief verbal overview.

Cllr Cook referred to a meeting that had taken place with National Highways in which the Council's various applications to the designated fund scheme were discussed. A further meeting will take place with National Highways via Microsoft Teams on 7 February 2024 at 9am. The clerk will send around an invite. **Clerk**

Cllr Cook noted that Skanska are due to hold another community meeting in Hampton in Arden shortly. The clerk will follow up a request for a flyer. **Clerk**

24/100 FEEDBACK FROM THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTWAY REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Waring referred to his report in the attached report pack. Reference was drawn to footpath M117 from The Crescent to Hampton Green. Members were asked to consider, and all agreed, that funding sources should be utilised to carry out essential repairs to make this footpath more user friendly in the Autumn/Winter months. The clerk will follow up a request for a quote from Dawsons Groundcare. The CIL Committee will consider this request at their next meeting. **Clerk**

Cllr Waring was able to confirm that he had been successful in obtaining funding from National Highways for a permissive path from the Arboretum Woodlands towards Bickenhill. The chair congratulated Cllr Waring on his success in obtaining funds from the Designated Fund Scheme.

24/101 FEEDBACK FROM CIL COMMITTEE

Cllr Green referred to his report circulated in advance noting that the Committee

are due to meet on Monday 8 January 2024 to discuss the Levy in general and the various applications that it is currently considering.

Cllr Green referred to one application recently received from the Hampton in Arden Doctors Surgery for funds in the sum of £75,000 to carry out necessary refurbishment works to change the Caretakers Cottage into essential office space. At present, the Committee has delegated authority but given the sums involved it was felt that all members should vote upon this application.

Members agreed that the Committee should decide on how best to proceed. That decision should then be communicated via email for all members to vote upon and the surgery would be notified shortly after to avoid any delay in progress.

24/102 FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In Cllr Sellars absence the clerk provided an update, noting articles required and asked that members provide articles directly to Cllr Sellars by no later than 19 January.

ALL

24/103 FEEDBACK FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Cllr Cuthbert referred to the running report circulated in advance, drawing particular attention to: -

02518 – 1 Oakfields Way – The Parish Council have submitted a response objecting to this retrospective application.

01031 – Newlands Bishop Farm – It is unclear why this application remains outstanding. Cllr Cuthbert will follow this up with Solihull MBC's planning department.

DC

Appeal – Hampton Court – This application has been approved on appeal.

Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that following a request by the Parish Council, Solihull MBC have stated that they cannot provide information to us regarding planning applications received from outside of the Parish that may have an impact upon Parish services. Cllr Cuthbert intends to raise this issue at the next Solihull Area Meeting to see whether neighbouring councils can work together to form a solution.

24/104 FEEDBACK FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that Version 24 had now been provided to Solihull MBC for their information. The next stage will be to go out to formal consultation but that will take place after adoption of the Local Plan. A watching brief will therefore be maintained in the interim period.

Special thanks were given to Cllr Green for all his work on this project.

24/105 FEEDBACK FROM FUNDING COMMITTEE

Nothing further to report at present.

24/106 FEEDBACK FROM THE CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE

Cllr Waring referred to his report circulated in advance and located in the attached report pack. An article will go into the next Newsletter to update residents.

24/107 CONSIDERATION OF PARISH OFFICE LEASE

The chair referred to his report circulated in advance and sought members views on whether they agreed with a proposed increase of £50 per annum. Following a brief discussion, **Cllr Eccleston proposed that the lease be approved with an annual rent increase of £50, this was seconded by Cllr Green with all members being in favour.**

The chair will notify the George Fentham Trust.

MB

24/108 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence is detailed in the attached report pack.

24/109 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

Cllr Warings noted that he had recently attended a Local Access Forum Meeting and that Sheila Cooper had been appointed as Chair.

No further meetings to report.

24/110 FINANCE

The quarterly accounts and payments for 9 months ending 31 December 2023 were accepted as **proposed by Cllr Roger Waring seconded by Cllr Tim Beresford** with all members being in favour.

24/111 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council and Finance Meeting 13 March 2024
Maintenance Meeting: 7 February 2024.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9pm.

Reports detailed in the minutes are attached

*Minutes taken and prepared by Clerk, Julie Barnes
Report pack attached.*