

# HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT

The George Fentham Hall Complex in Hampton in Arden

ON

TUESDAY 23 APRIL 2024

### MINUTES

#### PRESENT

#### COUNCILLORS

Mike Blomer  
Tim Beresford  
Dave Cuthbert  
David Sandells  
Ken Blanch  
Peter Green  
Piers Reid  
John Eccleston  
Cat Sellars  
Alexander Clayson  
Roger Waring  
Giles Cook

#### CLERK

Julie Barnes  
23 parishioners

#### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

#### 2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received in advance from Ward Councillors Bob and Gail Sleigh.

#### 3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The chair gave parishioners a chance to consider Minutes from the Annual Meeting last held in 2023. The Minutes **were approved as proposed by Alison Rolf and seconded by Ian Wasse.**

#### 4. STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2023

The unaudited accounts for 2023/24 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**

##### Evan Grant – Bellevue Terrace

Noted the need for footpath repair and maintenance. Cllr Waring recognised the issue and assured residents that the Parish Council is liaising with relevant bodies and are trying their best to address the issues faced.

##### **High Speed Rail (HS2)**

No questions.

#### **Traffic Calming and Pedestrian Safety**

Cllr Blanch provided an overview of the up-to-date Pedestrian and Road Safety Schemes in both villages confirming that the design works for the average speed camera installation is now complete and it was hoped that an update on installation would be received in the coming weeks.

Cllr Blanch also addressed the ongoing parking issues within the village of Hampton in Arden confirming that an informal consultation had been formally submitted to Solihull MBC. The next stage would be for a formal consultation to take place and more news on that was awaited.

##### Stuart Mair – Old Station Road

Enquired what kind of speed cameras would be installed. Cllr Blanch confirmed that specifics were still awaited but was able to say that one would go on the High Street with another further down Meriden Road near the Station.

##### Sue Keily – Meriden Road

Enquired why there isn't a 20mph limit on the High Street. Cllr Blanch stated that if residents wanted a 20mph on the High Street and Meriden Road this would be something the Parish Council could request. Sue expressed her desire to see that implemented.

Evan Grant provided an opposing view and urged the Parish Council to seek all residents' views before doing so.

#### **J6 Improvement Scheme**

Cllr Blanch noted that Catherine de Barnes Lane is stated in the accompanying report as reopening in the Summer of 2024 but at present Skanska are now saying that it won't be this year and that it will be next year at some time. As this is a moving issue Cllr Blanch felt unable to comment further with certainty.

## **Planning Committee**

Cllr Cuthbert referred to his report circulated within the Annual Report and confirmed that he was happy to take any questions: -

86 Meriden Road – Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that a lot of work had been done on the house without planning permission. Permission was refused. The appeal is now due to be heard on 30 April at the Civic Suite if anyone is interested in attending.

### Carol Grant – Belle Vue Terrace

Enquired what the position was regarding Chestnut Farm. Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that he would investigate the situation and would report on that further in our next Newsletter.

## **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

No questions.

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

No questions.

## **Climate Change Committee**

No questions.

## **Remembrance Sunday**

No questions.

## **Communications Committee**

### Helen Roper – Bellemere Road

Requested that all residents be written to in advance of next year’s Annual Village Meeting as not all have access to the website/social media or are able to view our Notice Boards. The clerk confirmed she could arrange this.

It was noted that all residents do receive a copy of the Newsletter.

### Ian Wasse – Old Station Road

Wished to place on record official thanks to the Hampton in Arden Wombles who continue to do fantastic work in the village.

## **Public Footpaths and Rights of Way**

Cllr Waring expressed his keen desire to improve footpaths within the villages and will continue to work at this over the course of the next financial year.

### Lesley Cable – Old Station Road

How can people know what footpaths there are? Cllr Waring confirmed that there used to be a booklet but that he would look to prepare something that could be circulated.

Cllr Eccleston wished to place on record special thanks to the Conservation Group who continue to do excellent work on behalf of the Parish Council.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS**

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

Thanks were 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.

On a personal and sad note, the Chairman notified residents that after holding the position of Chair since 2016, he had recently notified the Parish Council that he would be stepping down (although would continue to serve as a Councillor).

Residents thanked the Parish Council in particular the Chairman for all his hard work and dedication to the Parish Council.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.