

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Held at: The Parish Office, Meeting Rooms, Marsh Lane, B92 0AH

On: Wednesday 19 November 2025

Start: 7:30pm

End: 9:31pm

PRESENT

Councillors

Cllr Tim Beresford (Chairman)
Cllr Giles Cook (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Peter Green
Cllr John Eccleston
Cllr Piers Reid
Cllr Roger Waring
Cllr Alexander Clayson
Cllr D Cuthbert
Cllr D Sandells
Cllr K Blanch
Cllr John Ainsworth (26/78)

Clerk

Mrs Julie Barnes

Public

6 in total.

NO.

ACTION

26/73 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Received and accepted from Ward Cllrs Mr and Mrs Sleigh and Cllr C Sellars.

26/74 STANDING DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- John Eccleston: President of Sports Club.
- Dave Cuthbert: chair of the Catherine de Barnes Residents Association and Trustee of Catherine de Barnes Village Hall.

26/75 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

It was noted by a member of the public that there was a lack of female representation around the Parish Council table. The chair explained the Parish Council does not take gender, or any other personal characteristic, into account when considering appointments or co-options.

A request was made for an additional *Public Participation* item to be added later in the agenda. The clerk confirmed she would investigate the legal position and provide more information at the next Parish Council meeting.

Clerk

26/76 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD 17 SEPTEMBER 2025

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

26/77 MATTERS ARISING

26/68 Clerk to request that Tommy is brought in.

Clerk

26/78 CO-OPTION FOR VACANT PARISH COUNCIL POSITION

Members were referred to the report circulated in advance.

Members were given the opportunity to raise any questions or concerns about the process, the applicants, or the recommendation. No such issues were raised, and all members confirmed that they were satisfied with the recommendation presented to them.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Green to co-opt Mr John Ainsworth. This was seconded by Cllr Cuthbert with all members being in favour. Mr Ainsworth signed the Declaration of Interest form and took a seat at the Council table.

The chair thanked Jane Humphreys for also applying for the position. Jane expressed her disappointment that she hadn't been successful. The Parish Council are extremely grateful to Jane for her ongoing involvement in the Greener Hampton & Catney Working Group and for all she has contributed to the Parish Council thus far.

26/79 FEEDBACK FROM THE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

The chair referred to the Maintenance Committee Minutes circulated in advance. No additional comments were raised.

26/80 FEEDBACK FROM THE MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE

Cllr Blanch referred to his report circulated in advance, noting parishioners' concerns regarding the lack of visible work on Solihull Road. Cllr Cook advised that National Highways had confirmed works would be completed in sections from beneath the bridge, at night when lanes along the M42 are closed, with Skanska indicating completion by mid-January. The Clerk was asked to write to National Highways to seek reassurance that works are progressing and to provide an update to residents.

Clerk

Cllr Blanch also provided a HS2 update, confirming that installation of precast beams for the Meriden Road viaduct would require a series of overnight closures, as confirmed in a meeting with Solihull MBC on 09/10. Cllr Blanch expressed concerns that further closures may be muted by HS2, and the clerk was asked to clarify that would not be the case with Solihull MBC.

Clerk

Cllr Reid raised concerns about recurring parking issues on Marsh Lane once cones had been removed and asked whether the Parish Council could overrule the consultation to implement double yellow lines in that vicinity. Cllrs Cook and Sandells advised against overruling the consultation and Ward Councillor recommendations. The Chair noted that meetings are being arranged with relevant parties to consider all options, with advice to monitor the situation initially. The Clerk was asked to confirm whether the Council can overrule the decision should they wish, and Cllrs Clayson, Reid, and Waring expressed support for doing so. The clerk will investigate the position and report further at the next Parish Council meeting. The Clerk will also circulate the consultation responses to members in the meantime for information.

Clerk

26/81 FEEDBACK FROM THE RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTWAY REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Waring referred to his report circulated in advance. No additional comments were raised.

26/82 FEEDBACK FROM CIL COMMITTEE

Cllr Green referenced his report and the Minutes taken at the recent committee meeting.

The Committee sought approval for the £12k investment in kissing gates, recognising this as the first use of CIL funds for public footpath improvements and noting the accessibility benefits for elderly and infirm users. As Solihull MBC is only responsible for repairs where there are health and safety issues, the Committee's view was to recommend approval as an improvement but felt that full council approval was required. **The proposal to allocate funds was made by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Clayson, and carried with all in favour except Cllr Waring, who abstained.**

Cllr Waring will now write to the landowners, with works to proceed once agreement is reached; ongoing maintenance will then rest with the landowner. Cllr Waring thanked the Council for its support.

RW

Discussion was held regarding the type of kissing gates to be installed with a request that they be both sustainable and wheelchair accessible.

26/83 FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Cllr Sellars was not present at the meeting but had confirmed to the clerk in advance that the next Newsletter was due in February with no further comments to report to full council at this stage.

26/84 FEEDBACK FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

A copy of the running report and recent committee minutes were circulated in advance by Cllr Cuthbert.

A discussion was held regarding the extraction system at Soho Tavern with it being noted that a new application will be processed by Solihull MBC shortly. Enforcement Officers are in touch with Soho Tavern regarding any outstanding requirements.

26/85 FEEDBACK FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP

Cllr Green referred to the report circulated in advance noting that the Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 16 Consultation was now live, a copy of which is published on both Solihull MBCs and our Parish Council website.

The chair thanked the group for all their efforts in reaching this stage.

26/86 FEEDBACK FROM THE GREENER HAMPTON AND CATNEY WORKING GROUP

A copy of the working group's reports was circulated in advance for information purposes. The chair thanked Jane and Juliet for all their work with the working group.

Cllr Green noted that St Mary's Pharmacy appears to be no longer accepting blister packs. Jane Humphreys is liaising with the Pharmacy in this regard.

Green Homes continues to be successful. It was noted that if any residents are interested, they can get in touch with the clerk. The clerk will put a post on Facebook to highlight this offering.

Clerk

26/87 PARISH COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES – THE GEORGE FENTHAM TRUST

Members were referred to the attached report for information with a recommendation to accept the appointments of Mr Devany and Mr Purcell as Parish Council representatives to The George Fentham Trust.

It was proposed by Cllr Beresford to accept the appointment. Seconded by Cllr Eccleston with all members being in favour.

26/88 HAMPTON IN ARDEN TRAIN STATION – LACK OF DISABLED ACCESS

Members noted the content of the attached report, including that the Parish Council had written to all relevant parties lobbying for funding and infrastructure improvements at Hampton in Arden Railway Station to enable step-free access, noting it is the only station in Solihull without such provision. All parties have expressed their support, and the Parish Council will continue to pursue the matter with Ward Councillors.

26/89 HAMPTON IN ARDEN SPORTS CLUB – FOOTPATH REALIGNMENT/ REQUEST FOR A BALL AND COMMUNITY USE AGREEMENT

Members approved planning in principle, noting that the land where the padel courts will sit is not currently leased to the applicant and that legal advice is required to determine whether a new lease or an amendment to the existing lease is appropriate. The clerk is seeking further information from Solihull MBC's legal department.

Clerk

As the proposed padel court works will require realignment of the existing footpath, a temporary closure of that footpath may be necessary; however, members agreed that a footpath should be always maintained. **A proposal that an alternative route be provided during the works was put forward by Cllr Sandells and seconded by Cllr S. Alexander. All were in favour, with John Eccleston abstaining.**

The Community Use Agreement was noted by members.

Members considered a request to hold a Village Ball in June 2026, with a potential Hockey Dinner the following week while the marquee remained in place. Cllr Sandells noted the need to be mindful of nearby residents, particularly regarding noise, finishing times, and advance notification to affected residents. It was agreed in principle that any loud music must finish by 11pm unless a licence permits otherwise. **The proposal, made by Cllr Reid and seconded by Cllr Beresford, received 8 votes in favour and 3 abstentions, and was therefore carried.**

26/90 TRO – CATHERINE DE BARNES – PLANS FOR CONSIDERATION

Members considered the proposed plans submitted and contained within the attached report pack. **Cllr Cuthbert proposed that the Parish Council confirm their support for it to proceed to public consultation. This was seconded by Cllr Cook with all in favour except for Cllr Ainsworth who abstained.**

26/91 VILLAGE FILM – HAMPTON IN ARDEN HISTORY GROUP – RATIFICATION ITEM

It was noted that members had considered this item by email due to the History Group requiring a response in advance of the Parish Council meeting. Therefore,

by email of 19 November, members had **proposed** to be involved in and support the production of a Village Film on the proviso that it included the entire Parish **with all members being in favour.**

26/92 VILLAGE SIGNAGE – CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY MEMBERS

Members were referred to the amended signage in the attached report pack. Cllr Beresford requested that the clerk alter the website to a *list of businesses* rather than a blurb. It was confirmed that Inktree had quoted in the region of £300 to print the signs but that the clerk would also liaise with London Northwestern regarding installation of the signs.

Clerk

Cllr Beresford proposed that the amended signage be accepted the scheme progressed. This was seconded by Cllr Waring with all in favour.

26/93 FLAG POLICY FOR CONSIDERATION – FLAGPOLE – VILLAGE GREEN

It was noted that flags had been erected in the Parish and removed without Council involvement but by residents. The chair referred to the report provided in advance that explained that the Parish Council had received one request from a member of the public to install a flagpole on the Village Green in Hampton in Arden. Cllr Cuthbert advised that installing a flagpole on the Village Green without planning permission would be unlawful.

Members discussed possible alternative locations, with Cllr Waring suggesting the Church as the most suitable site, while concerns were raised by Cllr Ainsworth regarding potential vandalism should a flagpole be placed on the Village Green.

A proposal against installing a flagpole on the Village Green was put forward by Cllr Cuthbert and seconded by Cllr Green; the motion was carried with 7 votes for, 1 against and 3 abstentions.

26/94 SOLIHULL MBC HUMANITARIAN EMERGENCY PLANNING

Members were referred to the report circulated in advance with the clerk confirming that she was attending a meeting shortly and would update members following that meeting regarding any potential Parish Council involvement.

Clerk

26/95 PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO SOLIHULL MBC SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (SDS) CONSULTATION

Members were referred to the report circulated in advance with Cllr Cuthbert noting that the consultation will be a lengthy exercise. It was agreed to maintain a watching brief.

26/96 UPDATE ON REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY SERVICE

Cllr Sandells expressed thanks to all who supported the event, noting the need for additional marshals next year and ongoing issues with road closures and signage, despite requests to Solihull Council and others.

Thanks were extended to Revd Dimes and to all the volunteer marshals.

Members agreed a new gazebo (approximate cost £250), additional cones, barriers, and replacement road closure signage are needed; the Clerk will ask Highways/HS2/Skanska about possible donations.

Clerk

Whilst bodycams were discussed, it was agreed not to progress that at this stage.

The Chair thanked Cllr Sandells for his work and for laying the Remembrance Sunday Wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

**26/97 CHRISTMAS LIGHT SWITCH ON EVENT
REQUEST TO HOLD LICENCED BAR – MULLED WINE – PRE SCHOOL**

Members were referred to the report circulated in advance. **It was proposed to agree to the pre-school's request to obtain a licence to sell Mulled Wine at the Christmas Light Switch on Event. This was seconded by Cllr Blanch with all in favour.**

The clerk provided an overview of the running order for the event. Cllrs Beresford, Sandells and Eccleston confirmed they could marshal at the event. The clerk would ensure High-Vis jackets were available.

Clerk

26/98 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

Members were referred to the report pack for further information. The following were discussed in more detail: -

Hampton in Arden Parking Group Meeting: The chair confirmed that the Parish Council had recently met with the group to discuss the group's concerns surrounding various aspects linked to Soho Tavern. It was agreed that the Parish Council would facilitate a meeting with all interested parties. The Parish Council are currently awaiting details of the group's availability so that this can be progressed.

Motorway Service Area Meeting: No further information to report at this stage. A follow up meeting is planned for 16 January 2026.

Airport Consultative Committee Meeting: Cllr Sandells had attended this meeting noting updates on the NATS AMS modernisation scheme, night-flying usage, and that the meetings remain informative, though it was emphasised the need for the group to fully address the night flying policy. Residents with concerns about night flying are encouraged to report incidents via the airport's online form, with noise monitored through sound meters used by both Solihull Council and Birmingham Airport.

Hampton in Arden Railway – Step free access. The chair referred members to the detailed report contained within the report pack.

Solihull Area Meeting: Cllr Cuthbert reminded members that they can attend this meeting should they wish with Cllr Cook already regularly attending. The next meeting will take place in January 2026.

26/99 FINANCE

The clerk referred members to the financial report circulated in advance.

Payments for the last 7 months were authorised by the Chairman in accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

The quarterly accounts and payments for 7 months ending 31 October were accepted as **proposed by Cllr Cook seconded by Cllr Cuthbert** with all members

being in favour.

26/100 DATES OF NEXT MEETING

Parish Council Meeting: 7 January 2026.

MEETING CLOSED AT 9:31pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Clerk to the Hampton in Arden Parish Council