

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

On

WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2026 at 7:30pm

held at The George Fentham Meeting Rooms

MINUTES

PRESENT	Councillors:	Mr Tim Beresford (Chairman) Mr Giles Cook (Vice-Chair) Mr Ken Blanch Mr Peter Green Mr John Eccleston Mrs Cat Sellars Mr Alexander Clayson Mr David Sandells Mr J Ainsworth Mr R Waring
	Clerk:	Mrs Julie Barnes
	Public:	Ward Councillors Jane Lamden, Catherine Price and David Hoey 2 Members of the Public.

ACTION

- 27/01 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in particular the three newly appointed Ward Councillors who were all in attendance.
- CLlr Cuthbert and Reid had submitted apologies in advance that were accepted.
- 27/02 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- ~~• Dave Cuthbert: chair of the Catherine de Barnes Residents Association and Trustee of Catherine de Barnes Village Hall.~~
 - John Eccleston President of the Sports Club, Recreational Trust Trustee.
- 27/03 ELECTION OF THE CHAIR**
It was proposed by CLlr Cook that CLlr Beresford continue as Chairman, seconded by CLlr Eccleston with all members in favour.
- CLlr Beresford was duly appointed as Chairman of the Parish Council.
- 27/04 CHAIR'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**
CLlr Beresford signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- 27/05 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**
Cllr Beresford proposed Cllr Cook as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr Clayson with all members being in favour.

Cllr Cook was duly appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Parish Council.

- 27/06 PARISH BASIC ALLOWANCES**
 The chair referred members to the report circulated in advance. Members were asked to confirm their current policy of not paying allowances. **This was approved as proposed by Cllr Beresford and seconded by Cllr Blanch. All members were in favour.**

- 27/07 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**
 The Chair and Vice-Chair are ex-officio members of all committees:

Planning Committee	Dave Cuthbert John Eccleston Ken Blanch Peter Green Giles Cook John Ainsworth
Maintenance Committee	John Eccleston David Sandells Piers Reid Roger Waring <u>Non-Councillors</u> Rvd S Dimes (Church) D Adams (G F Trust) G Holway (Sports Club)
Communications Committee	Cat Sellars Alexander Clayson Peter Green
Greener Hampton & Catney Working Group	Peter Green John Ainsworth <u>Non-Councillors</u> Jane Humphreys Juliet Mian
Remembrance Day Working Group	David Sandells
Major Infrastructure Working Group	Ken Blanch John Eccleston Dave Cuthbert Giles Cook
Community Infrastructure Levy Committee	Peter Green John Eccleston Dave Cuthbert Giles Cook
Appointments to other bodies	
Footpaths & Rights of Way Representative	Cllr Waring & Cllr Ainsworth

Airport Consultation
Solihull Area Meeting (SAM)

Cllr D Sandells
Cllr D Cuthbert

The Parish Council also appoint trustees to:

The Charity of George Fentham	Mr E Purcell	Expires Nov 2029
	Mrs S White	Expires July 2027
	Mr J Devany	Expires Nov 2029
The H-in-A Recreational Trust	Mr G Hollway	Expires Oct 2028
	VACANT	-

27/08 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr McElholm asked that the Committee consider improvements to the play areas within the village of Hampton in Arden, noting that in his view both are now in poor condition and are not suitable for year-round use.

27/09 REVIEW AND CONSIDERATION OF TERMS OF REFERENCE LINKED TO ALL COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUPS

Terms of Reference for all Committees and Working Groups were considered and approved. **The documents were approved as proposed by Cllr Green, seconded by Cllr Sellars with all members in favour.**

27/10 REVIEW OF ALL PARISH COUNCIL STATUTORY POLICY DOCUMENTATION TO INCLUDE STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members considered the following statutory policy documentation:

Standing Orders
Financial Regulations
Code of Conduct
Freedom of Information Act
Data Protection Privacy Policy
Social Media Policy
Publication Scheme Documentation
Public Participation Policy
Parish Council Website Accessibility Statement
IT Policy; and
Code of Practice in Complaints Procedure

It was **proposed by Cllr Cook to accept the above documentation, seconded by Cllr Sandells with all members in favour.**

27/11 MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

The minutes were approved as **proposed by Cllr Eccleston and seconded by Cllr Waring with all members being in favour.**

27/12 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ABOVE MEETING

26/126 Village signage. Ongoing communication, signage not yet installed.	Clerk
26/131 CCTV. Maintenance figures awaited.	PR
26/135 EV Chargers. Chair requested the clerk investigate timelines.	Clerk
26/139 Broadband Survey. Clerk noted numbers are currently at 74. Deadline being 22 May. Members asked to remind people they know to complete.	ALL

27/13 CLERK'S ROUTINE REPORT (for information only)

The clerk's report was noted by way of information.

27/14 MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

The chair referred to his report circulated in advance.

Cllr Eccleston advised that The Catney Common was due its first cut but it was noted by the clerk that an invoice had already been received. Cllr Eccleston will investigate.

JE

A discussion took place regarding the potential installation of gates around The Spinney to improve security. Members were not in favour of this proposal and, accordingly, the matter will not be progressed.

The chair confirmed that the Committee would consider potential signage options within The Spinney to help address dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.

27/15 MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP

Cllr Blanch explained that the Diddington Lane closure remains in place noting that an upcoming night closure of Meriden Road would also proceed. The Parish Council are liaising with Solihull MBC Highways to enquire whether Diddington Lane could be temporarily re-opened during the Meriden Road evening closure to avoid lengthy diversions for residents.

It was noted that all traffic calming measures for Diddington Lane have been declined by Hs2 and Solihull MBC Highways despite the Parish Council receiving assurances that they would proceed via Paul Tovey the previous Head of Highways.

The working group will meet shortly to discuss potential next steps with a recommendation to be put before full council in due course.

A discussion was had regarding concerns linked to accidents at the Gateway on Hampton Lane and it was noted that the Parish Council had written to Highways to ask for their support in implementing measures that would help to prevent poor driver behaviour.

Cllr Cook explained that the Parish Council had reported whips that had died to Skanska following the Junction 6 Improvement Scheme replanting. It has been confirmed that a 5-year maintenance programme is in place, but Cllr Cook will make enquiries as to what happens after that time.

GC

Cllr Ainsworth explained that he is in communication with Bickenhill Parish Council and National Highways/Skanska regarding the access road for servicing the A4545 with a request made that it be turned into a bridleway.

Cllr Blanch confirmed that the group are aware that a road closure of Solihull Road will be necessary as part of the Motorway Service Area installation and

that the Parish Council continue to meet regularly with the developers to discuss this issue along with other sightline issues that will affect residents.

27/16 COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Sellars referred members to her email circulated in advance and a discussion was held regarding upcoming articles. The next Newsletter will be distributed in June.

27/17 RIGHTS OF WAY AND FOOTWAY REPRESENTATIVE UPDATE

Cllr Waring referred to his report circulated in advance with no further comments raised.

27/18 CIL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Green referred to his report circulated in advance with no further comments raised.

27/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The chair referred members to Cllr Cuthbert's report circulated in advance.

Members raised concern over works taking place at Chestnuts Farm. Whilst it was noted that it does not fall within the Parish Council's remit a request was made that Solihull MBC Planning Enforcement be made aware of the various issues present. DC

Cllr Clayson enquired what the position was about the unauthorised carpark that was being built at Barston Lakes. Whilst it was noted that this falls outside of the Parish Council's area a request was made for the Committee to investigate. DC

It was noted that an application had been received for Castle Hills Solar Farm. This application will also affect residents of Bickenhill, and a request was made that a meeting take place between all parties to discuss the way forward. DC

27/20 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN WORKING GROUP UPDATE

In Cllr Cuthbert's absence Cllr Green provided an overview, referring to Cllr Cuthbert's report circulated in advance.

The Parish Council have now informed Solihull MBC that they wish to with formally withdraw their amended plan.

The chairman wished to place on record the Parish Council's thanks to Cllrs Green and Cuthbert for all the time and effort they have invested into amending the plan.

It was **proposed by Cllr Green to disband the Working Group until such time that it was felt needed, this was seconded by Cllr Cook with all members in favour.**

- 27/21 GREENER HAMPTON AND CATNEY WORKING GROUP CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP UPDATES**
No formal approval is required by either group.
- 27/22 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY REVIEW**
Cllr Green expressed a wish to allow time for a presentation on the works undertaken over the last financial year at next year's meeting. It was agreed that enquiries would be made into the approach taken by other Parish Councils, and that a proposal would be brought back to a future meeting. **Clerk/Chair**
- 27/23 STEP FREE ACCESS TO HAMPTON IN ARDEN TRAIN STATION**
Members were referred to the report circulated in advance. It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Ward Councillors to discuss this matter and how best to proceed. **Clerk**
- 27/24 RESIDENT REQUEST FOR NEW PLAY AREA EQUIPMENT WITHIN HAMPTON IN ARDEN**
Cllr Sandells considered the condition of the school play area equipment, noting that the matter had previously been reviewed in 2017 when quotations of approximately £73,000 had been obtained and funding options explored.

It was suggested that the Parish Council investigate whether CIL funding could be used towards replacement of the school play area.

Members noted that the existing equipment at the school play area is very well used, noting that several items had already been replaced. The under 7s play area at the Recreational Ground is also very well used and has undergone some cosmetic improvements in recent years. After discussion, it was agreed by members that the under 7s play area remained adequate but agreed that the School Play area would benefit from improvement subject to costs being investigated.

Cllr Sandells confirmed that he would be happy to review quotations and designs for the school play area, with a focus on providing suitable opportunities for children up to school age at The George Fentham Endowed School. **DS**

It was also noted that the lease arrangements with the George Fentham Trust in relation to the location of the play area would possibly need to be considered further.
- 27/25 REPORTS FROM OTHER MEETINGS**
Members noted the various meetings that had taken place as listed in the meeting agenda. The chairman requested that the clerk follow up with Solihull MBC drainage department as to where they are at with the various drainage works required within the Parish. **Clerk**
- 27/26 FINANCE**

The clerk referred members to the financial report circulated in advance. The Council reviewed works undertaken to date against the approved budget. The Council noted that works undertaken to date remain within the approved budget.

Payments for the last 1 month was authorised by the Chairman in accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations.

The quarterly accounts and payments for 1 month ending 30 April were considered.

Members also considered and approved the up-to-date CIL fund running report.

All reports were accepted as **proposed by Cllr Beresford, seconded by Cllr Clayson** with all members being in favour.

27/26 APPROVAL OF FINANCE ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

The Annual Return and completed Annual Governance Statement were received and approved and the Vice Chair signed the relevant paperwork to be sent to the external auditor.

The audit papers **were approved as proposed by Cllr Waring and seconded by Cllr Green with all members being in favour.**

27/27 APPROVAL OF ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS

The approval of Accounting Statements was received and approved.

The Accounting Statements **were approved as proposed by Cllr Sandells and seconded by Cllr Eccleston with all members being in favour.**

27/28 DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS

Parish Council Meeting: 8 July 2026

The meeting closed at 8:47pm