

HAMPTON IN ARDEN PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

HELD AT

The George Fentham Hall Complex in Hampton in Arden

ON

TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026

MINUTES

PRESENT

COUNCILLORS

Tim Beresford (Chairman)
Giles Cook (Vice Chairman)
Dave Cuthbert
David Sandells
Ken Blanch
Peter Green
Piers Reid
John Eccleston
John Ainsworth
Cat Sellars
Roger Waring

CLERK

Julie Barnes
21 parishioners

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Clayson, Ward Cllrs B and G Sleigh, Ian Wasse, Sandy Wasse, Mike Grundy and Diane Hughes.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The chair gave parishioners a chance to consider Minutes from the Annual Meeting last held in 2025. The Minutes **were approved as proposed by Mike Blomer and seconded by Cllr Sellars.**

4. STATEMENT OF UNAUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2025

The unaudited accounts for 2025/26 were presented in the Annual Report.

The clerk 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

Maintenance Committee

Barney McElholm of Old Station Road enquired whether a previous request by him for new Play Area equipment would be considered during the Annual Meeting. The chair explained that the request would be considered at the Parish Council's AGM to be held in May.

Sue Keighley of Meriden Road enquired who is responsible for the Community Notice Board outside the White Lion noting that it was being increasingly used by companies from outside of the village. The clerk explained that there is a Notice Board policy that clearly states that the board is for local residents to use and will ensure the Board is policed more regularly.

Ben Hewitson of Shadowbrook Lane wished to thank the Parish Council for their support in installing double yellow lines on the corner of Shadowbrook Lane noting that they had already made an impact. The importance of enforcement officers was highlighted, and it was noted that visiting teams who attend the Sports Club are, at times, parking illegally on the lines. The clerk will write to the Sports Club asking that they remind visiting teams of the parking difficulties within the vicinity and reminding them not to park on the double yellow lines that are in place (Clerk).

Ben Hewitson of Shadowbrook Lane enquired whether the Parish Council could assist in ongoing communications with the Sports Club related to lights from the Petanque pitch shining into their property. The chair confirmed that the Parish Council was aware of the issue but understood incorrectly that it had been rectified. The clerk will contact the Sports Club (Clerk).

Ward Cllr Rolf noted that several areas of double yellow lines had faded, particularly in the vicinity of the War Memorial and a request had been submitted to have these refreshed.

Major Infrastructure Committee

Ben Hewitson of Shadowbrook Lane enquired whether the various construction companies operating in the vicinity would be held responsible for damage to local road infrastructure because of their works. The chair confirmed that Solihull MBC are liaising with them and that the companies are responsible, noting that Solihull MBC are due to meet with National Highways around June with Shadowbrook Lane being directly impacted by the Junction 6 Improvement Works Scheme. The roads will not be handed back under Solihull MBC's responsibilities until all works are complete.

Carol Betts of Diddington Lane enquired whether there was any update about the installation of speed cushions and the tightening of the road radius from Meriden Road into Diddington Lane. The chair explained that residents of Diddington Lane had, for some time, been meeting directly with Paul Tovey of Solihull MBC and that the Parish Council had not been directly involved in those meetings. Unfortunately, Paul Tovey has now retired, and a recent meeting had taken place with Dean Ward, the new Head of Highways at Solihull MBC, who had stated that HS2 had now confirmed that there would be no funds

available for any future traffic calming works along Diddington Lane. The Parish Council had asked that that information be communicated directly to residents involved in those meetings as felt it was a very different message to what they had understood to have been stated previously. Carol enquired what costs would be involved in installing the measures and the Chair confirmed it would be more than £100,000 with Carol noting that again that differed to that which they had previously told.

The clerk confirmed that as this information had only been communicated to the Parish Council in the last week, the next steps would be considered at the next full council meeting due to be held in May.

Judith Williams of Old Station Road sent a message via Carol Betts to enquire what the Parish Council's position was over the upcoming closure of the High Street for two days. The clerk explained that unfortunately the works were at the request of Hampton Manor who needed to undertake some emergency tree works. The closure would be in place between 9:30am and 3:30pm and it was hoped that they would be completed within one day.

Marshal Blair of Diddington Lane enquired whether the Parish Council still engaged with the quarry in relation to the agreement that their vehicles should not travel through the village of Hampton in Arden. The chair confirmed that he attended a regular Quarry Liaison Meeting. It was agreed that an article would go into the next Newsletter to remind residents to alert the clerk to any quarry vehicles travelling through the village so that they can be logged to prevent it occurring again (Clerk).

Planning Committee

Carol Grant of Belle Vue Terrace enquired whether the Parish Council had objected to the latest MSA Variation Applications enquiring whether light pollution had been explored. Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that the Parish Council have objected and that the responses were on our website should residents wish to view.

Carol Grant of Belle Vue Terrace expressed concern over Chestnuts Farm. Whilst it was noted that it does not fall within the Parish's remit it was noted that the protected view was being impeded by works taking place that were not in accordance with the approved plans. Cllr Cuthbert confirmed that he would make further contact both Solihull MBC enforcement and Barston Parish Council.

Neighbourhood Development Plan

No questions were raised but a discussion was held regarding the status of the plan with Cllrs Cuthbert and Green providing an overview of the changing landscape and the possibility as a result that the Parish Council will withdraw the amended plan until clarity can be had on Solihull MBC's Local Plan.

Community Infrastructure Levy ("CIL")

Carol Betts of Diddington Lane enquired what the Parish Council intended to spend CIL funds on. Cllr Green explained that this year alone the Parish Council had spent £133,000 on projects to include improvements at the village school and improvements to footpaths

and to the village church. The Parish Council is open to receiving applications for consideration.

Jane Humphreys of Hampton Green requested that low level lighting would be considered a good use of CIL funds on some of the dark footpaths within the village. The chair explained that ongoing discussions are being held with Solihull MBC in relation to poorly lit footpaths but faced several issues related to complaints from nearby residents and the cost of installing such infrastructure. Cllr Green also explained that such costs do fall to Solihull MBC and that the Parish Council are keen not to set a precedent in such areas.

Greener Hampton and Catney Working Group

The chair explained that questions wouldn't be taken on the Working Group but that should anyone wish to join this important group they would be very welcome and should contact the clerk to do so. A special thank you was extended to Jane Humphreys and Juliet Mian for all the work they have done to date with the group.

Conservation Working Group

A Rolf of Belle Vue Terrace wished to put on record her thanks to the Conservation Group who all work incredibly hard, noting all of which are volunteers who make a huge difference to the community. The chair seconded that viewpoint noting that the Parish Council work closely with the Conservation Group and are extremely grateful for all they do.

Remembrance Sunday

Cllr Sandells wished to thank all those that helped with the day particularly the marshals. Thanks to the clerk who helped with the planning & the medical volunteers with extended thanks to the church.

A plea for more marshals to come forward was put out.

Christmas Tree Light Switch on

The chair explained that once again the official Christmas Tree Light Switch on Event had been a success and wished to place on record the Parish Council's thanks for all the Marshals along with Meriden Rotary Club, the Church Choir and Corner Shop for all their support with the event.

Communications Committee

Ben Hewitson of Shadowbrook Lane wished to put on record his thanks for the Parish Newsletter which was well received by residents.

Public Footpaths and Rights of Way

Judith Williams of Old Station Road sent a message via Carol Betts enquired whether there were any developments in the walking and cycling route connecting Catherine de Barnes to Hampton in Arden. Cllrs Waring and Ainsworth explained that discussions were ongoing but that difficulties were faced due to the narrowness of Solihull Road.

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.

Residents thanked the Parish Council with a round of applause.

The meeting closed at 9:05pm.