 **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

DATE: 3rd March 2023 7:30 pm VENUE: Catherine de Barnes Village Hall

Association Committee Members Present:

Dave Cuthbert (DC) –Chairman

Frances Cook (FC) – Secretary

Annette Scott (AS) - Treasurer

Lesley Cuthbert (LC) - Social Secretary

Debbie Moseley (DM)

Rachael Russell (RR)

Ella Meca (EM)

Apologies: Saqib Bhatti, Bob Sleigh, Gail Sleigh, John Eccleston

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| **Subject** |  |
| Welcome | DC welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming. He announced the addition of two new committee members, Rachael Russell and Ella Meca. John Phillips has resigned on account of health issues and DC thanked him for his service. |
| 2023 Minutes | The minutes of the last meeting had been made available on the website, were circulated to members by email and paper copies were available at the meeting. Approval was proposed by Liz Nye, seconded by Graham Roderick and agreed by the attendees. |
| Chairman’s Report – Dave Cuthbert | DC highlighted some issues from the written report that had been circulated to members. He also reviewed the situation at Newlands Bishop Farm where a wedding licence has been granted but the planning application to erect a triple tepee is still not decided by SMBC  **The aims of the Association**   * **To at least preserve, hopefully improve, the local environment for the village and those that live within it** * **The support of village services and facilities** * **To support and if appropriate, sponsor activities that contribute to a positive community atmosphere.** * **To consider and where necessary make representations to any organisation /authorities on any matter that may affect the Village, its residents and the local environment.**   **Chairman’s Report**  The committee met 11 times during the year, and we also held one meeting to discuss the battery storage planning application and 2 meetings with residents of Catherines Close to discuss the concerns over the licence and retrospective application for the erection of a triple tepee at Newlands Bishop.  **Planning and Solihull Local Plan**  **Planning applications**  Our main objective in reviewing planning applications is to preserve the openness of the Green Belt and to at least maintain, hopefully improve, the integrity of our street scenes where new residential homes are involved  Up until 23rd February 2024, 23 planning applications have been received for various developments etc in the vicinity of the Village and it was felt necessary to respond to 11 of them on the basis the applications represented unacceptable impacts on the Village environment.  Amongst the most notable applications were: -  2022/02283 5 homes at 104 Lugtrout Lane- 5 new documents – dangerous access  2023/01173 up to 90 homes on Oak Farm land  2023/01954 Battery electric storage facility on Henwood Lane  2023/01572 retrospective application to changes to previous application 1 Oakfields Way  2023/02518 changes to buildings on Heath Farm, Henwood Lane  2024/00037 up to 50 homes on land North of Lugtrout lane  2024/00195 2 homes on field adjacent to Destiny Cottage on Friday Lane  As you are all hopefully aware we have 2 sites allocated for development in the Emerging Local Plan  Site HA2 Oak Farm for 90 homes and site SO1 which recent illustrative plans have indicated to accept 824 homes. This development is located and bordered by Damson Parkway, Lugtrout Lane, including land to the North of Lugtrout Lane, Field Lane and behind the homes on the north side of Hampton Lane.  **Position with the Emerging Solihull Local Plan** This is currently held up at the examination stage. SMBC recently responded to the Inspectors suggesting they wish the examination to continue which could result in the Plan found to be unsound and will need to be amended. This situation would allow SMBC to take into account recent changes in National Planning Regulations (which they think would be useful) which they can’t at the moment. However, because of the delay in the Plan being adopted, SMBC are accepting applications for developments that come forward that are in the Plan but because the sites that are coming forward are still in Green Belt “very special circumstances” need to be put forward and accepted to justify approval. When the Plan is adopted, the sites would be taken out of Green Belt and such justification for development would be unnecessary. This is the position with 2024/00037 at Lugtrout Lane and the 90 homes on Oak Farm. Currently the sites are all or partially in Green Belt.  **Motorway Service Area(MSA)**  In May we heard that the Government had put a hold on any developments including All Lane Running (ALR) on our motorways. Previous to this decision Planning Inspectors upheld an appeal from Extra who are promoting the MSA and approved the application for the site adjacent to Solihull Road. However, the approved design relied on ALR, so the development could not go ahead as conceived. Since then, we have been waiting for news of a redesign coming forward but the feeling at SMBC is that any change in design would warrant a new planning application which if the position is maintained would indicate any MSA is still some years away – hopefully.  **Hampton Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NP):**  I am the RA representative on the working group. Following the public consultation the draft plan has been amended as and where it was felt necessary to do so in order to reflect the views expressed. A copy of the revised document was forwarded to SMBC for their informal opinion which was positive. Because the NP has to be in general conformity with the adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP) and the Emerging Plan is still on hold, the NP is now stuck in limbo. There is little point creating a NP which conforms with a SLP which is 11 years old when a new Plan is being created. When the Emerging Plan is adopted, the NP will be reviewed against that document, and all being well, the draft NP will move to the next stage which is a final public consultation before it goes for examination.  **M42 Link Road :** I have been involved in monthly meetings organised by the PC with Skanska concerning the various works associated with the new link road. The point of the meetings is to encourage the contractor to keep disruption to the local community to a minimum. Most of you will be aware Catherine de Barnes Lane will not open again as we knew it. Future access to the Clock will be via the new link road which is expected to be open spring/summer of 2025.  **Street watch and Cat’s Eyes**  The Cat’s Eyes WHATS AP group continues to perform a very useful crime prevention scheme and take this opportunity to thanks Chris Elston for diligently administering the scheme for the village. Please use it for crime issues only and the Catney Discussion Group for anything else.  Due to lack of volunteers and police support unfortunately the StreetWatch project ceased during the year.  **Village Tidy Up**  Thanks to the many volunteer litter pickers, who diligently collected over 50 bags of rubbish, car tyres, etc enabling the village to look its best for at least a day. Look forward to seeing you all on the 23rd March when we are holding this year’s event which again will be followed by complimentary refreshments  **Village Traffic Calming Proposals**  SMBC have approved a traffic calming scheme for the village that we are hoping will be funded by National Highways (NH) through their Legacy Funding schemes. I attend a monthly meeting together with members of the PC where the progress of various projects is discussed. It would seem as though we are getting very close to getting a decision from NH shortly. When we get the funding, we will hold a further Village meeting for the scheme to be displayed.  **Village Hall** The Chair of the Trustees Stephen Wallis will provide an update of VH activities at the meeting .  **Airport Matters**  I attend quarterly meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) and the ACC Steering Group. The main point of our having a seat on this important Committee is to be able to participate in any discussions regarding the Airport’s impact on the local community especially in terms of noise.  The Night Flying Policy is currently under review and I sit on the working group, comprised of various community organisations as well as members of the Airport company. The group have met 3 times in last 2 months and have submitted our shopping list of changes we hope to see in a new Night Flying Policy e.g. reduced noise limits, day as well as night, restriction of night time departures, reduction in quota counts etc. The next meeting is on 28th March. The new 3-year policy needs to be in operation by the end of the year so there is a fair bit of work to do.  **Catney News and Facebook**  I would like to thank Chris Cluley for doing a fantastic job editing and publishing the Catney News and Glenn Hayes, Ella and Julie for doing a grand job looking after The C de B Facebook page. Chris welcomes contributions from everyone – the more varied the articles the more interesting it is.  Finally, I would just like to thank you the members for your continued support, my fellow committee members for your time and effort during the year and to all the other volunteers and distributors for your efforts on behalf of the Association – without you all the Association would not exist. We have 2 new members on the Committee Ella Meca and Rachael Russell. John Phillips resigned for personal reasons- thanks John for your contribution .  Many of you will recall that at last year’s meeting I said I would be standing down as Chair. I won’t be. We have new members now so things might not be so hectic, so you got me for a while longer. |
| Matters Arising | There were no matters arising from the Chairman’s report |
| Treasurer’s Report – Annette Scott | **Finance report 2023**  **EXPENDITURE**  **Newsletter** Ten issues were printed during 2023. Printed copies are delivered to members who lack facilities to access the online newsletter. Additional copies are printed to include in the Welcome Pack introducing new residents to the association.  **Postage and Stationery**  The costs include; website renewal, RA phone top up and printing consumables.  **Sundry Purchases and Petty Cash**  Includes expenditure for; Christmas tree decorations, strimmer parts, new Gazebo,  Projector and replacement memorial plaque.  The AGM, Christmas carol gathering was also funded from our reserves as community events.  The Craft Fair profits as in previous years were donated directly to the Village Hall Fund.  **Hampton PC**  In 2020 Hampton PC generously allocated funds for gardening equipment for the Common  maintenance – at the end of 2023 we have a retained balance **£71.88** - this is carried forward in  the bank account specifically for sundry items and the maintenance of the tools and  enhancements for the Common.  **INCOME**  **Subscriptions & donations**  We received several very generous donations during the year which has contributed significantly to the income. The Committee are very grateful to the donors.  Membership numbers for 2023 were 191 households - (2022 - 181 households).  Potential households in the village are 400 including 28 houses on Henwood Lane and Barston  Lane which we include but are not in Hampton Parish.  **Income from Functions**  The Coronation event was generously supported by Hampton Brewery and the shortfall of  £243.19 funded by the Residents’ Association (a capped shortfall was agreed prior to the event).  Halloween event profit of **£92.11** (deposited into the bank January 2024)  **Association funds at 31st December 2023 - £29234.10** (Including cash £194.83)  I would like to thank Dave Parsons for his generosity in verifying the accounts and Frances Cook  for maintaining the membership tally.  AS emphasised that membership numbers are vital to our representation of the village and suggested that we should all ask our neighbours if they have joined. |
| Questions and Approval of the Accounts | There were no questions on the accounts. Approval was proposed by Graham Roderick and seconded by Liz Nye, and there were no objections from the members. |
| Comments on the accounts | Liz Nye suggested that we replace the old bench on the common (donated by the RA some years ago). The attendees indicated by a show of hands that they would approve of the RA making a donation towards refurbishment of the Hall kitchen. |
| Social Activities  Lesley Cuthbert | **Social report for 2023**  The first annual Village tidy up took place in March when approximately 50 Bags of rubbish were collected. There are some residents who continue to collect rubbish at regular intervals and our thanks go to these people.  Over the last 12 months we have held 2 Butty Breakfasts, one in September and one just a couple of weeks ago in February.  In May we celebrated King Charles III’s Coronation by having a hog roast. We held the event at the rear of the hall for over 100 people, a superb afternoon with fantastic weather.  In October we held a Halloween event which was very well attended, a very enjoyable evening especially the topical cocktails. Thank you to Ella Mecca, Rachael Russell and Debbie Moseley for organising this event.  In November we held our annual Christmas Craft Fair which raised a record £1009, the proceeds being donated to the Village Hall Trustees. Thank you to everyone who helped and made crafts and cakes.  In December we had a Christmas social for members which included the Christmas lights switch on, singing Christmas carols, followed by general socialising with mulled wine and nibbles.  Welcome packs for new residents are still being issued, however I have not been notified of many recently. If at any time you do know of any new residents in the Village, please email cuthbertlm@me.com and a welcome pack will be delivered.  We now have a subcommittee for organising social events. Lesley said she was able to step back on account of health difficulties knowing that Debbie, Ella and Rachael would do a grand job in organising the events for 2024 which they did, and she thanked them   If you have any suggestions for future social events, please email [catneycommunityevents@gmail.com](mailto:catneycommunityevents@gmail.com) |
| Cathey Common Friends | Dave Cuthbert thanked all the friends of Catney Common, especially Do Connolly. Two new bird boxes have been purchased and installed. |
| Election of the Committee | All the committee members were willing to serve for a further year. There have been no nominations, so the committee will stay in place. Proposed by Dave Parsons and seconded by Frank Clancy. |
| Village Hall report – Steve Wallis, Chair of the Trustees | Trustees report 2024. Catherine de Barnes Trust.  When I look back over the report given last year it seems that not much has changed over the last twelve months. The previous two years had been busy with making the significant alterations to the drive way and preparations for the installation of the children’s playground. So I think the last twelve months have been a quieter period and we have been in maintenance mode  That’s not to say that the trustees have sat back and done nothing but as usual we have met regularly and considered maintenance issues and minor improvements to keep the hall in good order for its regular users. We always keep an eye on the income streams and check to ensure we have sufficient coming in to cover our overhead and maintenance costs.  Steve Dodsworth has taken over the hall bookings and general hall management and we thank him for all the time he puts in.  As I stated last year December 2023 was 10 years since the new trustees took over as managing trustees of this building and grounds known as the Catherine de Barnes Church of England Charity which until 1983 was the Catherine de Barnes School charity. As you now Gareth retired as trustee and hall manager last year so we are now down to four trustees current are: David Cuthbert, Steve Scott, Steve Dodsworth and myself, Stephen Wallis. If anyone would like to consider being a trustee please speak to anyone of us anytime.  As always we are grateful to Dave Parsons who continues to be our treasurer and also his wife Sally who now looks after the cleaning of the hall.  We are delighted that the children’s playground at the back of the hall seems to have been well received and is in regular use.  We had previously explored the possibility of getting funds from Skanska to enable the refurbishment to the kitchen and toilets which has been an ongoing aspiration for a few years but this has now not been possible due to changes in Skanksa management and their budget constraints.  We are now considering just a refit to the existing kitchen using our own funds.  We may still be considering installing Solar panels on the south facing roof and maybe some form of internal roof insulation.  We continue to keep the hall open by hiring it out to keep enough income to cover costs.  We are fortunate that this hall is popular for many who use it.  Again, I ask is it used enough by the village and is it worthwhile keeping this building and facilities going.  And, as mentioned last year, the trustees are still considering opening a dialogue with the B’ham Diocese and Solihull Church Council to try see if Hampton in Arden PC can have more of a direct association with our charity. As we are now in the parish boundary the council has a desire to have an involvement. |
| AOB | Barry Lewis thanked Dave Cuthbert for all the work he does on behalf of the association.  There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 8:45pm. |