**Date: 11th March 2025 7:30 pm Venue: Catherine de Barnes Village Hall**

**Association Committee Members Present:**

Dave Cuthbert (DC) – Chairman

Annette Scott (AS) -Treasurer

Frances Cook (FC) - Secretary

Lesley Cuthbert (LC) – Social Secretary

Ella Meca (EM)

Rachael Russell (RR)

Debbie Moseley (DM)

Apologies: Do Connolly

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Subject** |  |
| Welcome | DC welcomed everyone and outlined the agenda. |
| 2024 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 Barry Lewis, seconded by Liz Nye and agreed by the attendees. |
| Chairman’s Report -Dave Cuthbert | **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 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 arranged two village meetings in the hall to discuss the village traffic calming project which the RA had been working on with the PC for some time. A number of village social events, butty breakfasts and a quiz were held during the year – more info in the social report.  **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 our local environment as and when new residential homes are involved.  Only 7 planning applications related to applications within the area, and only 3 were of any significance: -  Amongst the most notable applications were: -  2024/01198 Heath Farm Demolition of existing outbuildings and erection of 9-bedroom dwelling which was refused.  2025/00113 Heath Farm External alterations to previously approved Class Q prior approval consent PL/2023/01507/PNCUDW. Which is a retrospective application and under considerations  2024/02987 Oak Farm. A Reserved matters application for 85 new dwellings – The application is still under consideration – an extensive response has been submitted by the RA commenting on the layout, landscaping and style of the dwellings seeking refusal  However, we were notified that 2 applications that were refused last year have now gone to appeal. They are 2023/01954 the battery storage facility on Henwood lane and 2024/00195 -2 dwellings adjacent to Destiny Cottage on Friday Lane – we await the results with interest.  **Local Plan**  Finally, the Planning Inspectors gave the Council 2 options. Either go ahead with the examination and risk getting it found unsound or withdraw the Plan – which is what they did. The Council cannot show a five year land supply which makes it very difficult for them to refuse any residential planning applications- due to overall housing need. The new plan, had it been adopted, would have hopefully restricted development to the sites allocated in the plan (they were being taken out of Green Belt) now any site is a development possibility. This, combined with the introduction, by the Government, of the concept of Grey Belt – which is basically poor performing Green Belt- means that it will be increasingly difficult to defend the Green Belt around us. A recent “call for sites” exercise was completed last month and we hope to learn soon what sites have been put forward for development. More info in the coming months.  **Motorway Service Area (MSA)**  Plans are afoot to start works on the Motorway Service Area in early 2026 although only Outline Planning approval has been given as we speak. We understand full Reserved Matters applications covering the layout, landscaping of the development will be forthcoming in the spring. We are, together with Parish Councillors, meeting the developers and their agents on a regular basis, endeavouring to minimise disruption during the build whilst seeking suitable mitigation measures re landscaping etc  **Hampton Parish Neighbourhood Plan:**  I am the RA representative on the working group. The group are in the process of producing draft v28 which will incorporate references to Grey Belt. That draft will be sent to SMBC for a cursory inspection before we formally submit it for examination followed by a public consultation. We are hoping to get revised NP adopted in early 26 prior to SMBC getting their new Local Plan adopted.  **M42 Link Road:** I have been involved in most 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. The new road is complete other than new slip roads towards the A45  **Village Tidy Up**  Thanks to the many volunteer litter pickers, who diligently collected numerous bags of rubbish on the 2 litter picking sessions held last year. Plans are in hand to run at least one but hopefully 2 sessions again this year enabling out new pink hi viz vests an airing. We are seeking volunteers for the first session on the 29th March so if you can spare a couple of hours on that Saturday morning, we would love to see you in the village hall at 10.am. Complimentary refreshments will follow. If you are able to make it come and see me afterwards and I’ll put your name down.  **Village Traffic Calming Proposals**  A number of meetings were held with our Parish Councillors and SMBC discussing the traffic calming proposals and a village meeting was held in January to present the final scheme to the residents. It received overwhelming support, a few issues were raised, which were handled by SMBC’s representative who was in attendance. National Highways confirmed that the application for funding had been granted on the understanding that the scheme was to be installed by 31/3/25. As we know its installation is almost complete**.**  **Village Hall**  The Chair of the Trustees Stephen Wallis will provide a verbal update of VH activities at the meeting.  **Airport Matters**  I attend quarterly meetings of the Airport Consultative Committee (ACC) and the ACC Steering Group. In addition, I attended 6 meetings of the Night Noise Review Group which dealt with the review of the Night Flying Policy which was to be the subject of a change to the S106 planning condition and a planning application later in the year to seek the new policy’s adoption. The group did secure some commitments, one to review the current night time noise level of 81dBa down to 79dBa and for the Airport Co. to introduce a permanent Noise sub group monitoring the policy. Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful in limiting the increase in night time air traffic movements which has resulted in the probability of upwards of nearly 50% increase in movements over the next 3 years (the life time of the new policy). 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.  **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 and Ella for doing a grand job looking after The C de B Facebook page.  Chris welcomes contributions for 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 spent on Association affairs whether its organising social events, preparing minutes, buying raffle prizes, printing posters or correcting my spelling. Also, thanks to the volunteers who regularly distribute the Catney and Parish News  Without you the members and you the volunteers the RA would cease to function  Thank You |
| Matters arising | There were no questions on the Chairman’s report |
| Treasurer’s Report- Annette Scott | **Finance report for 2023**  **EXPENDITURE**  **Newsletter**  Ten issues were printed during 2024. 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, printing consumables, stationery, hard copy of members information. Costs are escalated this year – we did not receive bills for domain renewals in 2022 and 2023.  **Sundry Purchases and Petty Cash**  Includes expenditure for; new Gazebo parts to replace those damaged by the storm, a LoPay machine to enable Credit Card payments and the Hi-Viz jackets to be used for Litter pics and events.  **Functions**  The AGM, Butty Breakfast and Christmas Carol gathering were funded from our reserves for 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 2024 we have a retained balance **£71.88** (same as 2023) - 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. This enabled us to financially support the kitchen refurbishment.  Membership numbers for 2024 were 197 households (2023 – 191 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**  Raffle profit in December 2024 **£34.72**  Halloween event profit of **£92.11** (deposited into the bank January 2024) but refers to a profit reported in 2023. Butty Breakfast donations received are used to pay for food and drinks (non- alcoholic!) If there is a small shortfall it is covered by association funds.  **Association funds at 31st December 2024 - £27,254.73** (Including cash £159.70)  **THE COMMITTEE WOULD LIKE EVERYONE TO ENCOURAGE THEIR NEIGHBOURS TO JOIN THE ASSOCIATION AND BE INVOLVED IN EVENTS TO ENSURE WE COVER COSTS AND CONTINUE TO ENHANCE OUR FACILITIES.**  I would like to thank Dave Parsons for his generosity in verifying the accounts and Frances Cook for maintaining the membership tally. |
| Comments on the Accounts | DC pointed out that the Association has a healthy bank balance about 70% of which comes from two funds that have been transferred – The CATFOG (fete) fund and the SNAG fund. We would like to spend some of this money to benefit the village. Ideas for projects would be welcomed. |
| Questions and approval of the Accounts | There were no questions on the accounts.  Motion to approve the finance report:  Proposer: Cliff Dobson Seconded by: John Eccleston  There were no objections or abstentions and the motion was approved. |
| Social Activities  Lesley Cuthbert | There have been 2 Village tidy up mornings over the past year, one in March and again in September, when volunteers collected a substantial number of bags of rubbish each time. Our thanks go out to everyone who volunteers and does a tremendous job in an effort to keep our village tidy. We now have our own hi-viz jackets for this job and with Alison Rolf’s consent we have been named ‘The Catney Wombles’, sharing the name with the Hampton-in-Arden Wombles which Alison runs.  The Events team, Debbie, Ella and Rachael, planned to organise a Hog Roast in July but disappointingly the event had to be cancelled due to lack of support.  In October we held one of our famous Butty Breakfasts which was once again fairly well attended.  On Sunday 10th November our Village Hall reverted back to being a Church for what was a very well attended Remembrance service, remembering all those from our Village who gave their lives during WW1 and WW2. Also, we remembered all those who lost their lives during the D Day invasion, the year marking the 80th Anniversary. Our thanks go to Fr. Roy from St. Alphege who officiated at the service.  At the end of November there was our now Annual Christmas Craft Fayre which raised £942.53. This money was donated to the Village Hall Trustees to go towards the hall’s kitchen refurbishment project. If you haven’t seen our new kitchen, please take a look before you leave the meeting, I’m sure you will be impressed with the transformation. Special thanks to the Craft group, our lovely Village bakers and people who hired tables, without whom we could not have raised so much.  December 7th, we had our annual Christmas light switch on. The night was very stormy so the turnout was not quite as good as usual. The Events team started the evening off with a children’s disco and games which the children thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to mums and dads for bringing them out on such an awful night. This was followed by the lights switch on, a Christmas sing-a-long, thanks to Bruce Hart for accompanying us on the keyboard, and mulled wine with Christmas nibbles.  On 22nd February we saw the return of the ever-popular Quiz Evening which sold out within a week of being advertised. This was a very successful evening; everyone enjoyed a fish and chip supper and we raised just over £200. Thank you everyone for your support.  When I know or have been advised of new residents in the village, I have put Welcome Packs through their door which has resulted in some of them joining the Residents Association.  I’m sad to say I have reported on the passing of a few of our villagers this year. It would be nice if I could also report on happier occasions, the arrival of a new born, special anniversary or birthday. Either let our Catney News Editor, Chris Cluley know or get in touch with me and I will see that it is put in the Catney News.  Finally, over the past year we have had some fantastic raffle prizes donated to the RA and would like to thank the following organizations for their donations:-   1. The Boat Inn donated a £100 meal voucher which we used in the raffle at Christmas. 2. Resorts World Birmingham donated a Spa Afternoon for two which we used in the raffle on Quiz Night. 3. Also donated from Resorts World Birmingham, an afternoon tea for 2 which will be used in a draw for those who pay their membership subscription before 1st June 2025. |
| Village Hall Report - Steve Wallis, Chair of Trustees | We are still a committee of four trustees: David Cuthbert, Steve Scott, Steve Dodsworth and myself, Stephen Wallis. If anyone of a younger age would be interested in becoming a trustee, we would be happy to discuss.  Steve Dodsworth is in charge of the hall bookings and general hall management and we thank him for all the time he puts in.  Last year I remember saying that not much had happened during 2023. Well that all changed in 2024 as we had a major problem with the outside toilet / store and we had to reroof it and do some internal repairs. We still need to repaint the outside which should be done this summer. Also, as I expect you are aware that we have finally refurbished the kitchen. We did a bigger job that we originally had planned but recladding the walls and ceiling have made a significant improvement. There was considerable electrical rewiring necessary plus plumbing work and the whole job costed almost £15,000 of which received almost £10,000 in grants and donations.  Our trustee Steve Dodsworth was on hand to supervise both these two jobs.  We may consider improvements to the inside toilet over the next year and some interior and exterior paintwork.  Our hall hire income seems to be holding up and the organisers of the Christmas Craft Fayre kindly donated the profits from this which was just under £1000.  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 be in regular use.  We may still consider installing Solar panels on the south facing roof and maybe some form of internal roof insulation in the future.  And, as mentioned last year, the trustees are still in dialogue Hampton in Arden PC to explore having more of a direct association with our Village Hall.  We are currently in the process of getting a condition report prepared by a qualified surveyor at the request of Hampton in Arden Parish Council and which will be paid for by the parish Council. |
| Catney Common Report Do Connolly | AS read the report from Do Connolly –  If you are new to the village - the common is a small area of land situated part way down Bickenhill Lane on the left with a footpath that leads to a metal gate. The path continues above the canal towpath to Damson Parkway.  The mowing and clearing team from Newlands Bishop Farm cut and cleared the central grassed area again this year, leaving other areas to further develop native wildflowers.  Our working group has coppiced some young hazels, cleared returning brambles and nettles and kept the path clear throughout the year. Several dead trees/branches have been removed and we’ve noticed that the bird boxes are well used.  Both new apple trees produced a few apples this year. One is Worcester Permain and the other, Paradice Gold.  Once again there has been a lot of water standing on the common together with a ‘winter pond’. Spring flowers have so far included snowdrops, daffodils, primroses and celandine.  We are always keen to welcome new volunteers. We meet for about an hour every few weeks as needed, on a Sunday morning or an early evening weekday in the summer.  Members of the audience reported that the boardwalk has been repaired and the bird boxes have been checked over for this spring. |
| Election of the Committee | No nominations for new members have been received and the current committee are willing to stay in post for another year. The attendees approved. |
| AOB | DC reported that there will be many challenges in the year ahead. Solihull have to build 1322 houses per year over the next 5 years. A new “call for sites” has identified about 28 in Catherine de Barnes alone. The council will now review these, but with the new “grey belt” (essentially underperforming green belt) designation, developers will not need to show very special circumstances to release the land for building.  The MSA project will start in January 2026 and the Oak Farm development is in progress.  The build-out on Hampton Lane was commented on by the audience. The open lane does not have a cushion like the one in Hampton. Also, the lighting is not good enough, and proper signage is still needed for this and for the speed cushions in Lugtrout Lane. DC will investigate the cost of installing speed cushions on Hampton Lane on the approach to the build out. |
|  | DC closed the meeting at 8:10 and invited everyone to enjoy refreshments. |