

HAMMERWICH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday 17 April 2013

PRESENT: Cllrs V Wasdell (Chairman), Mrs M Greenway J Turnbull, R Campbell, Mrs V Richards, Ms R Bailye(Vice Chairman), D Bayliss, Mrs J Pope, Mrs V Evans (Parish Clerk) and 8 members of the public.

APOLOGIES Cllr P Chapman

FOR ABSENCE:

1 APOLOGIES

1.1 As above Action

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS

2.1 Cllr Mrs V Richards (as LDC portfolio holder) for Hammerwich Playing Fields

3 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

3.1 Cllr D Bayliss proposed that the minutes be accepted and this was seconded by Cllr Campbell

3.2 **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 20 February 2013 be accepted

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Cllr D Bayliss advised the meeting that he had enquired about changes to a local bus service, as referred to in point 10 of the last meeting.

4.2 He reported that the operator had changed rather than the service times and the Chairman advised that he had observed no service changes

5 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

5.1 The Chairman paid tribute to Cllr Mrs E Bayliss who is retiring after 28 years of public service. During that time she has served as a Parish, District and County Councillor and Members agreed with the Chairman that the Council send a vote of thanks for all her hard work.

5.2 Members also expressed their best wishes for the future, sentiments which Cllr D Bayliss said he would be very pleased to pass on DB

5.3 The Chairman also notified the meeting of his intention to invite whoever is elected to succeed Cllr Mrs Bayliss to future meeting. VW

5.4 The Chairman advised that he had attended the first meeting of the Staffordshire Hoard Steering Committee where the business had been taken up with establishing the ground rules for the committee itself and administration of the displays etc

6 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

6.1.1 There was only one planning application: VE

13/00269/FUL –Retention of a shed at 20 Meerash Lane, Hammerwich
Members expressed concern about the confusing nature of this application with it variously being described as a “shed” and a “building”, a matter highlighted by Cllr Turnbull

6.1.2 Cllr MS Bailye had identified the same point and also noted confusion as to the sizes which were quoted differently on different number plans

6.1.3 The Council indicated it would support the views of residents and during the public participation, other pertinent points were made which the Council would pass to LDC

6.2 There were no licence applications to consider

6.3.1 The Clerk requested Members help in reconciling various documents relating to

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land ownership to ensure the accuracy of the maintenance contract

6.3.2 There remained an issue of paperwork suggesting the existence of a designated village green in Meerash Lane and the Clerk was given leave to begin discreet investigations

6.3.3 As a part of the discussion, Cllr Campbell sought clarification as to why the asset register listed the open space owned by the Council at a value of £1.00 per asset

6.3.4 The Clerk replied that this was usual practice as the value of the asset was unlikely to be realised.

7 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING

7.1.1 Cllr Mrs Richards confirmed that LDC's plan had been submitted but sounded a note of caution with regard to the duty to co-operate with neighbouring authorities

7.1.2 The refusal of Tamworth's Plan and negotiations with East Staffs Borough Council for use of LDC land might add complications in the acceptance of the LDC Plan

7.1.3 Cllr Mrs Richards indicated that she would try to keep Members updated on this issue

7.1.4 Cllr Bayliss drew the meetings attention to the identification of traffic "pinch points" in the Core Strategy. These were located at Wall, Swinfen and Muckley Corner where the proposal was for a 5 way traffic light controlled junction

7.1.5 Members welcomed the changes at Muckley Corner, feeling that it would be particularly beneficial to users of Hall Lane

7.2 The Clerk queried whether the Council would wish to create a Community Asset Register and Cllrs, after consideration, declined.

8 UPDATE ON HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

8.1 The Chairman advised the meeting that the hedge had finally been cut in Coppice Lane

8.2 He also referred to an email received that day from County Highways which gave details of repairs and due dates. Most were programmed for April but the Meerash Lane repairs were scheduled for May

8.3 The Chairman advised that he had received a letter from Michael Fabricant MP with regard to a consultation on the speed of HGVs.

8.4 Although the Chairman retained a very jaundiced view of access to the consultation process, Members could identify no means by which this matter could be progressed

9 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

9.1.1 The Chairman announce that the finger posts and stiles had been delivered and were awaiting installation

9.1.2 The Clerk confirmed that the grant money had now been received from SCC

9.2.1 The Clerk had had a response from NALC with regard to insuring the changing rooms at Hospital Road Playing Fields

9.2.2 The Clerk also indicated that Neil Turner of LDC would be happy to discuss a management agreement with the Council

9.2.3 Members agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should meet with Neil Turner

9.2.4 The Clerk advised that she had received one letter from LDC and one email from Ansons on the subject of the extremely protracted land transfer

9.2.5 Members agreed with Cllr Mrs Richards that this was preventing any effort to transfer the management of the facility to a local group which was the ultimate aim of the Council

9.3 Cllr Mrs Greenway advised that the fencing had been installed at the Playing Fields on Hospital Road and that it included a stile which had been installed to try

VE

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to prevent the fencing from being broken down

9.4 Cllr Greenway also mentioned her concern about children crossing the road to access the Playing Fields and felt that a request for a pedestrian crossing might be sensible

9.5 Other members pointed out that the lack of a footway one side of the road would preclude this but that it would be sensible to contact the County Safety Partnership with regard to measures eg the camera van and warning signs

9.6 There was also mention of a public initiative in Eccleshall which could be investigated VE

10 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

10.1 Cllr Ms R Bailye proposed suspending Standing Orders, seconded by Cllr Mrs J Pope

10.2 **RESOLVED** to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak

10.3 Mr Colson elaborated on the size of the shed, in particular, that it exceeded the permitted height for a shed so close to a fence

10.4 He advised that for the resident at No 18, lack of light was an issue as it was in her direct line of site from her kitchen window

10.5 This applicant had received local offers of help to reduce the intrusion caused by this shed but had consistently refused, therefore neighbours would send their complaints to LDC

10.6 There was a hope that now planning sanction had been sought, this would allow some planning enforcement

10.7 Mrs Preston asked for a village litter pick, with particular emphasis on Hall Lane and the Council agreed to request LDC to carry this out VE

10.8 Mr Gregory asked if there was any progress on the Planning Appeals at the Travellers Site and the Scrapyard.

10.9 No one had any update but Cllr Mrs Richards promised to monitor VR

10.10 There being no further comments, Cllr Mrs Greenway moved to reinstate Standing Orders and Cllr Mrs Richards seconded

11 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

11.1 The letter and email with regard to Hammerwich Playing Fields had been dealt with under that agenda item.

11.2 There was a letter with regard to a Ward review in Lichfield District. The letter invited a Parish representative to attend but as Cllr Mrs Richards was already attending, no one else felt it necessary to attend

11.3 Western Power had circulated Parish Councils indicating where they could find assistance in the event of power cuts

12 CORRESPONDENCE SENT

12.1 A letter to John Brown of LDC with prompted the response mentioned during the discussions on the Council's property and noted at point 11.1 above

13 FINANCE

13.1 The accounts for payment were presented
Cllr Mrs Richards proposed acceptance, Cllr Ms R Bailye seconded
RESOLVED: that the payments list be approved

13.2 The end of year summary of accounts was presented and accepted

13.3 The asset register was corrected to remove the bus shelter which had been

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located at Muckley Corner

14 MEMBERS' REPORTS

- 14.1 Cllr Ms R Bailye reported in very positive terms on the Community Centre.
- 14.2 Although there was a plan to raise fees for occasional users, they would be able to use a newly refurbished kitchen and new chairs which were just a part of what had been accomplished
- 14.3 The solar panels were proving to be a success
- 14.4 The Committee planned to offer a school summer holiday play scheme which would be able to make use of the Council's Mansion Drive Play area.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

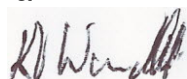
- 15.1 Cllr Mrs Richards asked for the Clerk to contact County Councillor Corfield with a view to marking the site of the discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard VE
- 15.1.1 **ADOPTION OF AMENDED CODE OF CONDUCT AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
- 15.1.2 **RESOLVED:** to accept the amended code of conduct based on the latest NALC recommendations
- 15.1.3 Members confirmed that they were up to date on their notified interest monitoring forms

16 CONFIDENTIAL ITEM

- 16.1 Members agreed to confirm the appointment of the Clerk, following her 3 month trial period
- 16.2 The terms and conditions would be in accordance with NALC recommendations
- 16.3 Members discussed the draft annual budget as presented by the Clerk and suggested some changes
- 16.4 However, overall Members were pleased that their financial position is sound

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.38 pm

Chairman



15 May 2013