

HAMMERWICH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday 17th July 2013

PRESENT: Cllrs V Wasdell (Chairman), Mrs M Greenway, R Campbell J Turnbull, , D Bayliss, P Chapman, Mrs V Richards, Mrs V Evans (Clerk) and 3 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Cllrs, Mrs Pope and Ms R Bailye (Vice Chairman)

At 7pm Cllr Wasdell welcomed representatives from South Staffs Water plc and Gallifords.

- The representatives from the water company and the contractors explained that there was a £7.5m programmed being undertaken to refurbish the water supply system and they had come to see the Parish Council to get an insight into concerns with the proposed scheme for Hammerwich
- Cllr Chapman asked if stopcocks were being replaced and he was assured they would be. A side issue of stopcocks on private drives would, preferably, be addressed by situating a new stopcock in the footway, thereby avoiding having to excavate any drives
- The Chairman asked how the re-laying would be done and was assured that, so far as is possible, the pipes would be laid inside the original pipes by using a technique referred to as "burst out"
- Cllr Bayliss asked how long people might be without water and was advised that the maximum time would be 12 hours and this cut off would only happen after sufficient notice had been given
- Cllr Campbell asked when the works would be started and was advised that the programmed date is early September with completion within 12 weeks
- Cllr Greenway asked what time of day the works would start and was advised that they would commence at 7.00 am on weekdays with a 9.00 am start on Saturdays
- They welcomed the possibility to work weekends in order to shorten the contract period
- Cllrs Chapman and Bayliss were concerned about access and were assured that roads would be kept open using traffic light controls
- Members advised on local bus services which might impinge on the works and they also suggested a potential location for the plant safe at Coppy Nook Lane if the contractor's preferred location of the Ashmole car park was unavailable

Cllr Chapman also mentioned that there seemed to be a good many leaks and was it possible that some could be from springs and the contractors responded that the refurbishment should establish whether there were any local springs

Cllr Wasdell then reinstated Standing Orders and commenced the Council Meeting

Action

1 Apologies

1.1 As above

2 Declaration of Interest

2.1 Cllrs Mrs Richards, personal interest Hospital Road playing fields as a portfolio holder and Mrs Greenway in her capacity as a member of the travelling exhibition steering group

3 Minutes

3.1 Agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Mrs Richards and seconded by Cllr J Turnbull.

4 Matters Arising (not included as an agenda item)

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None

5 Chairman's Announcements

- 5.1 The Chairman had attended the Memorial Service for Olive Brookes
- 5.2 He and Cllr Mrs Richards had attended the inaugural meeting of Action Staffordshire hosted by County Councillor David Smith
He would also be attending Burntwood Wakes

6 Planning and Licensing

- 6.1 Members objected strongly to the application for the retention of a large building at the vehicle dismantlers on the grounds that this was an intrusion in the green belt (13/00691/ret) VE
- 6.2 However, Cllrs warmly welcome the application for a change of use to 2 flats over a local store (13/00695/ful) expressing satisfaction that the ground floor shop would be preserved as well

7 Update on Local Plan/Neighbourhood Planning

- 7.1 Cllr Chapman thanked the Chairman for his dedication in attending the LDC Local Plan examination
- 7.2 The Chairman advised that developers were pushing hard but that he felt that 2 sites suggested for the green belt would not receive permission
- 7.3 He continued with a couple of key points ie there was an increase of 10,000 homes required for the area but that the inspectors felt that LDC was not protecting the fringes of Cannock Chase robustly enough
- 7.4 The Chairman and Cllr Chapman felt LDC deserved their support, particularly as there was an emphasis in the plan to develop brownfield sites first
- 7.5 There was then a discussion on the merits of commencing a neighbourhood plan but Cllr Campbell (who had seen a presentation by consultants) and others urged a "wait and see" policy which was supported by all present

8 Update on Highways and Footpaths.

- 8.1 Following a donation: VE
RESOLVED: that 4 more finger posts would be purchased
- 8.2 Cllr Mrs Greenway raised an issue with regard to kerb laying at the Fishing Pools adjacent to the fishing pools on Coppice Lane and the Clerk was requested to seek further information by contacting SCC VE
- 8.3 Cllr Richards raised the continuing concern with speeds along Hospital Road with interactive signs being one suggestion
- 8.4 Cllr Campbell suggested concerted efforts by the police would be needed to back up any signs but Cllr Turnbull felt that a combination of speed camera signs and interactive units was very effective

9 Parks and Open Spaces

- 9.1 The Clerk advised that the lease she had been asked to investigate had appeared to have lapsed in 1996 and so she suggested this matter should be rectified to which Cllrs agreed VE
- 9.2 Gary Brownridge of LDC attended the meeting to confirm the details of the Service Level Agreement that the Council has with LDC
- 9.3 He pointed out that one advantage of the SLAs was that any extras would be undertaken at a known contract unit price
- 9.4 He further pointed out that the SLA was climate responsive and expected that this year there would be no need for all the programmed cuts due to the slowdown of grass growth in the hot weather
- 9.5 Cllr Mrs Richards indicated that a local sports team would be interested in taking

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over the Hospital Road Playing fields once the land issue had been settled

10 The Staffordshire Hoard

10.1 Members expressed a wish to wait to hear Dr Sharpe expand on the need for a £100 for the community centre

10.2 Having heard (in public participation) that the funding would go mainly on insurance:

RESOLVED: to grant £100 to the community centre in support of the travelling exhibition

10.3 Cllr Mrs Greenway advised that Tom Hobbes of SCC would be co-ordinating publicity

10.4 There was some discussion with regard to the siting and design of a commemorative sign featuring an Anglo Saxon design

10.5 Cllr Chapman suggested involving local schools in the design of any marker

11 Public Participation

11.1 Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Mrs Greenway proposed suspend standing orders which was agreed

11.2 As mentioned above Dr Sharpe explained the need for grant funding

11.3 Mr Gregory wished to offer some background information on the planning application at Barracks Lane and Cllrs thanked him for this information but advised that they had to remain impartial in evaluating planning applications

11.4 Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Mrs Greenway proposed reinstating standing orders which was agreed

12 Correspondence received

12.1 None – other than that which relates to items in the finance section

13 Correspondence sent

13.1 None

14 Finance

14.1 Accounts for payment were approved - proposed Cllr Bayliss, seconded Cllr Mrs Richards

14.2 Cllr Mrs Greenway and Cllr Mrs Richards proposed the purchase of Charles Arnold Baker 9th edition, as discussed at the last meeting

RESOLVED: to purchase

14.3 The purchase of Parish Online was deferred

14.4 The Clerk suggested that, in order to protect PC land from encroachment, all the parcels of land that it owned should be registered but Members requested an accurate estimate of cost first VE

14.5 Members were given copies of the bank reconciliation

15 Members Reports

15.1 Cllr Mrs Richards advised the meeting of the action taken by Chris Hibbs, enforcement officer at LDC who had, again, written to the police for assistance in restricting the nuisance created by these events

15.2 Cllr Mrs Richards advised that in total, there were 9 car boot sale sites in the parish and LDC would welcome any opinions from the public on the acceptability or otherwise of these events

15 Any other business

15.1 Cllr Bayliss proposed that the Chairman and Vice Chair have delegated powers

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to cover the recess. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs Richards

- 15.2 **RESOLVED: to delegate powers to Chairman and Vice Chair for the period of the recess**

16 Date of Next Meeting

- 16.1 18 September

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 9.50 pm

Chairman

18 September 2013