

HAMMERWICH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday 19th June 2013

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

APOLOGIES Cllrs R Campbell, Mrs Pope and Mrs V Evans (Clerk)

Action

At 7pm Cllr Wasdell welcomed County Cllr David Smith to the meeting who outlined his 'hot list' of actions for the Parish:

1. Hall Lane – disgusting state, pot holes have now joined together, county have recognised this and intend to resurface whole length starting as soon as possible.
2. Springhill Burial ground – work ongoing at the moment relates to telecommunications, it has been paid for (£700,000) by the applicant. The further agreement for the roundabout has not been signed or paid for yet and no work will start until it has.
3. A new application will be coming forward for crematorium on the site; this was turned down initially, however a new application is being submitted. Debatable if this will go ahead. If the opinion of the officer has not changed there will be no point in taking forward to committee and public hearing. Cllr Smith recommended that we 'sit on our hands and let it take its course'.
4. Gypsy site, application turned down by LDC and sent to appeal by applicant. Cllr Smith and Cllr Wasdell worked together and objected strongly to inspector. Application appeal has been called in by government; the reason for this is unknown. Nothing further has been heard and no indication of when we will hear
5. Car boot sales – concern wearing County hat, particularly about the highways issues surrounding this activity. Officers are monitoring as sales are being moved from site to site. The monitoring is to make sure they don't exceed number of events. They are operating within law at present.
6. Community Fund – Cllr Smith has £10k per year in Community Fund to spread geographically between Hammerwich and Canwell so it won't go that far. A memorial to mark where Staffordshire Hoard was found would be considered. Leader of the County Council has said they would be sympathetic to this. Ought to have an application in for this as soon as possible so Cllr Smith can allocate funds, advised £1,000 would be appropriate. Cllr Smith went on to say that because next year is the 100 year anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War he would also consider funding any refurbishment required to the war memorial, but Cllr Wasdell clarified that the only memorial within parish is within the church and is well maintained.
7. Cllr Smith has had request for funding from Hammerwich Cricket Club as they have had some equipment stolen. Cllr Bailye commented drew Cllr Smith's attention to the fact there are other equally deserving groups within village who aren't so well versed at fundraising. Cllr Smith said application form is on the County Council website and is easy to complete, he won't fund revenue and expects some match funding. Please encourage other groups to apply.
8. Cllr Smith is forming a group called Staffordshire Action, to include all groups that fall within Cllr Smith's area and the district council to look at all things that fall under the County Council responsibility such as highways, transport, busses, healthcare, etc. This will give people an opportunity to influence.

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Cllr Smith is expecting a neighbourhood plan for every parish within his division, interlinking. There will be four meetings per year, the first on 15th July; an invitation will be coming shortly.

Cllr Smith then took questions

Cllr Wasdell queried if a formal application must come from Parish Council for funding for Hoard? Cllr Smith confirmed this; it is important that Hammerwich Parish Council are the lead on this.

Cllr Mrs Richards asked if comments that the neighbourhood plans are very costly to bring to fruition had been Cllr Smith's experience? Cllr Mrs Richards quoted a figure of £40 - £50k. Cllr Smith's experience of plans bought forward was they had cost nowhere near this level; many plans have been done voluntarily by local people. Plans had to follow a certain format to withstand scrutiny and in Stonnal LDC are undertaking some elements now at a cost around £2k with £7k available to bid for to administer the necessary referendum.

Ian Gregory – Springhill:

Application for conversion of existing farmhouse to funeral directors has been refused. An appeal has been lodged 4th June, Mr Gregory and neighbours only found out about this today. Cllr Smith reported that an application for holiday lets nearby was refused. There is currently a permanent stop notice (endorsed by LDC), business will not be able to start trading without the island. This excludes telecommunication work.

Mr Gregory went on to say that one of the conditions applied by the inspector during the appeal was the regarding the lighting (10 no. x 12m poles with special lamps to diffuse lighting as in greenbelt). Unfortunately Staffordshire Highways have now said that as it is less than 10m from existing light area it will require 37 no. x 12m poles with standard lighting. Mr Gregory has been told by Highways the developer has to pay for the lighting installation but tax payer has to pay for running costs. Residents will be living with 24 hour light. Does this regulation have to be applied?

John Wood – Springhill

The appeal registered on funeral directors office is to be dealt with by written procedures. Is there any reason why Lichfield has chosen this? Cllr Smith – it is his understanding that the inspector decides this, not LDC, he would clarify. Car boot – Visibility splays for entrance and exit to car boot sales. Can local planning authority serve a direction to take away such activities? Permitted development rights can be taken away. This has never been tried and now we have the car boot/field sales capital of the West Midlands, not just on weekends, it presents a danger to people walking the lanes, horse riders, etc. Monitoring must be taking a lot of employee's time. Cllr Smith clarified that residents are monitoring rather than officers on site.

Cllr
Smith

Mr Gregory – car boot signage

Signage to car boot sites on 60mph road is only 40m before entrance. When/if roundabout is constructed this will be down to a single lane. Cllr Smith – County Highways have been out removing the big cardboard signs, seriously dangerous as they distract drivers and often end up in the road there is a penalty for signs. A lot of traffic park in the lay by, a number of people have been fined for this. They are not getting away with everything.

Cllr Mrs Greenway commented that her recollection was it had been mentioned in a previous meeting that car boot licences are granted by Tamworth as they are the market town. Cllr Smith will check this, Cllr Richards thought it was LDC licensing. Cllr Smith ended discussion 7.40pm

Cllr
Smith

Cllr Wasdell reinstated Standing orders after holding a one minute silence Olive

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Brookes, former member of Parish Council, WI and Sunday school.

1 Apologies

1.1 As above

2 Declaration of Interest

2.1 Mrs Richards, personal interest Hospital Road playing fields as portfolio member.

3 Minutes

3.1 Agreed as a true and accurate record, proposed by Cllr Chapman and seconded by Cllr Bayliss.

4 Matters Arising (not included as an agenda item)

A key had been found but this was not the key to Mansion Drive.

5 Chairman's Announcements

Appointments to outside bodies had been missed at the last HPC meeting. Cllr Bailye confirmed she was happy to continue as the representative for the Youth and Community Centre, this was supported by members. Cllr Wasdell happy to continue on Parish Forum also supported by members.

Memorial Service for Olive Brookes 6th July 11.30am Cllr Wasdell will be attending in a formal capacity.

Cllr Wasdell has been invited to attend Burntwood Wakes and intends to accept the invitation.

6 Planning

6.1 Mrs Evans please send back normal caveat, no objections. VE

6.2 Weekly List of Licensing applications – none received.

6.3 Richard King's response re: Springhill cemetery was discussed during Cllr Smith's question session.

6.4 Application from Burntwood Town Council to advertise the wakes, Cllr Wasdell has indicated already that he is happy for this to go ahead. No contrary views expressed but were pleased to have been consulted.

7 Update on Local Plan/Neighbourhood Planning

7.1 Cllr Chapman updated the Council on the Local Plan as the three week debate starts next week. Cllr Wasdell intends to attend as many sessions as he can, very pertinent is 4th July when this part of district up for full examination.

7.2 Lichfield Alliance causing problems and there will be a considerable cost to district if the plan fails. The Council hoped that for the sake of a clear, adopted strategy that the plan is accepted.

8 Update on Highways and Footpaths.

8.1 More patching Burntwood Road, Meerash Lane, Stockhay Lane. Reasonable quality repairs that should last a length of time. Cllr Richards reported a total resurfacing of pavements on Gorseway, Redfern Drive, Wheatcroft Close, first class work, have cased householders very little inconvenience, excellent job. Pass on thanks from the Parish to County Highways (Mrs Evans to please send note of thanks on behalf of the Council). 1. VE

8.2 Cllr Mrs Greenway queried if the whole of Hall Lane would be resurfaced. Cllr Smith had indicated it was his understand it will be completely resurfaced. Cllr Bailye had interpreted that after patching it will be top dressed. It was felt this is classed as resurfacing. Cllr Turnbull clarified they are to dig out holes to sub-base, fill then tar

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and grit. Under railway will be surfaced.

- 8.3 Cllr Wasdell reminded Cllr's that at the last meeting an offer of a further finger post had been made by a resident however it was found there would be a £40 delivery charge. Cllr Wasdell suggested HPC purchase three further posts at a cost of £38 each. Cllr Richards queried if they were needed? Cllr Wasdell confirmed we do, all will be put up by voluntary labour, confident this offer will again be forthcoming and no charge to the Council. Cllr Turnbull asked if we are buying more do we get free delivery? **Cllr Richards proposed that HPC purchase three additional finger posts.**

9 Parks and Open Spaces

- 9.1 Cllr Wasdell and Mrs Evans met with Neil Turner (LDC) and were satisfied costs under control. No further progress on land transfer, when completed it was agreed to see if it was possible to get Clubs to take over and take on running costs. A further meeting in Sept was agreed; hopefully this will be on site. The issue of dog fouling at Hospital Road and Mansion Drive was raised. John Smith will ask dog wardens to pay a visit and catch offenders. Cllr Greenway asked that Oakfield Park also be visited by the dog warden as there is also a problem there. VE
- 9.2 Cllr Turnbull gave an explanation of the style and fence, the bottom and middle wires have not and cannot be tensioned. Cllr Richards will talk to Gary Brownridge (Operational Services); Cllr Turnbull provided a diagram and referred to the British standards required. There are several things wrong with it. Would Mr Turnbull be prepared to meet with Gary Brownridge? Cllr Turnbull would be willing.
- 9.3 Cllr Wasdell said there is a possibility that some work may have been done since. He will check this and liaise with Cllr Richards and Cllr Turnbull. VW
- 9.4 Cllr Greenway reported that she and Cllr Campbell had been to investigate the fallen tree as asked at a previous meeting. There is no problem regarding the tree. However Cllr Greenway reported problems with the retaining wall that is 'pile driven' (supporting whole of bank up to the houses). There are several parts missing. Parish Council would be liable for landslide. The wall is supporting land to the houses adjacent. Cllr Richards felt we should get an expert opinion on this. Cllr Greenway strongly felt that if Collis' ask for the land again the Parish Council should strongly refuse. Cllr Richards reported this could not happen as the land belongs to LDC and Parish rent for peppercorn rent.
- 9.5 Cllr Wasdell and Cllr Chapman will visit to inspect the condition of the bank. VW/RC
- 9.6 Removal of damaged tree branch at Mansion Drive
- 9.7 Cllr Bailye reported a tree was damaged at Mansion Tree; it had split down the middle. Cllr Bailye has removed the fallen part in exchange for the timber. The rest of the tree is still standing but considered dangerous. Members happy for
- 9.8 **RESOLVED: Cllr Bailye to dispose of and keep the timber in exchange, this is being done on a voluntary basis.**

10 Public Participation

- 10.1 Suspend standing orders – proposed Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Bayliss.
- 10.2 **Mr John Wood** – Agreed resurfacing of footpaths around Gorseway, Redfern, etc, very welcome. Commented that the retaining structure at Lawnswood would be very expensive, difference in ground must be 20ft.
- 10.3 Mr Wood raised the issue of the change in Council Tax policy in respect of unoccupied properties; a full charge is now levied on unoccupied property - this is affecting some people he knows and no doubt a wider area. Cllr Smith commented that it was his understanding that this is imposed by Government, LDC has to fall in with this. **Cllr Richards will speak to rating officer to get clarity as to what changes have taken place and to find how many people are affected by this?**

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10.4 Resume standing orders – proposed by Cllr Bailye, seconded by Cllr Bayliss.

11 Correspondence received

11.1 Mrs Evans has been unable to make the website set up by the former Parish Clerk Mr Harper operative as unable to obtain his password. Mrs Evans has found an alternative. Detail appended to papers. Members asked what the annual cost would be after the one year free website hosting – Mrs Evans to find out please. Cllr Richards felt it is worth talking with LDC Communications Officer, Cllr Smith reported that Shenstone have recently done this. Mrs Evans to contact Shenstone Parish Clerk as they have recent experience of this to seek advice and help. VE

12 Correspondence sent

12.1 Letter to Richard King.

13 Finance

13.1 Accounts for payment were approved - proposed Cllr Richards, seconded Cllr Chapman.

13.2 Purchase of 9th Ed, Local Council Administration (£60 as Mrs Evans is a member). Cllr Bailye commented that we should support Mrs Evans in resources she feels necessary. Cllr Turnbull has concern it will go out of date as soon as received. Are free updates offered? Is there a subscription method of purchase? Cllr Richards felt Cllr Turnbull is right. **Decision deferred to next meeting.**

14 Members Reports

14.1 Cllr Greenway reported that the Staffordshire Hoard due to open in August. Everything is coming along very well and there is a 3D printer. Unsure of results of consultation but on the whole it is looking very good; some of quotes are going to be used. Cllr Greenway will keep members informed. Cllr Wasdell asked that Cllr Smith be kept informed. Cllr Chapman asked if Brownhills are being kept informed. Cllr Wasdell has kept Cllr Mrs Cassidy informed of headlines.

14.2 The tour goes as far as Shrewsbury and West Bromwich.

14.3 Cllr Bailye asked if other members had heard that the Parish Magazine will no longer circulate. Noted with interest.

15 Any other business

15.1 Cllr Turnbull had no recollection of planning application for Springhill Cemetery. Cllr Wasdell confirmed it was fully discussed at Parish Council meeting. Concluded Cllr Turnbull wasn't at that particular meeting. Cllr Turnbull has investigated subsequently online.

15.2 Second point re: land held up by sheet piling. Whose land is being retained? It would be the adjacent land owner. Cllr Richards feels LDC expert should be asked to investigate. **Cllr Wasdell and Cllr Chapman will investigate in the first instance and decide if it requires further investigation.**

15.3 Cllr Smith was granted permission to comment. **Ask Mrs Evans to approach John Brown at LDC to do land search and clarify ownership of the walkway and retaining bank.** He will do this without charge. VE

15.4 Cllr Richards clarified 19th December 2012 application for reception meeting was discussed. Apologies for absence for Cllrs Mrs and Mr Turnbull. No confidential business. Meeting declared closed at 8.44pm.