

# HAMMERWICH PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on **Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014** at **7.30 p.m.** at the WI Hall, Hammerwich

**PRESENT:** Councillors V. Wasdell (Chairman), Ms. Rachel Bailye (Vice Chairman), Mrs. M. Greenway, Mrs. V. Richards, R. Campbell, P. Chapman, J. Turnbull, Mrs J Davies, Cllr Mrs J Pope, Cllr D Smith (SCC) Viv Evans (Parish Clerk), and 4 members of the public

**APOLOGIES** D. Bayliss

- 1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN** Action
- 1.1 Cllr Mrs Bailye proposed Cllr Wasdell which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Davies
- 1.2 Cllr Wasdell was re-elected unopposed
- 2 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**
- 2.1 Cllr Mrs Richards proposed Cllr Mrs Bailye and Cllr Chapman seconded the nomination
- 2.2 Cllr Mrs Bailye was re-elected unopposed
- 3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 3.1 As above
- 4 DECLARATION OF INTEREST ON AGENDA ITEMS**
- 4.1 Cllr Mrs Richards as she is a member of LDC's Planning Committee
- 5 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**
- 5.1 Cllr Mrs Richards proposed and Cllr Mrs Greenway seconded that the minutes be accepted as a true record
- 5.2 **RESOLVED:** the minutes are accepted as a true record
- 6 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
- 6.1 Cllr Mrs Bailye reported that the trees from the Woodland Trust had been planted in their permanent location by Mr Colson
- 6.2 The meeting expressed its thanks to Mr Colson for his continuing voluntary work in the village
- 7 CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- 7.1 None
- 7.2 The Chairman offered Cllr Smith the opportunity to speak (nominally as part of public participation) so that he would then be able to leave the meeting
- 7.3 Cllr Smith was pleased to inform the meeting that although Cllrs had acted against officers' advice, they rejected the application for Springhill mausoleum
- 7.4 The Cllrs views were totally supported by the inspector and this might throw the whole future of the site into question
- 7.5 Cllr Smith advised that there were opportunities for appointing school governors and a resident expressed interest
- 7.6 He reminded everyone of his County allowance of £10,000
- 7.7 He also asked the Council to consider joining the Actions Staffordshire project with deals with the link between poor diet (of many living alone) and Alzheimers
- 7.8 A further meeting all parishes involved in his highway project would be organised.
- 7.9 Evidence so far suggests that 85% of people are **not exceeding** the speed limit with perception being faster than actuality
- 7.10 However, there was a volume issue on Barracks Lane and a number of "pinch points" had been identified
- 7.11 A great value in all this traffic information was the evidence obtained which could be considered in conjunction with future planning applications
- 7.11 The Chairman raised the issue of HGVs using the warehouse in Meerash Lane, which is very well signed but which has led to lorries causing damage in the village when they have missed the signs
- 7.12 Cllr Mrs Bailye advised the meeting that the warehouse was not being used for its original agricultural designation and was being investigated by LDC enforcement
- 7.13 The Chairman, supported by Mrs Greenway who gave a recent example at the bridge, felt that driving standards were poor and wondered if a weight restriction would help

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- 7.14 The Chairman also commented on the blocked gullies which were not cleared and the potholes which were not repaired
- 7.15 The Clerk will report these again but Cllr Smith said he would inspect on his journey home DS/VE
- 7.16 Cllr Smith commented on the LGBCE proposals for LDC boundaries and member representation
- 7.17 He advised that the those evaluating proposals were not the same people who advised LDC in advance of the submission which he felt led to problems eg Wall which naturally fits with Shenstone and Stonnall is likely to be merged with Hammerwich
- 7.18 This would lead to some Cllrs having to represent a very large geographical area and he urged everyone, both as individuals and Cllrs to comment on the LGBCE proposals
- 7.19 The Chairman advised that the timescale for consultation allowed the Council to debate this matter next month
- 7.20 Cllr Mrs Richards slightly disagreed with Cllr Smiths evaluation in that Wall/Hammerwich would retain 2 representatives, that Wall and Hammerwich have common interests and that there would be no splits across wards
- 7.21 Cllr Chapman asked if Wall's Neighbourhood Plan would have an impact on teh one being prepared by Hammerwich
- 7.22 Cllr Smith reassured the meeting that this was not the case and indicated that Wall may need assistance for their plan from Hammerwich
- 7.23 The Chairman thanked Cllr Smith for attending and asked for a copy of his completed traffic survey when it was available
- 7.24 He thanked Cllr Smith for attending and spoke on behalf of everyone when he said it had been very useful
- 8 PLANNING**
- 8.1 Cllr Mrs Richards advised that the views of both Burntwood and Hammerwich Parish Councils were discounted by LDC officers who insisted locations relative to residential and highway locations were not planning matters
- 8.2 Voting by LDC members was 10 – 8 in favour of acceptance
- 8.3 However, Cllr Mrs Richards advised that all crematoria require a licence to operate and the fact that the facility would be within 50 metres of a highway and 200 metres of residences might contravene this permission
- 8.4 She further reported that Members had succeeded in restricting operating hours to 9 hours per day (Monday to Friday) with 3 hours on Saturday and no opening on Sundays or Bank Holidays
- 8.5 She confessed that she was mystified as to why the applicant had agreed to extra parking if the facility was not designed to accommodate mourners and she advised the meeting that LDC Councillors would monitor this application closely
- 9 MEMBERS REPORTS**
- 9.1.1 The Clerk gave an update on the progress of the Neighbourhood Plan and said she anticipated sending out the questionnaires next week with a return date of 20 June
- 9.1.2 The Clerk advised that she was using stamps rather than franking (which had been suggested by Cllr Bayliss) but felt that even if this resulted in a slightly greater cost, the benefit for the local post office did demonstrate support for local business
- 9.1.3 As the Neighbourhood Plan is dependent on LDC's Local Plan, Cllr Mrs Richards updated Members on a potential judicial review with regard to one housing site at Curborough
- 9.1.4 This raised the possibility that the Local Plan could fail
- 9.2.1 Cllr Turnbull reported residents were not using the dog waste bins in the park and Cllr Mrs Bailye suggested, that as the bins were well signed and there were sufficient bins for the area, this was a conscious decision to ignore the bins
- 9.2.2 Cllrs requested that the Clerk report the matter to LDC for potential action and to investigate putting warning signs with contact numbers for members of the public to report irresponsible owners VE
- 9.2.3 Cllr Mrs Greenway again raised the question of the fencing at Hospital Rd and Cllr Turnbull reported that it looked as if the fence coating had been burned off, the same observation which Cllr Mrs Greenway made at the previous meeting
- 9.2.4 It was agreed that the annual contract meeting with Neil Turner (LDC) should take place on site and the fencing could be inspected with a view to taking remedial action VW/VE
- 9.2.5 The Chairman reported that the poppy field memorial had been planted and hopefully should be blooming shortly
- 9.2.6 Cllr Mrs Richards asked if the tree had been felled at Larkspur Avenue and was advised by Cllr Mrs Bailye that it had
- 9.2.7 Cllr Mrs Richards wanted to inspect the location to ensure that the tree had been removed and the stump VR

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ground out

- 9.3.1 It was reported that a resident had asked for speed restrictions on Hospital Rd
- 9.3.2 This matter has already been discussed exhaustively because the accident record does not justify action
- 9.3.3 Cllr Mrs Davies suggested speed awareness training was beneficial but ultimately Members requested that the Clerk contact SCC with a view to having painted 30mph roundels on the road
- 9.3.4 The Clerk reported that Hammerwich PC would not be able to apply for a grant for community paths this year as it had been awarded money last year for local signage

VE

### 10 MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

- 10.1 Local Plan progress
- 10.2 Neighbourhood Plan progress
- 10.3 LGBCE consultation

### 11 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 11.1 See also point 7.2 to 7.22 for Cllr Smith's updates to the meeting
- 11.2 Cllr Mrs Bailye proposed and Cllr Mrs Pope seconded that Standing Orders be suspended to allow members of the public to speak
- 11.3 A resident asked what was the legislation with regard to horses on the highway as she had witnessed a near accident involving a lorry and a horse with a young rider
- 11.4 Members advised that horses should not be ridden on the footway but to their knowledge there were no other restrictions
- 11.5 All hoped that the rider had learned a valuable lesson and would be more responsible in the future
- 11.6 The resident also asked about a sycamore tree outside the BUPA home which has a TPO on it
- 11.7 The resident feels it should be cut and Members were sympathetic but could not offer much assistance, although Cllr Mrs Bailye (formerly having been a TPO officer) expressed surprise that a sycamore should be protected
- 11.8 The Clerk was asked to try to obtain an up to date list of the TPOs in the district
- 11.9 Cllr Chapman advised the resident to contact her insurers as they should be aware of her concerns and her inability to act due to the imposition of a TPO
- 11.10 Cllr Mrs Davies proposed and Cllr Mrs Pope seconded the reinstatement of Standing Orders

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### 12 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- 12.1 The LGBCE latest proposals which had been discussed under the item on local plans with Cllr Campbell and Richards expressing the views of all on the necessity to preserve the parish boundary
- 12.2 Cllr Chapman also spoke for all when he suggested that the Neighbourhood Plan should protect the parish boundary

### 13 CORRESPONDENCE SENT

- 13.1 None

### 14 FINANCE

- 14.1.1 Cllr Mrs Richards proposed and Cllr Mrs Bailye seconded that the accounts be approved
- 14.1.2 **RESOLVED:** to approve accounts for payment for May
- 14.2.1 The bank reconciliation to May 9 was presented and approved
- 14.3.1 The Clerk went through the figures on the Annual Return and the Chairman and Clerk were authorised to sign the form
- 14.3.2 She also covered the governance statement and members authorised the signing of this

### 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 15.1 18<sup>h</sup> June 2014

Chairman \_\_\_\_\_ 18 June 2014