**Annual Meeting**

**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**16 May 2018**

**In attendance:**

Councillors Wasdell, Mrs Greenway, Campbell, Ho, Mrs Gittings, Mrs Smith, Mrs Taylor, King and Mrs Kirkham

**Also in attendance:**

3 Members of the Public

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pullen and Place. |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | There were none. |
| **3.** | **Approval of the 2016/17 Annual Meeting Minutes** |
|  | **Resolved to approve the Annual Meeting Minutes held on 17 May 2017.** |
| **4.** | **Receipt of the 2017/18 Annual Report** |
|  | The Chairman presented his annual report to the Parish.  He reported that the Council has been able to maintain full strength throughout the year ensuring a quorum was met for every scheduled meeting.  The accounts were successfully prepared and audited and some changes made to ensure that the Council maintains up to date best practice.  The web site is now up to date and providing the public with information of the Council's activity. The Council now has a Facebook and Twitter account which is used regularly to provide updates about Parish meetings.  The Council was able to make a minor reduction to its precept as well as absorb the loss of the support grant from Lichfield District Council. It is expected that the loss of this grant will be permanent.  Consideration and comment was made on 37 planning applications.  Progress on the Neighbourhood Plan has resumed and discussions with Lichfield District Council have taken place in respect of this. The Council has also worked very closely with the local community to protect the green belt. It should be noted that the review Lichfield District Council's Neighbourhood Plan have not changed any green belt boundaries that affect Hammerwich.  The Council has continued to maintain footpaths and The Parish thanked Mr Coulson for his continued support with this work. Additionally, the Parish has recently had support from the Ramblers Association for which we were very grateful and will look to further progress this partnership.  The Council has made regular representations to Staffordshire County Council with regard to Highways concerns, particularly potholes and overhanging hedges with varying success.  Speed watch sessions are now a regular activity and the Council is looking at ways of further improvements with more signage. There have been no public representations to the Council this year with regard to speeding issues which may be attributed to the success of this action.  The play equipment on Hospital Road playing fields that was damaged in an arson attack has now been replaced at little direct cost to the Council as it had the foresight to insure its equipment. Both this and the Mansion Drive play area continue to be enjoyed and valued by the community.  Further work has taken place in Oakfield Park to provide substantial support to the embankment protecting the central part of the footpath, it should be noted that this work should provide security for many years to come. Some notable hedge cutting work was carried out on the open space between Lawnswood Avenue and Crane Drive in response to resident’s concerns.  The Chairman surmised it had been a busy and enjoyable year on the Parish Council and he took the opportunity to thank fellow Councillors and Members of the Public for their attendance, contributions and hard work.  **Resolved to approve the Chairman’s report.** |
| **5.** | **Appointment to Outside Bodied** |
|  | **Resolved to defer this item to the full Parish Council meeting.** |
| **6.** | **Receipt of Local Organisation’s Annual Reports**  Representatives of the Youth and Community Centre and the Hammerwich WI presented the Council with summaries of the work they had done over the last 12 months. |
|  | **Resolved to receive the annual reports** |

Meeting closed at 7.15pm