

# Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

## 21 November 2018

**In attendance:**

Councillors Wasdell, Mrs Greenway, Campbell, Mrs Taylor, Place, Pullen, Mrs Gittings and King.

**Also in attendance:**

5 Members of the Public

Councillor D Smith, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ho and Mrs Smith.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p> <p><u>Councillor Mrs Kirkham</u></p> <p>The Chair reported Councillor Mrs Kirkham had been informed that she was no longer a Councillor as she had not attended a Parish meeting for over 6 months.</p> <p>The Local Government Act 1972 section 85(1) states: <i>if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.</i></p> <p>Mrs Kirkham had emailed all Councillors to inform them that she contested the interpretation of the law. It was decided that the monitoring officer at Lichfield District Council (LDC) should be asked to review the application of the law.</p> <p><b>Resolved to ask the Clerk to refer the matter to the Monitoring Officer at LDC. Councillors asked the Clerk to report the decision of the monitoring officer to them by email.</b></p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Councillor Wasdell declared an interest in the planning application 18/01046 Hammerwich House Farm as it was close to his own property.</p>

3.	<p><b>Approval of Parish Council Minutes and Annual Meeting Minutes held on 17 October 2018</b></p>
	<p><b>Resolved to approve the minutes of the Parish Council held on 17 October 2018 as a correct record. These were signed by the Chair.</b></p>
4.	<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><u>SIDS Programme</u></p> <p>Councillor Smith SCC had contacted the meeting to report that the Council had prematurely reached its decision regarding his proposals for the SID Programme as he was not yet in a position to ask the Council for a contribution.</p> <p>Councillors recognised that they may need to revisit the issue at future meetings.</p> <p><u>Burial Grounds</u></p> <p>Councillor Greenway reported she had established that the Parish Council could not act on behalf of a local resident in raising this issue with the Local Government Ombudsman.</p> <p>Councillor Pullen, (who also served as Leader of Burntwood Town Council) reported that he was aware that the ongoing issue regarding Hammerwich residents being permitted to be buried in the cemetery at St Matthews Church in Burntwood. He said this issue was being reviewed again by the Town Council.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Chairman's Announcements</b></p>
	<p>Councillor Wasdell reported that he had attended the wreath laying remembrance service at the local church.</p> <p>Both he and the vice-chair had attended a meeting with the Leader of LDC and his Cabinet Members. This had given Parish Council's an opportunity to raise local issues of concern with Councillor Wilcox and his team.</p> <p>Following this they had attended the Parish Forum Meeting.</p> <p>Councillor Greenway reported that both meetings had emphasised the effect the cuts at SCC would have upon the services that SCC and LDC would be able to offer local communities and the impact this would have on Parish Councils. She reported that the offender management unit at the local prison may be interested in schemes that enabled prisoners to carry out work locally and volunteered to establish whether this would be useful for the Parish.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Neighbourhood Plan</b>
	<p>It was noted that 2 out of 3 venues were secured for the public consultation.</p> <p>A draft letter was ready to go to everyone on the electoral register providing them with information about the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Councillor Pullen reported that he was aware there was a legal issue currently with the sign off of the Plans by a formal consultee. This was causing delays in processing the Plans.</p> <p><b>Noted.</b></p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Speedwatch</b>
	<p>Two sessions had been held since the last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hospital Road – over 400 cars were monitored with 17 reported for high speeds.</li> <li>• Highfields – 292 cars were monitored with 8 being reported for speeding.</li> </ul> <p>Councillors felt that this represented a reduction in speeding on these roads.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a training event for existing speedwatch groups to be held on 8 December at Cannock Community Fire Station from 10-1pm.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Parks and Open Spaces</b>
	<p><u>Bench</u></p> <p>Councillor Greenway reported that there was a stunning memorial bench situated in Stonnall on the Cartesfield Road and Lichfield Road.</p> <p><b>Resolved to ask the Clerk to contact Stonnall Parish council to enquire where they purchased the bench and the costs.</b></p> <p><u>Hammerwich Cricket Club</u></p> <p>Councillor Place reported that he had learnt from his wife, (who works as the Police and Partnership Manager) that the Cricket Club provided a lot of services in the local community that he was unaware of.</p> <p>Councillors discussed the fact that the Cricket Club had been invited to a recent meeting to discuss the work done at the club but no representative had attended.</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>

<p><b>9.</b></p>	<p><b>Highways and footpaths</b></p> <p><u>School Crossing Patrols</u></p> <p>It was noted that funding for School Crossing Patrols was being cut by SCC and they were asking local businesses and organisations to help fund them in the future.</p> <p>Councillors were unsure how many crossing patrols were in the Parish. It was thought that there were two with one being on the border with Burntwood Town council.</p> <p><b>Resolved to ask the Clerk to re-send the Staffordshire Parish Council Bulletin that covered School Crossing Patrols funding.</b></p> <p><u>Coppice Lane</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that an email had been received from the Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager at SCC regarding Coppice Lane.</p> <p>He stated that “...the trees on Coppice Lane did not belong to SCC however, he had requested that the inspection team look at Coppice Lane and take appropriate action take appropriate action where trees were obstructing the highway or possess a danger to road users...”</p> <p><b>Noted</b></p>
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>Flooding</b></p> <p>Standing Orders were suspended top allow a local resident to speak on this issue.</p> <p>It was noted that there had been some recent flooding on Coppice Lane.</p> <p>The Chair reported receipt of an email from a resident on Pingle Lane which discussed the need for action on flooding issues effecting their property. She said flood defences had been installed on a local development site which were causing water from a local field to flow directly onto Pingle Lane. She had reported the flood defences to LDC as Planning Permission was required but no enforcement action had been taken. It was reported that the issues had been raised with the Director of Place and Community at LDC.</p> <p><b>Resolved to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>Ask Councillor Pullen to speak with the Director of Place and Community at LDC to enquire what was happening with regards to enforcement action of the flood defences, and;</b></li> <li>b) <b>Ask Councillor Mrs Greenway to chase the flooding report for Hammerwich which was now overdue.</b></li> <li>c) <b>Ask the Clerk to report again to SCC that drains in Hammerwich were in urgent need of clearing.</b></li> </ul>

<b>11.</b>	<b>Public Participation</b>
	<p><u>Councillor Smith, SCC</u></p> <p>Councillor Smith SCC attended the meeting.</p> <p>He gave Councillors an update on the initial results of the local traffic survey and Councillors noted Hospital Road was the worst road for excessive speed in the Parish.</p> <p>He was pleased to report that some areas were showing a significant reduction in speeding.</p> <p>He reported that he was involved in raising funds for the Gartmore Riding School and that he may return to the Parish Council with a request for help with funding for a new specialist building.</p> <p>He reported that he had concerns about communication by SCC and LDC in rural areas around Lichfield where the local paper 'The Mercury' was not readily available.</p> <p>He reported that he was working with planning officers at LDC to ensure that the required infrastructure was included in developments.</p> <p>Councillor Smith informed the Council that plans were still being developed for stations at Wall and near Alrewas to alleviate parking problems at Lichfield Stations.</p> <p><u>New Medical Centre</u></p> <p>A local resident queried whether there had been any further update on the new Medical Centre following the recent consultation.</p> <p>No update had been received by the Council.</p> <p><u>Stile – footpath 8</u></p> <p>A local resident reported that he had been to look at the stile that had been reported broken at a previous meeting.</p> <p>He said the Stile reported to the Rights of Way Officer (ROW) on the Ridgeway was broken however, he believed the stile originally reported to the Council was in fact located on footpath 8.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that the ROW officer had requested a map showing the precise location of the Ridgeway stile.</p> <p>The second stile was on Parish land, although access to it was across a local farmer's land.</p>

	<p>The resident agreed to provide a map with the locations of both stiles for the Clerk to send to the ROW officer.</p> <p><b>Resolved to ask the Clerk to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>a) Contact the local farmer to request permission to cross his land to mend or replace the stile on footpath 8</b></li> <li><b>b) To send the map showing where both stiles were located to the ROW officer</b></li> </ul> <p>Standing Orders were reinstated.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Planning Applications</b>
	<p><u>18/01555/FUL 1 Overhill Road</u></p> <p>Councillors had no comment.</p> <p><u>18/01582/FUL 25 Mansion Drive</u></p> <p>Councillors had no comment.</p> <p><u>17/01709/COU Lion’s Den (industrial units)</u></p> <p>Councillors had heard concerns about noise generating from the site. Councillors agreed to pass the premises and listen for excess noise and to email comments to the Chair.</p> <p><u>18/01646/FUL Hammerwich House Farm</u></p> <p>Councillors asked the clerk to query with the planning officer whether this was a retrospective application as Councillors reported seeing a building on the site.</p> <p><u>18/01398/FUL 16 Burntwood Road</u></p> <p>This application had only been received on the day of the meeting. Councillors agreed to email comments to the Clerk.</p> <p><b>Resolved to ask the Clerk to pass the relevant comments to the Planning Officer.</b></p>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Correspondence Report</b>
	<p>The Clerk reported the correspondence that had been received and sent since the last meeting.</p> <p><b>Noted.</b></p>

<b>14.</b>	<b>Accounts for Payment</b>																												
	<p>The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 09 November 2018 were £54,608.41 and £8,261.48 respectively.</p> <p>The Parish Council are asked to approve the following payments at their meeting on 21 November 2018:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Cost</th> <th>Invoice No</th> <th>Cheque Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Zurich Municipal (Insurance)</td> <td>£651.56</td> <td>24247990</td> <td>101063</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nigel Ferguson (Web Domain and Web Hosting)</td> <td>£70</td> <td>0278</td> <td>101064</td> </tr> <tr> <td>WI Hall Hire Fee (April – Sept)</td> <td>£105</td> <td>0074 and 0082</td> <td>101065</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Royal British Legion Poppy appeal (Wreath)</td> <td>£20</td> <td>-</td> <td>101066</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk Wages November</td> <td>£471.99</td> <td>EB14/18/19</td> <td>101067</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clerk's Expenses</td> <td>£ 32.04</td> <td>EB15/18/19</td> <td>101068</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The Council were also asked to approve a cheque for Councillor Campbell for £150 for the printing costs of the draft Neighbourhood Plan (Cheque no 101069).</p> <p>The Parish Council noted there was no income to report.</p> <p><b>Resolved to approve the accounts for payment.</b></p>		Cost	Invoice No	Cheque Number	Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£651.56	24247990	101063	Nigel Ferguson (Web Domain and Web Hosting)	£70	0278	101064	WI Hall Hire Fee (April – Sept)	£105	0074 and 0082	101065	Royal British Legion Poppy appeal (Wreath)	£20	-	101066	Clerk Wages November	£471.99	EB14/18/19	101067	Clerk's Expenses	£ 32.04	EB15/18/19	101068
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<b>15.</b>	<b>Items for Discussion at Future Meetings</b>																												
	<p>It was noted that consideration of the Precept Levy for 2019/20 would take place at the next meeting.</p> <p><b>Councillors to email items to the Clerk with further items.</b></p>																												

Meeting closed at 9.25pm