

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

20 November 2019

In attendance: Councillors Wasdell, Greenway, Thurlow, Taylor, Smith, Place, Ho, Ennis, Grundy and King.

Also in attendance:

3 Members of the Public

Councillor Smith – Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Councillors Silvester-Hall – Lichfield District Council (LDC)

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillor Cadwallader-Allan.

Noted

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Ho declared his parents lived close to the planning application to be discussed at Overton Farm and Councillor Greenway declared she also lived close to this property.

Noted

3. Approval of Parish Council Minutes held on 16 October 2019.

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 16 October 2019.

4. Matters Arising

Meeting with Burntwood Councillors

Councillors noted the successful meeting with Burntwood Councillors.

The Parishioner who had first raised the issue with the Parish regarding the Burial Ground at St Matthews Church, had been visited by Councillor Greenway and was delighted that Hammerwich residents would now be able to be buried at this site. She requested her thanks to Hammerwich Parish Council for their support be recorded.

Noted

5. Co-option of Councillor

Ms Val Grundy attended the meeting. Councillors voted to Co-opt her to the vacancy on the Council.

Resolved to co-opt Val Grundy onto the Council with immediate effect.

Councillor Grundy declared that her husband worked occasionally with the officer at Lichfield District Council who often was tasked with completing small repairs on behalf of the Council.

Noted.

6. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reported that he had attended the local church to lay a memorial wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

Noted

Councillors Ho and Place reported that they had visited the care home in Hammerwich to mark the 2 minutes silence on 11 November with residents there.

Noted

7. Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Councillor Greenway reported that the Council had received a grant to employ advisors to address the issues raised by Lichfield District Council regarding Hammerwich's proposed NHP.

Noted with thanks.

8. Speedwatch

Councillor Taylor presented a speedwatch report to the Council.

Noted with thanks.

9. Parks and Open Spaces

Oakfield Park

A recommendation from LDC Officers to do further work on the trees at Oakfield Park had been received for £250 + VAT

Councillors approved this work.

Staffordshire Playing Fields Association

Councillor Greenway reported that she had attended the AGM for the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association with Councillor Taylor.

She reported that they help to protect greenspaces in residential areas. For £65 a year the Council could protect The Green, Netherton Green, Mansion Drive, Copy Nook and The Triangle.

Resolved to ask Councillor Greenway to investigate the benefits and procedure for doing this and to report back to a future meeting.

Memorial Bench

Councillor Greenway provided photographs of Memorial Benches that Councillors were interested in purchasing for the Parish.

It was noted that the suppliers claimed the benches were 'virtually vandal proof' and had a 25 year guarantee.

Resolved to purchase:

- **The armed forces bench (and bolt down kit) to be situated on the Hammerwich Green**
- **The Soilders bench (and bolt down kit) to be placed on the Triangle.**

Councillor Greenway agreed to contact LDC officers to ensure details regarding the refurbishment, moving of current benches in the Parish (previously discussed at Council meetings) were clear and also to discuss the installation of the new benches. She agreed to request that the benches be delivered to LDC Depot prior to installation.

The Triangle Fence Repair Quote

Councillors agreed to approve the quote from LDC officers to repair the fence at the Triangle for £125 + VAT.

Tree Safety

The Chairman reported that a tree on The Green needed to be checked by LDC Officers as other trees surrounding this tree had been removed as they were diseased leaving the remaining tree exposed.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to request the tree be checked.

10. Highways and Footpaths

Standing Orders were removed to allow Councillors Smith (SCC) to address the Council.

Resolved to add a standing agenda item for County and Borough Councillors to address the Council to future agendas.

Railway Bridge Flooding

Councillor Smith informed the Council that the proposals for a RADAR system (which could monitor and record speeding on local roads) were currently with the Police as it would be the Police who had to follow up on any speeding infringements that were recorded.

Councillors discussed whether alternative solutions could be sought however Councillor Smith categorically ruled out the installation of speed bumps or chicanes by SCC as there was insufficient funding for these.

Noted

He discussed the flooding at Hall Lane and reported that the problem was being created by the insufficient drainage from the railway bridge. He had asked Network Rail to address this issue.

Noted

Councillors felt this issue required urgent attention. Councillor Smith said SCC's priority would be properties affected by flooding.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to establish what work needed to be done to clear the road and to get quotes for this work as quickly as possible.

Hospital Road Drain Collapse

Councillor Greenway reported that whilst some remedial work had been done at Hospital Road on the drains – further work was required.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to report this again to SCC Highways and copy in Councillor Smith.

Back The Track

Councillor Taylor reported that she had been denied invitation to the next Back the Track meeting to discuss proposals to turn the railway line that runs through Hammerwich into a public 'greenway' for walking/cycling.

It was noted that representatives from Burntwood Action Group had been invited to the meeting.

Councillors felt that as the track ran directly through the Parish that they should be able to contribute to the discussions.

Resolved to monitor the response to Councillor Taylors formal request to attend and if necessary, ask the Chair to contact the Leader at LDC.

Dog Bin at Norton Lane

The Clerk reported that the Rights of Way Officer at SCC had no objections to a dog bin going near the path at Norton Lane, however, he advised that the land owners permission would be required.

Resolved to ask the Chairman to raise this with Councillor Sylvester-Hall at LDC as she lived very close to the site and may have knowledge regarding the landowner at this site.

11. Planning Applications

[It was noted that Councillor Ho sat on the Planning Committee at Lichfield District Council. Any views he expressed at the Parish meeting were preliminary and may change following further reports and advice from planning officers.]

19/01452/FUL - Overton Farm

Resolved to ask the Clerk to submit comments on behalf of the Parish Council stating:

- a) **That the proposed access from Copsy Nook was unsafe and, in their opinion, did not comply with highway regulations;**
- b) **The height of some of the properties was out of character with the area and would result in excess massing.**
- c) **Councillors welcomed the mix of dwellings on the site and felt the number of properties in the proposal was reasonable.**

19/01459 – 15 Hall Lane

No comments

19/01536 – 34 Overton Lane

Councillors objected to the height of the fence which was out of character with the area as it was far too high.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to submit comments on their behalf.

Councillor Greenway reported that she had asked officers to investigate works taking place down Barracks Lane and LDC had issued a Stop Notice on the site. She was concerned works were continuing regardless so was going to report this to enforcement officers again.

Noted

12. Correspondence Report

The Clerk presented a correspondence report detailing correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.

Noted

13. Accounts for Payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 8 November 2019 were £62,127.07 and £8,277 respectively.

The Parish Council are asked to approve the following payments at their meeting on 20 November 2019:

| | Cost | Invoice No | Cheque Number |
|---|----------|-------------|---------------|
| Clerk's wages November | £508.14 | 8 | 101114 |
| Clerk's expenses | £8.20 | - | 101115 |
| WCAVA (Payroll) October | £8.20 | 2020231 | 101116 |
| W.I. Hall Hire | £189 | 118/125/134 | 101117 |
| Hammerwich Youth and Community Centre room hire | £20 | | 101118 |
| Lichfield District Council | £1965.60 | M0007534377 | 101119 |

Resolved to approve the accounts for payment detailed above and an additional cheque for £21 to the Royal British Legion for the wreath for Remembrance Sunday.

14. Code of Conduct

Councillors approved the proposed code of conduct.

15. Public Participation

Standing Orders were removed

War Memorial in the Church Yard

A local resident reported that the War Memorial in the Church Yard was in a poor state.

Resolved to ask the Chairman to take this issue up with the church warden.

Advertising on Parish Land

A representative from the Ashmole Club raised the issue of advertising on Parish property stating he had received a letter from the Council a few years ago asking him to remove the signs but he had seen an increasing number of advertisements that the Council appeared to be ignoring. He did not feel an even handed approach was being taken.

The Council reported that these signs were monitored and that the correct procedure was to contact the Parish to request that a sign be put up.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

18. Items for discussion at future meetings

There were none.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm