

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

18 December 2019

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

Also in attendance:

0 Members of the Public

Councillor Smith – Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Councillor Silvester-Hall – Lichfield District Council (LDC)

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

There were none.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Grundy declared her husband sometimes worked with LDC officers who the Council used for contracts.

Councillor Wasdell reported he was a neighbour of a Director of Crown Highways.

Councillor King declared he was a member of the gardening guild.

Noted

3. Approval of Parish Council Minutes held on 20 November 2019.

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2019.

4. Matters Arising

Memorial at Church (Raised under Public Participation)

The Chair reported that he had attended the Church and tried to speak to the Warden regarding complaints at the memorial. This was not possible. He agreed to try to re-arrange this meeting.

Noted

5. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reported that he had attended the local church at the Carol service and this had been well attended.

Noted

6. County/District/Police Reports

Councillor Smith – SCC

- Railway Bridge

Councillors discussed the flooding at the railway bridge. Councillor Smith reported that he could not see the road under the bridge being re-opened by the new year. Further works were necessary and the ground was too saturated for the work to be done safely and effectively.

- Churches

Councillor Smith discussed how churches in Staffordshire were under threat of closure.

- Climate Change

Councillor Smith reported that he was on a working group on Climate Change for the County Council. Councillors discussed where monitoring of air pollution could take place in the Parish and felt outside the school would be the best place for this.

- Road Traffic Calming

The Police response was still being waited for in order for this to progress.

- Lichfield Southern By-pass

It was noted that work would be completed over Christmas to knock through under the railway bridge.

The Chair thanked Councillor Smith for the update and seasonal well wishes were exchanged.

7. Parish Precept

Councillors discussed the Parish Precept for 2020/21 and reviewed the budget forecast prepared by the Clerk.

Councillors felt the Council's financial situation was strong and felt that there was no reason or justification to raise the precept.

Councillor Ho proposed that the precept be maintained at £26,400.

Councillors resolved to maintain the precept at £26,400 for 2020/21.

8. Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Councillor Greenway reported that a consultant had been employed to help progress the NHP and that a steering group meeting would be arranged in due course.

Noted with thanks.

9. Speedwatch

Councillor Taylor presented a speedwatch report to the Council.

Noted with thanks.

10. Parks and Open Spaces

Benches

The benches were in place and Councillors were delighted with them.

Fields in Trust

Councillor Greenway updated the Council regarding the Fields in Trust work she had been doing. She reported that Mansion Drive and Coppy Nook Park were both eligible to be protected by the scheme.

She reported that it would cost £80 for each piece of land to be protected and that it was necessary to establish who owned the deeds etc in order to proceed.

Noted.

Mobility Scooter

Councillor Greenway reported that a mobility scooter had been dumped in the hedge at Coppy Nook.

She had reported to LDC and the Police.

Noted

Mansion Drive

Councillor Greenway reported that there was subsidence in Mansion Drive and that she had asked LDC officers to check it.

Councillor Greenway agreed to contact South Staffordshire Water/ Seven Trent regarding this issue.

Tree on Hammerwich Green

Councillors approved the removal of the tree on Hammerwich Green by LDC

11. Highways and Footpaths

Bus Shelter

It was noted that the work on the bus shelter had been done.

Noted

Wharf Lane Hedges

Councillor King requested that the farmer on Wharf Lane be contacted to request the hedges be cut.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to contact the farmer.

Vance who is the farmer????

Norton Lane

The trees on the footpath need cutting back.

Councillor Sylvester- Hall agreed to contact the land owner to get a Correspondence address and request that the trees be cut back.

Hospital Road Island Accident Damage

Resolved to ask Councillor Taylor to report this to Staffordshire County Council on behalf of the Council.

Burntwood Road Parking 65-37

Councillors reported that there were problems with parking on Burntwood Road.

Resolved to ask Councillor Greenway to ask the PCSO if there were any parking infringements.

12. 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.]

Councillors reviewed Planning Applications 19/01525/FUH – Overhill Road. They had no comments.

Noted

13. Correspondence Report

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

- They noted the letter from Mr Coulson and thanked him for his tremendous, unstinting and valued contribution to the Parish and wished him well for the future.
- The Chair and Vice- Chair agreed that they would attend a meeting on 23 January with Burntwood Town Councillors

Noted

14. Grant Request

Councillors discussed the application for funding for the gardening guild.

Resolved to ask the guild to complete the grant application form.

15. Accounts for Payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 9 December 2019 were £62,473.92 and £8,282.10 respectively.

The Parish Council are asked to approve the following payments at their meeting on 18 December 2019:

	Cost	Invoice No	Cheque Number
Clerk's wages December	£508.34	9	101121
Clerk's expenses	£	-	101122
WCAVA (Payroll) December	£8.00	2020267	101123
GE Collis and Sons LTD (Bus Shelter)	£970	153861	101124
David Ogilvie Engineering (Memorial Benches)	£2107.20	184699	101125
Zurich Municipal (revised down by - £29.09 after removal of 1 bus shelter)	£889.15	40200812	101126

Resolved to approve the accounts for payment.

16. Public Participation

No public were present.

17. Items for discussion at future meetings

- Earmarking funds (March Meeting)
- Grant limits

18. Chairman's Closing Comments

The Chairman expressed thanks to all Members and Organisations that had supported the Parish in 2019. He thanked the Clerk for her work.

He felt the Council was going from strength to strength and it was a pleasure to be part of such an active Parish.

Noted

Meeting closed at 9.45pm