

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

15 January 2020

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

Also, in attendance:

6 Members of the Public

Councillor Silvester-Hall – Lichfield District Council (LDC)

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillors Cadwalladar-Allan and Ho submitted apologies.

Councillor D Smith, Staffordshire County Council (SCC) also submitted apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Noted

3. Approval of Parish Council Minutes held on 18 December 2019

It was noted that the meeting on 23 January with Burntwood Town Council was open to all Councillors and not limited as the minutes described.

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2019.

4. Matters Arising

Memorial at Church (Raised under Public Participation)

(Standing Orders were suspended to allow a representative from the Church Council to speak on this matter.)

The Church Council member confirmed that the war memorial(s) were inside the Church. The large stone outside the Church was a private grave dating from the 1800's.

(Standing orders were re-instated.)

The Chair thanked the representative and the Church Council for clarifying these matters.

Noted

Back The Track

It was noted that LDC had accepted that the Parish Council/District Councillor should be involved in future meetings about the proposal to turn the old railway line into a 'green' bike track/walkway.

Noted

5. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair reported the Parish Forum which he had attended in early January, had focussed on code of conduct for Councillors.

Noted

6. County/District/Police Reports

Lichfield District Council – Councillor Silvester-Hall

Councillor Silvester-Hall reported that the final consultation event for the Lichfield Plan would be held on 16 January and she encouraged all to attend if they had not already done so.

She had contacted the landowner at the end of Norton Lane and she was waiting for him to come back to her.

Noted

7. Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Councillor Greenway reported that she was in the process of organising a steering group meeting.

Councillors discussed concerns regarding the re-grading of the greenbelt in the Parish and the implications this had on the NHP. Councillor King circulated maps showing the areas affected.

He had drafted a response to the greenbelt re-grading consultation which was read to Councillors.

Resolved to

- a) Approve the draft response by Councillor King;**

- b) **Ask Councillor King to submit the response on behalf of the Council; and**
- c) **Invite all local representatives from HPC and LDC to future Steering Group Meetings**
- d) **Note the update with thanks.**

8. Speedwatch

Councillor Taylor presented a speedwatch report to the Council.

Noted with thanks.

9. Parks and Open Spaces

Lawnswood Avenue Cut through

Councillor Ennis reported that trees/bushes needed cutting back on the 'cut through' onto Lawnswood Avenue.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to request a quote for this from LDC

Benches

Councillors reported lots of positive feedback regarding the benches that had been installed in the Parish.

Noted

10. Highways and Footpaths

Railway Bridge

The Chair reported that traffic lights were still in operation whilst work on the bridge continued. Councillors agreed it would have been better to have closed the road to get the work completed quickly.

The bridge had needed to be underpinned, a drainage ditch had been partially cleared and work continued to fully resolve the flooding problems.

Noted

Road Island at the Triangle

Councillor Taylor had reported the road damage again. She would forward the response to the Clerk.

Noted

Coppice Lane

Councillors reported continued concerns regarding the trees on Coppice Lane.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to email Councillor Smith and SCC to request the trees be addressed as they force drivers into the middle of the road.

Wharf Lane Drain

Noted that Councillor King had reported an overflowing drain at Wharf Lane

11. Planning Applications

Councillors considered an application at 13 Stockhay Lane, Hammerwich. They had no comments.

Noted

12. Correspondence Report

The clerk provided an update on correspondence received and sent.

Noted

13. Grant Request

Resolved to defer to the next meeting

14. Accounts for Payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 9 January 2020 were £57,963.77 and £8,282.10 respectively.

The Parish Council are asked to approve the following payments at their meeting on 15 January 2020:

	Cost	Invoice No	Cheque Number
Clerk's wages (January)	£508.34	10	101127 (£400) and 101128 (£108.34)
WCAVA (Payroll) December	£8.00	2020299	101129
Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	£20	-	101130
Clerk's Expenses	£6.26	-	101131

Resolved to approve the accounts for payment.

15. Public Participation

(Standing Orders were suspended)

Overton Lane Development

A Parishioner was concerned regarding the development of houses on Overton Lane and the need to ensure that this didn't impact on flooding problems that had recently been resolved in the village.

Councillors suggested the Parishioner contact Councillor Ho if he felt representations needed to be made to the Planning Committee at LDC.

Noted

Burntwood Road Parking

A parishioner reported that there were parking issues on Burntwood road and also an abandoned vehicle.

Councillors reported that if vehicles were parked legally there was nothing that could be done. They suggested the parishioner report the abandoned car on the Police's non-emergency number.

Noted

Traffic Issues

A local parishioner was concerned about a suggestion in the December minutes to put speed bumps down Hospital Road. He was also concerned about the infrastructure on Overton Lane.

Councillors said that it was very unlikely speed bumps would ever be placed on Hospital road due to their cost and agreed they weren't necessarily the solution to the problem.

They said they did try to take parking issues into account when reviewing planning applications. They encouraged all local residents to comment on planning applications.

Noted

Birmingham Northern Relief Road (BNRR) – Pollution Statistics

A local resident had been unable to access statistics regarding pollution on the A5 following the BNRR opening.

Resolved to ask the clerk to request the data from Highways England

War Memorial

Councillors fed back to the local resident (who had missed the presentation at the start of the meeting) regarding the Church War Memorial.

Noted

16. Items for discussion at future meetings

There were none.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm