

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

17 June 2020

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

Also in attendance:

4 Members of the Public

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

Councillor David Smith, Staffordshire County Council, (SCC)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ho and Taylor.

Apologies were noted from Councillor Silvester-Hall, Lichfield District Council, (LDC).

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 20 May 2020

The minutes were approved.

An April Meeting was not held this year.

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2020

4. Matters Arising

There were none.

5. Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

6. County/District/Police Reports

Councillor Smith spoke regarding Speeding Issues raised later on the agenda.

No other reports were made.

7. Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Due to the Coronavirus lockdown there was no progress with this matter.

Noted

8. Parks and Open Spaces

Copy Nook Park

Councillor Greenway reported she had met with a representative of Burntwood dragons to discuss various small problems in the park including problems with the fence and children using the play equipment.

Warren Road Boundary Wall

Councillors discussed a request from a resident's grandson regarding maintenance work on a boundary wall between his grandparents on Warren Road and a grassed area belonging to the Council.

The Council noted that LDC had shared a map with the Council but this did not clarify who the wall belonged to.

The Council noted that the residents had been asked to show the deeds to their property but that these were in a bank and couldn't be retrieved by the resident as they were shielding from the Coronavirus.

Councillors noted advice received that if the wall was proved to belong to Hammerwich Parish Council, it should be removed as it served no benefit to the Council – only the resident. Then if they chose to replace it in future within any proven boundary line the responsibility for maintenance would be theirs.

Councillors reported that the sign on the wall regarding ball games was put there many years ago at the request of local residents.

Resolved to

- a) Ask the residents to request copies of the deeds be sent to them by the bank;**
- b) Ask the clerk to complete a land registry search on this matter.**

Netherton Green

Councillor Thurlow declared her neighbour had contacted her with a problem with the electricity cables on Netherton Green. The problem had occurred that day and had affected a local property. Western Power had been on site and a generator was in place. She reported her neighbour had expressed the view that the damage may have been caused by the installation of the posts in February of this year.

(Standing Orders were removed to enable the resident affected by a power cut to speak)

The resident spoke about the difficulties that the power cut had caused for her business. She requested the contact details of the Council's contractor.

(Standing Orders were reinstated)

Councillors sympathised with the difficulties created by the power cut. They made it clear to the resident that they did not accept fault or liability on this matter as they had no evidence that the fault had been created by the installation of posts around Netherton Green.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to raise this matter with the contractor who conducted the work on behalf of the Council.

Hammerwich Green

Councillor Wasdell reported that he had arranged a site meeting at Hammerwich Green regarding the removal of a tree (the removal of the tree had been previously agreed). He suggested that he enquire regarding the cutting back of nettles and a general tidying up of the perimeter as the nettles were encroaching on the space.

Agreed to ask Councillor Wasdell to request a quote for the work detailed above.

The Triangle

A site meeting to agree where to put the bins/signs previously agreed by the Council would be held with LDC officers.

Resolved to ask Councillors Greenway, Wasdell and King to attend a site meeting and to delegate responsibility to them regarding the siting of signs and dog bins.

9. Highways and Footpaths

Issues progressed by Councillor Taylor

Councillor Taylor had sent an email updating colleagues on works she had tried to progress with SCC highways including:

- Hole next to drain on Hospital Road
- Raised kerb stones near Pine Tree Close
- Drain on Highfields Road
- Speedwatch Report
- Speeding Concerns

Noted

Speeding Issues

Councillor King reported on behalf of Councillor Taylor an email expressing serious allegations of a speeding incident on Hospital Road.

Councillors felt this was a Policing Matter and as such needed to be reported to the Police. Councillors were reminded about the dangers of forwarding unproven allegations and were advised to encourage residents to report these matters directly to the Police.

This led to a wider discussion regarding Speeding Issues on Hospital Road.

(Standing Orders were suspended to permit the County Councillor to contribute to this discussion)

Councillor Smith reported that 2 traffic surveys done over the last 5 years had not found there to be any increase in breaches of speeding limits on Hospital Road – overall traffic speeds in that area had reduced.

Councillor Place felt that the road was dangerous and that traffic calming measures were necessary to reduce the danger to those using the road.

Councillors recognised that speeding had increased in the area during the Coronavirus crisis.

Councillor Smith said that without evidence to back up the claims the County Council would not be able to support speed reduction measures. He encouraged Councillors to continue to report speedwatch figures to the Police.

Wharf Lane Service Road

Councillor Grundy informed the Council that local residents had reported the area had become like a race track.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to write to SCC Highways to request that the speed limit on the service road be looked at and to report the increasing problem with speeding.

10. Planning Applications

20/00693/FUH – Fox Cover Cottage, Hall Lane

Councillors were concerned this application was very big and about the impact it would have on the Greenbelt.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to request that LDC Councillors call this application in for discussion at Planning Committee

11. Correspondence Report

Councillors received a correspondence report detailing correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.

Noted

12. Grant Request

Deferred as no grant sum included in the application.

13. Accounts for Payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 9 June 2020 were £61,591.45 and £8,287.22 respectively

The Council are asked to approve the following cheques at their June meeting:

	Cost	Invoice No	Cheque Number
Clerk's wages May (£420.34 - £175.20 overpayment April/May)	£245.14	3	101151
WCAVA (Payroll – June)	£99.30	2020450	101152
Hammerwich Youth and Community Centre	£20	1	101153
Lichfield district council (Dog bin/litter bin collection)	£1965.60	M0007553431	101154

There was no income to report.

Resolved to approve the accounts for payment.

14. Public Participation

Standing Orders were removed

A local resident thanked the Clerk for enabling them to attend the meeting remotely. She felt the online meetings were very successful.

Noted

15. Items for discussion at future meetings

- Hospital Road Speeding
Councillor Place requested this be added to a future agenda to discuss what options the Council has to address this matter.
- Annual Accounts
It was noted these would be brought to the next meeting for sign off by the Council.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm