

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

15 July 2020

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

Also in attendance:

0 Members of the Public

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

Councillor David Smith, Staffordshire County Council, (SCC)

Councillor Silvester-Hall, Lichfield District Council, (LDC).

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor King apologised as he had trouble with internet access at the start of the meeting and Councillor Ho apologised as he had to leave the meeting early.

Noted and accepted.

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 17 June 2020

The minutes were approved.

Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2020

4. Matters Arising

There were none.

5. Chairman's Announcements

There were none.

6. County/District/Police Reports

Councillor Silverster-Hall (LDC)

Councillor Silverster-Hall informed the Council of the extremely hard work the ladies of the WI had put in to producing scrubs and face masks over the lockdown period to help a wide variety of organisations who were struggling to source the supplies of Personal Protective Equipment they needed.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to write formally to the WI in Hammerwich to thank them on behalf of the Parish for their work.

Councillor Silverster-Hall reported that the planning application that this Council had asked her to call to Committee be called in and had recorded that Councillor Wasdell wished to speak against the application if it did go to LDC Planning Committee.

Councillor Ho reported that he had not attended the last meeting where this application had been discussed.

Noted

Councillor Smith (SCC)

The County Councillor Smith informed the Council that funds raised to support community groups during the lockdown who were assisting local residents who were struggling in the Community was now also available to local community groups who were struggling financially because of the financial impact lockdown had on room hire, fund raising events etc.

He agreed to forward details to the Clerk so that this may be shared amongst local groups.

Resolved to ask Councillor Smith to share information regarding funds to support community groups (that had suffered financial during/because of the lockdown period) with the Clerk.

He reported that SCC had received no response to recent communications with Network Rail regarding the bridge works in Hammerwich which remained incomplete. Whilst he was hopeful that the much improved drainage under the bridge would continue, he reported that works on the bridge itself still needed to be completed.

Noted

7. Business Continuity Plan Extension

Resolved to approve the Business Continuity Plan until the 31 December 2020

8. Receipt of the Internal Auditors Report

Councillors received the internal Auditor's report for the AGAR and an additional fuller report highlighting areas the Council could improve upon over the forthcoming 12 months. Councillors agreed to implement the recommendations in the report over this Municipal Year.

Councillors received and noted the Internal Audit report.

9. Approval of the Annual Governance Statements

Councillors discussed the Annual Governance Statements for 2019/20

Resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statements for 2019/20.

10. Approval of the Annual Accounting Statements

Councillors discussed the Annual Accounting Statements 2019/20

Resolved to approve the Annual Accounting Statements 2019/20

11. Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)

Councillor Greenway reported that the consultant was ready to progress the plan with the steering group.

Resolved to ask the clerk to arrange a meeting via zoom for the NHP Steering Group once a date had been confirmed by Councillor Greenway.

12. Parks and Open Spaces

Warren Road Wall

The Clerk reported the Correspondence that had been sent to the gentleman acting on behalf of his grandparents regarding Warren Road wall. There had been no response to this.

Noted

Netherton Green

The Clerk reported correspondence between a local resident and the Council following the loss of power at their property in June.

The Council supported the response given to the Parishioner by the Chair and Vice-Chair in an email from the Clerk dated 06 July on this matter.

Hammerwich Green

Works to cut back overgrowth and remove a tree on Hammerwich Green had been completed and the Chairman reported the site looked much bigger and tidier.

Noted

Coppy Nook Park

A Councillor had received a wide ranging complaint regarding Coppy Nook Park and serious allegations of Anti-Social behaviour directed towards the Parishioner by road users.

Councillors had reported the minor concerns regarding litter etc to Burntwood Dragons. The more serious allegations were matters for the Police.

Resolved to ask Councillor Greenway to report the allegations to the local police officer.

Oakfield Park Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor King reported an isolated incident regarding antisocial behaviour in Oakfield Park which a local business had reported to him. The business had been encouraged to report all these incidents to the Police on the non-emergency number.

Noted

Play Inspections

It was noted that inspections would take place on play equipment at Mansion Drive and Coppy Nook in August.

Noted. Councillor Greenway was asked to inform Burntwood Dragons that the inspection at Coppy Nook was scheduled.

Re-Opening Mansion Drive Play Area

Government advise regarding the re-opening of play areas placed very onerous responsibilities on Parish Council's – these were felt to be too much for a small Parish to take on.

Councillors were very mindful that it was the summer holidays and they wanted to open the play areas as soon as they safely could.

Resolved to ask the Clerk to explore with LDC what measures they had put in place to re-open their play areas to young people.

13. Highways and Footpaths

Speedwatch

Councillor Taylor reported that speedwatch had started again in Hammerwich and provided the Council with the most recent statistics.

Noted with thanks

SCC Highways response to concerns regarding speeding on Hospital Road/Highfields Road

SCC Highways had written to Councillor Taylor informing her that they would not correspond with her again regarding the issues she had raised regarding speeding in the area as they did not have sufficient evidence to demonstrate there was a need.

Councillors began to discuss what options they could take to address the problem of speeding themselves.

Resolved to ask Councillor Taylor to explore options and prices for different speed reduction measures.

Enforcement Action

It was noted that there had been significant works on land at Bethany Cottage where a stop notice was in place. This had been reported to LDC enforcement team.

Noted

Potholes

Councillor Taylor was asked to report several areas of road damage which she had brought to the Council's attention.

14. Planning Applications

- 20/00847 - Land East Of Peters Lane, Woodhouses

Council had no comments

- 20/00788 - 117 Norton Lane

Council had no comments.

15. Correspondence Report

The Clerk reported on correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.

Noted

16. Grant Request

Hammerwich Church had submitted a request for a grant to help with maintenance of the Churchyard. The Chair reported a public footpath went through this space.

Resolved to approve a grant of £350 to St John's Church at Hammerwich.

17. Accounts for Payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 9 July 2020 are £59,854.71 and £8,287.22 respectively.

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

	Cost	VAT	Invoice No	Cheque Number
Clerk's wages July	£509.74	-	4	1155
Clerk's wages August	£500	-	5	1160
WCAVA (Payroll – July)	£6.60	£1.10	2020483	1161
Black Rose Solutions	£100.24	£16.71	2000250	1162

The Parish Council are asked to note the following income (statement yet to be received):

Source	Amount	Reference
Business Acc Interest	£2.22	-

A Cheque for £350 was approved for Hammerwich Church grounds maintenance. (Cheque 1163)

Resolved to approve the Accounts for payment.

18. Public Participation

There were no items.

19. Items for discussion at future meetings

- Internal Auditor's full report.

Meeting closed at 8.50pm