**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**16 December 2020**

**In attendance:** Councillors Wasdell, Greenway, Ho, Place, Ennis, Grundy, Thurlow, Taylor Smith and King. Councillor Loughborough was appointed at this meeting.

**Also in attendance:**

0 Member of the Public

Ellen Bird – Parish Clerk

Councillor David Smith, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Councillor Silvester- Hall, Lichfield District Council (LDC)

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | There were none.**Noted.** |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | Councillor Grundy declared her husband sometimes worked with LDC officers who the Council used for contracts.Councillor Ennis, Ho and Place declared that they worked with Councillor Loughborough – who had expressed an interest in joining Hammerwich Parish Council, on Burntwood Town Council and attended his Third meeting to be considered for appointment to the Council.Councillor Ennis and Ho declared they sat on the Planning Committee at Lichfield District Council. Councillors Ennis and Ho listened to planning debates but did not express any opinions or and abstained from any planning votes.**Noted** |
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| **3.** | **Approval of Parish Council Minutes held on 18 November 2020** |
|  | **Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020** |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising** |
|  | There were none. |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s Announcements** |
|  | There were none.**Noted** |
| **6.** | **Co-Option of a Councillor** |
|  | It was proposed that Mr Thomas Loughborough be appointed to Hammerwich Parish Council**Resolved to co-opt Mr Loughborough to Hammerwich Parish Council.** |
| **7.** | **County/District/Police Reports** |
|  | Councillor Smith, SCCCouncillor Smith reported that Hammerwich’s drains were scheduled to be jetted in February/March 2021.He thanked the Council for their donation to riding for the disabled at The Gartside.Councillors discussed the verge at the edge of Hall Lane with Councillor Smith and asked that he support them in preventing their deterioration. He agreed to do this when the SCC reporting number was sent to him.**Noted** |
| **8.** | **Planning Applications** |
|  | 20/01265/FULM – Springhill Farm CemeteryCouncillor Smith informed the Council that SCC had not yet given a formal opinion on the application. Having reviewed the submission he did not feel that all the information submitted by the applicant, regarding highways matters, was entirely accurate.He reminded the Council that LDC would have to follow the terms agreed by the Planning Inspector.He said that if traffic lights were chosen to address access issues there were several issues that would require resolution.Councillor Silvester- Hall reported that the Stop Notice and Enforcement notices were still in operation on the site.Councillors reported concerns that neighbours were struggling to send in their objections and Councillor Silvester-Hall agreed to enquire whether the deadline for comments could be extended to ensure everyone’s comments could be included.Councillors acknowledged that there was a lot of information to digest not only about the Highways issues but regarding the sizes of the buildings and other significant changes in the application. These material changes included significant removal of hedgerows and greenbelt development.**Resolved to ask the Clerk to submit the following objection on behalf of the Council:****Councillors have concerns and objections to the following issues:** 1. **The Slip Road/Turning proposals from the A461 are totally inadequate for funeral corteges. Councillors strongly object to these proposals.**
2. **The building sizes are vastly increased from the original plans and the Council object to their increase in size as they have a detrimental effect on the greenbelt;**
3. **The removal of hedgerows and trees is detrimental to the environment and the green belt and Councillors reject these proposals;**
4. **Hammerwich Parish Council feels that the original conditions, approved by the planning inspector, are in the best interest of local residents and the proposed changes will have a detrimental effect on Parishioners, the environment and the greenbelt.**

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| **9.** | **Parish Precept 2021/22** |
|  | Councillors discussed the Precept allocation for 2021/22. They accepted that this had been a very difficult year for many Parishioners financially and noted that the Council’s finances were operating within budget with healthy reserves.**Resolved to decrease the Precept slightly to £25,900 for 2021/2022 with budget headings to remain broadly the same.** |
| **10.** | **Neighbourhood Plan Update**Councillor Greenway updated the NHPCouncillors thanked Councillor Greenway for her efforts and hard work to move the plan forward.**Noted** |
| **11.** | **Speedwatch** |
|  | Councillor Taylor reported the speedwatch team had been forced to stop due to the Covid restrictions. The team would start again in the New Year.Councillors thanked Councillor Taylor and the team for their commitment and hard work over the last 12 months. **Noted.** |
| **12.** | **Parks and Open Spaces**The GartmoreCouncillor Greenway reported that the Riding for the Disabled Group could not have been more grateful for the grant the Council had sent. Councillors discussed whether a further donation was appropriate and agreed to send a further £250 to support the ongoing operational costs of the Charity whilst services remained closed.**Resolved to send the Riding for The Disabled Group at the Gartmore a further £250** |
|  | Parking on grass at edge of The TriangleCouncillor Taylor reported that grass at the edge of The Triangle was being used as carparking spot by dog walkers at The Triangle.**Resolved to ask Councillor Taylor to report the matter to the Police.**Christmas TreeCouncillors discussed whether they could install a Christmas tree on one of the public spaces they owned next year.**Resolved to review next Autumn** |
| **13.** | **Highways and Footpaths** |
|  | Speed Indication Devices (SIDs)It was noted that the posts for the SIDs were now on order and that the actual SIDs would be bought shortly.Councillors noted the small discount being offered for early purchase however it was felt that this would create problems with storage and insurance.Councillor King agreed to lead on the next steps and work with the Clerk to progress the installation ASAP.Councillors approved the stickers created by Councillor King to show that the SIDs had been installed by Hammerwich Parish Council.**Resolved to note the update and thank Councillor King for his work on this.** |
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| **14.**  | **Correspondence Report** |
|  | The Clerk reported on correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.**Noted** |
| **15.** | **Accounts for Payment** |
|  | The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 9 November 2020 are £55,026.29 and £8,288.37 respectively. Latest statements not yet arrived – Clerk will report by email upon receipt.

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|  | Cost | VAT | Invoice No | Cheque Number |
| Clerk back pay (October paycheck but missed – approved by ch/vice ch) | £100 | - | - | 1183 |
| Clerk’s wages December  | £529.10 | - | 9 | 1184 - £400 1185 -£129.10 |
| WCAVA (Payroll – Dec) | £11.20 | £1.10 | 2020647 | 1186 |
| Lichfield District Council (Election Costs) | £3972.85 | £0 | M0007562918 | 1187 |
| Ellen Bird – for Laptop | £379 | £63.17 | - | 1188 |

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

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| Source | Amount | Reference |
| No income |  | - |

**The Accounts for payment were approved. A further cheque for the £250 grant (cheque 1189) was approved for Riding for the Disabled at The Garside** |
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| **16.** | **Public Participation** |
|  | No public were present. |
| **17.** | **Items for discussion at future meetings** |
|  | * Signage A5 roundabout
 |
| **18.** | **Chairman’s Closing Comments**The Chairman thanked Councillors, the Clerk, County and District Councillors and Officers and Members of the Public who had contributed to the Council’s work during a very difficult year. Councillors also thanked the Chair for all his work on the Council throughout the year.The Council wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a safe and healthy 2021.**Noted.** |

Meeting closed at 9.15pm