**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**17 February 2021**

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

**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)

Councillor Little, LDC

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ho.  **Noted and approved.** |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | Councillor Grundy declared her husband sometimes worked with LDC officers who the Council used for contracts.  Councillor Ennis declared she sat on the Planning Committee at Lichfield District Council. Councillors Ennis listened to planning debates but did not express any opinions on the applications and abstained from any planning votes.  **Noted** |
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| **3.** | **Approval of Parish Council Minutes held on 20 January 2021** |
|  | **Councillors resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2021.** |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising** |
|  | There were none. |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s Announcements** |
|  | The Chairman reported that comments he had made in the press regarding the railway line from Lichfield to Burntwood had been presented as though they were the view of the Council. He confirmed they were his personal views only and that he was not speaking on behalf of the Parish Council.  Councillors noted that there had been no formal conversation with LDC regarding the reopening of the railway line.  **Noted** |
| **6.** | **County/District/Police Reports** |
|  | Councillor Smith, SCC  Councillor Smith reported he had been monitoring the railway bridge at Hall Lane for flooding and that the situation seemed much improved.  Highways were working on their response to the Springhill Planning Application  Flooding on Cranbrook Lane was being addressed – Cameras had been put down the drains to assess the problem.  He reported that the AB Farms Planning Application SCC were requesting conditions be added to this application regarding drainage.  He requested that potholes be reported through the SCC site and asked that he only be contacted about these issues if the normal process had not worked.  **Noted**  Councillor Silvester-Hall, LDC  Councillor Silvester-Hall reported that the AB Farm application was due at Planning Committee on the 12 April 2021.  She informed the Council that LDC’s enforcement team had recruited new officers in order that site visits could increase. Councillor Greenway requested that Bethany Cottage be monitored closely as there appeared to be continuous activity on the site.  Councillor Silvester-Hall reported that a dangerous dog was loose in the Parish. The dog had already attacked dogs and their owners on walks. It had been reported to the Police and she asked that Councillors spread the word that the dog must not be approached.  Councillor Little, LDC  Councillor Little asked that Councillors email regarding Bethany Cottage every time they believed there may be a breach to the planning rules.  He reported that the Local Plan would be published for consultation shortly, and he asked that Councillors engage with this process.  **Noted** |
| **8.** | **Neighbourhood Plan** |
|  | There was no news to report. |
| **9.** | **Speedwatch** |
|  | There was no news to report. |
| **10.** | **Parks and Open Spaces** |
|  | Councillor Place informed the Council that LDC were in informal discussions with Burntwood Town Council regarding taking over responsibility for the parks. He suggested the Parish be aware of the financial responsibilities that it would entail to take over responsibility for the parks. Councillors noted that most of the Park areas in Hammerwich were already rented from LDC on a long-term agreement for a peppercorn rent.  **Noted** |
| **11.** | **Highways and Footpaths** |
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|  | Netherton Green Post Damage  Councillor Thurlow reported that some of the posts on Netherton Green had been damaged by a large vehicle doing a delivery to a local business. A local resident had filmed the incident and Councillor Taylor had established who the firm was that owned the vehicle. The Clerk reported that she had asked LDC officers to quote to repair the bollards.  Councillor Thurlow reported that the verges were being damaged by lorries. She agreed to report this via SCC Highways site.  **Noted**  SIDS  Councillor King reported SCC had informed him the posts would be installed imminently. LDC had requested that they were not stored at the Depot. Councillor King offered to store the devices until they could be installed.  **Resolved to order the devices.**  Councillor Taylor issues reported to SCC  Councillor Taylor gave a report on the issues she had reported to SCC including problems on:   * Hanney Hay Road * Hospital Road * Blocked drains   She reported that Charrington Island road surface was in very poor condition now and was becoming increasingly dangerous.  **Noted with thanks.** |
| **12.** | **Correspondence Report** |
|  | The Clerk reported on correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.  **Noted and requested that:**   1. **the Clerk decline the request to metal detect on Parish land;** 2. **Councillor King ask his neighbour to remove the advertising sign at the Triangle.** |
| **13.** | **Accounts for Payment** |
|  | The Balance on the Business Current and Savings accounts as at 09 February 2021 were £48,267.75 and £8,288.58 respectively.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Cost** | **VAT** | **Invoice No** | **Cheque No** | | Clerk’s Wages Feb | £529.10 | - | 11 | 1194 - £400  1195 -£129.10 | | WCAVA Payroll | £11.20 | £1.10 | 2020707 | 1196 | | Lichfield District Council | £630 | £105 | M0007567001 | 1197 | |
|  | **Resolved to approve the Accounts for Payment.** |
| **14.** | **Burntwood Dragon’s application to alter the Changing Rooms** |
|  | Councillors discussed a request to consider making alterations to the Changing rooms at Burntwood Dragons. It was noted that the building is leased by the Council and LDC to the club. Currently the lease does not permit any internal or external alterations to the site.  **Resolved to ask Councillors Greenway and Place to meet with representatives of the club to understand more about the proposals and why the club wishes to see the changes.** |
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| **15** | **Internal/External Audit Review** |
|  | Councillors reviewed the internal and external audit reports. They felt the work that had been done to meet the recommendations was satisfactory.  **Noted.** |
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| **16.** | **Asset Register and Insurance Schedule** |
|  | Councillors reviewed the asset register and requested that the Speed Indication devices and the new Council laptop be added to both the insurance schedule and asset register.  **Resolved to ask the Clerk to add the laptop and the SIDS to both the insurance register and insurance schedule.** |
| **17.** | **Public Participation** |
|  | No public were present. |
| **18.** | **Items for discussion at future meetings** |
|  | * Budget and ring fencing budget for 2021/22 * Future of online meetings |
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Meeting closed at 9pm