

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

21 July 2021

In attendance (9) :

Councillors Wasdell, Greenway, Grundy, Loughbrough-Rudd, Place (Acting Clerk), Smith, Taylor, Thurlow and King.

Also in attendance:

1 Member of the Public

CLlr David Smith – Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Ennis, Ho and Parish Clerk Ellen Bird.

Councillors Silvester-Hall and Little, Lichfield District Council (LDC) also Submitted apologies.

Noted and approved.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Grundy declared that her husband regularly works on tenders for work via LDC.

Councillor Loughbrough-Rudd declared that as a newly elected member of Staffordshire County Council there may be items on the agenda that would be later discussed at SCC level.

Noted

3. Approval of Parish Council Minutes from the meeting held on 16 June 2021

Approved.

Noted

4. Matters Arising

None.

Noted

5. Chairman's Announcements

None.

Noted

9. County/District Councillor/Police Reports

Cllr David Smith reported on a request for funding from Bob Harrison of Lichfield Litter Legends. Mr Harrison's group wanted a total of £1,200 for a project at the old part of Lichfield Road near Pipe Hill, that was blocked off when the road was diverted many years ago.

After a very lengthy discussion Councillors told Cllr Smith to return with a more thought out plan and they would then consider part funding the project. It was also suggested that Mr Harrison could always attend a future meeting to present his funding proposal.

Cllr David Smith reported on local bus services or the lack of that run through Hammerwich. It was agreed that a meeting be arranged for Hammerwich Councillors only and SCC transport planners to discuss. Cllr Smith will arrange in consultation with the Clerk.

Noted

10. Burntwood Dragons Changing Rooms

There was no update. It was agreed to take this off the Agenda for future meetings.

Noted

11. Planning Applications

Councillors discussed the following applications:

- 21/00317/COU – 37 Stockhay Lane
- 21/01168/FUH – 53 Highfields Road
- 21/00912/CLE – Fox Cover Cottage, Hall Lane

21/00317/COU - Councillors felt that this is back land development on greenbelt, which they believed had been previously refused. Councillors wished to object on this basis.

21/01168/FUH – No objections.

21/00912/CLE – This was a certificate of lawfulness and there were no objections.

Councillors asked the Clerk to report the comments detailed above to LDC Planning department.

10. Neighbourhood Plan

Councillor Greenway reported that minor comments from the Inspector had been addressed and others required a little attention.

It was proposed by Councillor Greenway, seconded by Councillor Place and unanimously agreed that a budget of £1,000 be approved for the cost of work, by Glen Jones, to address the final comments and submit the final plan.

Noted

11. Speedwatch

Councillor Taylor had nothing to report other than she will be planning future sessions with PCSO Tom Passmore.

12. Budget Monitoring & 13. Spending review/Investment Opportunities

Items 12 and 13 were taken together and discussed as follows.

Councillor King proposed and Councillor Place seconded that a budget of £6,000 be earmarked for the purchase and installation of two further speed indicator devices (SID's) for Hospital Road and Highfield Road. The cost was then approved following a unanimous vote, anticipated to be £5,517 + VAT plus £300 for installation.

As mentioned at Item 10 £1,000 was approved for the finalisation and submission of the neighbourhood plan.

A budget of £6,000 was earmarked for the purchase of future park benches.

An increase in the community grant budget from £500 to £1,500 was earmarked for future grants.

An additional sum of £5,000 was earmarked for future ground maintenance projects.

An increase in the play equipment maintenance budget from £500 to £3,000 was earmarked for future maintenance requirements.

A sum of £2,500 was earmarked for future footpath furniture, signs and style replacements.

In total an additional sum of £24,500 was proposed and unanimously agreed to be earmarked for future projects.

It was agreed that further expenditure and earmarking will be discussed at the September Meeting.

14. Parks and Open Spaces

Nothing to report.

Noted

15. Highways and Footpaths

Various footpaths were discussed. Councillors suggested that any future problems could be reported to the Ramblers Association who may take a keen interest.

Noted

16. Correspondence Report

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

It was agreed that an email from Wendy Taylor regarding the purchase and fitting of two bird boxes at Mansion Drive be replied to giving Councillors agreement to her kind offer.

Noted – Clerk to reply to Wendy Taylor.

Councillors discussed and disregarded the suggestion from SPCA of dedicated Councillor emails. It was agreed that this was an unnecessary set up and ongoing cost providing all emails went via the Clerk to outside persons or bodies. In the event of any future freedom of information requests this could be dealt with by the Clerk.

Noted

17. Accounts for Payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at July 2021 were £62,463.13 and £8,289 respectively.

Councillors are asked to approve the following accounts for payment:

	Cost	VAT	Invoice No	Cheque Number
Clerk's Wages May	£535.50	-		101220 - £500 101221 - £35.50
Clerk's Expenses (Zoom)	£14.39			101222

Black Rose Solutions (internal audit)	£80.58	£13.43	210075	101223
WCAVA (Payroll)	£6.60	£1.10	2020871	101224

The Parish Council are asked to note the following income:

Source	Amount
No Income to report	

Resolved to approve the Accounts for Payment.

18. Public Participation

A member of the public raised the ongoing issue of blocked drains along Burntwood Road, Hammerwich.

Resolved to request the Clerk bring this to the attention of LDC, SCC and copy Cllr David Smith into the correspondence.

The overgrown hedges in Church Road leading up to the Church, which had narrowed the road for traffic, were discussed.

Resolved to request the Clerk contact the landowner, believed to be Mr Bayley, to enquire when the hedges will be cut.

19. Items for discussion at future meetings

None.

Noted

20. Business continuity Plans Summer Recess

Approved.

Resolved to allow the Chairman and Vice Chairman to act with the Clerk where necessary.

Meeting closed at 9.35 pm