**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**15 September 2021**

**In attendance:**

Councillors Wasdell, Greenway, Grundy, Loughbrough, Place, Smith, Taylor, Thurlow, Ho, Ennis, Smith and King.

**Also in attendance:**

3 Members of the Public

Councillor D Smith – Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

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

**Clerk:**

Ellen Bird

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Councillor Little (LDC) submitted his apologies.  **Noted.**  Councillors and the Clerk thanked Councillor Place for minuting the last meeting in the Clerk’s absence. |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | Councillor Grundy declared that her husband regularly works on tenders for work via LDC.  Councillor King declared he was a Member of the Gardening Guild who had applied to the Council for a grant. He did not take part in discussion or vote on this item.  Councillor Thurlow declared she was the applicant for planning application 21/XXX/ Owl Glade. She did not take part in discussion or vote on this item. All councillors declared they had a personal interest in this item as they knew Councillor Thurlow.  Councillor Ennis declared she knew the father of the War Games grant application.  **Noted** |
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| **3.** | **Approval of Parish Council Minutes from the meeting held on 21 July 2021** |
|  | Approved.  **Noted** |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising** |
|  | None.  **Noted** |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s Announcements** |
|  | The Chair reported Councillor Taylor would be attending a Remembrance Event at Lichfield Cathedral for all those who had lost their lives because of Covid-19.  **Noted** |
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| **6.** | **Internal Audit Report 2020/21** |
|  | Councillors noted the Internal Auditor report for 2020/21 and agreed to ask the Clerk to implement the necessary actions to meet the recommendations.  **Resolved to review progress against the recommendations later in the year.** |
| **7..** | **County/District Councillor/Police Reports** |
|  | Councillor Smith – SCC and Councillor Silvester-Hall (LDC)  The Councillors shared updates with the Parish Council on the following issues   * Bus Survey   Councillor Smith asked that the survey be circulated far and wide   * SCC Councillor Fund   Councillor Smith reported he had a very small fund to help local community groups and asked that this information be shared with local groups   * Repairs to roads   Councillor Smith asked that whenever Councillors raised any issues with him regarding road repairs that they shared the SCC report number.   * Street Cleaning   Councillor Silvester-Hall asked that Councillors let her know which areas specifically required more street cleaning than was currently scheduled.  **Resolved to ask the Chair to send a list to Councillor Silvester-Hall**   * Walsall Housing Development on Greenbelt Land   Councillors were made aware of a large Greenbelt development over the Parish Border in Walsall. The Parish Council were disappointed they had not been consulted on this proposal.   * Spring Hill Cemetery   It was noted that the consultation period on this application had been extended regarding the proposed changes to access.  Scc would be commenting on Highways issues as a statutory consultee.  Councillor Silvester-Hall agreed to check the enforcement ntice was still in place on this application.   * Bethany Cottage Development   It was noted that the applicant was not currently engaging with any agency around this application. Enforcement Officers were continuing to monitor and explore breaches in the development on this site.   * LDC Planning Department   Councillor Silvester-Hall reported that a 26% increase in the planning team had been authorised and that more enforcement officers were being sought.   * Changes to waste services LDC   Councillor Silvester-Hall reported that there were to be changes to the recycling collections across the District. Blue bags would be made available to recycle cardboard. This would come into force in April 2022   * District Community fund   Councillor Silvester Hall reported she had a pot of £300 to share amongst Local Community Groups. |
| **8.** | **Planning Applications** |
|  | - 21/01578/FUH 15 Stockhay Lane  Councillors had no comments.  - 21/01179/FUH The Springhill Farm  Councillors noted this was a modification of the entrance that was already there. Councillors maintained that they still believed the Government Inspector’s recommendations on this application should be upheld along with the enforcement notice.    - 21/01403/CLE Fox Cover Cottage  This application had been withdrawn  - 21/01391/FUH 8 Gorseway Lane  No comments  - 21/01379/FUH Hill Crest, Walsall Road  No comments  - 21/01257/CLE Owl Glade Farm  No comments  -21/01598/FUH 114 Highfields Road  No comments |
| **9.** | **Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)** |
|  | Councillor Greenway reported that the Plan was now ready to be submitted to LDC Cabinet and that it would then go to referendum.  Councillors thanked Councillor Greenway and all those who had worked so hard on the NHP for getting it to this stage.    **Noted** |
| **10.** | **Speedwatch** |
|  | Councillor Taylor said volunteers had been slow to return following Covid so speedwatch sessions had been quiet.  It was noted the second set of speed indicator devices had been installed in the Parish.  Councillors noted the Police had brought the speed camera to Wharf Lane/Highfields Road junction.  **Resolved to note the update and ask Councillor King to draft a letter to the Police thanking them for their efforts (to be sent by the Clerk).** |
| **12.** | **Parks and Open Spaces**  Fields in Trust  Councillor Greenway asked the Parish to permit her to continue exploring the Fields in Trust applications which had been put on hold during the pandemic.  **Approved**  Benches for Oakfield Park  Councillors discussed benches for Oakfield Park  **Resolved to ask Councillor Greenway to purchase 2 benches. One for NHS one for keyworkers**  Burntwood Dragons Changing Rooms  Councillors noted a change of Committee at Burntwood dragons. They believed that the new Committee wished to look again at proposals to alter the changing rooms at the clubhouse.  **Resolved to include this item on future agendas.**  Councillors were concerned that the gates to the carpark had been shut for a prolonged period.  **Resolved to ask the Clerk to write to enquire if the gates could be opened more regularly once again.** |
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| **12.** | **Highways and Footpaths**  Hedges  Councillors noted the positive response from a local farmer regarding cutting back hedges.  **Noted with thanks**  Footpaths  Councillors thanked Mr Coulson for his comprehensive review of the public footpaths  **Noted with thanks**  Finger Posts  It was reported that 33 posts would be required. Further discussion was required and an accurate plan needed to be produced in order to go out to tender for the post replacement next year.  Bin request  Councillors noted a request for a new bin outside the park on Highfields Road.  Councillor Silvester-Hall volunteered to explore with the neighbourhood team at LDC whether they could provide a bin on this site.  **Noted with thanks** |
| **13.** | **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** |
| **14** | **Grant Applications**  The council considered grant requests received since the last meeting: |
|  | * Hammerwich WI asbestos issue   **Resolved to provide a grant of £500**   * Hammerwich Gardening Guild   **Resolved to provide a grant of £150**   * Chase Wargames Club   **Resolved to provide a grant of £150**   * Friends of Chasewater   Councillors would have liked to support this grant but felt that they could not as it was outside the Parish. |
| **15.** | **Accounts for Payment** |
|  | Councillors are asked to retrospectively approve the following accounts for payment:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Cost | VAT | Invoice No | Cheque Number | | Clerk’s Wages August | £539.70 | - | 5 | 101225 - £450  101227-£89.70 | | WCAVA (Payroll) | £6.60 | £1.10 |  | 101228 |   Councillors are asked to approve the following accounts for payment:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Cost | VAT | Invoice No | Cheque Number | | Clerk’s Wages September | £533.70 | - | 6 | 101229 - £500  101230-£33.70 | | WCAVA (Payroll) | £6.60 | £1.10 | 2020871 | 1012231 | | Stocksigns Ltd | £5517 | 919.50 | 211952 | 101132 |   The Parish Council are asked to note the following income:   |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | Source | Amount | Reference | | No Income to report |  |  |   **Resolved to approve the accounts for payment and to ask the clerk to write write cheques for the approved grants.** |
| **16** | **Bank Mandate** |
|  | **Resolved to bring back to next meeting** |
| **17.** | **Public Participation** |
|  | There were no items. |
| **18** | **Items for discussion at future meetings** |
|  | None.  **Noted** |

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm