**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**15 March 2023**

**Date: 15th March 2023**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Venue: WI Hall, Hammerwich**

**In attendance:**

Councillors Greenway, Wasdell, King, Ennis, Grundy, Smith, Thurlow, Ho and Mears

**Also in attendance:**

Councillor David Smith from Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

No Councillors from Lichfield District Council (LDC)

3 Members of the Public

**Clerk:**

Vivien Wang

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Place and Taylor.  **Noted and accepted.** |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | Councillor Grundy declared an interest relating to LDC, husband’s business asked to do work on behalf of the Council.  **Noted** |
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| **3.** | **Approval of the minutes of 15 February 2023**  **The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 February 2023 was approved.** |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising** |
|  | There were no matters arising.  **Noted** |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s Announcements** |
|  | Chairman expressed grateful thanks to former Chairman Cllr Wasdell for his work done in the past years.  **Noted** |
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| **6.** | **County/District/Police Reports** |
|  | Councillor D Smith (SCC)   1. SCC Boundary change   Agenda #12 was agreed to be brought forward for discussion.  Cllr Smith said he was happy with all the current SCC Boundary change proposals except for the one about moving those new estates at South Lichfield City into Lichfield Rural South, which he believed will create workload problem for the future Councillor. He had provided feedback to the committee and recommended HPC to support the view by sending in feedback as well.  The Council supported the view of potential conflict of interests between urban and rural communities in the same constituency. **The Clerk will submit feedback on behalf of HPC stating that any expansion of Lichfield Rural South should only include rural community**.  (Cllr Ho joined the meeting and apologised for being late)   1. Highway problems   Cllr Smith updated that the following issues will be discussed in the meeting with Highways Team next week: 1) re-surfacing of highways; 2) Bricks thrown to M6 Toll.   1. Flooding at Ashmall   Flooding of 2 Ashmall (by Meerash Lane) was reported to SCC Highways. Cllr Wasdell asked Cllr Smith to follow-up at SCC level. Cllr Smith agreed that this should be prioritised as resident’s property was invaded, and he had included it in the agenda of the meeting next week.  (Cllr D Smith left the meeting)  Councillor J Silvester-Hall (LDC)  Cllr Silvester-Hall had sent in apologies for absence due to travelling. Written report had been submitted beforehand and was read out at the meeting by the Clerk. Key notes as below:   1. Lichfield District Council approves funding to support investment in multiple leisure activities for Lichfield and Burntwood. Cllr Silvester-Hall said she was already in touch with Cllr Taylor on parks improvements. 2. Urban designers call on Lichfield residents to share design ideas for Birmingham Road Site 3. Engagement event for the pedestrianisation of Lichfield City centre was postponed due to the significant snowfall on Thursday 9 March. 4. Regarding the outcomes of the rescheduled planning meeting (for 22/01179/FUL), Cllr Silvester-Hall would like to commend Cllr King for his commitment to the residents affected and valiant efforts in preparing for and presenting the pertinent objections. She will continue to have ongoing discussions with the Planning Department. Presently, it was informed that the Head of Planning had now left LDC after 20 years of service and a replacement in post.   **Noted.** |
| **7.** | **Planning Applications** |
|  | 23/00148/FUH – 78 Burntwood Road: No comment.  23/00159/FUH – 1 Oatfield Close: No comment.  23/00227/FUL – Erasmus Darwin Academy: This was said to be a retroactive planning application which the development had improved the parking condition of the school and eliminated the complaints from nearby residents. As flooding issue was reported near to school according to Cllr Mears and Ennis, **Council resolved to support the application in principle but required planning officer’s attention on any potential flooding issue that may incur.**  Vote Outcome: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2  **Noted** |
| **8.** | **St George’s Day Celebration** |
|  | Chairman updated that Hammerwich Cricket Club will meet on 20 March and the planning of the celebration is on track. The Clerk had checked with Electoral Commission that this event is allowed during PURDAH but need to be cautious in avoiding candidates (names and photographs) in proactive media or events.  **Noted.** |
| **9.** | **Speedwatch**  New SIDs at Hospital Road  Cllr King updated that the quoted installation cost from SCC was way over HPC budget, so he had contacted three contractors for quotations and managed to identify one within budget. **Council agreed to proceed with that contractor for installation service.**  30mph sign  Cllr Taylor had submitted written input that she was waiting for update on 30mph signs on Hospital Road from Safer Roads Partnership.  **Noted.** |
| **10.** | **Highways and Footpaths**  Dog Bin on Footpath  Chairman had contacted LDC team regarding the dog bin on footpath #4 (Coppy Nook Lane – Overton Lane). It was confirmed that a site meeting had been held there and agreed for a dog bin to be set up but did not happen at last. Council confirmed to proceed with adding the dog bin there at cost of £400 + VAT. Cllr King to follow up.  Adding a dog bin on the grass near to footpath #2 was regarded as dangerous because it is right next to traffic. Suggestions were made to put the bin on landowner’s land or inside a kissing gate, or only to put up courtesy signage on fingerpost. **Chairman will arrange a site meeting with LDC to discuss the options.**  Footpath near Ridgeway Primary  **The Clerk is still waiting for reply from Andrew Chatwin of LDC regarding the risk assessment of the footpath condition. Will follow-up.**  **Noted** |
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| **11.** | **Parks and Open Spaces** |
|  | Scannable QR code and website  Cllr King will follow up on the cost of scannable QR code and then email to full council. The Clerk had connected with SCC team who can work on the website revamp for HPC if briefing can be given. **Cllr Mears said she will collect references from website of other councils for discussion at next meeting.** Depends on the quote from SCC the Council might consider having a tender process for website revamp project.  Trees at Gorseway  Chairman updated that the job was completed, the nearby trees were well trimmed while the new tree planting date TBC. The Clerk reported that she received a call from a resident enquiring the details of the tree cutting, and job invoice had not been received yet.  Biodiversity and Wildlife Conservation  Cllr Grundy updated that LDC is still looking for strips of lands within Triangle for biodiversity conservation, and she suggested to post on HPC website that the selected area(s) will be less mown during the season and advise residents to help by keeping dogs out of the area.  Cllr Mears commented that Triangle is a heavily used small space while Coppy Nook might be more suitable as more spacious. **Chairman suggested Cllr Grundy to discuss with LDC Gary Brownridge & Burntwood Dragon on the best location.**  Leylandii at pump station  Leylandii overgrown was reported near the Severn Trent pumping station at Triangle. Cllr King reported that Severn Trent had trimmed the front hedge only, and they eventually agreed to trim the rest after numerous emails communications.  **Noted** |
| **12.** | **Consultation of SCC boundary change** |
|  | This topic was brought forward and discussed in agenda #6.  **Noted** |
| **13.** | **Correspondence Report** |
|  | The Clerk reported on correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.  COGS grant  Chairman updated that an email was received from Paul Taylor of Burntwood Town Council regarding the support of a social enterprise (COGS) to offer garden maintenance service to 6 elderly/disabled households in The Triangle for 24 months. **The Council resolved to support the grant with total amount £546. Chairman will follow-up with them for reports with pictures ideally as proof of service.**  Vote Outcome: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0    Introduction to Cemetery  The Council had spoken to the privately owned Chase & District Memorial Park and Crematorium and concluded that HPC shouldn’t be in the position to publicise their service, therefore no introduction will be held.  Bank account switch  Switch of HPC bank account to Unity Trust Bank will be postponed to post-election (May 2023) as two of the current signatories are expected not to re-stand.  Police report  Latest Police report had been updated to the Council. **Councillors suggested inviting the new chief police officer to meeting after election. Chairman requested the Clerk to check with Cllr Taylor on any update from the Crime Prevention Panel.**  HS2 funding  Webinars regarding HS2 Community and Environment Fund (CEF) & Business and Local Economy Fund (BLEF) opportunities are available. Council agreed that the chance of HPC being awarded the funding was low due to lack of proximity to HS2.  **Noted** |
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| **14.** | **Accounts for payment**  The statements for March have not been received in time. The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 09/02/2023 were £19,796.79 and £8,297.43 respectively.  Councillors are asked to approve the following accounts for payment:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Cost | VAT | Invoice No | Cheque Number | | Clerks Wages – March (with PAYE refund) | £1064.92 | - | - | 329 | | WCAVA (payroll) – March | £6.60 | £1.10 | 438 | 330 | | Hammerwich WI Hall (venue hire for February) | £38.50 | - | 316 | 331 | | Staffordshire Parish Council Association – training for clerk | £36 | £6 | SI-946 | 332 | | LDC – tree removal on Church Lane | £60 | £10 | M0075934598 | 333 | | Staffordshire Parish Council Association – Annual fee for SPCA and NALC | £515 | - | SI-1039 | 334 | | Clerk expenses (office365 renewal, phone, stamps, stationery) | £79.68 | £1.67 | - | 335 | |
|  | **The accounts for payment were approved.** |

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| **15.** | **Public Participation**  Flooding at Ashmall  The resident (Mr. Uhbie) concerning the flooding case discussed in agenda #6 was present and shared that he had spent own money building an underneath 3” pipe around the property to get rid of the flooding water however still can’t solve the problem.  **Cllr Wasdell commented that Mr. Uhbie had already taken all possible measures he could have done, so it is now on SCC’s or BT’s hands to handle as long-standing flooding was noted at a phone manhole owned by BT near the junction of Meerash Lane and Ashmall. Chairman suggested Mr. Uhbie to get insurance company to investigate on the liability.**  **Council will keep pushing for progress while Cllr Wasdell will be the representative from HPC for this case.** |
|  | Update from The Bailye’s Fam  Two members of the public from the Bailye’s farm attended the meeting to report on the status of wildflower and tree plantings in Hammerwich area following the discussions at earlier council meetings. Mrs. Bailye reported that planting of 3,000 trees were completed and there are 2.5 acre in plan for next planting season.  **Mrs. Bailye shared that their farm is being renovated and will be opened to public on 16th to 17th June.** Besides, their staff member is going around the area to remove doggy doo bag whenever they came across. 14 bags were reported to have been removed in the week before. **They agreed to have courtesy signages put up in their farm to remind the public on proper handling of dog poo.**  **Noted** |
| **17.** | **Items for consideration at future meetings**  The Council will discuss PURDAH rules in next council meeting. |
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Meeting closed at 8.42pm