

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

13 February 2024 (Extraordinary Meeting)

Date: 13th February 2024 (Tuesday)

Time: 8:15pm

Venue: WI Hall, Hammerwich

In attendance:

Councillors Greenway (Chair), King (Vice-chair), Grundy, Mears, Taylor, Smith and Ubhie

Also in attendance:

Councillor David Smith from Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Councillor Janice Silvester-Hall from Lichfield District Council (LDC)

3 Members of the Public

Clerk:

Vivien Wang

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies was received and accepted from Councillor L Leung due to a meeting LDC.

Noted and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Ubhie declared an interest that he is the owner of the property that affected by the flooding on Ashmall/Meerash Lane. He moved himself to the seats for members of the public after declaring the interest.

Noted

3. Flooding on Meerash Lane

Standing Order was removed to allow comments from SCC, LDC and members of the public.

- SCC Cllr D Smith made clear that SCC Highways has no liability on the concerned land but has agreed to carry out a no obligation survey to establish the responsibility. He said HPC has legal right on that land as HPC has been maintaining it, but HPC is suggested to take guidance on the technical and legal

advice that had been put forward by Gary Hunt from SCC so as to be complied to regulations. He also requested all communications to SCC should be made via the Chair of HPC to avoid false information and allegation from individuals.

- LDC Cllr J Silvester-Hall said SCC's willingness to investigate this issue is generous and putting HPC in a better position. She praised Cllr D Smith in driving the progress. She would suggest HPC to accept the offer and share the petition received with SCC as it might help to speed up.
- Members of the Public commented the meeting is not progressing. The Council had made decision at last meeting to carry out work on the land, but it is now overturned regardless of what had been voted on. MOP commented that the Council should listen to the voice of petition from 161 residents, and it is disgraceful to argue on the minutes of last meeting.

Standing Order resumed.

Cllr Mears proposed the Council to wait for the outcome from SCC investigation before making any other decisions. Three councillors voted in favour of this motion.

The motion was amended by Cllr J Smith who proposed the Council to work 2 ways hand in hand: 1) make use of the petition to put pressure on SCC hoping to speed up the investigation; and 2) ~~appoint a SCC approved contractor to work on all relevant permit/licences and paperwork.~~ *get 3 quotations from* Five councillors voted in favour of this amendment. The motion is carried.

4. County Reports

Cllr D Smith cannot attend the February meeting in person, so he is allowed by Chair to give his reports.

Councillor D Smith (SCC)

- Mitigation Fund is available. Chair can initiate by emailing Cllr Smith
- Current proposal of county boundary change is suggesting that Hammerwich will be represented by two councillors after county council election, in which The Triangle will be transferred to under the scope of another county councillor. HPC is suggested to check the details.
- A planning application is received in Walsall to develop a new industrial site on Barracks Lane, which is expected to bring pressure to the local roads in Hammerwich. Cllr Smith said he is pushing for a relieve road to be built, and he suggested the council to read the details and put in comment in any.

Noted.

Meeting closed at 9.14pm

