

Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes

20 March 2024

Date: 20th March 2024 (Wednesday)

Time: 7:00pm

Venue: WI Hall, Hammerwich

In attendance:

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

Also in attendance:

Councillor David Smith from Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

2 Members of the Public (co-option applicants)

Clerk:

Vivien Wang

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Silvester-Hall and Cllr Leung of LDC.

Noted and accepted.

2. Declarations of Interest

Chair declared an interest relating to planning application 24/00020/FUL for she is the Governor of Ridgeway Primary School.

Cllr Ubhie declared an interest that he is the owner of the property that affected by the flooding on Ashmall/Meerash Lane.

Cllr Grundy declared an interest relating to LDC, husband's business asked to do work on behalf of the Council.

Noted

3. To fill vacancies on the Council by co-option

The Council voted unanimously to co-opt Mr. Martin Preece and Mr. Vance Wasdell as Councillors to represent Hammerwich ward and Triangle ward respectively. The two Councillors then move to Councillors' seats and participate in meeting discussion.

4. **Approval of the minutes of 21 February 2024**

Cllr Mears proposed to remove the passage regarding racist concern as it was raised by Chair while no complaint has been formally received; and the mention of "some councillors" was too vague in context which will cause negative impact to Councillors across the board. The proposal was seconded by Cllr King and then approved by the Council. The passage was crossed out from the minutes.

The minutes of meeting held on 21 February 2024 was approved with amendment made to remove the foresaid passage.

5. **Matters Arising**

Cllr Taylor has expressed her concern that her email was not read out during her absence at the last meeting.

Noted

6. **Chairman's Announcements**

Nil.

Noted

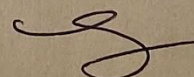
7. **To discuss the recording of council meetings**

The Council discussed and agreed no recording will be arranged for council meetings. Shall any individual wish to record the meeting, he/she must obtain consent from every meeting as the attendees may vary.

8. **County/District/Police Reports**

Councillor D Smith (SCC)

- Cllr D Smith responded to agenda #7 and said that none of the Parish Councils within Lichfield Rural South records meetings.
- He reported that the case of container parking at Wharf Lane is currently under legal proceedings, so is out of the scope of SCC Highways.
- Cllr Smith also brought to HPC's attention that the Labour and Liberal groups had combined and overturned the recommendations of boundary change at



LDC, which resulted in LDC in support of the proposal to split up Hammerwich and move Triangle Ward to Burntwood South from Lichfield Rural South.

Regarding Boundary change, Cllr King questioned why Cllr Mears, the councillor representing Pool Ward, abstained at the LDC meeting on 27th February when asked to vote for the proposal of moving half of Pool Ward to Burntwood South. Cllr Mears responded that Cllr J Silvester-Hall had already made HPC's voice heard at the meeting, so she didn't speak. Cllr King reported that 20 parishioners from Pool Ward objected to the change when he consulted them by putting flyers. He questioned whether Cllr Mears had consulted the parishioners in Pool Ward, Cllr Mears replied she did speak to a few residents.

- Cllr Smith updated there are highway concerns on the industrial planning development off Barracks Lane, Walsall. Current suggestion is to put weight restriction on Barracks Lane to prevent heavy industrial vehicles from accessing.
- Cllr Smith shared that there is funding available for Parish Council's to revise/upgrade their Neighbourhood Plan. **HPC to contact the Clerk from Shenstone for contact details of the funding.**
- Cllr Smith stated again that SCC can only deal with communications from Councils, not with individuals. Any matter of significance should be directed to himself, not to SCC officers.

(Cllr D Smith left the meeting at 8.02pm)

Councillor J Silvester-Hall (LDC)

Cllr J Silvester-Hall has sent apology as she was occupied by LDC meeting. A quick e-mail update from her has been forwarded to full Council.

Crime Prevention Panel

Cllr Taylor reported that the Crime Prevention Panel was dismissed before Christmas. The Panel thanked HPC and its residents for supporting them for years. Cllr Taylor did express thanks to their work on behalf of HPC.

Noted.

9. Planning Applications

23/1600 – Lane off, Barracks Lane, Brownhills WS8 6LT: The Council agreed to put in objection based on grounds: i) part of the land falls into the boundary of Hammerwich; ii) traffic management concerns.



24/00020/FUL – Ridgeway Primary School: The Council has no comment.

24/00323/FUH – 10 Blackthorne Avenue: **The Clerk to request for an extension of input deadline while the Council to monitor if any objection from residents.**

Noted

10. Speedwatch

30mph repeater at Hospital Road: No reply from SCC Highways yet.

SID damage: The replacement solar panel is received and awaiting installation by contractor. The Clerk reported that the replacement is covered by insurance with excess £100 applied.

Speedwatch

Cllr Taylor reported that the lack of volunteer has limited Speedwatch activity. **The Council agreed to put an advertisement on website to recruit volunteers.**

Chair asked whether the Speedwatch equipment is still insured if stored at temporary home address. The Clerk has checked and confirmed it is insured as the policy schedule stated that "Where no premises address is shown, the item is not based at one location and cover is provided anywhere within the territorial limits."

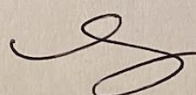
Noted

11. Highways and Footpaths

Meerash Lane flooding:

- 3 quotations from SCC approved contractors are presented to full council.
- Chair reported that SCC has named a person who will be responsible for the inspection of the flooding, but no timeline can be defined yet.
- Chair updated that Mr. Victory Kelly, Chair of SPCA, has recommended HPC to move the Village Green from Cobby Nook to Meerash Lane.
- Cllr Taylor reported that a resident has reached out to SCC Cllr David Williams, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, and was told Cllr Williams will follow up the case for her. **Cllr Taylor will get the communications in writing and forward to Chair.**
- Cllr Taylor said that her complaint to STW is still on-going, and a site-meeting with SCC is suggested after Easter holiday. **Chair requested e-mail to be forwarded to herself, Clerk and Cllr Wasdell.**

Depth gauge at the bridge on Hall Lane: No reply from SCC so far. **Chair will seek Cllr Silvester-Hall's help to discuss with Network Rail instead.**



Fingerpost damage: Cllr King reported all fingerposts are restated.

Hedge on Hanny Hay Road: LDC GM team has cut the hedge furthest possible. **The Council agreed to keep as it is unless further complaint arises.**

Noted

12. Parks and Open Spaces

Oakfield Park new equipment: Cllr Taylor to organize a site meeting inviting Gary Brownbridge from LDC and any interested councillors to attend.

Fence of Mansion Drive playing field: The fence was down leading to safeguarding concern of children. **After discussing whether to put up a fence with stile, the Council decided to put up a fence only. Work to be done by LDC GM team in 2 weeks.**

Manion Drive rat complaint: Chair reported there was a complaint from resident about rat at the fields at Mansion Drive.

Disclaimer to footpath near Ridgeway School: Chair to update at next meeting.

Noted

13. To discuss the set-up of sub-committees

The Council agreed minutes are needed for sub-committee meetings and will be kept by team leader. Any MOP or advisors joining the sub-committee are to be chosen by full council.

Oakfield Park sub-committee will be set up, members include Cllr Taylor (team leader) and Cllr King. The Council will invite Gary Brownbridge of LDC GM team to join the committee.

Noted

Time then reached 9pm and the Council resolved to extend the meeting by 15 minutes.

14. Move e-mails and websites to gov.uk

To be discussed at the next meeting.

Noted.

15. To make decision on several matters



- Council's subscription to Chasewater Friends: **As relationship building, the Council agreed to subscribe at a cost of £25/year. Cllr J Smith will be the representative of HPC.**
- Portrait order of His Majesty The King: **Cllr Grundy will check if Community Centre will be interested to put up the portrait and confirm to the Clerk.**
- D-Day 80 Flag: **Instead of purchasing the one-off use flags, the Council has agreed to donate £30 to related charity to demonstrate the Council's support to D-Day.**

Noted

16. Approval of Clerk's extra working hours in February

The Council has approved the reimbursement request from the Clerk for the extra 18 hours work in February.

Noted

17. Correspondence Report

The Clerk had reported on correspondences received and sent since the last meeting:

- A ground maintenance (GM) fee comparison was presented to full council after receiving the latest RPI% +4.9% from LDC. The Council is expected to keep 2024/25 GM spending on par of 2023/24 after reducing certain unnecessary services that previously agreed by full council.
- Payment receipt acknowledged by Information Commissioner's Office
- Money from insurance claim of SID damage received in bank account.
- Response submitted to LGBCE on behalf of HPC in objection to the proposal of Boundary Change
- NALC briefing regarding Council's power to fund works relating to church.
- NALC legal update

Noted

18. Accounts for payment

The statements for the Business Current Account and Savings Account as at 29/02/2024 were £20,877.13 and £8,412.63 respectively.

Councillors are asked to approve the following accounts for payment:

	Cost	VAT	Invoice No	BACS Ref# / Cheque Number
Clerks Wages – March	£724.06	-	-	BACS #158875673
Clerk expense – mileage and Office 365 renewal	£65.32	-	-	BACS #111501630
WCAVA – payroll February and March	£13.20	£2.20	4498 (February) 4511 (March)	BACS #47437103
Hammerwich WI Hall - venue hire for February	£55.00	-	414	BACS #125081752
Stocksigns Limited – SID solar panel	£720.00	£120.00	234962	BACS #74288816

The Parish Council are asked to note the following income:

Source	Amount	Reference
Zurich Insurance	£620.00	Claim of SID damage by storm (received on 19 th March)

The accounts for payment were approved.

A detailed budget monitor file has been shared by the Clerk.

Noted

19. Public Participation

Nil

Noted

20. Items for consideration at future meetings

- Churchyard transfer
- Best Kept Village Competition

Meeting closed at 9.28pm