**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**15 March 2017**

In attendance: Councillors Wasdell, Mrs Greenway, Campbell, Mrs A. Turnbull, J. Turnbull, Mrs Smith.

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** |
|  | Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs Kirkham, Pullen and Place. |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** |
|  | The Chairman declared he was a Member of the Lichfield Canal trust organisation in relation to a Planning application that had been received. |
| **3.** | **Approval of the Minutes of the 15 February 2017 Parish Council Meeting** |
|  | It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Greenway and seconded by Councillor Campbell that the minutes from 15 February 2017 be approved as a correct record. They were signed by the Chairman. |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising** |
|  | **BUPA Care Home Hedge**  Councillor Campbell reported that he had been assured by the care home that the hedge would be cut back shortly |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s Announcements** |
|  | The Chairman reported that Councillor Smith from Staffordshire County Council had asked for permission to address the Council.  It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Greenway and seconded by Councillor Campbell that Standing Orders be suspended to enable this.  Councillor Smith reported that a review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries was underway with a deadline of 24 March for comments. He reported that there were a number of options proposed for the Lichfield constituency including one that moved Hammerwich under Tamworth.  He encouraged the Council to respond to the consultation.  **Resolved that Councillors would discuss their response by email and ask the Clerk to submit a response prior to the deadline.**  **Post Office**  Councillors queried whether there was an update on the Post Office.  Mr Wood reported there was nothing further to report.  **Resolved to note the announcements and to reinstate Standing Orders.** |
| **6.** | **Standing Orders and Member Code of Conduct**  Councillor Campbell circulated a final draft of the Standing Orders and Member Code of Conduct for approval.  He suggested that the quorum for meetings should be set at 4 for Hammerwich Parish Council. This was accepted by Members.  **Resolved to**  **a) amend the standing orders prior to accepting them to set the quorum as 4, and to;**  **b) approve and adopt the Standing orders and Code of Conduct for Members as circulated by Councillor Campbell. A copy must be saved on file with these minutes.** |
| **7.**  **And**  **8.** | **Greenbelt**  **Neighbourhood Plan**  The Chairman reported that he, Councillors Mrs Greenway and Campbell had attended the Lichfield District Council Cabinet meeting where the proposals for the development of Greenbelt Land had been approved for consultation. The Chairman expressed his thanks on behalf of the Parish to the District Councillors Pullen and Mrs Fisher who had tried to get the Highfields Road development removed from the proposals.  Councillor Mrs Greenway raised concerns that an officer for Lichfield District council who was proposing and supporting the Land Allocation proposals also had responsibilities for the receipt of Neighbourhood Plans. This was she felt a conflict of interest.  Councillors discussed how the proposals went against what had previously been in  Lichfield District Council's Core Strategy and how Hammerwich's Neighbourhood Plan now was at odds with the District Council documents. Councillors felt continuing with the Neighbourhood Plan was pointless at this stage as the documents did not accord with each other.  Councillors discussed whether to hold a Public Meeting in Hammerwich to enable local people to express their views about the proposal.  **Resolved to**  **a)raise this issue with Councillor Pullen to ask him to explore the conflict of interest facing this officer at Lichfield District Council and to;**  **b)Ask Councillor Turnbull to draft a letter to the Chief Executive of Lichfield District Council, the MP, and Patrick Jarvis expressing disappointment that the Neighbourhood Plan proposals had now been stalled in the Parish because of the alterations to the Core Strategy as proposed in the new consultation.** |
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| **9.** | **Planning** |
| **a)** | **Planning Applications**  Councillors discussed planning applications that had been submitted since the last meeting. They did not make any formal responses to any of them.  **Resolved to note the applications received since the last meeting.** |
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| **b)** | **Planning Issues** |
|  | There were no further planning issues for discussion. |
| **10.** | **Parks and Open Spaces**  Councillor Wasdell reported he had asked ACME Tree surgeons to urgently remove a tree that had fallen from The Green (HPC Land) into a residents garden. The invoice was attached for approval in the accounts for payment.  It was noted that further tree work was scheduled to begin on 16 March at Oakfield Park.  It was noted that the Clerk had sought clarification about whether the footpaths in Oakfield Park were covered in the maintenance contract with Lichfield district Council as had been requested at the last meeting. The maintenance of these footpaths was not covered in the contract and it was decided that no further action should be taken.  **Resolved to note the updates.** |
| **11.** | **Highways and Footpaths**  Councillor Mrs Greenway reported that there were large craters and potholes at the top of Copy nook Lane towards the junction with Overton Lane and that these should be reported to Highways.  In addition, Councillors asked the clerk to chase a response regarding the large puddle opposite the Cricket Club.  The Chairman reported that some local residents had gone to the trouble of cleaning the pavement on Burntwood Road opposite Overton Lane and agreed he would call to thank them for their work.  **Resolved to**  **a) ask the Clerk to report the potholes and to chase a response regarding the drainage issue opposite the Cricket Club to Staffordshire Highways and;**  **b) to ask the Chairman to call to thank local residents for their work on clearing the pavements on Burntwood Road.** |
| **12.** | **Public Participation** |
|  | It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Greenway and seconded by Councillor Campbell that Standing Orders be suspended.  **Greenbelt**  A resident representing the Burntwood Action Group who were opposing the Greenbelt development thanked Councillors for their support. He said he was working closely with the Hammerwich Group and that they were aiming to get local residents to write to oppose the changes. They were hoping to reach a target of 7000 objection letters.  Councillors discussed the possibility of holding a public meeting. It was agreed that the Ridgeway School was best placed for any public meeting regarding the greenbelt development.  Mr King who was Chairman of the Hammerwich Action Group reported that the group was now up and running and new members were welcome. He raised concerns regarding the developers aims and future ambitions. It was agreed that using the work Lichfield District Council had done previously ruling out Greenbelt development should be used against them in the current consultation.  It was noted that the Mount Lane development of 96 houses had already been accounted for in the current housing allocations.  The need for residents to write their own individual letters was discussed rather than signing petitions as each individual letter had to be formally logged as part of the consultation process.  **Other issues**  The standing water on Burntwood Road was highlighted again as a danger to motorists and pedestrians. Councillors agreed this should be raised again with Staffordshire Highways.  A resident raised concerns that the village green was looking unkempt. The Chairman agreed but said the Council had no resources to do anything about this at the present time.  **Resolved to reinstate Standing Orders.** |
| **13.** | **Correspondence** |
|  | The Councillors noted the correspondence received and sent since the last meeting which was reported by the Clerk.  **Resolved to note the correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.** |
| **14.** | **Finance** |
| **a)** | **Accounts for Payment**  The balance of the Community Account ( Statement for 10 Feb to 09 March 2017) was £39,344.77  The Parish Council were asked to approve the following payments at their meeting on 15 March 2017:   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | Cost | Invoice No | Cheque Number | | Clerk's Wages March 2017 | £376.41 | EB020/16/17 | 100982 | | Staffordshire Parish Council Association | £515 | 17/78 | 100983 | | ACME Tree Services LTD | £840 | AC2330 | 100984 | | JMI Planning - Neighbourhood Plan | £1350 | 150 | 100985 | |  |  |  |  |   An invoice for £933.58 from Lichfield District Council for election expenses was received on the day of the meeting and added verbally to the Accounts for payment.  Councillors also note the receipt of a VAT/Duty repayment of £4751.99  **Resolved to approve the Accounts for Payment including the cheque for £933.58 to Lichfield District Council for election expenses.** |
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| **15.** | **Items for future meetings** |
|  | * Speedwatch - future locations to include Highfields Road.   **Resolved to add the above item to a future agenda.** |
| **16.** | **Confidential Item** |
|  | **Resolved to move to exclude the press and public under section 1 (2) of the 1960 Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act due to the personal information to be discussed regarding employees** |
|  | The Clerk's salary was approved at LC31 |

Meeting ended 9.50pm