**Hammerwich Parish Council Minutes**

**20 October 2021**

**In attendance:**

Councillors Wasdell, Greenway, Place, Loughborough, Grundy, Smith, King,

**Also in attendance:**

0 Councillors from Staffordshire County Council (SCC)/ Lichfield District Council (LDC)

1 Member of the Public

**Clerk:**

Ellen Bird

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| **1.** | **Apologies for Absence** | | | | |
|  | Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Ennis, Thurlow, Taylor and Ho.  Councillor Little (LDC) also submitted his apologies.  **Noted and accepted.** | | | | |
| **2.** | **Declarations of Interest** | | | | |
|  | Councillor Grundy declared her husband often worked with LDC Contractors who provided services for the Parish Council.  **Noted** | | | | |
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| **3.** | **Approval of Parish Council Minutes from the meeting held on 15 September 2021** | | | | |
|  | The minutes were amended to read:   * Clerk instead of acting clerk in the correspondence report * It was noted Councillor Smith was in attendance, but her name was recorded twice in error * Councillor Greenway had been given permission to investigate options around the benches not to purchase the benches.   **Subject to the above amendment the minutes were approved.** | | | | |
| **4.** | **Matters Arising** | | | | |
|  | Black Country Development Consultation Response  The Chair advised he had asked the Clerk to submit a response in line with the points made and circulated by Councillor King to meet the deadline.  Councillors were unhappy with LDC Cabinet Member Councillor Eadie’s response to the consultation.  **Noted** | | | | |
| **5.** | **Chairman’s Announcements** | | | | |
|  | The Chair announced he had been invited to attend Hammerwich Gardening Guild on 2 November 2021.  He reported in (Councillor Taylor’s absence) that Councillor Taylor had attended a memorial event to victims of Covid-19 at the Cathedral, representing the Parish.  **Noted** | | | | |
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| **6.** | **External Audit Report 2020/21** | | | | |
|  | Councillors noted the External 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** | | | | |
|  | No County/District Councillors or Police were present.  **Noted** | | | | |
| **8.** | **Burntwood Dragons**  There was no update. | | | | |
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| **9.** | **Planning Applications** | | | | |
|  | * 21/01034/FUL Erasmus Darwin Academy, Pool Road   No Comments   * 21/01602/SCC Cranebrook Quarry, Watling Street, Muckley Corner   No Comment   * 21/01644/CLE Fox Cover Cottage, Hall Lane   No comment   * 21/01655/FUH 36 Overton Lane, Hammerwich   Councillors were concerned regarding Car Parking. Plans were not on the website so they could not formally comment.   * 21/01380/FUH 47 Burntwood Road   Councillors felt this development was significant massing and were unhappy regarding insufficient car parking. They asked the Clerk to submit these objections on their behalf. | | | | |
| **10.** | **Neighbourhood Plan (NHP)** | | | | |
|  | Councillor Greenway reported the Plan had been accepted by LDC Council Cabinet and would go out to referendum on 16th December it was thought.  **Noted** | | | | |
| **11.** | **Speedwatch** | | | | |
|  | It was noted two speedwatch sessions had taken place since the last meeting.  Councillor Taylor had agreed to take over the maintenance of the SIDS  **Noted** | | | | |
| **12.** | **Parks and Open Spaces**  Hedge Cutting Review  Councillors asked the Clerk to request that LDC Officers review and quote to tidy where necessary the following hedges on Council land (if they were not already scheduled for cutting soon):  -Oakfield Park  -Meerash Lane (at the back of Hammerwich Green)  - Crane Drive (opposite Oakfield Park, near the school)  **Resolved to ask the clerk to request a quote**  Park Benches  Councillor Greenway discussed the options that were available to the Council for benches for Oakfield Park commemorating the pandemic.  **Resolved to ask her to bring back further quotes to the next meeting.**  Dog Bins The Triangle  Councillors noted resident’s comments that the dog bins on the Triangle were, in some places, concealed by the bushes and in a poor state of repair.  **Resolved to ask LDC officers to inspect, quote for repair if necessary and suggest options to improve access to the bins.** | | | | |
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| **13.** | **Highways and Footpaths**  Gulley Cleaning  Councillors noted resident’s concerns regarding blocked gutters, gullies and drains in the Parish and were frustrated at the lack of action by SCC Highways despite reports to them and the County Councillor.  **Resolved to approve a budget of £1000 (+VAT) to hire a gully cleaner to complete the most critical work as soon as possible and to send the bill to SCC Highways. The clerk was asked to secure quotes at the earliest opportunity.**  Grass Verges Burntwood Road  The Chairman proposed that quotes should be sought to tarmac or put rubber matting on the grass verges on Burntwood Road between 37-61 as where the cars pulled onto the verge was very muddy and unsightly.  Councillors thought costs for this project may be prohibitive.  **Resolved to clarify I SCC Highways would object to this proposal and then to ask the clerk to seek quotes.** | | | | |
| **14.** | **Correspondence Report** | | | | |
|  | The Clerk reported on correspondence received and sent since the last meeting.  **Noted** | | | | |
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| **15.** | **Accounts for Payment**  **.** | | | | |
|  | | Cost | VAT | Invoice No | Cheque Number | |
| Clerk’s Wages October | | £533.70 | - | 6 | 101235 - £500  101236 -£33.70 | |
| WCAVA (Payroll) | | £6.60 | £1.10 | 2020972 | 101237 | |
| E Bird Expenses (Zoom Payment) | | £14.39 | - | - | 101238 | |
| ROSPA Play inspection | | £214.80 | £42 | 58876 | 101239 | |
| Mazars | | £240 | £40 | 1912986 | 101240 | |
|  | **The accounts for payment were approved** | | | | |
| **16** | **Bank Mandate** | | | | |
|  | **Resolved to approve that the bank mandate be amended to add Councillor R Place to the signatories joining the current signatories Councillor V Wasdell and M Greenway.** | | | | |
| **17.** | **Public Participation** | | | | |
|  | **It was noted that Mr Coulson was mapping out the finger post/way markers with Councillor King.** | | | | |
| **18** | **Items for discussion at future meetings** | | | | |
|  | * Benches * SID Maintenance   **Noted** | | | | |

Meeting closed at 9.20pm