**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, SWINDON ON WEDNESDAY MARCH 20th 2019 AT 7.05PM**

**PRESENT: - MRS Y NOCK (CHAIRMAN) PRESIDING**

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: - MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES, MR M CRISP, MRS S FROST,**

**MRS M SINCLAIR**

**APOLOGIES :- PCSO G MURPHY, MR P HEMMINGS, COUNTY CLLR V WILSON**

**OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK**

**NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS –**

**Section 17 – reminds Parish Councils to review if any of the decisions made at the Parish Council meeting have implications in relation to crime, disorder, anti-social behavior or community safety in general.**

**-Cllr Lees: as a member of South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC), will reconsider any planning applications at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at that tier and at District level will declare an interest arising from membership of this Parish Council when expressing a view on any relative matters.**

POLICE REPORT - 19th February 2019 – March 19th 2019(as received)

1.Incidents of note: No incidents major incidents of note in the Himley area this month.

2.Priorities: Our priorities over the coming weeks/months continues to be targeting vehicle crime in the South Staffordshire area. To do this we will be continuing with Overt & Covert patrols in all our areas. We have also been liaising with West Midlands Police and sharing information of vehicles / Nominal’s of interest in an effort to promote a joint response to issues that occur right on the border of both force areas.

3.Crime hotspots: We are still receiving reports of incidents from the Himley Country Hotel on School Road, reports from the hotel are usually reporting theft’s from customer’s vehicles (usually vans). We have completed an operation in the area and continue to do patrols in the area in an effort to prevent crime in the location, we will deal with any incidents we come across during patrols in the most effective way at the time.

4.Speed Watch: We are also currently having an issue with volunteers for community speed watch in the area, in short we have a lack of volunteers and are struggling to maintain a Community Speed Watch presence. As I am sure you are aware speed enforcement is carried out by local neighbourhood teams within South Staffordshire as often as possible but due to other commitments that take priority we are unable to do as many sessions as we would like. This is where community speed watch groups can be a valuable asset to combating the issues of excess speed in the area. Due to multiple requests I arranged and set up speed watch awareness sessions and a full training course specifically for residents of Wombourne, Himley, Lower Penn, Swindon, Seisdon, Trysull and Bobbington which was advertised around villages and on social media in June / July of last year. Despite a large amount of interest and requests to join only one person came to the sessions, a community speed watch group cannot run with one person so unfortunately the group was closed.

Our aim is to create one big group to cover all of the above mentioned areas, Lower Penn already has a speed device and arrangements will be made to bring all groups together and operate using one device with residents doing speed watch in their own areas, this will enable the group to be formed with no cost as a device is already available. However, if any independent parish’s or a collaboration of parish’s wish to purchase a second device for use by the group this would also possible.

If you or anyone you know has interest in joining a speed watch group please make contact with community speed watch direct on: 01785 232702 or visit the website at: http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* Following complaints from residents Himley PC is concerned that the crime stats it receives are not accurate. Two incidents that happened January that were not recorded in the report it received. It became evident that one incident was reported to West Midland Police but the other was unknown. Cllr Lees to speak to Inspector about this.
* Cllr Nock contacted Paul Chatwin, Superfast Staffordshire Programme Manager explaining the problems Gareth Bowen has encountered trying to obtain a grant for fibre broadband in Himley. His reply suggested that we find businesses that needed fibre as they could get vouchers which would lessen the amount the residents needed to find. A resident who is a retired BT engineer has made a suggestion that Gareth Bowen investigates if a) installing a microwave link between Wombourne telephone exchange and the mobile phone mast in Himley which excludes the need for installation of fibre between Battlefield Hill Island and Himley, or b) installing a fibre link from the new housing development next to the Railway Walk to Himley, could reduce the cost of Superfast broadband significantly.
* Photos of Himley Hall, St Michaels Church, The Old Rectory, The Crooked House, The Old Boathouse and Sailing on The Great Pool were sent to Smart Alert as requested.
* A request for a litter-pick on Himley verges had a prompt response; the litter was removed within a few days. The Street Scene Team Manager says that litter on the roadside is a real problem in the area.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 19/00112/FUL - The Old Barn, Stourbridge Road, Replacement oak-framed garden shed, Val 20.02.19, consult to 22.03.19, deadline 17.04.19, C.O. Matthew Hurley – No objections.
* 19/00265/COU - 1 Wood Farm Barns, Gospel End Road, Proposed menage area, Val 12.03.19, consult to 10.04.19, Deadline 07.05.19, CO Debbie Hall – No Objections.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION:-

None

APPEALS AWAITING A DECISION:-

* 16/00779/FUL dormer bungalow, applicant wishes to use garage as a living room. Val 03.05.18, consult to 28.05.18, deadline 28.06.18 C.O. Laura Moon.
* 18/00365/FUL – 12A Himley Lane now called 89A School Road, Double garage and boundary wall

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS:-

* HSBC bank statement was presented for information purposes.
* A resident has asked if the parish council has any solution to the problem of parked vehicles near the blind bend in Himley village. All drivers are experiencing very-near misses through having to pass parked cars on the wrong side of the road and there are concerns that there could soon be a fatality. Clerk to ask PCSOs to investigate the problem but if it continues, the Chief Inspector then County Highways to be contacted.
* A survey had been received from Rural Services Network which has launched a campaign calling on the Government to develop a Rural Strategy asking for us to sign up to support the campaign. It was decided that it was inappropriate to do this with an election approaching.
* Posters were distributed for the notice boards.
* The clerk is still investigating the purchase of a laptop.
* A resident complained about the litter in Fir Street near the gates to Baggeridge Country Park. The Clerk was asked to contact the ranger at Baggeridge to ask that he arranges for this area to be cleaned up.
* The Clerk was asked to contact SSDC for quotes for the 2 new proposed benches which HPC are intended to put on the playing field at Himley and the green in Baggeridge Village. She was also asked to contact David Wilson Homes for permission to put the bench on the green at Baggeridge village.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT –

* 100445 £300 – S Farley
* 100446 £75 HMRC

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **THURSDAY 25th April 2019 at 7.30pm**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.13pm.