**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON**

**WEDNESDAY 21ST APRIL 2021 AT 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: -MR R LEES, MR M CRISP, MR P HEMMINGS, CCLLR V WILSON**

**APOLOGIES:- MRS S FROST,**

**MRS S OLIVER & MRS M SINCLAIR(unable to access virtual meeting)**

**OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK**

**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**

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:

Election of Chairman –

Mrs Yvonne Nock - proposed by Cllr Roger Lees, Seconded by Cllr Philip Hemmings

Election of Vice Chairman-

No candidates put forward for election, therefore post remains vacant.

Meeting closed.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Nock had prepared her annual address in advance and this had been circulated to all Cllrs to save time with the virtual meeting time restriction in place.

No members of the public present.

Meeting closed.

APRIL 2021 HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCED:

CRIME FIGURES as received :- 18/03/2021 – 20/4/2021

Main headlines since the last meeting:

* Suspicious Incidents: - Reports of people hopping over fences gaining access onto Himley Park after midnight.

ASB hotspots:-

* We have had numerous calls daytime and evenings relating to youths gathering drinking, being rowdy and inconsiderate on Baggeridge Village leading to Baggeridge Park and Baggeridge Park itself.
* Reports of people hopping over fences gaining access onto Himley Park after midnight.

Proactive news:

* Wombourne Neighbourhood Police Officers have been working alongside police officers from our Roads Policing Unit, targeting cross boarder vehicle criminals coming to the Wombourne / Himley / Kinver areas.
* Local officers are currently running additional patrols on a weekend under Op Scramble targeting off road bikes in the local area. 6 officers were on the operation on Saturday 17th April touring the hotspots, no bikes arrived all day despite the nice weather
* Over the past month, officers on proactive patrols have conducted numerous vehicle stops, producing the below results –
* Multiple vehicles seized for document offences (no insurance etc.)These operations will continue across the locality
* Can Councillors please inform their constituents that there has been an increase of Cat converter thefts over the past week and that Honda and Toyota vehicles are the ones targeted. Owners of such vehicles should be mindful of where they park their vehicles and put additional security measures in place

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* Himley Country Hotel The Closure Order on The Himley Country Hotel, School Road, Himley will remain in place until 12 May 2021. It was served on 13 November 2020 and reviewed on 22 March 2021 when an extension was granted until 12 May.
* Playing Field - The horizontal branch of a tree over the brook which had been having rope swings attached was removed by SSDC on 08.04.21. A permanent ‘KEEP OUT’ sign will be ordered.
* Old wood that has fallen from trees and is being thrown into the brook by both adults and children for playing Pooh Sticks and also to form dams; to conform to the lease, all debris has to be removed. Clerk to seek quotes.
* Free-standing notices warning people of danger around the brook are needed. Clerk to get quotes.
* Cllr Crisp reported that one of the new lime trees has a broken stake. Clerk to inform SSDC.
* Railway Walk off-road bikes -Due to the recent police operation there has not been any trouble of note.
* Forest of Mercia Trees for Climate - No reply has been received from SSDC re needing the required pledge from the land owner before asking for the trees. Clerk to chase this.
* Gospel End pavement -County were thanked for removing unsafe trees from The Rocks and removing debris from the pavement below and getting owners to cut hedges further east. Due to Staffs County Council’s financial constraints, the narrow pavement in the Red Lane area has not been cut back; HPC has reiterated how unsafe this pavement is for pedestrians. HPC has asked for a new job to be raised and would consider helping with the cost.

C Cllr Wilson left the meeting due to another appointment.

* Superfast broadband for Himley update Gareth, working with OpenReach on the Superfast Broadband project reports: “The Broadband scheme we had applied for, came to an end on 31/03/21. Due to administrative problems within OpenReach, our project did not get contracted in time but we do qualify for the next scheme that comes into force from 08/04. Our previous application gets transferred over to the new scheme. I have asked that we (the village) have representation at meetings with OpenReach so that we can help resolve issues in a more timely manner so we can finally get contracted and get Himley a decent broadband service. I will be arranging a meeting with SuperFastStaffs w/c 12/04 to discuss next steps with regards to the new scheme.” HPC is indebted to Gareth for all the work he has done and continues to do on this project.
* Actions taken on reported road faults The ‘Himley’ sign in Bridgnorth Road near Commemorative Bench is in a poor state. Clerk to contact Street Scene. Pothole by Himley notice board has been infilled.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 21/00246/FUL 22 Lydiate Hill, single storey flat roof extension. Val 10.03.21, consult to 08.04.21, deadline 05.05.21, C.O. Laura Moon.
* 21/00309/FUL Land east of Red Lane. Demolish existing derelict building, hard standing to be made good with new concrete, proposed prefabricated offices positioned on new hardstanding. Val 13.04.21, consult to 04.05.21, deadline 08.06.21, C.O. Laura Moon, no documents available.
* 21/00366/FUL 5 Hughes Road, single storey side extension. Val 07.04.21, consult to 04.05.21, deadline 02.06.21, C.O. Laura Moon.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :-

* 19/00922/COU Wood Farm, Gospel End Road. Change of use of existing farm building from equestrian use to dog day-care and training facility, val 25.09.19, consult to 29.10.20, deadline 19.11.20 C.O. Planning team.
* 20/00974/TREE Beggars Bush Lodge. Remove a Beech Tree in Conservation area. Val 16.11.20, consult to 30.11.20, deadline 28.12.20, C.O. Steve Dores.
* 20/01045/FUL Himley Country Hotel, The demolition of part of the former Hotel, and erection of 9 dwellings with garages and car parking, the refurbishment of the retained former School Building / Private Residence to a 2 Bed Bungalow with garage, together with private amenity and new gated private road from the existing access from School Road. Val 04.01.21, consult to 25.01.21, deadline 05.04.21, C.O. Planning Team. HPC commented Himley Parish Council wish to support this application as they feel it will enhance the village of Himley. They do however have concerns over the amount of parking available for these properties and would like planners to consider this. Most houses of the sizes within this development have 3 or 4 cars and there is insufficient space at each dwelling for this They do not want overflow parking along School Road to become a future problem on an already very busy road.

This application has been amended from 9 to 8 dwellings plus the former school building. C.O. Thomas Cannon

* 21/00067/FUL 6 Whitehall Farm Barns, Cart Barn, erection of a temporary timber summerhouse structure within the curtilage of a private garden in a Conservation Area. Val 07.02.21, no consultation, internal target 04.04.21., C.O. Kate Taylor.
* 21/00187/TTREE Rear of 4,5,6 Churns Hill Lane. Reduce 2 Poplars T44 and T47 by 10m, crown lift to 6m 2 Limes T45 and T46. Val 26.02.21, consult to 12.03.21, deadline 23.04.21, C.O. Steve Dores.

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PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 19/00901/FUL   The Firs, Wodehouse Lane. Staff and customer car park extension on neighbouring local authority land to the west of existing car park, Val 02.03.20, consult to 24.03.20, deadline 27.04.20, C.O. Gemma Smith. 17 trees need to be removed. Approved with conditions 20.04.21.
* 20/00182/FUL    The Firs. Staff and customer car park extension on neighbouring local authority landto the south of existing car park i.e., further back from Wodehouse Lane extending behind a house in Fir Street. This application was superseded by 19/00901/FUL.
* 20/00063/OFFRES    Baggeridge House amendments, internal and external alterations of the converted portion. Approved with conditions 08.04.21
* 20/00063/COND   Baggeridge House, Fir Street,  Discharge conditions 4 – cladding materials, 5 - finished floor levels, 6 - foul water drainage, 7 and 8 - refuse storage / cycle storage. Val  21.08.20, consult to 30.09.20, deadline 13.11.20, C.O.Gemma Smith.

Discharged 15.10.20, updated 07.04.21

* 20/00466/FUL    Baggeridge House, Fir Street, amendments to 20/00046/OFFRES, internal and external alterations of the converted proportion. Val 12.06.20, consult to 03.11.20, deadline 07.08.20, C.O. Gemma Smith.  Elevations amended consult extended to 25.03.21. Approved with conditions 08.04.21
* 21/00049/FUL   90 Gospel End Road, two storey side and rear extensions and internal alterations for lounge and games room with bedroom balcony and bathroom over. Val 18.01.21, consult to 11.02.21, deadline 15.03.21. C.O. Ester Cuthill. Updated 03.03.21 amended plans submitted consult to 05.04.21.  Approved with conditions 29.03.21.
* 21/00104/FUL   Land off Red Lane, Proposed additions to existing base station installation. Val 03.02.21, consult to 26.02.21, deadline 31.03.21. C.O. Lucy Duffy.  Approved with conditions 29.03.21.
* 21/00115/FUL   92 School Road, single storey extension/orangery with internal alterations. Val 05.02.21, consult to 02.03.21. deadline 02.04.21, C.O. Dudley Planning team. Approved with conditions 01.04.21.
* 21/00172/FUL   12 Chalmers Road, single storey orangery and utility extension. Val 22.02.21, consult to 17.03.21, deadline 19.04.21, CO. Planning team. Approved with conditions 08.04.21.
* 21/00244/FUL    Challenge Academy CIC Baggeridge Country Park. Val 15.03.21, consult to 06.04.21, deadline 10.05.21 C.O. Laura Moon. The proposal is for a mini ropes course and activity pods to be built within our existing site, directly underneath our High Ropes Course, built in 2008 - there is no additional area of our existing site being used. The development will comprise a linear course of 4 x hexagonal activity pods and 6 platforms connected by obstacles between 1 and 1.5 metres off the ground. Each pod or platform will sit on 1 cubic meter of concrete and will be constructed of steel and timber. All steel frameworks will be clad with timber to blend with the surroundings. Approved with conditions 20.04.21

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* Arboreal Officer Steve Dores retired A message of thanks for his help over the years and best wishes for his retirement was sent to him on his retirement.
* Cllr Nock attended the Localities Workshop on Climate Change. SSDC wants zero carbon emissions by 2050. HPC intends to take advantage of the Trees for Climate Scheme to plant trees along the brook and look into the possibility of having wild flowers along some of the road verges where they do not interfere with visibility or farmland.
* SSDC Open Space Improvement Scheme    SSDC is asking that parish councils to improve outdoor areas for many to enjoy. HPC has improved the Playing Field by adding picnic benches and is seeking to sow wild flowers on road verges. Clerk to contact SSDC re wild flowers on verges of by-pass and A449 and particularly the triangle of grass ay the Bridgnorth Road junction with the by-pass
* Baggeridge Country Park    There have been problems with Scooters causing a nuisance.
* Highway’s data received :-

Weeks commencing 29th March, 5th and 12th April.  Enquiries raised: 608, 511, 571, enquiries closed: 908, 810,1135,  gullies visited: 1960, 751, 1978, 75.49%, 83.33% , 80.13%  cleansed at first visit, potholes patched: 442, 268, 963, emergency jobs completed: 3, 1, 5 pothole jobs completed by category of pothole\* 286, 177, 259 Cat 3 – 84, 77, 114, Cat 2 – 187, 98, 135,  Cat 1 – 13, 1, 8 emergency – 2, 1, 2. \*Please note a number of potholes could be patched under a single job, hence the difference in numbers between potholes patched and pothole jobs. Data provided on a monthly basis due to ratification process to ensure accuracy of figures. Data provided on a monthly basis due to ratification process to ensure accuracy of figures, next update 10th May 2021.

* Dudley Arms A variation to the licence has been sought, i.e., Licence an external bar servery, no changes to the hours of opening or supplying of alcohol, just to include the external bar server.
* The Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Council Member fails to attend any meeting for six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance, he/she ceases to be a member of the authority, unless the Council accepts a reason for the failure to attend before the six months period expires. Cllr Oliver was granted a dispensation due to having no digital equipment but keeps in touch by phone and hard copy.
* Clerk’s salary increase. This will bring the annual salary to £2,500. There has been a change in the job description and an increase in correspondence. Future yearly increases will only be in line with inflation.
* Cllr Nock was unable to attend the Locality 3 Tier meeting on 1st April due to personal reasons.
* Right of Way - A resident informed HPC that there was a Right of Way along the brook from the A449 to the Himley 5(a) bridle path, crossing over the brook. There is however, no such footpath on The Definitive Map. There were unofficial footpaths formed many years ago by people who worked for The Earl of Dudley walking from home to and from Himley Hall
* There is a problem with sewage smells in houses in Fir Street. Severn Trent have asked to be informed whenever there is a smell and a resident is gathering information from others by WhatsApp to pass on to S Trent.
* The Clerk has contacted Mr D Walker and he is happy to undertake independent verification of the annual accounts. The annual accounts and return are in the process of being completed.
* An email had been received by the Clerk regarding the rubbish bin on the playing field overflowing. SSDC were contacted and this was emptied a day earlier than its usual Tuesday weekly regularity.
* Cllr Nock and the Clerk are to attend a telephone safeguarding appointment with HSBC on Wednesday 28th April at 11am.
* Local Plan Review documents have been received and forwarded to all Cllrs for their information.
* Police to be informed that a complaint had been received that the pavement is often completely blocked by parked cars in School Road near the hotel.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 100499 – S Farley stationery expenses for year £52.61
* 100500 - Zurich Insurance £550.40

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

**Wednesday 19th May 2021 7.30pm - TO BE HELD FACE TO FACE AT HIMLEY CRICKET CLUB**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.37pm.