**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 15th NOVEMBER 2023 at 7.30PM**

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

 **PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES, MR D CLOSE,**

 **APOLOGIES :- MRS S FROST, CCLR V WILSON, MR M CRISP**

 **OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK,**

 **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:- MR R PAINTER,**

 **SGT JASON DORRINGTON, PCSO P WILKES**

**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**

CRIME FIGURES - Date range: 16/10/23 to 13/11/23 as received:-

Public bodies can only disclose information if they have the power to do so. Section 115 of the Crime and

Disorder Act provides a power to exchange information where disclosure is necessary to support the local

Crime Reduction Strategy and Partnership in achieving the aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction

Strategy and objectives outlined within it.

The degree of disclosure that takes place must be proportionate and relevant to the level of social ill or

criminality it is intended to counter or prevent.

The information is only to be processed in relation to crime and disorder purposes. Information will be

handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and any other

relevant legislation governing disclosures and will ultimately be disposed of in a secure manner.

Statistics:

Burglary (residential):

* On 26/10 at approx. 0415hrs, offenders have entered a property on Sedgley Road

and stolen the keys to a BMW parked on the driveway. Offenders have proceeded to

drive away in the vehicle. CCTV has been obtained however nothing seen in order to

ID those responsible. The vehicle is currently still outstanding stolen.

* On 27/10 between 0030hrs-1420hrs, offenders have obtained the keys to a white

BMW parked on the driveway of a property on Sedgley Road – no entry was gained

to the property so it is believed they have used an implement to possibly hook them

through the letterbox. The vehicle is still currently outstanding stolen.

Burglary(business): -NONE

Vehicle crime: -NONE

Anti-social behaviour: -NONE

Policing operations of note:

Due to the vehicle crime reported within the locality, our Op Bormus team have

been covering Wombourne and the surround areas over the past week. The team

will continue to support local patrols over the coming weeks.

* At the meeting Sgt Dorrington, who had been in charge of policing at Himley Hall’s Bonfire, explained in detail all the problems which became apparent because of waterlogged grounds. He will attend the de-brief meeting with DMBC and stress that in future there must be contingency plans for excessive wet conditions built into the plans for the event or SSDC may not agree to a licence.
* Cllr Nock had previously informed Police about a group of youths on scooters who had congregated at the entrance to the Playing Field on 24th October at 8.40pm. Patrols were requested. No further incidences had been noted.

Police left the meeting @ 8pm

With thanks from your local officers,

PCSO Paula WILKES (06635)Email: paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk

PCSO Alexandra RATHBONE (23938)Email: alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk

PCSO Lee MASON (27735)Email: lee.mason@staffordshire.police.uk

Helpful links

Volunteers requested for community speed watch, further information found at:

http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch

Keep in touch with regular Smart Alert’s for your area:

https://staffordshiresmartalert.uk/staffs/

Social media:

@Staffordshire Police &amp; @South Staffordshire Police

@SStaffsPolice

Please feel free to encourage public participants to try reporting incidents via our ‘Live chat’ service

accessible on our website, instead of phoning 101 and waiting in a queue.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-

* Defibrillator doors at The Summer House are difficult to close, ongoing.
* HMRC  - After Cllr Frost was told by phone that anomalies were sorted, Clerk received letter dated 20th October to say that we still owed £283.81 which did not tally with anything we previously owed.  Cllr Frost who is our contact with HMRC was not present. Cllr Frost to be liaised with over this new problem.
* Collapsed Wall in School Road    The owners of Himley Mill Care Home are seeking approval to construct a two-metre cube soakaway with drainage channels to overcome the flash floods which cause the problem.
* Quotes requested for a clear up in Himley and GE.  Non received, many of the weeds have now died down, streets are overdue to be road-swept and Playing Field hedge cutting is overdue so it was decided to wait whilst reminding Street Scene of these works.
* Organisers of Himley Hall Bonfire had not taken unusual rainfall into account with their plans. Over 30mm had fallen in the previous week and parking for 800 cars within H Hall grounds had to be abandoned which caused chaos in and around Himley with roads, pavements and verges blocked. Many complaints were received which were forwarded to DMBC on request for their de-brief. A resident has been enquiring the costs to HPC from Bonfire night; there are none, Dudley MBC organise and pay all costs.
* Rough sleepers survey - None seen, the survey was completed by Cllr Nock.
* Himley Country Hotel -  Council officers checked on who was being allowed to stay at the hotel, no homeless were being taken in.
* We had been asked to name heritage assets within the parish. The Old Rectory and the Farmhouse at Park Farm were suggested.
* We had been told that a row of Monkey Puzzle trees in the valley at Park Farm were planted by Dowager Lady Ward and the two rows of pines atop the hill behind The Demesne were planted by Capability Brown; these are land marks as you leave Dudley westwards. Cllr Lees has enquired if they have Tree Preservation Orders on them.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

* 23/00828/LBC   H House Hotel, Internal alterations. Val 29.09.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 24.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon.   The Proposal The application proposes internal alterations to the building which includes the following general works: • Repairs to ceilings • Existing skirtings, dado rails, cornices and picture rails are to be repaired where required with new works to match existing profiles. • Re-wiring and replacement / new plumbing works • New and replacement internal light fittings • New flooring – ground, first and second floor • Redecoration and re-painting of existing walls, ceiling and joinery details. The heritage statement and plans detail the key works within the ground floor bar, dining and arrival areas; proposed breakout area; and bedrooms.
* 23/00863/TREE   Himley House Hotel, Himley Village and Parkland Conservation Area: Carry out all works specified in Cheshire Woodlands 'Tree Management Schedule' ref. CW/11271-MS.    Val 10.10.23, consult to 19.10.23, internal target date 21.11.23, C.O. Gavin Pearce
* 23/00900/FUL     Himley House Hotel. Val 23.10.23, consult to 27.11.23, deadline 18.12.23, C.O. Laura Moon.  Erection of raised terrace, glazed veranda and garden arbours, construction of 3 no. patio islands with festoon lighting, extension to existing paths and repair of existing walls and fences to northern garden; removal of existing building mounted awning, removal of ivy from building and demolition of modern porch to eastern elevation; removal of decking and installation of new patio with festoon lighting, new gate and repairs to boundary wall to southern / function room garden; installation of car park barriers at the entrance and exit points to the car parks; new external lighting; new external flue and creation of new landscape beds and footpaths within car park. No change is proposed to the floor area of the pub/ restaurant and function space. LAYOUT Minor changes are proposed to the layout of the external garden areas and to the car parking arrangements.
* 23/00901/LBC    Himley House Hotel. Val 23.10.23, consult to 26.11.23, deadline 18.12.23, C.O. Laura Moon. This is for Listed Building Consent for the above application.
* 23/00956/FULHH    27 Chalmers Road Gospel End.  Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extensions and dormer windows to front and rear elevations. Val 14.11.23, Consult to 09.12.23, deadline 09.01.24, C.O. Laura Moon.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :

* 23/00801/ADV   (advertising consent)   Himley House Hotel.  Installation of replacement signs to include 1x post pictorial sign. 1x post mounted amenity sign. 1x post mounted welcome/directional sign. 1x post mounted barrier sign. 2x wall mounted directional signs. 3x bedroom signs. 1x post mounted amenity/pictorial sign. 2x lanterns and 6x floodlights, Val 04.10.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 29.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon.
* 23/00802/LBC      Himley House Hotel.   Val 01.10.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 29.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon. This is for Listed Building Consent for the above application.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 23/00124/FUL      Land Off School Road, Himley, Staffordshire, Erection of 11 affordable dwellings with associated work and access. Val 13.04.23, consult to 18.05.23., deadline 13.05.23. C.O. Jennifer Mincher.   HPC Objected. Refused 24.10.23.  A company acting for the field owners, now wants to carry out a Parish Needs Survey for affordable housing.
* 23/00726/FUL    Himley Hall, new children’s play area containing mainly timber play elements in between existing trees and associated works. Val 25.08.23, consult to 25.09.23, deadline 20.10.23, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved with conditions 20.10.23
* 23/00828/LBC    H House Hotel, Internal alterations. Val 29.09.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 24.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon.   Approved with conditions 06.11.23.

HIGHWAYS DATA:-

Highways are ready for gritting operations; Armed with 37 gritters and snowploughs and more than 20,000 tonnes of salt stockpiled, together with the county’s hill contractors, who will be out across the higher grounds in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* The Whistle Foundation which organises events at Himley Cricket Club at the end of the cricket season had asked if they could meet with Cllrs “to arrange a meeting so to better understand the requirements of the residents and what we can do to ensure that there is an amicable relationship moving forward”. Complaints had been received from residents in Himley and Wombourne over the noise generated. It was decided that a better option would be for Environmental Health to liaise with them; Environmental Health usually take on this roll and that was how it was previously carried out.
* Paul Turner (Save The Crooked House Campaign) had asked HPC to ask SSDC to apply for Assets of Community Value for the Crooked House. It is our understanding that there is no Asset left, now that the pub has been demolished, Paul to be informed by Cllr Nock.
* Cllr G Fanthom had contacted the Clerk to ask to speak at a future meeting regarding The Crooked House. The Clerk had responded that this would not be possible as the pub has now been demolished and future discussions were being dealt with by SSDC.
* Cllr Lees advised there was nothing to report from the recent Parish Summit.
* Posters were distributed to display on notice boards.
* Cllr Nock will endeavour to attend the virtual Localities meeting on Thursday 16th November.
* A response was sent to the Parish Needs Survey.
* The bank statement was presented for information purposes.
* The banking access for the Clerk was on a delegated access level rather than full access – forms were completed for this to be amended.
* Bank mandate forms were signed to remover Cllrs Sinclair and Hemmings and add Cllr Close.
* The Chairman logged into online banking and confirmed paper statements were still required by the Parish Council.
* A resident had emailed  to advise that there were ‘For Sale’ signs at the entrance to Baggeridge Village and that the residents on the estate had been advised that there would be a liability to be paid by them in the near future for the up keep of the stack.
* The Councillor vacancy is to be advised to the Elections team at SSDC for advertising and posters are to be displayed on the Himley notice boards.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 000014 - S Farley – Stamps £30.00

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 20th December 2023**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.06pm