**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 18th OCTOBER 2023 at 7.45PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MR M CRISP, MRS S OLIVER,**

**MR R LEES, MR D CLOSE, CCLR V WILSON**

**NOT PRESENT :- MRS S FROST**

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

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

**SGT JASON DORRINGTON**

**A presentation was given by representatives from REPD – D Gretton, M Bowen and S Harvey for 45 minutes prior to the start of the meeting.**

**They gave details of a proposed Battery Energy Storage System on Land at Park Farm Himley.**

**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: 20/9/2023 – 15/10/2023 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): NONE

Burglary(business): NONE

Vehicle crime:

* Overnight between 28/09 – 29/09, a motorbike was stolen from the car park of Himley House Hotel. From CCTV, 3 x offenders are seen to attend the location on 2 x scrambler bikes and push the stolen bike away from the car park – sadly, no information available to ID those responsible.
* On 06/10 at approx. 1900hrs, offenders have attempted to access a Land Rover parked on the car park of Himley Country Hotel. Offenders have smashed the side window to the vehicle before leaving empty handed. Sadly, CCTV did not provide any information in order to ID those responsible.
* On 10/10 between 1320hrs-1345hrs, offenders have approached a secure, unattended vehicle parked in a car park on Himley Lane. They have proceeded to smash the rear window and steal a bag that was on the back seat. No CCTV and no witnesses.
* On 11/10 at approx. 2045hrs, offenders have attempted to access a secure, unattended Range Rover Evoque whilst park on the car park of Himley House Hotel. They have been disturbed by a staff member and left empty handed – *Investigation ongoing.*

Anti-social behaviour: NONE

Policing operations of note:

* Due to the vehicle crime reported within the locality, our 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.

With thanks from your local officers,

**PCSO Paula WILKES** (06635)Email: [paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk)

**PCSO Alexandra RATHBONE** (23938)Email: [alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk)

**PCSO Lee MASON** (27735)Email: [lee.mason@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:lee.mason@staffordshire.police.uk)

Helpful links

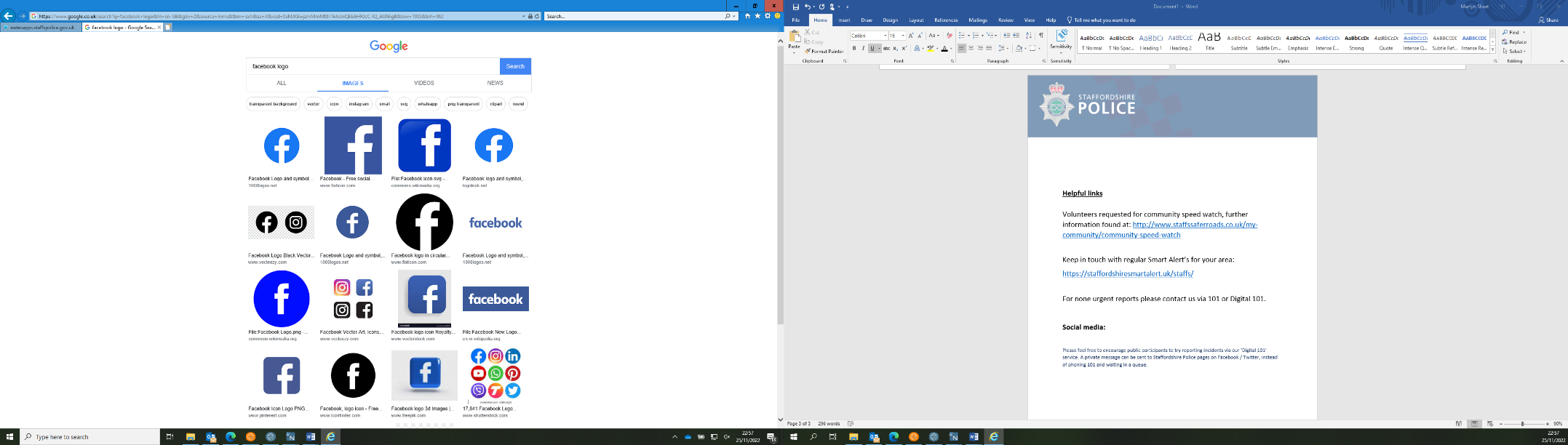
Volunteers requested for community speed watch, further information found at:

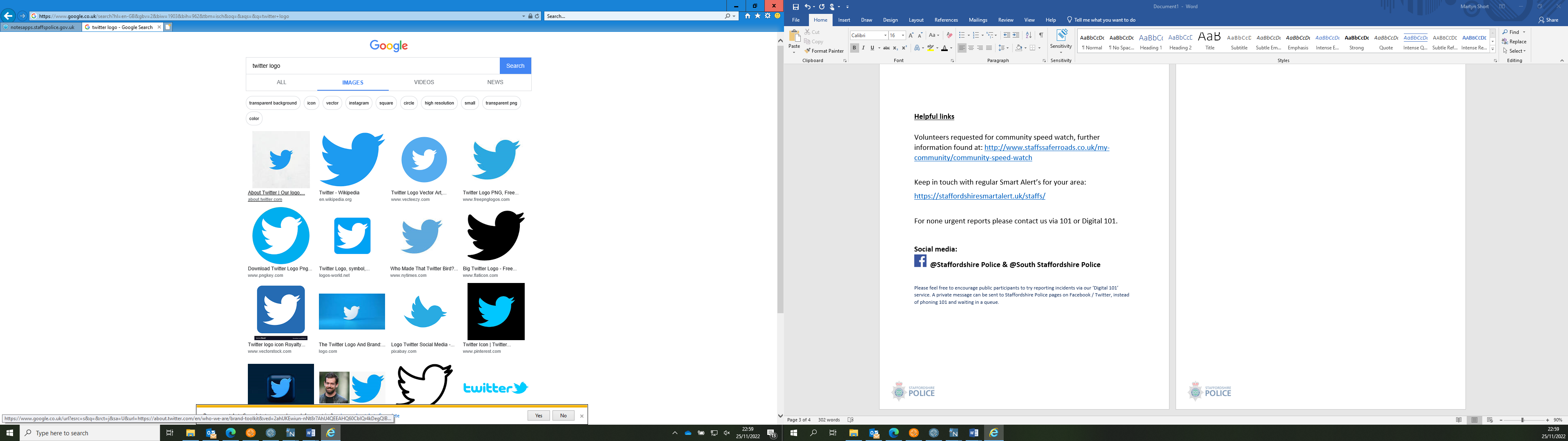
<http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch>

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

<https://staffordshiresmartalert.uk/staffs/>

**Social media:**

 **@Staffordshire Police & @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 :-

* Defib doors are difficult to shut. Cllr Lees will ask the installer to check that doors are fixed correctly.
* Sgt Dorrington reported that the owner of the large dogs that have been running, un-controlled on the Playing Field, has been identified from CCTV pictures. He has been warned
* HMRC  - After many long phone calls, Cllr Frost has sorted the problem out. HMRC has ‘found’ the missing money, has conceded that we were wrongly fined and the interest charges have been cancelled. We thank Cllr Frost for diligence in this problem.
* Basket swing – A new one has been fitted, we decided not to claim on insurance.
* Wall collapse in School Road - Following the breach in the wall during a thunderstorm and flash flood on 9th July and the rebuild, a larger breach occurred during the next thunderstorm and flash flood on 21st September.  The owner is waiting for HC-1, the owners of Himley Mill Care Home, to decide what they will do prevent any more collapses caused by flash floods from their car park and drive.
* School Road Complaints – We have asked for quotes for clearing pavements both in G E and Himley. We received one quote from SSDC, but are awaiting another quote.
* Cllr Nock has found that the ‘rumble strip’ on School Road has been viewed by the Community Highway Engagement Officer who said “*I have* n*oted that this section had deteriorated further and whilst these tasks have not been outstanding for a considerable amount of time, owing to my site observations I have escalated for this work to be carried out in a timely manner.”*She did not say when!
* Playing Field – The edge of the matting that had protruded from the ground has been corrected and the Lime tree replacements are being dealt with.
* Bank access– The Clerk is in the process of becoming a signatory, we are to inform them that we want paper statements.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

* 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    (listed building 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 01.10.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 29.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :

* 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. Target and agreed expiry date extended again to 27.10.23 for another ecology assessment.
* 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.

Clerk to ask for Himley House Hotel to liaise with police re CCTV on these applications

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 23/00692/TTREE     The Firs Residential Home, Crown lift mixed species trees around perimeter of new car park to 6 metres above ground level. Acer spp. (Sycamore) TPO No. 53/1973 - selective branch reduction from care home sign to create up to 2 metres clearance. Val 11.08.23, consult to 06.10.23, deadline 06.10.23, C.O. Gavin Pearce. Acer spp. (Sycamore) TPO No. 53/1973 - selective branch reduction from care home sign to create up to 2 metres clearance. Val 11.08.23, consult to 06.10.23, deadline 06.10.23, C.O. Gavin Pearce. Split decision 17.10.23.

REFUSED CONSENT to Crown lift mixed species trees over new car park to 6 metres above ground level and selective branch reduction of Acer spp. (Sycamore) from care home sign to create up to 2 metres clearance. The above decision has been made for the following reasons: 1. Sufficient grounds to justify the proposal have not been established and the Council therefore does not consider the works to be warranted. 2. The proposed works are considered potentially detrimental to the amenity value and continued health of the tree.

CONSENT GIVEN to Crown lift mixed species of trees over new car park to 4.5 metres above ground level and selective branch reduction of Acer spp. (Sycamore)  from care home sign to create up to 1 metre clearance. The above consent is granted subject to the following conditions: 1. All works shall be completed by an appropriately qualified and experienced arborist in accordance with the recommendations specified within BS3998:2010, Tree Work – Recommendations. Reason: To ensure acceptable standards of work are adhered to for the continued health of the tree in line with arboricultural best practice.

* 23/00682/FULHH   108 Gospel End Road. Demolition of garage and erection of double storey side and rear extension, single storey front and rear extensions. Val 03.08.23, consult to 03.09.23, deadline 28.09.23, C.O. Laura Moon.  Approved with conditions 28.09.23.

HIGHWAYS DATA:- At the end of September, Highways reported that by the end of August, crews completed more than 1.2 million square metres of surface dressing across the county. That's about 120 miles in total, or 193 kilometres. This means crews are well on track to reach their 1.5 million square metre goal by the end of the year.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* Cllrs were advised that Cllr Sinclair had resigned as a Parish Councillor with immediate effect.
* Letters of thanks are to be sent to the 2 outgoing Cllrs for their service to Himley Parish Council.
* The ROSPA Play Area Report had been received, no action required.
* MP Gavin Williamson contacted Cllr Nock and asked that HPC became involved in the future of the site of The Crooked House. She replied that HPC became involved in June when this important heritage asset was for sale by starting the process to make it a listed building. A similar request was received from a Swindon Cllr and we replied similarly. As there's nothing left on site now, except for pallets of bricks, the emphasis is on enforcement of the breach of planning and building regulations which is requiring the pub to be rebuilt. We understand the Professional Officers of SSDC are doing this. Whilst the council is still investigating the incident and considering legal options and next steps, we do not comment on any element of the ongoing investigation, so that we do not potentially prejudice enforcement action.
* Cllrs Lees and Nock were invited to a meeting with an officer from DMBC to discuss the Annual Bonfire’s traffic arrangements. Cllr Lees explained that last year’s arrangements were better except for over-parking on verges and pavements, especially near Himley Cricket Club. There will be more policing this year to try to prevent the problem.
* Each November, we are asked to report any persons sleeping rough, this year it will be for the night of November 2nd/3rd.
* Ex Cllr Sinclair had complained to C Cllr Wilson about blocked gullies in G End Road, one of which, near Baggeridge Close, has been blocked for about four years and reported repeatedly. HPC received a reply from the Community Highway Engagement Officer through C Cllr Wilson  *I have checked on the gullies in this area and I don’t see that we missed any from our schedule last year?  They were cleansed in January and are due again in the new year along Gospel End Road.  We are aware of the jammed lid gully and a job has been raised for this to be lifted, this job is with the many other competing outstanding jobs with gullies that have jammed lids. Should we again receive some additional investment funding for drainage work, I have made a note of this gully for consideration should funding be made available.* C Cllr Wilson pointed out that as these blockages were not causing flooding, they are not urgent.
* Parish Summit is to be held on Thursday 19th October Cllr Lees will attend for HPC.
* Request has been received to list any heritage assets within the Parish. Cllrs were asked to compile a list for the next meeting so that the Clerk could respond.
* Sgt Jason Dorrington gave a presentation regarding the use of ANPR.
* Posters were distributed for the notice boards.
* Lloyds bank statement received.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 000011 South West Play - £732.00 – replacement basket swing
* 000012 SSDC - £90.40 grounds maintenance Q1 2023/34
* 000013 Playsafety - £94.20 Rospa safety report

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 15th November 2023**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.15pm