**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.30PM**

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

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

**MRS M SINCLAIR, MRS S FROST, MR R LEES, MR D CLOSE**

**APOLOGIES:- CCLR V WILSON**

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

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

**PCSO Lee Mason and Sgt Matt Hickinbottam attended for part of the meeting – noted in AOB.**

**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: 20/08/2023 – 20/09/2023

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:185-16/09/2023 Himley house hotel black Landrover Discovery was stolen overnight.

The offenders were on a blue jaguar.

Anti-social behaviour: none

Policing operations of note:

Your local officers have teamed up with Community Speed Watch having had training to use the

speed device, we will be conducting speed indicatives around the location which will be included on

the next report, letters will be sent out through the speed watch.

With thanks from your local officers,

PCSO Paula WILKES (06635) [paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk) PCSO Alexandra RATHBONE (23938) [alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk](mailto:alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk) PCSO Lee Mason (27735) [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 &amp; @South Staffordshire Police

@SStaffsPolice

Please feel free to encourage public participants to try reporting incidents via our ‘Digital 101’

service. A private message can be sent to Staffordshire Police pages on Facebook / Twitter, instead

of phoning 101 and waiting in a queue.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-

* Summer House Defibrillator    Cllr Close has now met with the licensee, who now knows how to do the regular checks. Pad dates are July 2025, same as The Limes. There has been a problem closing the defib doors. Clerk to contact the defibrillator store to seek their advice.
* New Cllr Form - Cllrs Close and Nock forms will be scanned and put on the website.
* Large Dogs in Play area - Police present knew little about this but will ask.
* Word of Mouth and Digbeth Dining Events at Himley Hall – Due to complaints from villagers about noise from previous events at the park, organisers took steps to reduce noise levels. Environmental Health monitored the W of M event and found noise levels to be acceptable. No complaints were received.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

* 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. No Objections.
* 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. No objections.
* 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. No objections.

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 Objects. New target and agreed expiry date 29.09.23 Historic Environment Officer Archaeology asked for a survey. Ecologist says The PEA recommends that the following protected species surveys be progressed: Reptile survey, Badger survey, Bat transect survey (to assess the importance of the site for foraging and commuting bats, Botanical survey of grassland.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 23/00398/FUL 1 Wood Farm Barns Gospel End Road, Retrospective application for lighting to existing manége area. Val 18.05.23., consult to 17.06.23., deadline 13.07.23., C.O. Emma Posillico.  Senior Ecologist states amongst other comments that:  Further assessment is required in relation to the potential impacts of the proposed lighting to adjacent habitats, specifically woodland at the southwest and northwest extents of the manége. Specifically: operational hours of the lighting and spread of lux levels from the lighting. Approved with conditions 24.07.23.
* 23/00582/FULHH   2 Baggeridge Close, Single-storey rear extension with internal remodelling. Val 01.07.23, Consult to 30.07.23, deadline 26.08.23, C.O. Laura Moon.  Approved with conditions 22.08.23.

ENFORCEMENT CASE RECEIVED :-

* 23/00199/UNDEV   10.08.23   The Crooked House, Unauthorised demolition of a building, C.O. Catherine Gutteridge.

ENFORCEMENT CASES CLOSED:-

* 20/00423/BOC     Date received 11.12.2020     1 Wood Farm Barns, alleged breach of condition 19/00165/COU re external lighting. Date closed 25.07.23, breach rectified.
* 21/00124/UNDEV    Date received 12.04.2021    8 Baggeridge Close, alleged breach  of planning permission, the making of a material change of use of the Land and associated unauthorised development and engineering works to facilitate that change of use including, but not limited to the installation of a garden pond, the laying of a hardstanding base and siting of a shipping container, the erection of fencing and the raising of the land levels to level off the Land to facilitate that change of use for use as domestic residential garden land by the owners/occupiers of 8 Baggeridge Close. Date closed 24.08.23. Items that were added without permission had been removed. There is now no access for heavy machinery to the field so land levels cannot be altered but it must be left to re-wild.

HIGHWAYS DATA:-

* Staffordshire County Council’s brand-new Pothole Pro has clocked on for its first shift – on the doorstep of the JCB factory where it was produced. The machine was manufactured at JCB Heavy Products in Beamhurst. It’s all part of the county council’s £30 million investment into larger repairs and road resurfacing over the next two years. The Pothole Pro will soon be making its way around the county, helping to repair defects as part of a larger £5 million investment in pothole repairs. Just as crews are working hard on our roads, officers are also working hard to ensure that works on the highway are coordinated and delivered with the least disruption to road users. It's no mean feat to coordinate works on 6,000km of road. Where possible we encourage joint working between our crews, and those of utility companies such as water and electric. We also try to ensure that major works (especially in close vicinity to schools) are carried out during half-terms and school holidays when the traffic is generally lighter. In some cases though, emergency works need to be carried out at very short notice, which takes a lot of coordinating and means joint working isn't always possible.
* Lollipop men and women from across Staffordshire celebrated the 70th anniversary of the School Crossing Patrol service.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* HMRC  ( *Police joined meeting during this discussion*) We still have a problem with HMRC demanding monies which we do not owe. They have now admitted that they have ‘lost’ our money and are investigating. We agreed to pay all new tax payments due. Cllr Frost advised the Clerk that failure to pay the HMRC liabilities due and those that had not been allocated to the correct HPC record could result in her address being ‘black listed’ – Clerk will investigate this. Cllr Frost is to contact HMRC with the dates cheques for the penalty notices imposed in September 2022 and November 2022 were written, the dates they were cashed and the notification date that all penalties had been cancelled and hope to get clarity on the situation.
* Police then gave their report and a discussion followed. *Police left the meeting.*
* Himley Cricket Club -There was a week of entertainment at the cricket club in August, each night not only music but the bass th thump, th thump. On the 4th night, sound levels soared with a change of wind direction and complaints were received from residents in Himley, Wombourne and a person who attended the event. The cricket club was contacted and told that their license was in jeopardy if the noise level continued. Next night, the final night, the noise was acceptable.
* Playing Field basket swing – On 28th August, Cllr Crisp reported that there had been vandalism to the circular swing in the play area, the edging rope around the swing seat had been cut through. The hanging chain and rope are fine, but a new basket is needed. We have sourced a supply and will order. Cllr Nock will report this to the Police and get a crime reference number and the clerk will then process an insurance claim for replacement of this.
* Wall collapse in School Road 09.07.23. The owner instructed builders to carry out repairs which took place early September.
* School Road complaints - A resident complained about the state of School Road regarding weeds, potholes etc. SSDC no longer have a pavement sweeper and the next scheduled road sweep is during October. Clerk to contact County Council re weeds on School Road and Gospel End Road pavements. Cllr Nock has asked for the ‘Rumle Strip’ opposite Himley Cottage to be replaced as part of a specific project, we are hoping that this will be fulfilled.
* Allotments - New allotments are to be set up near the craft village in Baggeridge within the S106 agreement with the Baggeridge Village development. HPC declined to be involved in the management of the allotments, there are people who want allotments who will set up and manage the site. Clerk to advise SSDC of this.
* Playing Field - Cllr Crisp reported that the edge of the new matting has lifted in places around the play equipment. The company who put the matting in place will be contacted to rectify this.
* The row of newly planted lime trees along the boundary of the playing field have now all been vandalised. SSDC will be contacted to ask for replacements.
* It was agreed that the clerk will be added to bank signatories and have online banking access to aide with payments being made via this method in the future.
* Lloyds bank have contacted to say that paper statements will cease – Clerk to make contact once her online access is granted to advise that paper statements are still required.
* The Parish Summit is to be held on Thursday 19th October – Cllr Lees will attend for HPC.
* There is a zoom presentation – ’20 is plenty’ to be held on Wednesday 11th October – all Cllrs can access if they wish.
* A complaint was received by the Clerk regarding the state of the bus stop on the A449 opposite the Dudley Arms. Cllr Nock has cleaned this up and painted over the graffiti.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* Cheque 000008 SSDC playing field maintenance 4th quarter 2022/23 £24.98 – online payment from July meeting was not processed as Cllrs could not access the banking system to process.
* Cheque 000009 £139 HMRC – clerk tax liability
* Cheque 000010 S Farley – £556 clerk wages

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 18th October 2023**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm