**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 16th OCTOBER 2024 at 4.00PM**

**(Meeting started at revised time due to unforeseen circumstances)**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: CLLR S OLIVER, CLLR R LEES**

**APOLOGIES:- CCLR V WILSON**

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

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

**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**

PCSO’s Alex Rathbone and Paula Wilkes attended the meeting.

They advised that there was no significant crime matters in the Parish and asked that any queries that may arise be informed to them. They left the meeting at 4.10pm

**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-**

* SIDS: Clerk to chase SSDC for information.
* One enquiry has been received re Cllr vacancy.
* School Road Wall Collapse: The wall was rebuilt and pavement cleared by 12th October. Sandstone blocks remain on private land.
* G End hedge from Red Lane to the Dudley boundary: County reported on 19th September that a highways officer has assessed the site you reported and arranged a non-urgent work instruction. The outcome of the assessment states that this defect does not pose an immediate risk to public safety.  County’s Mark Keeling has been informed.
* Code of Conduct meeting:  Cllrs Nock and Oliver attended on 19th September.
* Consolidated soil and weeds on the bend at the junction of School and Bridgnorth Roads:  Most of the soil has been removed but weeds are regrowing. During a recent downpour, the bend in the road was completely flooded for a time with drains unable to cope.
* Playsafety Inspection:  Faults other than matting at the slide, have been rectified. This will have a temporary repair before being considered in the Spring. Risk level is low.
* Playing Field: We have been informed by SSDC that charges for work on the Playing Field have been increased. Following complaints from residents re the poor state of The Playing Field, we have been in consultation with SSDC over type and frequency of cuts required. It was recommended that 4 more Rough Grass Cuts per year were necessary. Clerk to request these cuts are added to our schedule. This will add charges of £480 per year on top of increased costs to all cuts and treatments for a one year trial..
* Sink Holes on Gospel End Road verge:  This was originally reported to Highways in February 2024 under ‘Weeds, trees and verges’. County refuse to accept that the sink holes which started on the grass verge are their responsibility, but “have investigated the defect you have reported and passed the details on to the organisation responsible for its repair – this could be the organisation that either owns the apparatus, or; has previously carried out works here.  Whilst the onus to repair this problem rests with a third party, we will continue to monitor this defect during routine safety inspections.” HPC does not agree with this decision and it was decided to report back with our knowledge of what has happened and the cause.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-**

* 24/00772/TREE   Whitehall, Himley Village And Parkland Conservation Area: Mulberry - Crown reduction by up to 3m to suitable pruning points and reduce lateral branches by up to 2 metres. Val 13.09.24, consult to 03.10.24, deadline 25.10.24, C.O., Gavin Pearce.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION**

* 24/00660/TREE    8 School Road, Himley Village and Parkland Conservation Area. Dismantle and remove tree. Val 23.07.24, consult to 31.07.24, deadline 03.09.24 C.O. Gavin Pearce

**PLANNING DECISIONS**

* 24/00573/TTREE   Himley Hall, Dudley Road, Himley, Horse chestnut, TPO No. 10/00251/TPO. Dismantle and remove. Val 03.07.24, consult to 18.07.24, deadline 28.08.24.  Consent given with conditions 20.09.24.
* 24/00647/LBC     Himley House Hotel.  Minor external repairs to the roof coverings, localised repair to the external render on a like for like basis, repair to the existing windows and replacement of 5no existing windows. Val 26.07.24, consult to 26.08.24, deadline 20.09.24, C.O. Natalie Ioannou. Approved with conditions 19.09.24.

**PLANNING APPEAL AWAITING A DECISION;**

* 23/01084/FUL    Northgate Health Care Ltd, The Firs for retrospective work on the construction of a staff and customer car park extension.   APP/C3430/W/24/3343357

**PLANNING WITHDRAWAL :-**

* 24/00704/LUP   Sandiacre Farm Shop And Nurseries, Change of Use from A1 retail to Class E. Val 13.08.24, consult to 12.09.24, deadline 08.10.24, C.O. Caitlin Harper. HPC commented to planners that we agree with OCL having a change of use. Current owners have been selling food and plants for the last 30 years without a problem and a change of use would enable OCL to buy the site. Application was withdrawn 10.10.24

**HIGHWAYS DATA:-**

None

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-**

* Cllr Lees has shown a SSDC Officer around the villages pointing out jobs that were not done this year without extra requests.
* We received an enquiry from a company asking us to change our website and Parish Council addresses and use [gov.uk](http://gov.uk/) domains. HPC is very satisfied with the website provider that we have who believes that [himleyparishcouncil.co.uk](http://himleyparishcouncil.co.uk/) completely meets WCAG 2.2 standards, but if anything is found to fall short of this, he will fix this at no charge.   He also confirms that he completely complies with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). N.
* Himley Hall Fireworks 2nd November 2024: Dudley MBC will not be having a bonfire at the event this year.
* The Project Officer, Paul Keats from Staffordshire’s Rural Housing Enablement, contacted us with regards to having a survey conducted about affordable homes needed in Himley. We replied that a survey was undertaken about one year ago which proved there was very little need within the parish.
* Defibrillator at The Summer House: Cllr Oliver to Check that the pub is still complying with all necessary checks.
* Summit at Codsall Council Hub on 14th November, 9-12 noon: Cllr Oliver will attend.
* The Remembrance Service at Codsall Council Hub: This will take place on Monday, 11th November at 11am.
* Locality Forum: This will be online, 28th November, 6.30 – 8pm.
* Clerk has requested an up-to-date Electoral Register.
* Clerk to enquire about a change of date for HPC December meeting
* Posters for display on the noticeboards and SSDC website, circulated to advertise the 4 Councillor vacancies.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -**  None

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 20th November 2024**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 5.05pm

**COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

There are 4 vacancies for Parish Councillors on Himley Parish Council.

Please contact the clerk via email if you would like further details regarding this – [himleyparishcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:himleyparishcouncil@gmail.com)