**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 17th JULY 2024 at 7.30PM**

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

 **PRESENT COUNCILLORS: CLLR S OLIVER, CLLR D CLOSE, CLLR R LEES, CLLR M CRISP**

 **APOLOGIES:- NONE**

 **NOT PRESENT :\_ CCLR V WILSON, CLLR S FROST**

 **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**

**POLICE REPORT** The SS Police crime and anti-social behaviour report was received for 16/4/2024 – 16/7/2024. PCSO Alex Rathbone and PCSO Lee Mason attended the meeting from 8.30pm – 8.45pm and discussed this with Councillors. The report is less specific on areas now and the Chief Constable has advised that he wants less admin jobs and reports provided and more Police ‘out on the streets’ tackling crime. No areas of concern were highlighted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-**

* School Road Collapse : Residents are complaining about the time it is taking to finish the re-build. The new inner double walls were constructed at the end of March with drainage channels along the bottom and concrete poured between them. The owner is waiting for a downpour to test the strength of the two inner walls before finishing the project with sandstone blocks. We have asked the owner for an update and to cut off epicormic tree growth.
* Brick Kiln Way ‘For Sale’ signs : These are still awaiting Enforcement intervention. Clerk to chase Enforcement.
* SIDS :We have not heard any more.
* Sink holes on Gospel End verge: There are no signs that this has been inspected yet. Cllr nock first reported this on 14th February.
* Code of Conduct: Helen Astley, Charman’s PA Governance, SSDC has announced the new date, 19th September, 2024 at 5.30pm, Wombourne Parish Council Chambers. All Cllrs must attend this or an alternative course; Contact Helen to attend.
* Grounds: SSDC appreciate the fact that about half the area of The Playing Field could not be cut on more than one occasion due to the wet weather but this will be remedied when the ground dries out. It was also confirmed that if we ask for any additional cut over and above the contracted cuts, the charge will be £160.
* Gospel End defibrillator pads: Cllr Close is waiting for the lock to be adjusted before he replaces the new pads. Cllr Lees to contact the installer.
* License for bar at the glamping site at Himley Hall: The applicant answered our objections, most of which were satisfied, but a few remained which were relayed to the licensing officer for the hearing.  The license was granted 09.07.24., with many conditions. The Licensing Officer informed us that: Should the site become a problem like ANY licenced premises any interested party, i.e. resident, parish/district/ county councillor or one of the statutory bodies may call the licence in for a review if they are undermining one or more of the four licensing objectives.

All breaches of the conditions should be noted with date, time and details and reported to HPC.

* License application: Following more forthcoming information regarding a License application for a Street Trader in Himley, the license is for permission to trade at events at Himley Hall and in other parishes, selling ice cream, snacks and drinks. We have no objections and the licence was granted.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-**

* 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.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION**

 None

**PLANNING DECISIONS**

None

**PLANNING APPEALS;**

Appeals have been received by the Planning Inspectorate from Taylor Reed Homes Ltd, against the refusal of their Planning Applications

* 23/00124/FUL Land at School Road, for the erection of 11 affordable dwellings with associated work and access and

24/00124/FULM Land at School Road, for the erection of 10 affordable dwellings with associated work and access

 A government inspector from Bristol will now decide on the outcome. Both appeals will be heard on two days, Wednesday, 14th and Thursday, 15th August at Council Offices in Codsall, starting 10am.

* 23/01084/FUL Northgate Health Care Ltd, The Firs for retrospective work on the construction of a staff and customer car park extension – There will be a Hearing re this appeal, representations must be received by 19th July.

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| Appellant’s name: | Northgate Health Care Limited |
| Site Address: | The Firs Care Home, Wodehouse Lane, Gospel End Dudley DY3 4AE |
| Description of development: | Retrospective planning application for the construction of staff and customer car park extension. |
| Application reference: | 23/01084/FUL |
| Appeal reference: | APP/C3430/W/24/3343357 |
| Appeal start date: | 15 July 2024 |

**HIGHWAYS DATA:-**

None

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

* Playing field: A resident complained about the lack of maintenance and terrible state of the field, even after there had been a Rough Cut. Cllr Nock replied and explained the background of the field, how the very wet weather had affected it and assured her that it would improve following more cuts. SSDC will not cut the hedge in the Play Area until the nesting season has finished.
* School Road gulley grids: Three Grids were stolen from between Churns Hill Lane and Himley Country Hotel and one outside Pound Cottage. The three grids have been replaced but a report was received 17th July  that a steel plate and cone had been placed over the hole outside Pound Cottage and replacement was not urgent.
* Street scene additional work: Some of the list of work we asked for was completed, some not, including the clearance of weeds in School Road. We have now been informed that not all work we asked for would be done at one time, so some has still to be carried out, including tidying up the Housing Association land in Gospel End, pavement in Bridgnorth Road and the pavement weeds in School Road. Gutter weeds will only be removed if traffic Management is not required. Roads were swept on 6th June and due next in the middle of August. It has now been explained that the length of gutter weeds on the bend between School and Bridgnorth Roads which is growing on a build-up of compacted soil in the gutter is impossible to remove with a road sweeper and County are responsible for removing it. It has now been reported to County.

SSDC has now kindly offered to include cutting the overgrown hedge in the Playing Field next to the Play Area with the Additional Work.

Following a further report by Cllr Close, received prior to the meeting, on the state of School Road, actions had been taken by Cllr Nock to request cutting by various hedge owners.

* The Clerk advised that there had been payments made online for the difference in salary and HMRC payments following the payments made in June and noted in the minutes. In the absence of a salary slip at the June meeting the March 2024 figures were used. Since the June meeting 2 payments had been made. The clerk had returned her payment of £80 as this was not due to her – the increase in her salary is £96 per annum - £24 was due for the June salary payment. The HMRC account will be rectified with the September payment and a cheque for the Clerk’s underpayment was authorised.
* Mobile banking payments are not always possible as few Councillors are agreeable to using this method of payment. There isn’t always time to process these payments digitally and in this case we will revert to writing cheques as these situations arise.
* The bank statement was presented for information.
* The Playsafety inspection will take place in August.
* Cllr Nock and Oliver were reminded that the account inspection documents are to be removed from the noticeboards on 31/7/2024.
* The Clerk confirmed that the AGAR had been sent off to the auditors and the documents posted on the website.
* Cllrs agreed to a voucher being purchased for £25 as a thank you gesture to the independent inspector of the financial documents.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -**

* 000025 S Farley £24.00 – difference in June salary payment
* 000026 S Farley £68.60 – expenses and stamps 1/4/2023-31/03/2024
* 000027 S Farley £25.00 – gift to D Walker for independent verification of financial records.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 18th September 2024**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

**COUNCILLOR VACANCY**

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Himley Parish Council. Please contact the clerk via email if you would like further details regarding this – himleyparishcouncil@gmail.com