**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 at 7.30PM**

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

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

 **APOLOGIES:- NONE**

 **NOT PRESENT :\_ 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**

**MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-**

* School Road Wall Collapse: Following further complaints from residents, Cllr Nock had asked for the sandstone blocks to be moved from the pavement as they will be more of an obstruction as it gets darker earlier, especially for wheelchair users.  Clerk to inform the owner of the wall that if he does not remove the blocks by 27th October, SSDC would remove them and invoice him.
* Brick Kiln Way ‘For Sale’ signs:  All signs have been removed.
* Sink Holes on Gospel End Road verge:  It looks like these have not been inspected yet, they are still covered by high weeds. Cllr Lees will investigate this further and try to arrange an inspection.
* Code of Conduct meeting:  This is on Thursday, 19th September at 5.30pm at Wombourne Council Chamber.
* Gulley Grid in School Road:  One of the 3 replaced gulley grids in School Road has been broken in two, reported to County.
* School Road pavement weeds:  Cllr Lees reminded Street Scene to remove the pavement weeds from School Road.
* School Road hedges:  Most of these have been cut.
* Payments to HMRC:  Payments to HMRC will be rectified with the December payment and HPC now has an accountant to provide payslips for the clerk.
* Playsafety Inspection:  The report has been received and is being acted on. The height of the basket swing will be altered, one gate will be adjusted and new matting put in grass where suggested.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-**

* 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
* 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
* 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 comment 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.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION**

* 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.  No result notified

**PLANNING DECISIONS**

None

**PLANNING APPEALS 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 APPEALS DECISION :-**

* Both of these appeals have been dismissed, Taylor Reed’s only option now is to appeal to The High Court.

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

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

**HIGHWAYS DATA:-**

None

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

* Large Road Sign on grass verge between Himley House Hotel and crossroads. The sign which fell with rotted posts and first reported on 27th January had not yet been replaced by Staffs County Council due to lack of resources. This is now being replaced whilst work is carried out on the resurfacing of Himley crossroads, as is the replacement of the 30mph road sign in Bridgnorth Road by the by-pass.
* Cllr Resignations:  We have been asking for a volunteer to replace a vacancy for months without any success. Over the last two months, three Cllrs, Cllr Frost, Cllr Close and Cllr Crisp have resigned for different reasons, making four vacancies.  This leaves us with only three Cllrs, just enough for a quorum.  Also, the Chair resigned 18 months ago but accepted the request to stay on, on a month-to-month basis to maintain proceedings so we are now asking for four volunteers. Four vacancies leave the Parish Council open to becoming un-operable.
* Cllr Close has kindly offered to keep a check on The Limes defibrillator until someone else volunteers.
* Cllr Crisp has kindly offered to regularly inspect the play area for children along School Road for health and safety issues but accepts no responsibility for maintenance or repair which needs to be done on his findings.
* Grass on Playing Field: The extremely wet weather earlier in the year caused the grass, as well as the hedges, to grow quicker than usual but contractors were unable to cut it as their equipment got stuck in the boggy ground. The frequency of cutting is to be increased, every 2 weeks for the 1st 2 months in Spring and an extra cut at the end of Autumn.
* Gospel End hedge from Red Lane to the Dudley boundary: We have been informed by SSDC that the hedge is definitely the responsibility of County.    It was reported to County 9thAugust. Hedge overgrowing pavement, residents are having to walk in the road in places.
* Floodlight at Himley Cricket Club 18th to 23rd August:  The Whistle Foundation:   Notification of their annual event at Himley Cricket Club at the end of August, was received on 31st July.

Following Environmental Health liaising with The Whistle Foundation over previous noise levels, only 2 complaints were received from villagers this year. Clerk to thank The Whistle Foundation. One resident complained to the Cricket Club. Any resident who wishes to complain should complain to the organiser.  Chair of HPC received three emails, 2 from quite close to the event, saying not too loud this year

* New Position at SSDC: We have been contacted by an officer from SSDC, Paul Keats, with a new position, the “Rural Housing Enabler” whose job includes ‘to support local rural communities in relation to any potential housing requirements, as an impartial facilitator, with support such as Housing Needs Surveys. These are homes earmarked for local people, whether it be first homes or people wishing to downsize etc.
* The police report was received for the period 13/8/2023 – 12/8/2024 which detailed an overall positive trend in crime figures.
* The next virtual locality forum will take place on Thursday 28th November 2024 6pm – 7.30pm
* Email notification was received by HPC and various other local authority contacts regarding racist graffiti on the railway walk bridge over the A449 – this was swiftly removed.
* There is a County Councillor candidate open day on 4/11 and 26/11 at Stafford for anyone interested in becoming a County Councillor.
* Temporary road closure notification has been received for Sat 2nd November 2024 16.00 to 23.00 for Himley Bonfire.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -**

* 000029 SSDC – Grounds maintenance Q1 2024/25 -£124.45
* 000030 Playsafety – annual inspection of play equipment - £98.40
* 000031 S Farley – Clerk wages - £580.00
* 000032 HMRC – Clerk tax - £145.00

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 16th October 2024**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

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