**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 20th MARCH 2024 at 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MR R LEES, MR D CLOSE,**

**MRS S FROST,**

**APOLOGIES :- PCSO’S, MR M CRISP**

**NOT PRESENT :- MRS S OLIVER**

**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**

CRIME FIGURES - 20/2/2024 – 19/3/2024 (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:** NONE

**Anti-social behaviour:** 1 x report this month:

* Reports of nuisance youths within Himley Park

**Policing operations of note:**

* Due to the vehicle crime reported within the locality, our Op Bormus team have been covering Wombourne and the surround areas over the past month. 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**

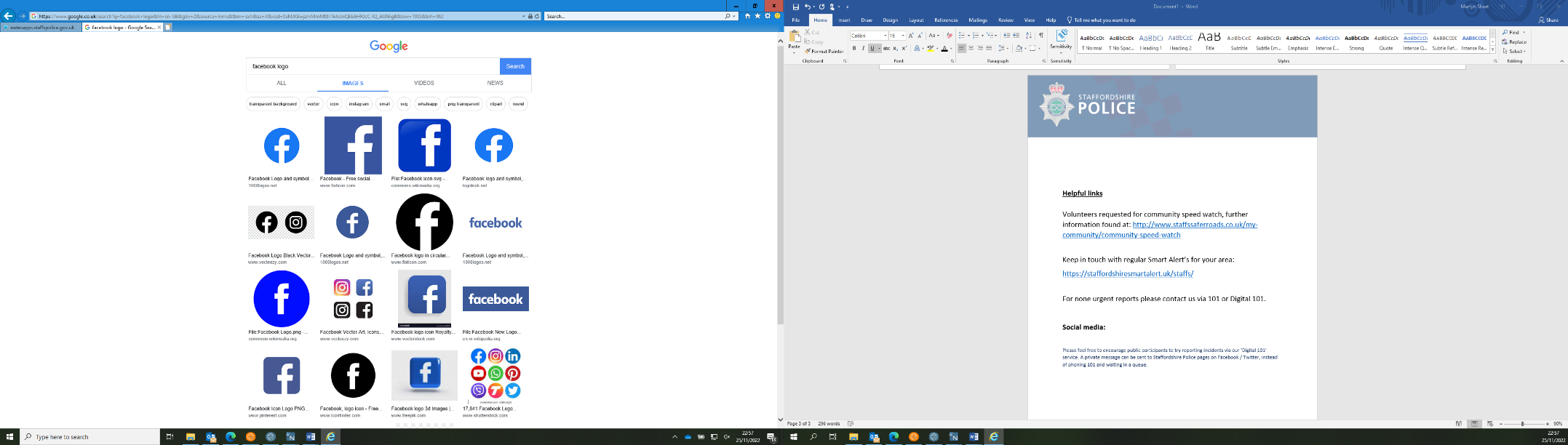
Volunteers requested for community speed watch, further information found at:

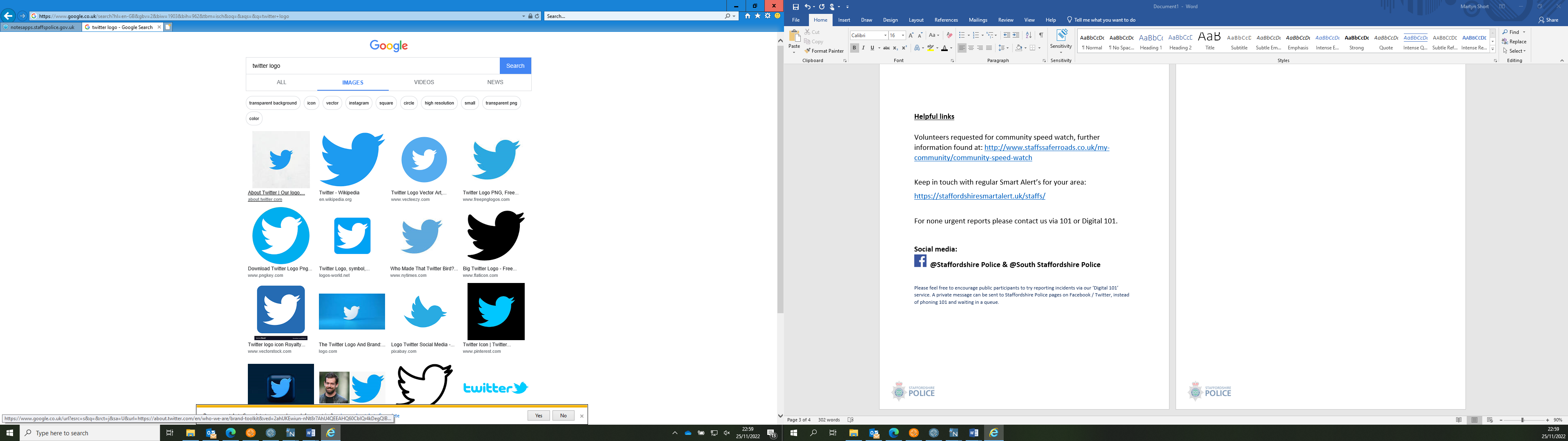
<http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch>

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 :-

* Wall Collapse:  The work is now progressing with a new contractor after the owner was let down by the contractor he had initially employed. There are now two parallel walls built with concrete between them and drainage channels built in at pavement level. Original sandstone blocks have yet to be replaced. There appears to be no attempt by the owners of the Care Home to prevent the flash flood recurring.
* ‘For Sale’ notices for Baggeridge Village: There are still three notices at the junction with Gospel End Road.
* Glamping at Himley Hall:    SSDC Officers still making enquiries.
* Rumble Strip pothole:  This was due to be repaired on 23rd February. The crew were seen nearby at 10.15am that day. Unfortunately, a car was parked directly opposite the pothole, so the crew left, presumably because they would have had to close the road.
* Pavement alongside the Playing Field:  The problem is with detritus from the hedge, not the pavement and this is therefore the responsibility of HPC.  We have had a quote of approx. £2,000 from SSDC to cut back the retaining bank and the verge but are concerned as to whether it will affect the health of the hedge in places where the bank is high. Enquiries are on-going. Approximately half the cost of the quote is for traffic lights. We will ask if cones along half the length of the hedge at any one time will suffice.
* Playing Field Hedge: Cllr Crisp had inspected the hedge following the February meeting and found that it had only been cut on the road side. The Clerk reported it to SSDC and was told that the ground had been too wet for the tractor to go on the field and cannot be cut now as it is bird nesting season.
* Following Cllr Lees informing the Conservation Officer about a Himley Hall Greenhouse Heater: Cllr Nock informed the Senior Conservation Officer that what was thought to be a heater in the old greenhouses is probably a heating pit. We had also been told about another old part of the Kitchen Garden. The Conservation Officer intends to contact the retired Chief Warden at Himley Park who knows the Park best.
* SIDS:  We decided and will inform SSDC that we will purchase one SID and 2 posts for Himley and 2 posts for Gospel End, with the SID to be moved regularly around the posts.  If the SID does reduce speeds, we could purchase another one.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

* 24/00124/FULM  - Land at School Road, Erection of 10 affordable dwellings with associated work and access. Val 23.02.24, consult to 04.04.24, deadline 24.05.24, C.O. Laura Moon.   HPC objected
* 24/00166/FULHH - 27 Chalmers Road. Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and dormer windows to front elevations. Val 16.02.24, consult to 21.03.24, deadline 12.04.24, C.O. Laura Moon. HPC objected on grounds of over-development.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :

* 24/00024/FUL - Railings and CCTV to improve security of the Himley Hall Sailing Club Boat Park, Himley Hall, Conservation Area. Val 24.01.24, consult to 18.02.24, deadline 24.03.24, C.O. Laura Moon. HPC supported this application.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 24/00102/FUL - Himley House Hotel.  External works, including external redecoration/painting; replacement of 5 no uPVC windows to annex; replacement of uPVC guttering, downpipes and hoppers with cast aluminium; replacement of 4 no. modern external doors; repairs to chimneys stacks and installation of 1 no. new cowl and fan; replacement of 9 no. modern windows; repair of 8 no. windows and installation of CCTV cameras and wi-fi points. Val 02.02.24, consult to 04.03.24, deadline 29.03.24. C.O. Laura Moon.

Approved with conditions 15.03.24.

* 24/00103/LBC - Himley House Hotel.  External works This is for Listed Building consent for the above. Val 02.02.24, consult to 04.03.24, deadline 29.03.24. C.O. Laura Moon. No comments online         Approved with conditions 15.03.24.

HIGHWAYS DATA:-

None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* Additional work by Street Scene Additional 2-man Crew this year:  Clerk responded immediately with A449 traffic island weeds, road sweeper through Himley village, pavement weeds in School Road, the cutting from Himley Lane to the by-pass, pavement from Himley House to the crossroads and to the Church, social housing site behind the notice board in Gospel End.
* Staffordshire County Council has secured a huge funding boost from central Government for local transport projects which will span a seven-year period. Staffordshire County Council has been allocated nearly £286 million from 2025/26 from the Government's Local Transport Fund.
* We are required by Council rules to keep advertising for the Cllr vacancy.
* Sink Hole in Gospel End:  A large deep hole appeared in the grass verge on Gospel End Road and was reported to Highways on 7th and 12th February. It has not yet been inspected.
* Seen in press – SCC have programmed for 2024/25 major structural maintenance projects:  Wolverhampton Road, Himley, £860,000 and on the reserve list for 2025/26 to 2026/27 is Himley, Stourbridge Road Junction £1,200,000
* Cllrs have all been sent details of Code of Conduct training which they all need to attend – they were asked to respond to the email sent regarding this if they haven’t done so already.
* The clerk advised that Derek Walker had agreed to sign off the annual accounts when these have been prepared.
* Notification was received from SSC that the Wombourne Recycling Centre was shut as it was not safe for the public to use. Residents are being encouraged to take their rubbish to Bilbrook Household Waste Recycling Centre.
* The clerk advised that she had sent updated Cllr details and the Disclosable Percuniary Interest documents to SCC for this information to be updated on the SCC website if necessary
* The standards and resources committee meeting to be held on 28/3/2024 has been cancelled.
* Posters regarding the Police Fire & Crime Commissioner elections were distributed for the notice boards.
* There is a vacancy for one Councillor on Himley Parish Council - please contact the clerk or any Councillor if you would like to find out more about this.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* Online payment SSDC – grounds maintenance Q2 2023/24 £96.53
* Online payment SSDC – grounds maintenance Q3 2023/24 £41.20
* Online payment S Farley wages - £556.00
* Online payment HMRC clerk’s tax - £139.00

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 17th April 2024**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.50pm