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

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

 **PRESENT COUNCILLORS: CLLR R LEES**

 **APOLOGIES:- CLLR S OLIVER**

 **NOT PRESENT:- CCLLR V WILSON**

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

 **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:- NONE**

**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 :-**

* SIDS:   No invoice had been received to begin payment for a battery SID. Clerk to ask for invoice for a SID with Solar panel to be fitted to the post in Gospel End Road opposite The Firs.
* Cllr Vacancy:  Cllr Nock to prepare a message to circulate to residents via email and on notice boards, explaining how serious our situation is, having only three elderly Cllrs.
* Playing Field:  A new schedule has been agreed with Street Scene who estimate we need 4 extra Rough Grass Cuts during the year to satisfy residents who have been complaining about the state of the ground; these extra cuts will cost an extra £480 per year; this will be trialled for one year.  There will also be general price increases from Street Scene, as they have not been increased for years.
* Sink Hole in Gospel End: The position of one of the sink holes is now visible as weeds on the verge have been cut or died down. Cables to the traffic lights are now visible too. Cllr Nock to report to the Community Highway Manager at Cannock and South Staffs Districts.
* Dudley Fireworks:   Overall, management of the event improved this year, maybe due to fewer tickets being sold and drier weather. Attendance at the event by SSDC Environmental Health team kept the noise levels lower.
* The Summit Meeting 14th November: Cllr Oliver attended.
* Date change for December Meeting: Meeting will be a week earlier than usual on 11th December at 7.30pm
* Rough Sleeping Survey: Cllr Nock completed the yearly survey and reported - None known.
* No Parish crime report received.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-**

* 24/00875/FULHH   20 Penn Road, Side infill extension. Val 16.10.24, consult to 10.11.24, deadline 11.12.24, C.O. Caitlin Harper. No objections.
* 24/00892/FUL    Himley Hall Sailing Club, Himley Hall. Replacement administration building for the Himley Hall Sailing Club which was destroyed by fire. Val 12.11.24, consult to 07.12.24, C.O. Laura Moon and Ed Higgins who are happy with outline plans and location and recommend paint colour RAL 6012.  No objections.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION -**None

**PLANNING DECISIONS**

* 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. Decided 25.10.24.  There is no Preservation Order on this tree and works specified may be carried out.
* 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.  25.10.24. Decided 25.10.24.  There is no Preservation Order on this tree and works specified may be carried out.

**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

**LICENCE APPLICATION;-**

* Himley Hall and Park . Application for the grant of a new time-limited premises licence, Thursday 28th November 2024 to Monday 13th January 2025, for indoors and outside, for a Christmas Light Trail featuring a one-mile winding path along part of the Park from the Great Pool to woodland areas with background music.  Application received 23.10.24, Consult to 20.11.24. No objections.

**HIGHWAYS DATA:-** None

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

* We have again been asked by ‘Support Staffordshire’ if we will discuss a Housing Needs Survey in Himley to establish any housing needs within the Parish.  Clerk to reply that a comprehensive survey was carried out in Himley and Gospel End a year ago by a prospective housing developer which determined that there was very little need for more housing in Himley Parish.
* We will be notified of the taxbase for the 2025/26 financial year on or around Friday 6th December 2024*.*
* Police update : We received a message from Ch. Insp Tim Norbury, South Staffordshire LPT Commander showing improvements that have been made since he took over the position 10 months ago.

 He reported that these included :- Crime has reduced by 10%, ASB has reduced by 19%, Domestic violence has reduced by over 20%, Arrests have increased two fold. We have the highest number of engagement events recorded in the Force, Our Force contribution to problem solving has increased from 3% to 13% , Stop search has increased by 30% (second highest in Force) with a 60% outcome rate last month , Positive outcomes for criminal investigations have increased from 11.5% to 16% , Our File quality as assessed by the CPS is the highest of any local Policing team in Force ,Our victim care and investigation management is the highest of any local Policing team in Force ( it was near the lower end).The average time of a criminal investigation in South Staffs has reduced from 63 days to 13 days (whilst increasing outcomes and the quality of investigations. Our outcome rate for Burglary is the highest in the Force

* Staffs Parish Councils Association:  We have been invited to join the organisation with a Membership costing £332.75/year. We declined.
* Cllr Oliver had reported that there was still a mess around the western Gospel End flats with a resident still complaining. Cllr Lees to check with Street Scene as this was on their ‘to do’ list. She also had checked the Gospel End defibrillator.
* The virtual Locality Forum will be held on Thursday 28th November – Cllr Nock will attend.
* The next localities meeting is to be held on Thursday 27th February 2025 at 10am.
* We were notified by the District Council that the 4 Councillor vacancies were not called for election and that we can co-opt these.
* Bank statement provided for information.
* There will be a Casual Vacancy refresh course held via TEAMS on Thursday 23rd January 2025 at 6pm to provide information on the processes and procedures for Parish Casual Vacancies.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:** None

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 11th December 2024**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.10pm

**As there was no quorum at this meeting, the minutes will be held until the next meeting in December to be confirmed.**

**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