**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 15th JANUARY 2025 at 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: CLLR S OLIVER, CCLR V WILSON,**

**APOLOGIES:- CLLR R LEES, MRS S FARLEY,**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:- MR R PAINTER, MR G BOWEN, MR S BROWNE**

**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: - One SID has been ordered but there is a delay in availability.
* Sink Hole on verge of Gospel End Road: Staffs CC have insisted there are no safety issues. C Cllr Wilson will contact County officers.
* HPC Cllr vacancies   There are four vacancies, two prospective Cllrs attended the meeting and following the meeting, agreed to be co-opted as Cllrs.
* Gospel End Flats area:  The clerk had asked the owners to make the area tidier after a tree trunk had been removed because it had pushed a wall out of upright, leaning onto a neighbour’s drive, which resulted in the wall being rebuilt.  However, the area was not made good and there is also detritus from trees and overgrown weeds on other areas of the car park. Homes Plus need Flat numbers and photos.
* Playing Field:  Hedge: Cadent have completed their work, clerk to ask SSDC if the hedge could now be cut.
* We are to enquire if swings, picnic tables/seats and benches could be cleaned with a jet-wash
* Bench Offer – We are awaiting an update regarding this.
* New Schedule for grass cutting and hedge. A. Aston has confirmed an additional cut for 2024-25
* Himley Notice Board:  Clerk has received no reply from previous supplier but SSDC offers help with payment and has sent a link to order one which Clerk will follow up.
* Precept to be requested: Clerk to ask for ‘no increase on last year’
* Council Chamber Room Hire:   Invoice has been received for the year.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-** None

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION**

* 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.

**PLANNING DECISIONS**  -

* 24/00892/FUL     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. No objections. Approved with conditions 23.12.24
* 24/00987/COU    Sandiacre Farm Shop and Nurseries, Himley Lane. Permission is sought for the use of the site as a Class E(a) use - garden centre. Val 21.11.24, consult to 16.15.24, Deadline 15.01.25   C.O. Laura Moon.   No Objections.   Approved with conditions 09.01.25

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

* HPC has again been asked to join the Best Kept Village and Community competition. Unfortunately, we cannot enter without several volunteers prepared to spend 2-3 hours a week litter picking, removing weeds, sweeping and generally tidying the village.
* Defibrillators: Ex Cllr Don Close checked and updated both defibs on 12th December. He is happy to continue this job at The Limes but Cllr Oliver will take over checking The Summerhouse with the clerk being the internet contact.
* Trees:  We were offered free tree cuttings by SSDC but these were only 6-inch saplings. Decisions are needed.
* Parish Summit: 6th February 9am – 2pm at Codsall; This has been cancelled.
* Locality Meeting:  Thurs 27th Feb 10am – noon, at Codsall room Ground floor 04. Chair and clerk only invited; Cllr Nock will try to be there. Clerk unable to attend as she works on Thursday’s and is also on holiday.
* Tree in field off Plantation Lane:   It has been reported by The Limes Committee that a lime tree in the field near the large apartment block and houses in School Road has a large area of bark on one side of the base missing, appears to be rotten and is leaning; residents are concerned that the tree may fall on buildings. Clerk to inform the owners and point out their responsibilities with the tree which has a TPO.
* Fir Street  - Residents are complaining that they are having trouble with cars going to Baggeridge Country Park parking in the private road and blocking their access.
* Highways Planning Meeting - Ask the Officers. Confirmed, is a venue of Lower Penn Victory Hall, Greyhound Lane, Lower Penn WV4 4UN, Monday 27th January, 7pm. Anyone can attend. C Cllr Wilson explained that this will be a question-and-answer session about County’s handling of items such as not getting involved in planning applications or any other Highways matter. Also, County’s ‘Report it’ system, as part of the Highways Transformation Programme, is launching a brand-new Report It system on Tuesday 14 January 2025. This system is the result of a £500,000 investment into new technology, which will greatly streamline the system and make it easier for residents in Staffordshire to report issues on Staffordshire’s highways. This work is a really important component in our ongoing work to improve customer satisfaction and to repair more roads.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

* 000036 – Swindon Community Association - Council chambers usage for 2024 £110.00
* 000037 -South Staffs Council – grounds maintenance £121.31
* 000038 – Y P Nock - Website annual fees – a personal online payment to Chipmonk Computers to be made by Cllr Nock £85.00

**All above cheques were written and held for authorisation at the February meeting**

Meeting closed at 8.20pm

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 19th February 2025**

**PLEASE NOTE THE DATE OF THE MARCH MEETING MAY CHANGE FROM 19th MARCH AS THE CLERK IS UNAVAILABLE. NEW DATE TO BE ADVISED ASAP**

**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)