**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 16th APRIL 2025 at 7.30PM**

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

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

 **APOLOGIES:- CLLR G BOWEN, CCLR V WILSON, MR S BROWNE**

 **OTHERS:- MRS S FARLEY (CLERK), MR T RICHARDS**

 **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 :-**

* Gospel End Flats: The Clerk has contacted Homes Plus grounds department asking them to look at this area, tidy and replant. They have advised that this will be looked into and they will report back. A tidy-up is still scheduled by SSDC Street Scene.
* Lime Tree in field off Plantation Lane: There have been no developments on this scenario. Clerk to contact the owners again and ask for an update.
* New Himley Notice Board: This has been delivered; own legs and name plate were attached on arrival.
* SIDS: We had paid for a battery SID but were now debating whether to have a solar one instead with no batteries to charge. Unfortunately, the solar type is difficult to be moved around and needs stronger posts. It was decided to trial the use of a battery SID in Bridgnorth Road, Himley, as Gospel End already has one SID in situ, and to install the SID in School Road would cost about £1500 more than in Bridgnorth Road because of traffic management required during installation.  Cllr Nock to supply suggested sites for SID positions to contractor for the battery SID posts to be installed in Himley.
* Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association (SPCA): At the March HPC meeting, HPC rejected the invitation to join this organisation but later, two Cllrs thought it best policy to try the offer of one year’s free membership. Application form to be completed and returned to SPCA once Cllr Bowen has reviewed the Constitution and reported that this is acceptable to the Parish Council.
* Large area of broken up tarmac on Gospel End Road next to Traffic lights had been reported to SCC. Report no. 34935, 16.04.25

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-** None

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION -**

* 25/00118/FULHH   Rose Cottage, Plantation Lane. Single storey rear extension and two storey front extension. Val 14.02.25, consult to 14.03.25, deadline 11.04.25, C.O. Caitlin Harper. No Objections.
* 24/01056/FULM   Land at Park Farm, Himley, (rear of Himley Hall). The temporary development (40 years) of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with ancillary infrastructure to provide balancing services to the electricity grid. Val 29.01.25, consult to 08.03.25, deadline 30.04.25, C.O. Imogen Hopkin.   HPC objected
* 25/00210/TREE Himley House Hotel, Himley Village and Parkland Conservation Area.  Tree works to T9, T10, G1, G2, G3, T12, T14, T15, T16 and T17 as described on application form. Val 05.03.25, consult to 19.03.25, deadline 16.04.25, Case Officer Gavin Pearce.

**PLANNING DECISIONS**  - None

**LICENCE APPLICATION :-**

 An application for the grant of a new time limited premises licence for the grounds of Himley Hall by Word of Mouth Events Ltd. with both a start and finish date of the 2nd August 2025 for the following licensable activities and times: Live Music; Recorded Music; Performance of Dance; Anything similar to Live Music, Recorded music and Performance of Dance ; 12 Noon to 9pm. Sale of Alcohol (on sales) 12 Noon to 9pm, Opening and closing times 12 Noon to 9pm.   NB This is the same applicant, event, hours etc as in 2024. Clerk to report: HPC has no objections as the event did not lead to complaints last year.

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

* Hedge in Bridgnorth Road:  A section of hedge which fronts a service road was removed by a resident who wanted direct access from their property to Bridgnorth Road. They applied to SCC for a dropped kerb but were refused as part of the service road is owned by Homes Plus who refused permission. The proposed access is therefore not used.
* Clerk: During April, Cllrs discuss salary; inflation, extra work involved and clerk will now have to attend ‘clerk meetings’ monthly – this will be discussed and reported at the next Parish Council meeting in May.
* Mr T Richards attended the meeting, and he was formally approved as a Parish Councillor.
* Defib at Summer House – this is now being inspected by Cllr S Oliver on a monthly basis and The Circuit register has now been updated with the Himley Parish Council email address for the Clerk to provide updates.
* Bank- the clerk is in the process of changing the signatures on the HPC account.
* Wood Chip – The District Council advised that they had got a surplus of wood chip if Parishes had any use for this.
* The Clerk confirmed that she is preparing the annual audit return and has spoken to Mr Derek Walker who has agreed to undertake the independent financial checks
* Clerk to report road problem in Himley Lane near Woodlands.
* Clerk to enquire about the bus shelters that Wombourne Parish Council have recently had installed in Wombourne village for Himley to obtain a quote to replace the bus shelter on the A449
* Next meeting to include Parish and Annual meetings
* Clerk is to attend an online call with Forvis Mazars for them to explain updates and changes to the Annual Audit AGAR documents on Thursday 17th April @11.30am
* Clerk confirmed that the grant for the noticeboard of £825 had been received into the bank account.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT:**

* Online payment – Zurich Insurance - £526.00

Meeting closed at 20.43

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7.30pm**

**COUNCILLOR VACANCIES**

There are 2 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