**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 18th JUNE 2025 at 7.30PM**

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

 **PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S OLIVER, MR T RICHARDS, CCLR V WILSON**

 **APOLOGIES:- MR R LEES**

 **OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK, MR R PAINTER**

 **NOT PRESENT :- MR G BOWEN**

**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:-**

* Mr Steve Brown has decided not to become a Cllr at the moment due to current work, time and distance restrictions, but may in the future.
* Gospel End flats: A man had been sent to clean up by Homes Plus, he was doing a very good job but not yet finished. There was still a lot of rubbish including kitchen appliances by the garages.
* Lime tree in field off Pl Lane: No further steps noted.
* New Notice Board: We have encountered a problem with the locking mechanism which seems to have corrected itself.
* SID: We received the quote for erecting the SID and authorised the purchase.
* Staffs Parish Councils Association: Since our May meeting, we have received the May Bulletin,  a welcome to SPCA together with the Constitution and details of how to join NALC (National Association of Local Councils), the Healthy workplace Update invited us to a webinar focusing on Digestive health and work productivity delivered in partnership with Westfield Health,  were invited to join the online Q & A re Local Government Reorganisation, were offered degree courses for Cllrs and clerks in how to collaborate and make decisions for the betterment of the community, were offered an online course on the planning system and invited to a Climate Policy Impact Simulator Workshop, the June Bulletin, a 128 page explanation from the NALC on local councils and an invite to an online session Explore Chairmanship on June 26th.
* Broken tarmac next to Gospel End traffic lights: We are awaiting photos of the faults.
* Defibrillators: Old pads reaching use-by dates soon, 29.05.25, will be replaced by new pads (Nov 2027) received. A replacement battery for The Summerhouse defib together with both sets of pads were kindly delivered by a volunteer.
* Bank: Signatories have been changed and another is to be changed.
* Annual Audit 2025:  The clerk produced copies of the 2024–2025-year accounts which has been audited by a local person and will now be sent to the official auditor.
* The Independent auditor has advised that he will no longer be able to complete this for HPC. Enquiries are to be made by Clr T Richards to see if there is anyone agreeable to complete this in future.
* Thanks were recorded for all of Mr D Walker’s time spent over the years completing the Annual Audit checks and the Clerk is to purchase a voucher to show our thanks to him.
* Bus Shelter opposite The Dudley Arms:  This will now be ordered. Although a wooden shelter would be more in keeping with The Conservation Area, Cllrs approved a more modern shelter which being open at ground level and the inside openly visible to passers’ by, will help to prevent inappropriate use which has been rife. All aspects of the shelter conform with rules regarding The Conservation Area. We were advised by a District Officer to ask the villagers if they objected to a modern shelter in a Conservation Area. A notice was placed in Himley village notice board and emailed to residents on the Chair’s email list. One objection was received.
* Playing Field: Following a report about a matting section lifting, the mats under the swings were inspected and a small part removed. Most of the matting now needs to be replaced.
* Another fault found was that the drop-bolt hole between the single and drive-in gate had filled with soil, a regular occurrence, and a hole had been made about 1200mm in towards the play area.  This causes the walk-in gate to not close properly and needs to be rectified.
* Street Scene The list of jobs has not yet been completed.
* A community group contacted the Clerk to enquire about grant funding. She sent details of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund schemes currently open.

**POLICE REPORT –** after many months without these being reported we received this report. CClr Wilson advised that these figures will now be provided monthly following feedback from the PCSO’s to the new Police Chief Inspector

**South Staffordshire Police: Crime and Anti-social behaviour report**

**Report for: Himley Date range: 21/05/2025 - 16/06/2025 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.

**Robbery:**

* At approx. 0000hrs 01/06, a group of males have approached another group of males who were night fishing at HIMLEY HALL AND PARK. The group approaching the males fishing have then demanded items from them. The group fishing fled the scene in fear leaving their items behind. Upon returning, they found items such as shoes and a wellington boot have been stolen. Extensive area search conducted however offenders were not located.

**Burglary (residential):**

* None

**Burglary (Business):**

* At approx. 0200hrs 17/06, offenders have gained access to the Cricket Club on WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD. Offenders have broken a window and forced a shutter door in order to gain entry. Trophies were stolen from within. CCTV obtained and Forensic Officers attended – *Investigation ongoing*

**Vehicle Crime**

* Between 1320hrs-1400hrs on 02/06, offenders have gained access to a van parked at a Nursing Home on SCHOOL ROAD, by damaging the door lock. They have stolen a bag from within containing personal items – *investigation ongoing.*

**Anti-social behaviour**

**3 x reports in total – 1 report of note:**

* 1 x call re off road bikes along the RAILWAY WALK

With thanks from your local officers,

**PCSO Paula WILKES** (06635)
Email: paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk

**PCSO Alexandra RATHBONE** (23938)
Email: alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk

**PCSO Julia WELLS** (16814)
Email: julia.wells@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**

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-** None

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :-**

* 25/00315/FULHH   24 Lydiate Hill Road, Rear extension, single storey including glass balustrade to enable walk on roof and front porch. Val 30.03.25, consult to 09.06.25, deadline 06.07.25, C.O. Matthey Hurley.   HPC has no objection as long as the extension/balustrading does not overlook neighbours’ properties.
* 24/01056/FULM   Land at Park Farm, Himley, (rear of Himley Hall). The temporary development 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.

**PLANNING DECISIONS :-** None

**LICENSE APPLICATIONS :-**

* Shazam Productions Ltd has applied for a Time Limited Premises licence for Himley Hall Park Word of Mouth Event on Saturday 2nd August, 2025 for the sale of alcohol (On Sales) and live and recorded music outside 12 noon to 10pm. Opening times 12 noon to 10.30pm.  Last representations 9th July. Country Get Together Live is a family friendly country music event

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

* We received a copy of the Bilbrook Neighbourhood Plan 22nd May
* Changes to bus service through Himley village: The number 15A Sunday service was withdrawn at the beginning of June together with the number 15 only operating between Merry Hill shopping Centre and Wombourne; there is now no direct service to Wolverhampton. The evening service has been curtailed; the last buses to operate through Himley village Mon-Fri and Saturday are just after 8pm. Following complaints from residents, County Cllr Wilson and a resident decided to deliver notices to houses and the notice was put in the village notice board, asking anyone who objected to the new service to contact C Cllr Wilson so that she could try to improve it.
* We have a new Police Ch Insp, Al Lyford with deputy Inspector Nicola Brookes. He reports: Although overall crime has seen an increase of 4%, South Staffordshire has seen some excellent results when comparing figures over the last 12 months. Reductions have been recorded in burglary of residential properties by 9%, less serious violence by 6%, theft of motor vehicle by 23%, theft from motor vehicle by 20% and anti-social behaviour by 3%.  Due to targeted operations and pro-active policing, including stop and search, drug offences and knife offences have increased by 63% and 37% respectively which is due to the presence of drugs and weapons on some of those who were searched in the district.
* At last, The Rumble Strip in School Road has been improved by the new patching method together with other tarmac holes through Himley village being filled in.
* The family of a longstanding Himley resident of Bridgnorth Road, Arthur Holden and his second wife Ivy who died in Edinburgh last week, have asked for permission to scatter wild flower seeds in their memory. The clerk to make enquiries.
* Cllr Oliver had attended a meeting which included details of the up-coming reorganisation of Councils which will entail much more work for Parish Councils.
* Cllr Bowen has been asked if we could have ‘Speed limit stickers’ for Wheelie Bins. Clerk has requested 500 stickers (2 per Household) from Staffs Safer Roads Partnership for houses in School Road and Bridgnorth Road.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -**

* Online payment authorised at the meeting by Cllrs –
* S Farley -Defibrillator pads and battery £380.40
* S Farley – salary £680.00
* HMRC – Clerk tax £170.00
* Bank charges £5.25

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 16TH JULY 2025**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.00pm

**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 these – himleyparishcouncil@gmail.com