

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd June 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. M. Shelley (Vice Chairman) and Cllr. A. Stringer. Cllr. H. Woodward joined the meeting at 8.00pm. There were no members of the press or public present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. A Harp.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed. Cllr. Clark thanked the Parish Clerk for the continuing accuracy of the minutes; this is not always an easy task.
4. **Matters arising.** Cllr. Clark repeated that he intends to stand down as Chairman next year but will stay on the Parish Council until the next Parish elections. If anybody in the village should express an interest in becoming a parish councillor Cllr. Clark would be willing to resign from the parish council before the elections.

There is still a need for a publicity coordinator for the village, as Hilderstone is missing out on some valuable press coverage in the Stone Gazette and other local publications . It was agreed that this position might suit a young person studying media, marketing or business and looking for some experience in this field. The Clerk will put another notice in the next Parish Magazine to this effect.

The clerk was asked to obtain information on how to nominate local volunteers for the Pride in Your Patch Award run by Stafford Borough Council. There are two people who particularly stand out as very dedicated in keeping the village tidy. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.

5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.
7. **Planning.** No new applications in June.

Status of Earlier Applications:

16/24158/FUL Hammond Autos, Hilderstone Garage, Hall Lane, Hilderstone. Erection of a New Vehicle Storage Unit. **Awaiting Decision.**

Notification has been received from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council that Draycott in the Moors Parish Council intends to prepare a Neighbourhood Development Plan. This plan would cover Cresswell Village. As the boundary for Draycott Parish Council meets with the boundary for Hilderstone, it was agreed that it might be worth keeping abreast of what is proposed in the plan. The Villagers Voices Staffordshire Moorlands group still intends to mount a legal challenge against the approval of the development in Creswell; they are still some way off raising the necessary funds to cover the legal cost.

The Bird in Hand building work is continuing at a steady pace. The Parish Council understands that the builder's target date for completion is currently Christmas 2016.

8. **Traffic and Highways.** The Parish Council has been notified that a section of Dingle Lane near to the junction with Sandon Road was not top dressed because the engineers deemed that it was "inappropriate treatment that would scrub off due to the tight radii and steep gradient" in that area. The section is earmarked for some patching of the broken areas of tarmac/potholes and Highways have said that this will be done as "part of a programme of similar works in the area". At the moment there is no indication as to when this might be.

The Clerk has received notification that the Minor Highways Works Agreement with the Parish Council has been renewed for 2016-17 at the same level as last year (£660.40). The Parish Council has been informed that this allocation might be reduced in the next financial year.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies reported that the Rights of Way team appeared to have installed a new gate/stile on the footpath near to Church Farm. Cllr. Clark said that the full Hilderstone Walkway route is not being used by as many local residents as he would like. He will put an article in the next Parish magazine about this to try and encourage more people to get out walking around the village.

The verges near to the Cotwalton Road/Hilderstone road junction need strimming. Cllr Woodward said that she would arrange for somebody to do this. There are also two more tree branches which need removing in this area. Cllr. Clark will liaise with the tree surgeon about this. Cllr. Clark has submitted the request to prune the willow tree on the village green to the Borough Tree Officer. A firm quotation from the tree surgeon will be obtained once permission has been granted. Two of the new hawthorn trees on Roebuck Bank have died, but the tree surgeon has said he will replace these free of charge.

The Best Kept Village Competition judges carried out their second visit on 14th June when overall the village was looking very tidy. It was agreed that the Eastholme area of the village is a credit to its residents who have clearly worked very hard to maintain their area of the village to a high standard. Many visitors to the village during the Scarecrow weekend also commented on how lovely the village looked.

Unfortunately dog fouling is a problem again particularly on the pavements on Roebuck Hill and between The Meadows and junction with Sandon Road. The clerk will put a reminder in the next Parish Magazine that it is an offence to leave dog mess.

10. Village Events The Scarecrow Weekend was a great success again with approximately 350 people viewing the scarecrow and U3A art displays. A record £750.00 profit was raised from the event which will go to the Church funds. The Scarecrow Cafe alone raised £450.00 of the proceeds. The Parish Council extends particular thanks to Christine Clark the event organiser and to Simon and Andrew who ran the Scarecrow Cafe. Thanks also to all the other volunteers who helped with the weekend and to the competition judges. Many very complimentary comments were received from visitors to the village about what an excellent event this is.

The next major event in the village is the **Summer Fair on Saturday 16th July**. Cllr Davies reported that more stalls and events are still needed. Cllr. Woodward offered to run an event stall. Cllr Crump confirmed that the Village Hall Committee will be running an evening disco following on from the Fair, with free food and a disco from 6.00pm.

Other forthcoming events are:

Film Night on Friday 5th August at 7.00pm in the village hall. Tickets are £5.00 each from the village hall booking secretary.

Jumble Sale on Saturday 3rd September from 2.00pm in the village hall. Donations of jumble gratefully received from 10.00am at the village hall. It was agreed that new signs to advertise the jumble sales were required. Cllr Crump offered to pay for the signs but it was agreed that the Parish Council would fund the cost, as the proceeds from these are donated to the Church and village Christmas party funds.

The Clerk reported that County Cllr. Parry has in principle, agreed to provide £200 of grant funding towards the cost of the coach for a village daytrip (subject to an application form being submitted). Cllr. Woodward agreed to look into possible destinations for the trip and also to establish coach costs. It is intended that the trip will take place in September or early October.

It is hoped that if this trip proves popular more can be organised, but with less of a subsidy to residents.

Cllr. Clark reported that there have been several complaints about the inability to access the notice boards outside the village hall to display community notices. The Parish Council notice board is kept locked to ensure that the statutory notices which must be displayed by law are not removed or covered up. Cllr. Crump explained that the white notice board belonging to the village hall is locked to prevent any damage from pins to it. Her contact details are clearly displayed on the board so that residents can easily contact her to display a notice. It was agreed that a reminder should be placed in the next Parish Magazine giving full contact details for Cllr. Crump.

11. Correspondence June 2016

- Request from Citizens Advice for a Donation for the Stone Office Refurbishment.
- Invitation from Stone Town Council to Civic Service and Parade.
- Members' Digest 221

Cllr. Clark had been contacted by a lady from Australia who is interested in any history about the Bird in Hand as she had relatives that had run the pub in the past. Cllr. Clark said he would pass on any information that anybody else can provide about the pub to her. Cllr. Shelley confirmed that members of the Shelley family had managed the pub for a total of 90 years.

12. Finance. The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £8279.81 in credit and the deposit account £3120.15 in credit. Although most of these funds are allocated as indicated by the monthly accounts which are circulated to all Councillors prior to each meeting. The following payments were approved:

1. Cllr. R Clark, Chairman's Allowance for 2016-17 - £347.00
2. Hilderstone PCC, Concurrent Funding for Churchyard Maintenance - £450.00
3. Hilderstone Village Hall Committee, Concurrent Funding for Insurance - £450.00
4. Mrs H. Howie, Stationery & Mileage Expenses - £33.44
5. Mr W. H. Holmes, Cost of Plants and Labour for Village boxes - £125.00
6. Staffordshire South West Citizens Advice Bureau, Donation - £25.00

13. Any Other Business. There has recently been a drone in the village taking photographs of property. Cllr. Clark was contacted by the owner of the drone, a company called First Energy who say that they have a licence to fly the drone and take photographs. The company owner asked Cllr. Clark if the Parish Council would be interested in acquiring any of the aerial photographs for Parish Council business (such as surveying, planning issues etc). The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that drone use is relatively new and the privacy issues needed to be investigated before that Parish Council used this type of photographic material.

Cllr. Stringer reported that there were 24 of the Queen's 90th Birthday booklets jointly purchased by the Church and Parish Council leftover. It was agreed that six of these should be donated to Green Lea School, Oak Tree Farm Project and Hilderstone Hall Care Home. The Church will decide where the remaining 12 will be donated.

Cllr. Woodward is now the Vice-Chairman of the Village Hall Committee.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th July at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 27.07.16