

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th January 2018 at 7.30p.m.

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

- 1. Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Shelley welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Harp.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
- 4. Matters Arising.** Mrs Hulse, who had observed the November meeting with a view to becoming a parish councillor had not been in touch with the Clerk. Another member of the public has contacted the Clerk about possibly becoming a parish councillor and will observe the February meeting.
- 5. Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
- 6. County Councillor's Report.** No report.
- 7. Planning.**

New Planning Applications January 2018:

17/27554/COU Land at Cresswell Road, Hilderstone (Stables). Change of Use of Land to Equine based Therapy & Learning Facilities. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections in principle to the change of use of land, but has the following concerns: the traffic hazard which may be caused by the additional vehicles accessing and exiting the site on Cresswell Road. Noise nuisance which might arise from the larger school groups for neighbouring properties. The lack of toilet and hand-washing facilities for service users. The lack of shelter for service users in the case of bad weather.**

17/27687/HOU Woodcutters, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone. Proposed two storey rear extensions and garage conversion. Previous application allowed. **Resolved: The Parish Council objects to the new extension plans on the same grounds as the previous application for this property. Namely that the extension will create an excessively large property which is not in character with a rural setting and the other small cottages in the area. The Parish Council is also against such large extensions to cottages, as it reduces the number of smaller properties available to buyers on lower incomes.**

17/26465/FUL Jesmonde, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Detached dormer bungalow to rear of Jesmonde. **APPEAL LODGED** ref: APP/Y3435/W/17/3190515.

Status of Earlier Applications:

17/27352/HOU Malthouse Croft, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Proposed utility room extension, new roof window to East elevation and alterations to existing forecourt. New application, as the Appeal for the previous application has been dismissed. **Allowed.**

17/27280/ful Stone Heath, Sharpley Heath Road, Hilderstone. Proposed agricultural vehicle shed. **Allowed.**

17/27068/HOU Stone Heath, Sharpley Heath Road, Hilderstone. Amended plans submitted. Variation of condition 2 on previous application. Alterations to internal first floor plan. **Allowed.**

8. Traffic and Highways. The Clerk has had no further communication about the Speed Indicator Device (SID) from Staffordshire County Council. The Clerk will ask Cllr. Parry to follow this up. The Police and Crime Commissioner has negotiated discounts of between 5 and 12 percent with suppliers of SIDs for those parish councils who are interested in bulk purchasing with other nearby parishes. This will require Parish Councils to liaise with each other on the purchase of the signs. SIDs purchased by parish councils will need to be approved by the Council Highways Department. Funding for the purchase of a SID by the Parish Council may be available from the Police and Crime Commissioners Road Safety Grant Fund.

A member of the public had contacted Cllr. Shelley about the 30mph flashing sign on Cresswell Road not working properly. The Clerk reported this to Highways in December but will ask Cllr. Parry to also look into whether a new sign can be installed if the existing one cannot be repaired.

Cllr. Davies reported that the Roebuck Landlord has recently installed posts and plastic tape around the pub car park in order to stop drivers who are not customers parking on it for several hours. It was agreed that the tape looked untidy and it is hoped that this will be replaced with something more attractive soon. As the car park is owned by Admiral and is private land the Parish Council has no control over the boundary treatment, but planning permission may be required as it is in the conservation area.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Stringer reported that the stile on the footpath off Whitesytch Lane is in need of repair. Cllr. Davies said he will inspect it as soon as possible and take the necessary action. The hedge around the Church has still to be cut, but it is still on the contractor's schedule.

It was agreed that Hilderstone should enter the Best Kept Village Competition again in 2018 as it is a good motivator in keeping the village tidy.

10. Village Events. Sadly the village Christmas Party had to be cancelled due to the bad weather and illness. The village Christmas concert was a success again and very well supported. Forthcoming events in 2018 are as follows:

Defibrillator Training, Friday 23rd February, 6.00pm at 69 High Street Stone. All Hilderstone residents are welcome to join. To book a place contact Jamie Richards, AED Donate 01785 472224 or email info@aeddonaate.org.uk

Bingo Night, Saturday 24th February, 7.30pm in Hilderstone Village Hall.

Film Night, March. Further details to be provided by the Village Hall Committee.

Jumble Sale, Saturday 7th April, 2.00pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Donations of jumble gratefully received at the Hall from 10.00am. All proceeds to the village Christmas Party and Church funds.

Elvis Tribute Act (Mark Clay), Friday 20th April in Hilderstone Village Hall. Tickets £15.00 each which includes a hog roast and dessert. All proceeds to The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. Tickets from Hazel Woodward 01889 505263 or Jenny Crump 01889 505674

Village Dinner Party, Saturday 12th May in Hilderstone Village Hall. Host a table with friends and neighbours. Further details from Joan Carr 07837 656723.

Film Night, May. Further details to be provided by the Village Hall Committee.

Scarecrow Weekend, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June in Hilderstone Village. Full details to follow.

Children's Activity Afternoon, Sunday 24th June, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Hilderstone Village Hall. Further details nearer the time.

Jumble Sale, Saturday 15th September, 2.00pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Donations of jumble gratefully received at the Hall from 10.00am. All proceeds to the village Christmas Party and Church funds.

Village Christmas Party, Tuesday 11th December, 7.00 for 7.30pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Further details to follow nearer the time.

11. Correspondence.

- **Members' Digest 238**

Members' Digest 237 (Cllr. Crump).

pp5.23-5.24. Application 17/2465/FUL proposed detached dormer bungalow on land to rear of Jesmonde, Sandon Road, Hilderstone, Stone, Staffordshire. Report of Head of Economic Development and Planning regarding this matter. The Development Manager reported two further representations received in respect of this application. Councillor F. Beatty addressed the Committee and explained her reason for calling it in:- Its location in a conservation area and green belt, neighbour concerned at being overlooked, concerns on design of the property etc. The Committee raised a number of issues:- Concern that the proposal was for a dormer bungalow, concern over location of proposed windows, etc. Decided to refuse the application on the grounds of adverse impact on the Conservation Area and additional harm to the openness of the green belt.

pp6.21-6.22. Businesses and organisations in Stone to pledge support to rid the area of litter. Launch took place on 12 October 2017 in Stone town centre. Nearly 200 people have been given on the spot fines for dropping litter in the streets of Stafford Borough. Most of the offences for dropping cigarette butts. Apparently it costs the Borough Council £1 million every year to keep it clean. (Fines £75 for dropping litter – 193 people involved).

12. Finance. The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £9274.04 in credit and the deposit account £3121.38 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. Mrs H . Howie, Clerk's Mileage & Telephone Costs - £10.18.
2. Mr W.H. Holmes, Village & Highways Maintenance - £143.75.

The Clerk had calculated that the Parish Council could possibly claim back Value Added Tax (VAT) in the region of £250 per annum, based on the current average non-business expenditure. As this is a relatively low amount, it may not be worth the additional administration time required in making quarterly VAT claims. If in the future, the Parish Council used a VAT registered contractor for village and highways maintenance, then it probably would be worth claiming. Hilderstone Parish Council does not undertake business activities above the current threshold of approximately £5,000 of turnover and is therefore not liable to pay VAT.

13. Any Other Business. It was agreed that the interviews for the Parish Clerk post need to take place in the first week of March 2018. The Clerk will circulate some dates after the meeting to establish councillor availability. The post has been advertised on the village notice boards, village website, via the Village Information Network and in the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association weekly bulletin. The Clerk has also requested that details of the vacancy be placed in the February edition of the Village Magazine. The current clerk will not be available to work for the Parish Council after 28th March 2018 meeting, so if the post is not filled before this date, contingency arrangements will need to be made.

Cllr. Crump raised the following issues:

- Several grass verges in and around the village are churned up. It was agreed to monitor the situation once the weather improves and the ground dries out. The Clerk will put a reminder in the next Parish Magazine that drivers should not park on the verges in the village.
- Cllr. Crump will proceed with obtaining quotations for a permanent 'Information Centre' sign for the telephone box.
- The Data Protection laws are changing. The Clerk confirmed that she is aware of this, but the new Clerk may have to deal with this issue.
- It was agreed that Cllr. Crump should not get involved in painting the railings at Lower Farm as they are private property and the owner's permission would need to be sought. It may also be necessary to check with the Conservation Officer as to what colour they should be painted, as the railings are listed.
- Several defibrillators around the County, including the one in Stone, have been vandalised recently.

It was also noted that there has been a spate of burglaries in the locality. Thefts involved mainly jewellery and money. The Clerk will remind residents in the next Parish Magazine to be vigilant and ensure that their property is secure.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.30p.m.

..... Cllr. M. Shelley, Chairman. 08.03.18

(N.B. meeting on 28th February was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions. The January minutes were approved at a short meeting held on 8th March 2018 after the interviews for the new Parish Clerk).