

## Hilderstone Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 7.30p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. R. Clark (Transitional Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Cllr. A. Harp, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. I. Parry, Cllr. M. Shelley (Transitional Vice-Chairman), Cllr. A. Stringer and Cllr. H. Woodward. There were no members of the press or public present.

It was agreed that Cllr. Clark should chair the May 2017 meeting as part of the transitioning arrangements to the new Chairman and Vice Chairman.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Harp and Cllr. Woodward .
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** A meeting about the future of the Roebuck organised by Phil Dale and Andy Reiss took place on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2017 in the village hall. Cllrs. Clark, Crump, Davies and Stringer had attended the meeting as residents. The meeting was well attended with 100 people in the hall. 320 letters had been sent out to residents. The asking price for the pub is £275,000. It is estimated that £100,000 would need to be spent improving the building. Admiral Taverns have received a couple of offers for the Roebuck but these are lower than the asking price and have not been accepted. Admiral is planning on having an open viewing day soon to try to sell the pub.

Mr Ian Bradford from Lymestone Breweries in Stone stated that the pub would need to turnover £6,000-7,000 per week in order to survive in the long-term. The other pubs which Mr Bradford runs generally turnover up to £8,000 per week, although he would not expect the Roebuck to achieve this level. Generally Friday nights are the busiest with Monday to Wednesday nights being poor. Local residents would need to be using the pub on a regular weekly basis to make it viable. Lymestone Breweries would recruit a professional landlord for the pub, who would be expected to work 60-70 hours per week. Mr Bradford is keen on the Roebuck as it is local to his brewery. The pub would be a free house and he would be willing to lease it for between one and three years depending on its success. The rent he envisages paying would be between £500 and £1,500 per month. Mr Bradford would only provide bar snacks but he would be happy for another group to provide full meals in the rooms at the back of the property. At the end of the meeting attendees were asked to express their interest to Phil Dale and Andy Reiss in taking the project further.

Other matters arising were reported under the relevant item.

5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.
7. **Planning.**

#### New Applications May 2017:

17/26011/HOU The Breadstores, Sandon Road. Retrospective application for children's play slide and raised timber platform to be re-sited to north west side of the garden away from the road. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to the new position of the play slide but would like the hedge reinstated in the gap on the corner of the garden next to the main road.**

17/26067/FUL The Breadstores, Sandon Road. Variation on Condition 6 of previous application 16/23570/LBC. Variation includes cavity drained tanking system to the below

ground walls and small detail changes to the timber frame sliding doors. Mainly technical detail. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to the variations.**

17/26236/HOU Meadow View, Sharpley Heath Road. Proposed alterations and extensions to existing detached dwelling and detached replacement garage/carport. This will change the property from a bungalow to a two storey house. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to the application as the proposal appears not to impact negatively on the neighbouring properties.**

It was noted that the recently installed dormer windows and works to construct a conservatory to the rear of a property on The Meadows are within the Permitted Development Rights and do not need planning permission. The property owners had sought prior advice from Development Control and had been advised that planning approval was not required.

#### **Status of Earlier Applications:**

16/24533/OUT Land at Uttoxeter Road, Uttoxeter Road, STONE. Outline application for development of residential housing site for 51 market houses and 34 social rented houses. This development is not in approved The Plan for Stafford Borough. **AWAITING DECISION. Application has been called-in and is still waiting to be allocated a Committee date.**

**8. Traffic and Highways.** The large tractor has been parking on the pavement and blocking the bus shelter at Eastholme again. The Clerk has asked Cllr. Parry to speak to the Local Policing Team about this ongoing issue. It was noted that the accident which blocked the M6 today had resulted in large volumes of traffic travelling through Hilderstone. Cllr. Clark said that it would appear that Hilderstone is the third main route going North, to avoid further jams on the A34 and through Stone town centre.

**9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village.** Cllr. Davies has contacted the Rights of Way Department about the width of Footpath Four next to Lower Farm field, but is awaiting a reply. Cllr. Davies had also obtained a price of £175 for a strimmer that he and other village volunteers can use on some of the public footpaths to keep them clear. It was agreed that one strimmer can be purchased as there is still £320 of ring-fenced grant funding in the budget for Rights of Way maintenance.

Cllr. Clark reported that the tree that had been replaced on Roebuck Bank has also died. Simon Down has confirmed that he will replace this free of charge, this time with a pot grown tree. The grass verge in front of Priory Cottage has been cut but there are still a lot of weeds along the rest of the boundary up to The School House. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners again asking them to remove the weeds.

The Best Kept Village judges have yet to visit the village. The road sweepers have been in the village in the last week at the request of the Clerk. The gate and fence panels in the play area still need repairing. Both these issues and the long grass in the play area have been reported to Streetscene at the Borough Council. Cllr. Crump reported that more posters for the Best Kept Village competition had been done by the pre-school class at Green Lea School. Cllr. Crump and Cllr. Shelley will present the certificates to the older Green Lea pupils in July.

**10. Village Events.** Cllr. Crump reported that the Village Hall Committee might apply for an alcohol licence so that the Pop up Pub can continue to run on a regular basis. The Red Lion can only have twelve off site licences per year so is limited in the number of times it can run a bar at Hilderstone. The licence would also be an additional facility for those renting the hall for social occasions.

#### **Forthcoming Events:**

Village Consultation Meeting on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Agenda to be based on the Chairman's Annual Report.

Pop up Pub Night on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2017 from 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Possibly with a Karaoke.

Barn Dance on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall in aid of the Community First Responders. Tickets £6.50 from Sue Pilcher.

Summer Fair on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 on the Lower Farm field or in the Village Hall in case of bad weather.

Charity Bingo Night in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Pay at the door.

Jumble Sale on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm in the Village Hall.

Village Trip to Adam Henson's Farm in the Cotswolds on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September, departing at 8.30am from the Village Hall. Tickets cost will be £8.50.

Barn Dance on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Village Christmas Concert on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. To be confirmed.

## **11. Correspondence.**

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**12. Finance.** The Parish Council annual insurance premium was due for payment. The Parish Council currently has a three year agreement with Aon UK Limited which expires on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018. The Clerk had reviewed the insurance cover provided by Aon and believes it still offers one of the best levels of cover for the Parish Council.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £9803.88 in credit and the deposit account £3120.96 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. Aon UK Limited, Parish Council Insurance Annual Premium - £246.33.
2. Mr A. James, Internal Financial Audit Fee for 2016-17 - £90.00.
3. Mr R. Clark, Chairman's Stationery & Printing Expenses for 2016-17 - £35.03.
4. Mrs H. Howie, Clerk's Expenses and Mileage Expenses - £43.12.
5. Mr W. H. Holmes, Bus Shelter Repairs & Village Maintenance - £253.50.

**13. Any Other Business.** It was noted that the old village hall chair frames that at currently in the car park at the rear of the hall will be removed soon. It is hoped these can be sold for scrap metal.

Cllr. Clark reported that Christ Church in Hilderstone is in a poor financial situation. Although the congregation has grown slightly, there is not enough money coming in to cover all the costs. Repairs to the building are not taking place and the Church is in danger of falling into disrepair.

**14. Date of next meeting.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

..... Cllr. M. Shelley, Chairman. 28.06.17