

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 7:30p.m.

Present: Cllr. Shelley (Chairman), Cllr. R. Clark, Cllr. Crump, Cllr. Stringer (Vice Chairman), Cllr. J Davies and Mrs Amanda Kingston (Clerk). There was one member of the public and no members of the press present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Shelley welcomed Councillors and the member of the public to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. P Davies, Stafford Borough Cllr. Harp
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** None
5. **Councillor Co-option.** Co-option to fill the vacant post on the Parish Council was discussed. **Resolved by unanimous vote to co-opt Jim Davies to the position of Councillor for Hilderstone Parish Council.** The declaration of acceptance of office was signed by Cllr. Jim Davies and witnessed by the Parish Clerk.
6. **Borough Councillor's Report.** Cllr. Harp was not in attendance to provide a report.
7. **County Councillor's Report.** Cllr. Parry was not in attendance to provide a report.
8. **Planning.** There were no new planning applications.

Status of Earlier Applications:

18/28657/FUL at Heathy Close Farm, Sharpley Heath Road, Hilderstone. The development is described as a proposed open plan agricultural building to house and feed livestock. **Awaiting Decision**

18/28490/HOU Netherfield, 7 Barnes Croft, Hilderstone, Staffordshire, ST15 8XU. Extension of double garage to form triple garage and new habitable room with toilet facilities on the first floor. **Planning refused.**

9. **Traffic and Highways.** No further developments. The speed camera van has been in the village. This may provide further evidence of the speed of traffic through the village.

10. **Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village.** Two quotes were considered for the verge maintenance work in the village. **Resolved to appoint Weston Grounds Maintenance to undertake the verge maintenance based on three visits per year.** Clerk to arrange a walk around with Weston Grounds Maintenance, Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Stringer.

Concerns were raised regarding an overgrown hedge in the village resulting in the need for pedestrians to walk in the road, and thus presenting a risk to safety. Clerk to write to the owner of the hedge and request it be cut back to the boundary of the property. Clerk to also specify that all cut vegetation must be removed and disposed of appropriately.

A discussion was held regarding a report from a local resident of rats in the village. This is not a matter for the Parish Council, but the Clerk will contact Stafford Borough Council Pest Control and pass on any advice and their contact details to the resident.

The invitation to attend the results of the Best Kept Village Competition was considered. It was agreed that no one from Hilderstone Parish Council will attend this year. Cllr. Shelley and

Cllr. Crump attended Green Lea First School earlier in the month to present the children with certificates for taking part in the poster competition.

11. Village Events. The village summer fete went well and is estimated to have raised in the region of £400.

Forthcoming Events:

Harvest Supper Monday 10th September, 7.00 for 7:30pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Further details to follow 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.

12. Correspondence.

- Stafford Borough Council Local plan consultation closes on Tuesday 18th September. Further details available at <https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/forward-planning-consultations>
- Local Councillor Training Course – SPCA 11th September 2018
- Battle of Britain Commemoration and Tactical Supply Wing parade
- Dougie Mac – request for donations letter. **Resolved to donate £30**
- Stafford and Rural Homes AGM Thursday 20th September 2018
- Email from a resident expressing concern regarding sheep entering their garden. This is not a matter for the Parish Council. Clerk to respond.
- Members' Digest 244

Members Digest 243 (Cllr. Crump). Warmer Homes Stafford

Loft and cavity wall insulation offers are reducing. Most grants for loft and cavity wall insulation are likely to cease in the next few months, although funding is expected to continue for low income households. Warmer Homes Stafford can undertake an assessment over the phone and put customers in touch with a trusted installer to complete the work.

Warm weather is a good time to give heating systems an overhaul. With Warmer Homes Stafford's Help to Heat scheme homeowners and private tenants on a low income with limited savings could get a grant without needing to be in receipt of benefits. Call 0800 677 1785 or email advice@mea.org.uk for more information.

13. Finance. The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £10484.40 in credit and the deposit account £3122.15 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. Mrs A Kingston, Clerk's Salary and expenses - £208.17
2. The Information Commissioner - £40
3. Douglass Macmillan Hospice - £30

The item relating to Clerks Salary and Terms and Conditions was closed to the public under the Public Bodies (Administration to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1.

The Clerk confirmed all duties as required by the Pensions Regulator have been completed.

The Clerk confirmed that registration with the Information Commissioner has been completed.

14. Any Other Business. Concern was raised regarding overgrown vegetation on footpath 14. Clerk to forward to Cllr. P Davies.

The Stone Parish Liaison Meeting will be attended by Cllr. J Davies. Recent discussions include looking for innovative solutions to meet the need for rural public transport and the influence of Parish Councils in planning decisions.

Cllr. J Davies informed the meeting the new Marks and Spencer Store in Stone is open.

The Church are proposing to mark the 100th anniversary of the First War with some life size silhouettes of soldiers to line the path into church. Cllr. Clark requested the Parish Council consider a contribution towards the cost of the silhouettes. Agreement was made in principle providing costs are low. Formal costings and the parish council contribution to be agreed at the next meeting.

15. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 August 2018 at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

..... Cllr. M. Shelley, Chairman. 22.08.18

Note:

Please note, this does not form part of the legal minutes.

Prior to the meeting the landlord of the Roebuck public house attended the meeting to update the Parish Council on current developments and plans for the Roebuck.

The landlord has been working with Stafford Borough Council Planning Department in relation to the works shoring up the bank.

The landlord is proposing to convert part of the pub into two flats providing low cost living accommodation in the village and making better use of some unused sections of the building.

He is also proposing to convert the back of the pub into a children's play area and the top of the embankment into a patio. He would very much like to provide a village shop on the premises, which would have similar opening hours to the pub.

The landlord asked that the Parish Council support his efforts and that if they have any concerns with his proposals they come discuss this with him in the first instance.