

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th October 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. M. Shelley (Vice Chairman), Cllr. A. Stringer and Cllr. H. Woodward. Kerry Ashdown, a reporter from the Staffordshire Newsletter. There were no members of the public present.

Before the meeting started Kerry Ashdown asked if the Parish Council had any village events or activities that could be reported in the Staffordshire Newsletter. Details of the recent village trip, village hall film nights and other forthcoming social events were given by Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Crump. Kerry Ashdown also asked if she could take photographs of these councillors and Cllr. Clark to be printed with the report.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors and Kerry Ashdown to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Davies and Cllr. Harp.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** These were reported under the relevant agenda headings.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** Cllr. Clark had been in contact with Cllr. Parry about the continuing road safety problems at the Hardiwick crossroads. There had been another accident at the crossroads since the last parish council meeting. Cllr. Woodward said that she felt the problems were being made worse by the road closures and works around Stafford and Sandon which are creating additional traffic on the roads around Hilderstone. It was agreed that the likelihood of a fatal or very serious accident at the crossroads is increasing. Cllr. Parry has responded by saying that the issues are 'in-hand' but he has yet to give any details on what action is being taken. A mini-roundabout at the crossroads has been suggested to Cllr. Parry as a possible solution. In addition to an increased volume of traffic, speeding drivers continue to be a problem. Many are driving through the village well in excess of the speed limit and some appear to be driving without due care and attention.

Cllr. Shelley reported that some major patching works have finally taken place on Hall Lane and the road is now in a good state of repair.

7. Planning.

New Applications October 2016:

16/24977/HOU Priory Cottage, Church Down, Hilderstone. Single storey rear extension with accommodation in the roof space, first floor extension over the garage, single storey orangery extension and associated internal alterations. **Resolved: The Parish Council objects to this application on the grounds of over-massing of the site, the detrimental impact on neighbouring properties and it being out-of character with the conservation area requirements.**

16/24907/FUL Ivy Cottage, Sharpley Heath Road, Hilderstone. Variation of condition 2 on application 13/19080/FUL. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

16/25047/FUL Bird in Hand, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone. Minor Variations on application 09/11677/FUL. Revised window pattern to improve the aesthetic appearance of the elevations. Dormer window numbers reduced to de-clutter eaves detailing to roof. Roof pitch reduced to

accommodate specified roof tile to address limitations of the site conditions of the existing building. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

Status of Earlier Applications:

16/24864/HOU Woodcutters, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone. Two-storey side extension, single storey rear extension and addition of ancillary living accommodation in new first floor over the detached garage. **AWAITING DECISION**

16/24837/HOU Vernon Cottage, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Revised two-storey rear extension (which is substantially smaller than the previous approved application). **AWAITING DECISION.**

16/24629/HOU Priory Cottage, Church Down, Hilderstone. Two storey rear extension, first floor extension over garage, single storey orangery extension and associated internal alterations. **WITHDRAWN AND NEW APPLICATION SUBMITTED.**

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.**

Cllr. Woodward expressed continued concern about the mature trees on Cresswell Road from Woodcutters cottage towards the village gateway. As there is currently no tree officer in post at the Borough Council the Clerk was asked to contact Planning to see what action can be taken to protect the trees in the longer term.

8. Traffic and Highways. Reported under item 6.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Apart from 7, The Meadows, Cllr. Davies has been notified that all the other hedges bordering footpath 14 from the infant play area will be cut within the next couple of weeks. Enforcement action with regards to these private hedges will be pursued by the Parish Council where applicable. A contractor has now been booked to cut the yew hedge at the Church. The willow tree on the village green has yet to be pruned. Bill Holmes is very busy working his way around the village clearing leaves, planting the flower boxes with winter bedding and tidying various areas of the village.

Cllr. Woodward had received a quotation of £240 to paint the phone box inside and out. This was accepted by the Parish Council as good value. As the phone box is listed, the correct heritage paint colour must be used. Cllr. Crump agreed to check the paint colour and the clerk will instruct the contractor accordingly.

Cllr. Clark reported that the churchyard issues are still ongoing and some information about which gravestones and floral tributes the Church will allow is to be published in the Parish magazine in due course.

10. Village Events. The village coach trip to Acton Scott working farm in Shropshire was a success with 37 people (mainly local residents) attending. It is hoped that more trips will take place in the future. Thanks go to County Cllr. Parry who supported the trip by providing a grant to subsidise the coach costs from his allocation of the Staffordshire Local Community Fund. The Parish Council had also made a donation towards the coach costs.

The last film night at the Village Hall showing 'What We Did on Our Holiday' was well attended again and three more nights are currently planned for 2017. The first one of the year will be on Friday 20th January 2017; film to be advised at a later date.

Other Forthcoming Events:

Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 13th December at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the village hall.

Village Christmas Concert on Saturday 17th December at 7.00pm in the village hall.

A retirement party was held on 21st October 2016 for Reverend Peter Dakin at Hilderstone Village Hall. The village hall was full, but most of those that attended were from Fulford village. Cllr. Clark reported that there were 19 people at the Hilderstone Christ Church service on Sunday which is higher than normal and encouraging.

11. Correspondence Received October 2016

- NALC letter re: Enquiry into Parks.
- Members' Digest 225

Members' Digest 224 (Cllr. Crump) – Stafford Borough Council remains committed to stopping inconsiderate dog owners and has paid a £75 reward for helping to catch a guilty owner. The reward went to a community worker from the Western Downs area who provided information to help identify the offender. Apparently the helpful resident also cleaned up the mess himself. The resident, who didn't want to be named said "I'm glad the person has been caught... This is where I live and I don't like to see people getting away with not clearing up dog mess. I would encourage others to come forward with information to help the council stop dog owners leaving their mess."

12. Finance. The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £4779 in credit and the deposit account £3120 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 payment was approved:

1. Mrs H Howie, Clerk's Expenses - £59.23.

It was noted that cheque number 000787 made payable to OVH Limited and approved in September, had been cancelled as it had gone missing in the post

The draft Parish Council budget and precept request for 2017-2018 was considered. The clerk had prepared the budget and precept to show a 2%, 2.5% and 3% increase. It was agreed that the Parish Council needed to be mindful of the current economic forecast of rising inflation and also further cuts in government funding to the Borough and County Councils. These funding cuts may result in the Parish Council having to deliver more services, especially those relating to village maintenance. The village bus shelters are likely to need some significant maintenance next year and this also needed to be factored in to the budget.

Resolved: the Parish Council agreed a 3% increase in the precept charge to tax payers in the 2017 – 2018 financial year in order to ensure that it will be able to cover all operational and contingency expenditure.

It was noted that the council tax base (number of households where council tax can be charged) often changes from year to year and this determines the actual total precept received by the parish council. The clerk has yet to be notified by the Borough Council of the tax base for 2017-2018 but will liaise with Finance to ensure that the increase to tax payers is not more than 3%.

13. Any Other Business. It was noted that the Speed Indicator Device had not been in the village recently. The Clerk was asked to query this with Highways.

Cllr. Crump offered to be the co-ordinator for village publicity as no residents had volunteered to do this.

Cllr. Shelley asked if Royal Mail has indicated whether the post-box at the Bird-in-hand will be replaced. The Clerk will chase this with Royal Mail again as no response on this has been given.

Charges for certain types of non-household waste are to be introduced at all Staffordshire Recycling Centres from 1st November 2016. The charges mainly relate to waste created by

DIY and hard landscaping and include: soil/rubble, bricks, breeze blocks, plasterboard, tyres and ceramic bathroom fittings.

Cllr. Clark and the Parish Clerk had attended the Stafford Borough Council Parish Forum on Thursday 29th September 2016. Topics covered included an update on the future management of Leisure Services; a recent survey on the Borough housing stock which included an assessment of the number of homes classed as 'cold'; an update on the Local Plan and HS2. The clerk had placed details of the Warmer Homes Stafford service in the last edition of the Parish magazine as rural homes were highlighted at the Forum as being particularly difficult to heat to an acceptable level.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd November 2016 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.40pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 23.11.16