

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th September 2017 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. Shelley (Chairman), Cllr. R. Clark, Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. A. Stringer (Vice Chairman) and Cllr. H. Woodward, Kerry Ashdown from the Staffordshire Newsletter and Mr T. Kitchen.

1. Chairman's Welcome. Cllr. Shelley welcomed the councillors, Kerry Ashdown and Mr Kitchen to the meeting. Cllr. Shelley explained that Mr Kitchen was observing the meeting because he is considering becoming a Parish Councillor when a vacancy arises.

2. Apologies. These were received from Cllr. J. Jones and Cllr. A. Harp.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. These were read, approved and signed.

4. Matters arising. The hedge at Priory Cottage has been cut and is now in good order. The war memorial is registered on the Imperial War Museum list; which is the main national register. Cllr. Clark reported that there had been a significant improvement at the Stone recycling centre since the last meeting. Staff are helping customers to get rubbish out of their cars again.

5. Borough Councillor's Report. No report.

6. County Councillor's Report. No report.

7. Planning.

New Planning Applications September 2017:

17/26465/FUL Jesmonde, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Detached dormer bungalow to rear of Jesmonde. This application has been 'called in' by Cllr. Beatty for a Committee decision.

Amended plans submitted. Skylights to rear of property removed and inserted in front of property in order to reduce loss of privacy to neighbouring property. **Resolved: the Parish still objects to this application for the reason already stated.**

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.

Resolved: the Parish Council has no objections to the amended plans.

Appeal Lodged for 17/25784/HOU Malthouse Croft, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. This application was refused by the planning department on the grounds that the replacement windows were not in character with the surrounding area.

Status of Earlier Applications:

17/26826/FUL Drumble Mill, Cotwalton Road, Cotwalton. Proposed stables and horticultural polytunnel. **AWAITING DECISION.**

17/26822/HOU Drumble Mill, Cotwalton Road, Cotwalton. Extension to the rear of the existing garage. **AWAITING DECISION.**

17/26691/COU Newfields Farm, Cotwalton Lane, Cotwalton. **Retrospective** planning application for the change of use of two existing agricultural buildings for use as liveries and the storage of sheep and cattle (mixed use). **AWAITING DECISION**

17/26565/HOU Raylings House, 2 The Meadows, Hilderstone. Garden room and bay window extension. **ALLOWED.**

Since the last meeting the front lawn and part of the brick wall at Copes Croft on Sandon Road have been removed to make a block paved parking area. The Parish Council had not received

any prior notice of this, despite the house been within the Hilderstone Conservation Area. Cllr. Clark and the Parish Clerk had contacted Cllr. Harp to ask if planning permission was required for this, but a reply has yet be received. Cllr, Clark said that he would email Cllr. Harp again and copy in Cllr. Beatty. The Clerk will contact the Borough Conservation Officer to ask if the Parish Council should be consulted on such matters if a property is within the conservation area (even if full planning permission is not required). It would be disappointing if the Conservation Area Appraisal did not prevent all front gardens through the village being turned into parking areas.

The land which had been advertised for sale on Whitesytch Lane in recent weeks, has now be bought by local landowner.

8. Traffic and Highways. The Clerk has been notified that the Safer Roads Partnership still intends to review the current Speed Indicator Device location opposite the village hall. The Clerk has asked for more information about why this site is considered to be unsuitable, but has yet to receive a reply.

Cllr. Shelley reported that there are signs on Hall Lane giving notice that it will be closed for two days on 9th and 10th October for more road works. Cllr. Clark asked for the worn and rutted tarmac near to the Cotwalton corner on Hilderstone road to be reported. Drivers are moving out on the blind bend to avoid this.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies reported that the yew hedge bordering the Churchyard will be cut soon. Cllr. Shelley commented that the hedge bordering the field down Roebuck bank and the bend opposite the pub are in need of cutting back. The Clerk will contact the landowners, although in the past there has been a lack of clarity about who is responsible for the hedge opposite the Roebuck.

Cllr. Woodward reported that a large amount of business paperwork were scattered along the verges on Creswell Road today. As the recycling bin lorry had been through the village this morning, it was difficult to establish if the papers had blown out of the back of the lorry or fly-tipped from a private vehicle. She and one of her neighbours had managed to pick up most of it. Cllr. Clark reported that the garden waste bin lorry had leaked liquid along Bourne Court and The Meadows today and this had left a noticeable line along the roads. The Clerk will report both these issues to Streetscene.

The Clerk reported that the Hilderstone Walkway map lectern near the Severn Trent site needed repair or replacing as the post had rotted through. It was agreed that the Clerk could instruct Bill Holmes to make the necessary repair or make a new one.

The Best Kept Village Judges' Report has now been received and circulated. It was agreed that the village had done well this year and the report gave some very detailed information about how Hilderstone can improve on the Third Place awarded this year.

10. Village/Local Events. The bingo evening was very successful and raised £1000. It was attended mainly by the local farming community. The recent jumble sale raised over £200. The village outing to Adam Henson's farm and Bourton on the Water is fully booked. It is hoped that people will be willing to pay the full cost of the trip in future years, as the grant funding is unlikely to be available again. Attendance at the Harvest Supper was down a bit on previous years, but it still raised £270.00. Thanks were extended to Cllr. Woodward who had stood in for the original auctioneer and had been a great success.

Forthcoming Events:

- Village Trip to Adam Henson's Farm in the Cotswolds on Saturday 30th September, departing at 8.30am from the Village Hall. Tickets cost will be £12.00 per person for entry to the farm. Tickets from Jean Jones or Hazel Woodward.

- Film Night showing the Hippopotamus on Thursday 19th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £7.00 on the door.
- Fulford and District Conservative Party Quiz on Friday 10th November 2017. Fulford Village Hall. More details to follow.
- Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th November at 10.00am until 2.00pm in the Village Hall. Proceeds to a children's charity and Christ Church, Hilderstone.
- Murder Mystery (instead of the Barn Dance) on Friday 17th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £7.00 from Ian Brittain or Jenny Crump.
- Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £9.00 from Hazel Woodward, Jean Jones and Phil Davies.
- Village Christmas Concert on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. To be confirmed.
- An Evening with Gail Morecambe on Tuesday 30th January 2018, 6.30pm for 7.00pm at Fulford Village Hall. Tickets £20.00 which includes a hot two course dinner. Proceeds to Fulford and Hilderstone Church Funds.

11. Correspondence September 2017.

- Oil Club Information
- Members' Digest 235

Members' Digest 234 (Cllr. Crump): p2.1-2.3 An e-petition which sought a referendum on whether or not to return full services to Stafford hospital had been submitted to Stafford Borough Council. It fell short of the number of signatures required for a debate by the Full Council. As it was submitted under previous E-Petition Scheme, Cabinet can be requested to consider their approach to the issues raised in the e-petition. The cost of holding a referendum would be £170,000. A full text of the petition is available.

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £6982.98 in credit and the deposit account £3121.10 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. Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Poppy Wreath Donation - £25.00
2. Mrs H. Howie, Clerk's Office Expenses and Mileage - £49.75.
3. Wints Coaches, Village Outing Coach Fee - £300.00
4. Mount Nurseries, Daffodil Bulbs for Village Planting - £75.00.

Initial budget discussions for 2018-19: It was agreed that the Parish Council needed to give full consideration to increasing highways and village maintenance costs in setting the next and future budgets. Parish Councils are not currently subject to being capped on the annual rise in precepts, but the Government is considering this for the future. There have been significant cuts in the past year in the general County Council highways maintenance budget and parish councils are now expected to fund this work if they wish it to continue. In addition, village maintenance costs may rise considerably when the current village lengths-man retires. The Clerk was asked to include the predicted extra costs in the draft budget for 2018-19 to determine the likely percentage increase in the parish precept. The draft budget will be presented to the Parish Council at the October 2017 meeting for consideration.

13. Any Other Business. Cllr. Crump reported that there is still a problem with dog fouling around the Meadows, Hilderstone Road and Bourne Court. The Clerk will continue to place a reminder in the Parish Magazine about dog fouling being an offence.

Cllr. Clark reported that Christ Church is now confident that it can progress over the next 18 months with installing a toilet, disabled access and tea bar. External grant funding is available to the Church for this project.

The Clerk advised the Parish Council that public notification has to be given when a vacancy becomes available on the Parish Council, to give all eligible persons an opportunity to apply. Co-option can take place before the next parish elections in May 2019 but the due processes must be followed. The Clerk will place a notice in the next Parish Magazine notifying the public that there will be two vacancies on the Parish Council before or at the next Parish Elections.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th October 2017 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

..... Cllr. R. Shelley, Chairman. 25.10.17