

## Hilderstone Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 at 7.30p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. P. Davies, Cllr. A. Harp, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. M. Shelley (Vice Chairman), Cllr. A. Stringer and Cllr. H. Woodward. Cllr. J. Crump joined the meeting at approximately 8.15pm due to attending the Governor's meeting at Green Lea School. There were no members of the press or public present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors to the meeting.

2. **Apologies.** None received.

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

4. **Matters arising.** These were dealt with under the agenda headings.

5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** The Borough Councillor's work has mainly related to planning meetings and issues over the last month. The planning application for Priory Cottage has been 'called-in' for a decision by the Development Control Committee. The Enforcement Officer has visited the site and has given appropriate advice to the property owner. The 70% planning rule is only guidance and extensions to the original footprint of the property may exceed this if the planning officer decides it is acceptable for the site. Covenants on properties are not applied by the planning officer in making a decision on an application. These can only be enforced by a private action by those that object.

6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.

7. **Planning.**

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. **Resolved: The Parish Council objects to the application on the grounds that the substantial extensions would result in the over-massing of a small cottage resulting in a property which is out of character with the normal sized traditional rural cottages in Hilderstone Parish.**

16/24837/HOU Vernon Cottage, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Revised two-storey rear extension (which is substantially smaller than the previously approved application). **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

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

16/24138/FUL Heathy View, Sharpley Heath Road, Hilderstone. Demolition of existing outbuilding and replacement with new outbuilding. **PERMITTED.**

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. **AWAITING DECISION. Application has been 'called-in' for a committee decision.**

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' for a committee decision.**

The Conservation Officer has been in contact with the owner of the Breadstores about the garden structure and part of it has been taken down. The owner has been advised that planning permission will be required for the remainder of the structure.

The repair of the iron railings at Lower Farm is now being dealt with by the property owner's insurance company.

**8. Traffic and Highways.** Clearance of asbestos which is fly-tipped on private land is the responsibility of the land-owner. The Borough Council will only clear it if it is on the highway or land that is owned by the local authority.

**9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village.** The Best Kept Village competition judges' report had been received and circulated to all the parish councillors by email. Hilderstone has been awarded a Highly Commended certificate again. The report was very good on the whole, with only a few minor issues which hopefully can be addressed next year. The clerk was asked to draw out these issues in bullet point form in the next edition of the Parish Magazine in the hope that villagers will be encouraged to carry out regular work in these areas next year. Cllr. Woodward said that she would obtain a quote for painting the telephone box from a local decorator.

Simon Down has advised that he will complete the tree works on the Severn Trent corner and Roebuck Bank as soon as he has some free time (hopefully by the end of autumn). He has submitted a quote of £432 including VAT to reduce the canopy of the willow tree on the village green. As the quotation is below the £600 threshold stated in the Parish Council financial procedures, no other quotations are required. **Resolved: This quotation was accepted by the Parish Council as representing good value for the amount of work involved.**

The private hedges on footpath 14 between the infant play area and The Meadows are becoming overgrown again. The clerk was asked to write to all property owners concerned. Cllr. Davies has been in contact with the contractor about cutting the yew hedge at the side of the Church but there has been no response yet. Cllr. Davies will chase him. There is nothing to report on the other footpaths.

**10. Village Events.** The jumble sale which took place on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 was not as well attended as usual, but still raised £104. The Harvest Supper which took place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September was well attended and raised £575. Cllr. Woodward commented that the same people generally attend the village events and that members of each of the groups/committees in the village ought to support each others events.

**Forthcoming events:**

Film Night, What we Did on Holiday, Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00pm in the village hall.  
Village Trip to Acton Scott Working Farm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 leaving at 9.00am.  
Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm for 7.30pm in the village hall.  
Village Christmas Concert on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm.

Mr and Mrs Dakin are retiring from their Church positions at the end of October and there will be a retirement presentation to both of them on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October in Hilderstone village hall which will involve St. Nicholas Church Fulford. A new vicar has yet to be appointed, but visiting vicars are booked until Easter 2017 so Church services will be running as normal.

**11. Correspondence Received.**

- Members' Digest 224

**Members' Digest 223 (Cllr. Jones)** – Report submitted giving details of the enforcement of micro-chipping of dogs to allow Cabinet to consider delegating the responsibilities of enforcement to the Head of Environment. The Head of Environment will then be able to authorise additional officers to carry out the enforcement powers.

Afternoon tea held at the Upper House, Barlaston on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016 raised £433 for the Mayor's charity. The Civic Ball is to be held on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017 at the County Showground.

The decision to close the public toilets on Station Road in Stone is still being considered. There are other public toilets in Crown Street, Stone. Both are financed by Stafford Borough Council not Stone Town Council.

**12. Finance.**

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £5959.24 in credit and the deposit account £3120.54 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. OVH Limited, Village Website Hosting Fee for October 2016 to March 2017 - £38.95.
2. Cllr. R. Clark, Mobile Phone Expenses Relating to Parish Council Work in September - £10.00.
3. Mrs H. Howie, Clerk's Mileage and Phone Calls for August to September 2016 - £24.56.
4. Royal British Legion, Remembrance Day Wreath Donation - £25.00.
5. Mr W.H. Holmes, Village and Highways Maintenance September 2016 - £87.75.
6. Wints Coaches, Coach Hire for Village Trip to Acton Scott Working Farm - £310.00.

The second precept payment and the County Councillor's grant funding for the village daytrip should be received by bank transfer into the current account soon.

**13. Any Other Business.** Cllr Crump reported that a recorder event is to be held at the village hall on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October with 60 people attending. This will bring in lots of people from outside the village and might help to raise awareness of the excellent facilities available for hire at Hilderstone Village Hall.

Cllr. Shelley reported that there are some bad potholes on the Milwich Heath road. The clerk will report these to Highways.

**14. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 26.10.16