Hilderstone Parish Council Meeting

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## On Wednesday 20th July 2022 at 7.30pm

This meeting was held at Hilderstone Village Hall, Sandon Rd, Hilderstone, Stone ST15 8SF

**Attendance**:

Cllr J Davies (Chairman) Cllr A Stringer (Vice Chairman) Cllr P Davies Cllr R Clark Cllr M Shelley Cllr H Woodward Nikola Evans – Clerk

Minutes

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| **Item No.** | **Agenda Item** |
| 1 | **Chairman’s Welcome** |
| 2 | **Apologies** – Cllr J Crump, Holiday – Accepted and Cllr A Harp, other commitments |
| 3 | **Minutes of the last meetings** – 22nd June 2022 – Approved as a true record by all that attended. |
| 4 | **Declaration of Interests on agenda items** – None |
| 5 | **Local PCSO update** – None attended |
| 6 | **Public Participation** – None attended |
| 7 | **Borough Councillor’s Report** – See report attached, circulated to all council members |
| 8 | **County Councillor’s Report** - None |
| 9 | **To discuss planning applications received**   1. 22/36259/TCA - Ash Tree Cottage – Crown reduce by 50% over safety concerns and proximity to properties. – No objections |
| 10 | **Clerks Report**   1. To review reported village issues.  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Item | | Date | | Action | | Severn Trent and Cotwalton Junction to B5066 ref: 4181743 & 4237100 - Missing bollards. 25.05.22 – still chasing | | 18.12.20 | | Monitor | | Hedge cutting – Farm Lea, letters have been sent to all the residents  25.05.22 – still chasing | | 02.02.21 | | Monitor | | Hedge cutting – 2 Farm Lea, pictures have been taken and sent to Stafford Rural Homes to investigate. – Chased with Stafford rural homes on 29.09.21 - no update yet. – clerk to chase – 29.10.21 – chased again – Clerk to forward information to Cllr J Davies to see if he may be able to push them as well. – Information has been passed to Cllr J Davies. – Cllr Davies has emailed. – 23.03.22 no further information has been received. Cllr J Davis will chase. – 27.04.22 – Cllr J Davies still chasing. 25.05.22 – still chasing – 22.06.22 – this issue has now been passed to Stafford Rural Homes Legal department to advise. – 20.07.22, advised by Homes Plus the footpath and hedge is outside the property boundary and therefore not the property owners’ responsibility. Clerk to report to Stafford County Council to trim back the hedges. | | 02.02.21 | | Monitor | | White lines – Cotwalton Junction to B5066 – 4251576 – No further updates - Updated 7.02.22 from Highways - We have not yet been able to coordinate resources to resolve the enquiry you raised, due to high demand for reactive maintenance work across our road network. We write to assure you that we have not forgotten about the issue and will endeavour to schedule the necessary works as soon as is practicably possible. In the meantime, we will continue to monitor the issue by way of our routine safety inspections which take place monthly, quarterly, or annually depending on the road classification. If we identify that the problem has worsened, we may reprioritise the repair works accordingly, alternatively if you believe the defect now poses an imminent risk to safety, we would kindly ask that you report the issue again via: [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/report](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/report) it.  23.02.22 – Clerk to report again, reporting a serious RTA which took place during December 2021 caused by drivers not keeping to the  right side of the road. Clerk to extend from Spotgate to Junction B5066. Reported  23.03.22 – No further information has been received 25.05.22 – still chasing | | 21.07.21 | | Monitor | | Hedges – Hill Farm house and The Old Byer. Letter sent to both properties requesting the hedge cut back to the original boundary.  23.03.22 – Report to highways, they are now obstructing the road. – 27.04.22 Clerk to send a letter advising the owners legal responsibility. 15.05.22 – The hedge has now been cut back to the original boundary – 25.05.22, location has now been established and the clerk will send a letter to the residents. | | 22.09.21 | | Clerk | | Severn Trent Gate  Still has not been replaced – Cllr Woodward will see if she can obtain a contact from her source – clerk to write a letter – Severn Trent have been advised. – No further information has been received. 25.05.22 job number for Seven Trent to repair the gateway, 2005645554 | |  | | Monitor | | Lower Farm, Sandon Road/Creswell Road. – Listed building is deteriorating. – **RESOLVED**, the property is now up for sale. | 26.01.22 | | Monitor | | | Erosion of bank opposite church buildout  Clerk has reported to highways, believed due to wide vehicles using the road churning up the curb side. Children are having to walk in it, and it could potentially block the drains.  23.03.22 – No further information has been received. | 23.02.22 | | Monitor | | | Erosion of bank opposite church buildout  Clerk has reported to highways, believed due to wide vehicles using the road churning up the curb side. Children are having to walk in it, and it could potentially block the drains.  23.03.22 – No further information has been received. | 23.02.22 | | Monitor | | | Road sign by Roebuck, this has been reported ref number - 4281637 | 13.05.22 | | Monitor | | | 30mph road sign on Creswell Road by new SID’s – this has been reported, ref number - 4281636 | 13.05.22 | | Monitor | | | Discarded road maintenance signs need to be collected – clerk to email highways. | 25.05.22 | | Monitor | | | Footpath 14, report to SCC – ROW ref: 220730332 | 20.07.22 | |  | | | 1 Farm Lea – Overgrown, rubbish and burning something in grounds that is not normal garden waste. – Reported to Homes Plus | 20.07.22 | |  | | | Missing bollard – Road narrowing site by Roebuck Pub – ref 4288799 | 20.07.22 | |  | | |
| 11 | **To discuss any traffic and highways issues**. – Covered in item 10 |
| 12 | **To discuss footpaths, Village Maintenance issues.**  Village maintenance:   1. Reported that some frontages are becoming unsightly, clerk to advise residents it’s is their responsibility to maintain their property and to also consider tidying up the curb sides. Clerk also to advise residents the parish council are only responsible for certain areas. 2. Clerk to request road sweeper attend in the following areas:  * Sandon Road – both sides * Hilderstone Road B5066 – both side from Creswell Rd junction to another junction * Creswell Rd – Both sides from Creswell junction B5066 to Creswell Rd and Hall Ln junction. * The Meadows  1. 2 x planters need replacing within the village – Quote received from Bill Holmes, £65 including compost. Approved. 2. Proposal made to delegate the clerk to deal with small village maintenance issues, with the proviso anything that requires significant repairs/maintenance will need to be presented to the council for approval. Approved.   Footpaths:   1. Footpath 12 – Cotwalton Rd, Stile, direction markers are missing, reported to ROW 2. Footpath 10 – Cotwalton Ln, by Barn. Stile is overgrown and should be cleared once the hedges have been cut towards the end of the year. 3. Footpath 11 – Dingle Ln, one of the stile pads are loose, reported to ROW. 4. Overgrown trees opposite the Roebuck Pub are going through the power lines. Reported to ROW and will be reported to western power. |
| 13 | **Village Events**   1. Big Village Party – 30.07.22 to include – Café, Arts & Crafts, Mazda car display, Village family treasure hunt, WI event – Victoria sandwich competition, teas and scones, Pop Up Pub, Traveling Taverna, French Boules, Liverpool V Man City game screening, Dave Lane Pianist, Play your cards right, Beyond the Barricade and much more on the field and in the church. 2. Scarecrow weekend – 3/4th September 3. Harvest festival – 18/19th September 4. Remembrance Day – 13th November |
| 14 | **Finance – RFO**   1. Monthly payment approval – Approved by all that attended  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Payments to be approved - July** |  |  |  |  | |  | **Sub Total** | **VAT** | **Total** |  | | Clerk | £4.86 |  | £4.86 |  | | HMRC PAYE | £54.00 |  | £54.00 | paid | | Clerk | £215.75 |  | £215.75 |  | | TGM | £483.80 | £96.76 | £580.56 |  | | Cllr R Clark | £17.33 | £3.47 | £24.80 |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | **Total to be paid** |  |  | **£825.97** |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | **Total payments made in July** |  |  | **£879.97** |  |  1. Budget summary – circulated and approved 2. Bank reconciliation – circulated and approved |
| 15 | **Councillor Information and items for the next Agenda**   1. Discharge of parish council functions, clerk to report.   Also covered in item 12d. Clerk explained that no individual parish councillor can be delegated to discharge the parish council functions.  Cllr J Davies advised he will be attending the Stone and Parish liaison Group 27.07.22. Plans to report on the following:   * Community Speed Watch event * Over 16’s school transport * Heritage Centre in Stone * Platinum Jubilee events * Grant aids for local charities * Local Youth organisations * HS2 |
| 16 | **To agree date of next meeting** – 28th September 2022 |
| 17 | **Meeting Closed** – meeting closed at 20.55pm |

Item 7







**Cannock Chase AONB: We’ve had a useful visit from a contingent of senior national Defra staff from the Access, Landscapes, Peatland and Soil team.** This visit is part of a national and local endeavour to raise the wider public understanding and appreciation of the Chase and all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as internationally important landscapes and ecological environments; and to increase their funding. We took the team through the following:

* **Setting the scene –** getting to know the AONB and AONB team / key stakeholders and governance, National Landscape branding.
* **Managing land use change in the AONB, its setting and the wider landscape -** Housing development and pressure. Integrating land use targets for carbon sequestration and nature recovery.
* **Access and recreation -** Recreational pressures and consequences eg mountain biking and the Commonwealth Games. Changing perceptions and behaviours / inclusion and diversity. More open access.
* **AONB team and partner projects**

For your diary: the Cannock Chase Partnership AGM is on Tuesday 14th July at Rising Brook Community Church, Wolverhampton Road, Stafford from 10.00 – 12.00, if anyone is interested to attend, I can forward the agenda. We will be looking at grant opportunities for local communities, the new Farming in Protected Landscapes funding for landowners of all sizes within the curtilage of the Chase; the Annual Review of our work through last year; and planning issues.

**Defra Farming in Protected Landscapes Fund:** There is a significant amount of money available for the next three years, for valid farm and land-based projects, large and small, within the radius of the Chase.The link below details some projects that have taken place so far. More will be added as they are completed, so please do visit from time to time to see the projects as they progress and share it with anyone who you think may be interested in applying. Please visit the website here: [Farming in Protected Landscapes - Cannock Chase AONB (cannock-chase.co.uk)](https://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/get-involved/farming-in-protected-landscapes/)

**The Stafford Brooks Project:** this just launched £4.1m scheme, to enhance Stafford’s riverways and wildlife habitats, will create havens for wildlife to flourish, alleviate flooding and give residents in Stafford better access to their rivers and green spaces.It will target 24 locations alongside the rivers and streams of the town, improving habitats to enable wildlife numbers to grow and providing homes to a wider variety of species.National Highways is funding the scheme working in partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (SWT), Stafford Borough Council and the Environment Agency.

I attended the partnership launch this month and planting of a rare black poplar tree at land off Fairway, near the river Sow. This is one of the sites which will benefit. Other sites include the nature reserves Radford Meadows and Doxey Marshes, a Site of Special Scientific Interest that borders the M6. The project will also encompass Marston

Brook, Pearl Brook, Kingston Brook, Rising Brook and many of the habitats close to the Rivers Sow and Penk.

One of the key objectives of the scheme is to extend, restore and create new habitats which could become home to a variety of wildlife including otter, wading birds such as lapwing and snipe and a range of amphibians.  The project will help create, restore and connect places for wildflowers, trees and wildlife, where the environment has been impacted by activities from previous road building. Natural solutions such as new wetlands and reed beds will help filter polluted run-off from roads. Improving access to the town’s rivers and green spaces will offer opportunities for people to connect to nature for their own health and wellbeing. Floodplains will be restored to increase their ability to store water when river and waterway levels rise, reducing the risk of flooding of nearby homes and businesses alleviating seasonal pressures felt across the town.

National Highways explained “We appreciate there has been some disruption while we upgraded the M6 but we are able to give something back to the community.” Not only will this project improve biodiversity and water quality, it will also help tackle the nature and climate crises as the improvements will increase carbon storage and reduce the risk of flooding. Restoring nature along our water corridors is going to help tackle the climate crisis, contribute greatly to nature recovery and will surely improve our physical and mental health. These plans are a great example of how we are working with knowledgeable partners across a range of environmental projects for the benefit of our communities.”

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| **Gypsy & Traveller Accommodation Assessment report (GTAA):** a new GTAA for Stafford Borough 2022 has been published on our website. This latest report will support the New Local Plan process and decision-making. Please see the links below:  [New Stafford Borough Local Plan 2020-2040: Evidence Base Documents | Stafford Borough Council (staffordbc.gov.uk)](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/new-lp-2020-2040-evidence-base)  [Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2022 (staffordbc.gov.uk)](https://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/sites/default/files/cme/DocMan1/Planning%20Policy/New%20Stafford%20Borough%20Local%20Plan%202020-2040/Evidence%20Base%20Documents/Gypsy-and-Traveller-and-Travelling-Showperson-Accommodation-Assessment-2022.pdf) |

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