

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd August 2012 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. M. Shelley (Vice Chairman), and Cllr. H. Woodward. There were no members of the public present.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Harp, Cllr. Parry, Cllr. Stringer.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
- 4. Matters arising.** Work on the Bird in Hand progresses, but there has been a complaint by a member of public about the line of the building in relation to the main road. It was agreed that the current state of the build, fencing and the scaffolding is probably making the building look further forward than it is. Council officers have recently visited the site and have said that it is acceptable. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.
- 5. Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
- 6. County Councillor's Report.** Reported under Item 8, Traffic and Highways.
- 7. Planning.**

New Planning Applications August 2012:

12/17404/FUL Hilderstone Garage, Hall Lane. Vehicle storage building. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application and welcomes the expansion of a local business.**

Status of Earlier Applications:

12/17158/HOU Bank Cottage, Dingle Lane. Renovation and alterations including demolition and re-building of structurally unsound side and rear single storey areas. Additional rear two storey extension. Demolition and replacement of flat roof garage with oak framed timber garage. Conservation Officer has said must use traditional materials and be in keeping with conservation area. **PERMITTED.**

12/17095/FUL New Beech Tree Farm, Moss Lane. Construction of general purpose agricultural building. **PERMITTED.**

Appeal lodged for barn conversion at Brook Hall Farm, Hall Lane. **Pending decision.**

Appeal lodged for Valet Building/Car Wash, New House Farm, Hall Lane. **Pending Decision.**

10/14498/FUL Hollywood Barn, Cotwalton. Retention of stables and feed store. **Pending Decision.**

8. Traffic and Highways. Cllr. Ian Parry's progress report below was considered by the Parish Council:

Traffic Issues.

1. The additional signs, markings and the warning post (property opposite Dingle Lane) will, I am again assured, be completed in next few weeks. I chase this on a regular basis.
2. I have agreed that additional measures to improve traffic calming will be included in the current DHP (Divisional Highway Plan) and will shortly be evaluated. These include

ideas about a change in road priority at the B5066 and Creswell Rd junction, possible 'build-outs on both approaches to Roebuck Corner. This will mean a give-way to on-coming traffic.

3. I am aware that schemes are not always universally acceptable and will be arranging a public consultation on any proposals and other ideas before implementation.

Traffic Survey. I have arranged for a new traffic survey to take place in the centre of the village in early September after the schools have returned and traffic patterns are normal. This will be done over a week so that we can see the issues at all times of the day, including both working days and weekends. This data will provide clear information on the issues and their extent. It will inform both the work we are planning on additional engineering and the consultation exercise.

Speeding Traffic. Whilst we work on taking action that may help to reduce driver speeds through engineering intervention, speeding is a motoring offence and should also be enforced by the Police. I have informed the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership and Stone Police. The traffic team have been asked to carry out more regular monitoring of speeds through the village. Anybody witnessing dangerous and speeding driving is asked to make a note of the date, time and registration number and email it to PC Dave Perry on:

David.Perry@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk

Speedwatch I am pleased that at last we have a new Speedwatch group about to undergo training and hopefully start monitoring traffic speeds in early autumn. I would like to progress the funding needs to ensure we don't delay this. Would it be possible to know the funding requirements please. I would also like to factor in additional movable signage to add greater impact, but want to avoid the insistence by the Police that we should use advance warning of an actual Speedwatch operation – since this affects the results and reduces its impact.

Road Resurfacing I have recently had a number of conversations with our senior highway officials about the number of failures in the Stone area, including Hilderstone, of surface dressing. The very wet summer was largely the cause, and any remedial work will be put right by our contractors at no additional cost to the tax-payer. I am not happy that this work was even started in poor weather and have asked for further explanation. The Hilderstone surface on the B5066 will get some further treatment shortly and grip-tests carried out after that. If acceptable, lines will be replaced. I will monitor this further.

Cllr. Clark said that there continues to be regular incidences of speeding and dangerous driving through the centre of the village and there was also a collision near The Bird in Hand involving a car running into the back of a hay lorry. These have been reported to Cllr. Parry. The police speed camera van was in the village on Monday and apparently several vehicles were recorded as being over the 30mph limit.

It was noted that Dingle Lane, Cotwalton Lane, Wooliscroft Lane and Cotwalton Road are all in a poor state, with areas of broken edges, and thick mud and gravel washed off the fields by the recent heavy rains. The ditching work recently carried out on Cotwalton Lane does not appear to be working as the ditches are filling with water and flooding the road. There is also a pothole on Creswell Road near The Bird in Hand. The clerk will report all these problems to Highways for action.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies has started the inspection of footpaths. On footpaths 1 and 10, the Rights of Way Department has replaced the damaged style and missing markers. On footpath 9 the markers have been replaced but the footpath is still very overgrown. It is on the list to be cut back however.

The daffodil bank on Roebuck Hill will be cut again towards the end of September. The vegetation around the road signs needs cutting back and the weeds need treating on Barns Croft. The wild flower areas on Cotwalton Lane and Dingle Lane are in need of some attention. The Clerk will ask Bill Holmes to attend to these. There are a few private properties

whose hedges, trees/shrubs are over-hanging public footpaths or the highway and need cutting back. The clerk will write to the owners accordingly.

Hilderstone has been awarded second place in the Stafford District small village category of the Best Kept Village Competition. This is an excellent achievement in a year with such poor weather conditions. A short celebration had been held prior to the parish council meeting to thank the main volunteers without whose dedication the award would not have been possible. The Green Lea School pupils' posters had also made a big contribution to the result. It is hoped Hilderstone can win first prize next year!

10. Correspondence Received August 2012 :

- Street Lighting Initiative Letter and notes – circulated by email
- Financial Training Seminars email.
- Members Digest 173

11. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chair. The current account is £3386.32 in credit and the deposit account £3114.06 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 H Howie, Clerk's expenses and mileage - £59.33.
2. Mr W. Holmes, village and highways maintenance - £119.00.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will make a donation of £100.00 towards the village Christmas party again this year. It will also make a £60.00 donation to U3A towards the cost of broadband usage. The budget for daffodil bulbs will be increased to £60.00 this year.

12. Any Other Business.

Cllr. Shelley remarked that it was pleasing that progress has been made with the Speedwatch group finally and hopes that the traffic calming measures to be implemented soon will have the desired effect.

Members' Digest No 172 - Pp2.1-2.4 Amendments to Choice Based Letting Scheme
Page 28 of the policy introduction of key workers and military personnel into the policy.

Pp2.5-2.31 Final Accounts 2011/12

Pp7.16-7.17

Sporting activities for children, summer holiday schemes and 2012 tournament roundup. Locally Christchurch Academy School were winners in Kwick Cricket.

Some children's holiday activities are being advertised around the village but the Parish Council is not clear what is being organised. The clerk will investigate and report back.

Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Crump will get together soon to progress the village conservation area appraisal as this needs to be finished before Christmas.

Mud has been dropped on the main road near to the village hall. The farmer responsible is currently moving hay bales through the village, but will be asked to ensure that all mud is removed from the road when the job is completed.

The clerk reported that a new code of conduct has been issued by Stafford Borough Council to meet the requirements of the new Localism Act 2011. There are stricter requirements for declaring pecuniary and other interests and it is now a criminal offence not to disclose pecuniary interests to the monitoring officer (parish clerk). The Clerk will circulate the new

code of conduct, list of relevant pecuniary and other interests and a declaration form before the next meeting.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 26th September at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.05pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 26.09.12