

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 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), Cllr. A. Stringer 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
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** The damaged metal fence at Lower Farm on Sandon Road is to be repaired in the near future now the insurance matters have been settled. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** Cllr. Clark had spoken to Cllr. Harp at another meeting in recent days. Cllr. Harp had said that there was little to report from the Borough Council at the moment as most of the focus was on the jubilee celebrations and Olympic torch.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.
7. **Planning.** As previously reported by Cllr. Harp, Parish Councils will be asked to feedback to the Borough Council on future housing requirements as part of the new Local Development Framework. The Parish Council has not yet been approached by any residents saying that there is a need for more affordable or exception housing to be built in Hilderstone. The Parish Council accepted however that it may need to ask this question (but in the a cost effective way). The clerk will write something for the next parish newsletter and a brief questionnaire may be compiled to hand out at the conservation area appraisal exhibition, to be held later in the year. It was noted that there are currently around a dozen properties in the parish which are empty and it would be preferable to ensure that these are occupied before any new building takes place.

It was noted that the caravan on Cotwalton road is still being occupied and that apparently the enforcement officer has recently said that this is acceptable. The clerk will contact Borough Cllr. Harp to ask for clarification on this. It was also noted that a hedge has been planted across the unauthorised field access at The Hurstage on Hilderstone Road.

New Planning Applications May 2012: None

Status of Earlier Applications:

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.** The meeting on 11th May with Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Crump, Cllr. Jones Cllr. Parry and Chris Mitchell the Highways Liaison Manager was positive. It was agreed at the meeting that there is an issue with traffic crossing over the white line on Roebuck Corner. Several ideas were discussed as follows:

- Yellow hatching on the road near to Roebuck Corner to draw drivers' attention to the sharp bend and narrow road. It is hoped that this might slow vehicles to less than the 30mph speed limit.

- Relocation of the current warning signs which it is felt, are not in the most effective places.
- Raising of the tarmac in the centre of the road near Roebuck Corner to keep cars on the correct side of the white line.

Chris Mitchell said that he would need to refer these ideas to the Highway engineers to assess whether they were suitable and would work. It was agreed at the meeting that Chris Mitchell would report back to the Parish Council within a 3 month period on the viability of these suggestions. Once a suitable scheme has been developed, residents will need to be consulted before it is implemented. It was also agreed that vehicles are entering the village at too high a speed past the church on Cresswell Road. Measures to address this will also be given some consideration by Highways.

Some road defects were also drawn to Chris Mitchell's attention during the meeting. The recent gritting on Hilderstone Road from Cotwalton Road to the junction with Sandon Road had not adhered and this section of road is now in a very poor state with several potholes developing and the tarmac around the manhole covers breaking up. Chris Mitchell said that the contractor will be asked to re-apply the grit free of charge but due to the extra layer of tarmac applied when the gritting took place, the job will be more complicated. The other road defects should be repaired before the gritting takes place.

Cllr. Woodward's grandson had painted two more posters for the vehicle speed reduction campaign. It was agreed that the Parish Council should send him a £15.00 WH Smith voucher as a thank you.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr Woodward reported that a team of 8 or 9 workers had been in the Cotwalton road area repairing styles. This work seems to be in addition to that requested by Cllr. Davies. Cllr. Davies has spoken to a resident who has been in contact with the Parish Clerk about the poor state of some of the local footpaths and styles. Cllr. Davies will liaise with the Rights of Way Officer on these matters. The Church footpath and area around the style has been strimmed recently.

The Village Hall notice board has been taken down today and will be replaced shortly. The post boxes have been recently re-painted by John Warham. The road sweepers have been out recently but Cllr. Stringer said that they do not appear to go up Cresswell Road past the church. The clerk will check this with Streetscene. Cllr. Woodward will arrange for the daffodil bank to be cut soon. Concern was expressed at the untidy appearance of some of the properties on Farm View. It was agreed that the clerk should write to the relevant authorities.

It would appear that the village has not yet been judged for the Best Kept Village Competition. The children's posters needed to be put up in early May and therefore will be judged after they have been taken down at the end of June.

10. Village Events. The jubilee church service will be from 11.45 – 12.15 followed by the tea party in the village hall. Cllr. Jones has kindly agreed to buy and prepare the food for the tea party with the help of Cllr. Woodward. It was agreed that Cllr. Jones could be advanced the £200 to cover the cost of the food. Cllr. Jones will provide receipts to cover all expenditure after the event. The parish mugs and church bibles being given to parish children will be handed out at the tea party. **Resolved: Children living within the parish will be given priority and their surname and address will need to be checked against the electoral role. Grandchildren of people living within the parish may receive a free mug providing that the grand-children spend a significant amount of time within the parish and that there are sufficient mugs left. If there are any mugs left over, these will be sold at the village fete for £1.50 on a first come first served basis. Anybody not able to collect their mug at the jubilee tea party can reserve one via the parish clerk but will need to collect it at the village fete or at the beginning of the 25th July parish council meeting.**

Preparations for the Scarecrow Competition taking place on the weekend of the 9th & 10th are underway and so far 14 entries have been received. It is hoped there will be more entries.

11. Correspondence Received May 2012 :

- Email re: bus shelter for school bus.
- Street Lighting Initiative Letter from Staffordshire County Council.
- External Auditor Appointment & Proposed Fees Letter from Audit Commission.
- Notification of Civic Service to Celebrate Queen's diamond Jubilee.
- Members' Digest 170.

The request for an additional bus shelter for school children travelling to Stone at the bottom of The Meadows was considered. This is something that has been considered in the past but there are difficulties with finding a safe location, future numbers of children in the village and the school bus routes/pick-up points changing. The Parish Council also has insufficient funds to purchase another bus shelter. **Resolved: The Parish Council cannot provide another bus shelter within the village.**

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chair. The current account is £4820.86 in credit and the deposit account £3113.28 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. Mr Alan James, Internal Audit Fee - £70.00
2. Mrs H Howie, Clerk's Mileage & Expenses - £57.98.
3. Broker Network Ltd, parish Council Insurance Premium - £369.32
4. Cllr. J. Jones, Jubilee Party Food Costs - £200.00

It was noted that funding application for the jubilee celebrations has been approved by the County Councillor, Ian Parry. This funding is limited to £250.00. The full costs (approximately £650) for the jubilee celebrations were discussed. **Resolved: The Parish Council will cover most of these costs out of the County Councillor's grant and its reserves.**

12. Any Other Business.

Caroline Stanley is happy to carry on running some children's activities in the school holidays on an ad hoc basis. She had managed to get a few parents to help her with the Easter activities, but nobody seems keen to be involved in a more formal group to run regular events. **Resolved: Caroline Stanley can apply to the Parish Council prior to an activity being held for funding to cover some of the basic costs. The Village Hall Committee will waive the hall fee.**

It was noted that there has been noise late at night from a farm on Cresswell Road, relating to milking activities. If this continues and becomes a nuisance to neighbours, it should be reported to Environmental Health.

A chest freezer has been dumped in a lay-by on Cotwalton Lane. Cllr Jones has already reported this to Streetscene.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th June at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 27.06.12