

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24th October 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. Whitesytch Lane was reported as being in a very poor state as well as Cotwalton Road and Cotwalton Lane. The clerk will report this to Highways. The war memorial is in need of cleaning and this is the responsibility of the Parish Council not the church. The clerk will obtain three quotes for this. It was noted that a number of trees had been removed at the side of the village hall by the owner of Horseshoe Farm Cottages to make the new access to the cottages. The village hall committee will endeavour to ensure that the owner constructs a clear entrance, preferably with kerbing and no parking signage to ensure that the entrance is not blocked by village hall users. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.

5. Borough Councillor's Report. Cllr Harp has reported the property at Leigh which has large amounts of scrap metal in the garden to the Borough Council. Building work on the Bird in Hand is progressing on the North side of the site. Cllr. Harp has visited the site and the builder has committed to finishing the build. Most of the original building has been demolished as it was deemed unsafe. The planning officers have also visited the site recently and everything is in accordance with approved plans. The property at the rear of the build is nearly complete.

6. County Councillor's Report. No report.

7. Planning.

New Planning Applications October 2012:

NONE

Status of Earlier Applications:

12/17301/FUL 1&2 Horseshoe Cottages, Sandon Road – reinstatement to two dwellings, refurbishment, rear two storey extensions to both properties and new access across village hall car park. **Pending decision.**

12/17681/HOU Rose Cottage, Cresswell Road – Retention of Pitched Roof Garage. **Pending Consideration.**

12/17404/FUL Hilderstone Garage, Hall Lane. Vehicle storage building. **PERMITTED.**

Appeal lodged for barn conversion at Brook Hall Farm, Hall Lane. **APPEAL DISMISSED.**

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

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

The clerk was asked to obtain a list of all the trees in the parish that have a preservation order on them. This will be useful for future reference and for developing the parish plan.

Cllr Clark and the Parish Clerk had attended the Borough Council Planning Forum on 23rd October 2012. The Head of Planning, Ted Manders had clearly stated that Neighbourhood Plans were only appropriate for parishes containing key service villages (identified in the New Plan for Stafford Borough). Parish Plans and Site Specific Allocations documents are more appropriate for small rural parishes where no major developments are to take place. The clerk will start work on the Parish Plan during the winter months. It was noted that before any major new development can take place near to the A34 in Stafford the South/East relief road is to be built.

The draft Conservation Area Appraisal document has been completed by Cllr Clark and Cllr Crump and was circulated at the meeting. A copy has been send to the Conservation Officer at the Borough Council who will write the final document using the information provided by the Parish Council. This has been a useful exercise and the information compiled can be included in the Parish Plan.

8. Traffic and Highways. The new Speedwatch group is active and Richard Pilcher the Co-ordinator reports back to Ian Parry and the Parish Council on a regular basis. The majority of the traffic travelling through the centre of the village is in excess of 30mph. Richard Pilcher has done some additional analysis on the data collected from the recent speed monitoring exercise carried out by County Highways and has found that the volume of traffic and the average speed have increased since the last set of data in 2010. Speedwatch are able to report drivers travelling in excess of the speed limit to the Safer Roads Partnership and if caught three times, drivers will get a letter from the Police saying that if caught again they will receive a fine. The speed enforcement van has been asked to visit Hilderstone on a once per month basis. A driver has recently been caught by the police doing well in excess of the speed limit and has been given a £600 fine and 6 points on his licence. It is still hoped that traffic calming measures will be implemented on Roebuck Hill and possibly at the B5066 junction to slow traffic through the centre of the village.

The clerk reported that Highways are behind on attending to potholes and other road defects due to the extra work caused by the recent flooding and gulley emptying. At the moment they are unable to give a lead time on non-urgent work.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. The judges' report has been received and circulated to all councillors. On the whole it was a positive report and the areas for improvement should be easily tackled next year. Work perhaps slipped a bit after June as the village was not expecting to be judged for a third time. It is important to keep up the good work until the end of July. There is a lot of moss on the pavements around The Meadows, Bill Holmes will be asked to treat this.

The Rights of Way department have cut back some the hedges on the Dingle Lane and Creswell Lane footpaths. A style on Whitesytc Lane has also been repaired.

10. Correspondence Received October 2012 :

- Consultation letter re Street Lighting Initiative
- Letter re Council Tax Benefit Changes
- Letter re Volunteer Hero Awards
- Members Digest 175

11. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chair. The second precept payment has been received, as has part of the Speedwatch grant. The remainder of the Speedwatch grant should be received in the next couple of weeks. The current account is £5850.12 in credit and the deposit account £3114.45 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 R Pilcher, Voice Recorder for Speedwatch - £31.02
2. Mrs H Howie, Clerk's Overtime & Mileage Relating to Borough Meetings - £87.96
3. Cllr. J Crump, Best Kept Village Poster Prize Vouchers - £30.00
4. Mr W Holmes, Village Maintenance October - £75.00
5. Hilderstone PCC, Concurrent Expenditure Funding - £404.00
6. Hilderstone Village Hall Management Committee, Concurrent Expenditure Funding - £404.00

The draft budget for 2013-2014 was considered by the Parish Council. Apart from increasing the amount allocated for postage due to the recent price increases, the draft budget was agreed in principle. The clerk's contracted hours will be increased from 15 to 17 per month from April 2013 as she persistently works more than 15 hours per month. The budget will be given final approval at the November meeting.

12. Any Other Business. Cllr Clark said that he would like Hilderstone Parish Council to occasionally attend the Staffordshire Parish Council Association Stafford Area Committee. The date of the next meeting would be circulated to all Councillors when received.

Members' Digest No 174

- p1.1 Proposed extension to allotment site Wildwood Park, more details on pp2.1-2.3
- p1.2 Proposed increase in fares for hackney cabs, more details reflects rise in fuel costs since 2008. Example present fare for journey of one mile £3.70, proposed fare 2012 £4.00 and in 2014 £4.10. Details also of extra charges for instance 50% extra on bank holidays and 100% extra on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
- p7.4 12/17095/FUL Permit general purpose agricultural building, New Beech Tree Farm, Moss Lane, Hilderstone
- p7.6 12/17158/HOU Permit Refurbishment of Bank Cottage, Dingle Lane
- p7.21 Vote for PCC in November (Police and Crime Commissioner)

Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Crump had been to Green Lea School to present the prizes and certificates for the Best Kept Village Poster Competition. The School indicated that they are very pleased to be involved and next year will try and get the posters done for the April parish council meeting.

There had been another road traffic accident recently on the corner near to the Bird in Hand. A lady had gone out of control and spun the car. Excessive speed was probably the cause.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th November at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 28.11.12