

# Hilderstone Parish Council

## Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at 7.30p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, 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. There were no members of the public present.

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

**2. Apologies.** None received.

**3. Minutes of the last meeting.** Omissions from the minutes: A request from a teenager in the village for a donation towards a trip to assist with a housing project in Mexico was not approved. With regards to the children's activities run in the Easter holidays, the Village Hall Committee had waived the hall hire fee. The speed reduction posters produced by Cllr. Woodward's grandson had been shown at the meeting and the Parish Council was very impressed. Cllr. Parry said that it might be worth arranging a photo-session with the local press at a later date to high-light the problems of speeding traffic in Hilderstone. The minutes were then approved and signed.

**4. Matters arising.** The clerk has written to the teenager requesting a donation, to inform her that the request was refused by the Parish Council. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.

**5. Borough Councillor's Report.** Work continues on the new Local Development Framework (LDF). Although little new build is to take place in rural areas outside Stafford and Stone, it is recommended that all Parish Councils undertake a housing needs survey and compile a village plan. This is particularly important in identifying the need for low-cost housing which will may be allowed on exception sites. Such housing will be owned by a housing association in perpetuity. It was noted that carrying out a housing needs survey and compiling a village plan could be quite costly and may get a low response rate from residents, as with previous surveys carried out. The Parish Council has not yet received any indication from local residents that they would like more low-cost, rental housing provided. This matter may be given further consideration later in the year however.

Three draft LDF supplementary planning documents have been released for consultation by Stafford Borough Council. These are:

- Re-Use of Rural Buildings
- Urban Design
- Shop-fronts and Advertisements

The Re-use of Rural Buildings document is the most relevant to Hilderstone. The document provides detailed planning guidelines on converting agricultural buildings into residential properties. It was noted that the requirements are very strict and that anyone considering buying an agricultural building for conversion needs to be aware that the restrictions could make conversion very limited and expensive.

Age Concern Stone & District is not part of the national Age Concern UK organisation and therefore does not receive any funding from it. It relies solely on donations from the public. Cllr. Harp asked the Parish Council to consider making a contribution to the service. The group organises lots of social activities for the elderly in stone and outlying rural areas, as well as providing advice on things such as claiming benefits, filling in forms and getting help in the home. It was noted that the group has written to Hilderstone Parish Council in the past and donations have been made. The group did not request a donation last year however. It was also noted that the name Age Concern was confusing and that the group should make it clearer when making a donation request that they do not receive funding from Age Concern UK.

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

## **7. Planning**

No new applications this month.

Draft LDF Supplementary Planning Documents. Consultation ends on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May. The clerk asked if any of the Councillors would like to look at and comment on the documents. No Councillors volunteered to do this.

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

10/14568/FUL Amendments to single storey extensions to provide 9 additional bedrooms and internal alterations. Hilderstone Hall Nursing Home, Hall Lane, Hilderstone. **PERMITTED.**

11/16061/LBC The Bread Stores, Sandon Road. Internal first floor alterations. **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.**

Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Crump have made a start on updating the village conservation area appraisal. The current map of the conservation area showing the listed buildings is dated 1977. Cllr. Clark will identify all the historical buildings in the village and Cllr. Crump will re-write the text in the existing appraisal. The Borough Conservation Officer will read and have the final say on what goes into the appraisal. Public footpaths are also to be included in the appraisal.

The front wall at the cottage on Sandon Road has not been re-instated properly. Cllr. Crump will notify the Conservation Officer.

**8. Traffic and Highways.** Cllr. Ian Parry has requested a meeting with the Parish Council on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to discuss the traffic issues in more detail. Chris Mitchell the Highways Community Liaison Manager will also be present. It was agreed that the most suitable time would be 10.00am and Cllr. Clark asked for as many Councillors as possible to be present.

Cllr. Woodward reported that the ditches on Cotwalton Road that have been cleared recently by Highways are, as expected, full of water after the recent heavy rain. The water has nowhere to drain away to and will flood the road if the heavy rain continues.

The traffic speed calming posters painted by Cllr Woodward's Grandson were shown to Cllr. Clark as he was not present at the last meeting. It was agreed that Cllr. Clark would look for the most suitable place to put them in the village.

There are several road defects around the village and the clerk will report these to Highways.

**9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village.** Cllr. Davies has reported four stiles for repair to the Rights of Way Officer. Cllr. Jones reported that there had been a team of people repairing styles in the Cotwalton area recently. Footpath 14 through the play area and The Meadows needs weed-killer applying and sweeping. It was noted that the recent wet weather would make the application of weed-killer ineffective and the high winds had brought down lot of small braches and leaves than normal at this time of year.

It was noted that the Village Hall notice board was still in need of replacement. Cllr. Crump said that she needs to get two more quotes for this. It was agreed that a notice should be put

on the board to advise the Best Kept Village Judging team of the situation, otherwise the village will lose marks. There is still a problem with liability with regards to the damaged metal railings on Sandon Road. Cllr Crump reported that the Green Lea pupils have submitted the posters for the Best Kept Village competition. The Parish Council will judge these at the May meeting.

#### **10. Correspondence Received April 2012 :**

- Register of Electors Update
- Invitation to the Annual Mayor Making Ceremony
- CPRE Annual Report
- Information on Olympic Flame Route
- Members' Digest 169

**11. Finance.** The 2011-2012 End of Year Accounts and Audit Commission Annual Return which had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, were presented to the full Parish Council. These had both been fully inspected and approved by the internal auditor Alan James & Associates. Prior to approval by the Parish Council, the Chair went through the Annual Return Governance Statement to ensure that all the Councillors agreed with what they were to approve. **Resolved: The 2011-2012 Annual Accounts and Audit Commission Annual Return were approved.**

At the end of the financial year the current account is £1495.60 in credit and the deposit account £3113.67 in credit. The following payments were approved:

1. Hilderstone Village Hall Committee. Office Space & Storage for 2012-2013 - £80.00
2. Staffordshire Parish Council Association Annual Subscription Fee for 2012-2013 - £203.01

#### **12. Any Other Business.**

**Jubilee Celebrations:** There will be a jubilee church service at 11.15am on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June followed by a jubilee tea party in the village hall at 12.30. The tea party will be free to parish residents and the parish council will give out the free jubilee mug to parish children at this event. All children will have to give their name and address which will be cross checked with the electoral role. Councillors were asked to try and rally support amongst villagers to help with organising the tea party and preparing the food. Two or three trees will be purchased by the Parish Council for planting in the infant play area to replace those lost. It was agreed that a plaque should be purchased to place next to one of the trees to commemorate the jubilee.

The Scarecrow Weekend is on 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> June, the weekend after the jubilee. The Village Fete is on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2012 and the village Christmas Party on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2012. The entertainment for the Christmas Party has been booked and will cost £220.00.

**Members' Digest 168** – mainly reference to the draft Local Development Framework and Council Tax Arrears. With regards to the draft Local Development Framework it has been noted that: "In areas outside Stafford and Stone, clarification on the allocation of housing numbers to specific villages, linked to existing services and facilities, should be provided to explain how the new development will be delivered, including through amendments to the Residential Development Boundaries".

#### **13. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30 p.m. This will be preceded by the Annual General Meeting at 7.00 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 23.05.2012