

# Hilderstone Parish Council

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

**Present:** Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Cllr. A. Harp, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk) and Cllr. A. Stringer. 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 Jones, Cllr. Shelley, Cllr Woodward

**3. Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.

**4. Matters arising.** Dealt with under the agenda headings.

**5. Borough Councillor's Report.** The enforcement officer has recently visited the Bird in Hand public house to check the work that has been carried out to date. The builder has knocked down more of the building than was approved, but this is mainly due to its poor structural state. The planning officers have agreed that the building will still meet approved plans but they will continue to monitor progress. There will still be six new properties including one four bedroom property. It was noted that these new properties will count towards the Hilderstone Parish new build quota in the New Plan for Stafford Borough.

The New Local Plan for Stafford Borough continues to be developed and this will be submitted for approval before any neighbourhood plans can be approved. Cllr. Harp agreed that it would be wise for all parishes to leave the development of neighbourhood plans until the New Local Plan has been approved. He also agreed that neighbourhood plans are probably not going to be a cost effective exercise for small parishes. The conservation area re-appraisal is however important, as these will be used by officers in determining planning applications. Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Crump will push ahead with the re-appraisal over the next few months.

The caravan on Cotwalton Road is no longer occupied, but there is still an issue with the rubbish that has been left around the site. Cllr. Harp will ask the relevant departments to write to the landowner to get this cleared. No plans have been received yet for the empty Horseshoe Cottages.

Cllr. Harp asked if there had been any issues with the frequency of grass cutting by the Borough Council this year and said that in future more parishes might be asked to take this function on. If there are any issues the Parish Council should notify Phil Gammon at Streetscene.

Stafford and Rural Homes have funding available for voluntary groups wishing to carry out local community projects. There may also be money available through the Rural Hub

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

**7. Planning Applications July 2012:**

No new applications.

### 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. **Pending Consideration.** Conservation Officer has said must use traditional materials and be in keeping with conservation area.

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

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.** It was noted that there are proposals to reduce the traffic speed restrictions from 60mph to 40mph on some rural roads. There was another serious road traffic incident on Roebuck corner recently. A car travelling at speed, went out of control on the bend hit a wall, spun and then drove off (leaving behind a number plate). The police and Cllr Parry have been informed. Tonight two cars were witnessed by parish councillors travelling at around 40mph on Roebuck Hill. There have been no further developments with regards to the speed control measures that the County Council have approved, but it is hoped that these will be implemented in the next few weeks. The Speedwatch meeting is to go ahead as planned tomorrow evening and it is hoped that the group will get off the ground soon. This should help significantly in slowing traffic down through the village.

**9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village.** Cllr. Davis has not had chance to check what work has been carried out on the footpaths and styles recently due to the bad weather. The hedge at the back of Farm Lea on footpath 14 is getting very overgrown and encroaching onto the footpath. The clerk was asked to send a letter to all the relevant house owners asking them to cut and lower the hedge. Bill Holmes will cut back the very long stems overhanging the footpath to the edge of the footpath only.

The Best Kept Village presentation evening is on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> August. It is hoped that the village will receive more than a Highly Commended certificate this year. The Parish Councillors judged the best Kept Village Competition posters provided by the Green Lea School pupils. The prizes will be awarded at the school in the autumn term.

**10. Correspondence Received July 2012 :**

- Letter re: new Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interests.
- Electoral Role Update
- Letter of thanks from Age Concern re donation.
- Notification of Battle of Britain Parade.
- Members' Digest 172

**11. Finance.** The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chair. The current account is £1965.87 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. There were no payments to be approved.

The clerk reported that the Audit Commission has approved the annual return for 2011-2012 without any issues. The required notices have been placed on the boards.

**12. Any Other Business.** There is a problem with dog fouling again in the infant play area and footpath 14. The clerk will ask Streetscene to clear this away and put a reminder in the next available edition of the parish newsletter. Where evidence of the dogs and owners is available, it will be reported to the dog control officers for further action.

Green Lea School is concerned about the speed of traffic travelling on the roads near to the school. The school would like to put up some more road safety signs to remind drivers to keep their speed down and drive carefully. The clerk suggested that the School should make contact with the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership to see if they can assist the school with this.

**13. Date of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 22.08.12