

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th March 2012 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. I. Parry, 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. Shelley welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Clark and Cllr Harp.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved as a true record and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** The easement on the access to Horseshoe Cottage from the village hall car park is nearly ready for signing off, so completion on this matter should take place in the near future. All other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** There has been a £3 million under-spend against the County Council 2011-12 budget. The County Council is aiming to down-size by £120 million overall. This will be achieved mainly by re-designing services and out-commissioning rather than cutting services. Examples of this include a new external procurement service which is charged with making large savings on the many items purchased by the County Council. Some of the care services provided by the County Council have also been re-designed to provide a better system for users. Hospital and care workers are now working for the same organisation so that the transition for a patient between hospital and home is more efficient and simpler for patients to access. The County Council tax has been frozen for another year. Staffordshire County Council is one of few councils nationally that has been able to achieve this.

Cllr. Parry is still liaising with the Highways department on the road safety issues on Sandon Road. A plan for Sandon Road has still to be fully drawn up, but it is still on the agenda. Roebuck Corner does present a problem due to the narrowness of the road but it was agreed that many vehicles do cross the white line when negotiating it. When a scheme has been drawn up, Cllr Parry will present it to the Parish Council and then public consultation can take place.

The speed camera safety van has been seen in the village in the last couple of weeks. Councillor Parry speaks to the police on a regular basis about traffic speeds and has asked for a list of times and dates when the road safety team has been in Hilderstone in recent months. A few residents on Sandon Road have expressed a willingness to volunteer to help with Speed Watch. The equipment that was previously used is likely to have been superseded, but Cllr Parry may be able to replace this. Training for new volunteers will also need to be organised via the Road Safety Partnership but this may take a little while. Cllr. Parry will speak to the relevant officer with regards to this.

Parish Councils should apply for the jubilee funding using the County Councillor's Local Community Fund application form for 2012. A separate application should be made for the village events funding.

7. Planning.

New Planning Applications March 2012:

10/14568/FUL Amendments to single storey extensions to provide 9 additional bedrooms and internal alterations. Hilderstone Hall Nursing Home, Hall Lane, Hilderstone. **Pending Consideration.** The clerk had circulated details of this by email prior to the meeting but had

only received two replies. A majority parish council meeting is required for the clerk to respond to Planning. It was agreed at the meeting that the parish council objects to the revised plans and the clerk should notify Planning of this, if a decision has not yet been made on the application.

Status of Earlier Applications:

11/16061/LBC The Bread Stores, Sandon Road. Internal first floor alterations. **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. Traffic issues had been discussed under item 6 the County Councillors report. Cllr. Woodward reported that Highways carried out work on Cotwalton Road for 4 days but had concentrated mainly on clearing out the ditches on the other side of Newfields Farm. Cllr. Woodward felt that the ditches would soon fill up with water in heavy rain and that the work would not stop the road from flooding and becoming covered with mud from the fields in severe rainfall. It was noted that a lot of mud has been dropped by farm vehicles on Dingle Lane and Cotwalton Road and the Parish Council agreed that the farmers concerned should take more responsibility with regards to preventing this and clearing the mud away.

Cllr. Woodward presented the speed reduction posters painted by her grandson to the parish council and Cllr. Parry. It was agreed that the posters were excellent and a great deal of effort had gone into these. Cllr. Parry suggested that it might be a good idea to invite the local press once the posters were in place, to highlight the problems of speeding traffic through Hilderstone.

It was noted that there are many loose granite setts on Sandon Road near to the village entrance. The clerk will report this to Highways for action.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr Davies is continuing the inspection of footpath styles; so far he has identified four styles in need of work. The best Kept Village entry form has been sent off. Green Lea School are going to submit some posters again but the school has undergone an Ofsted inspection recently, so the children have been asked to do the posters over the Easter holidays. Cllr. Davies will inspect the whole length of footpath 14 to see what maintenance work needs doing on it in the next few weeks.

10. Correspondence March 2012.

- Notification of Parish Forum on Thursday 27th September 2012, 7.30pm. Civic Centre , Stafford.
- Information on St. John Ambulance Community Transport Service
- Letter from Staffs. County Council re jubilee street parties and roadside tributes/tree planting.
- Letter from insurance company re: jubilee events.
- Letter from insurance company re: cover for Charities.
- SPCA March Newsletter.
- Members' Digest 168
- Notification of further consultation on Joint Waste Core Strategy.

11. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chair. The current account is £1969.72 in credit and the deposit account £3113.67 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. Clerks Expenses and Home Office Allowance for 2011-12 - £155.49
2. Heron Cross Pottery. Jubilee mugs for parish children - £194.40

The clerk has received the Audit Commission Annual Return form for completion. This must be submitted to the Audit Commission by 24th May 2012. The clerk will prepare the end of year accounts and annual return paperwork for inspection by the internal auditor and for approval at the April parish council meeting.

A request has been received from a teenager in the village for a donation toward a volunteering trip to Mexico to help with a housing project. **Resolved: A donation cannot be made as the Parish Council has very limited funds and normally only makes donations to projects which directly benefit the local community.** The clerk will notify the requester of the decision in writing.

12. Any Other Business.

Members' Digest 166 - p.1.1- 2.5 Jubilee Grants - £110,000 for voluntary community organisations and £25,000 for sports organisations.

p5.3 Planning Appeal lodged for Brook Farm, Hall Lane (09/13040/FUL).

p7.3 Planning Refusal Detached Car Port – The End Cottage, Cross Gate, Hilderstone (11/16102/HOU).

p7.9 Planning Permit (11/16391/HOU New Vehicular Crossing 6 Eastholme, Hilderstone.

Members' Digest 167 – South Staffordshire Primary Care Trust is doing all it can to re-open the Accident and Emergency Department at Stafford Hospital. The risks to re-opening still remain however. The major problem is the difficulty in recruiting middle grade doctors. Once a decision is made to re-open, it will take approximately 6 weeks to return the department to a 24 hour service.

Cllr. Davies reported that there will be two days of children's activities in the village hall during the Easter holidays organised by Caroline Stanley and Anna Davies. Cllr. Crump said that the Village Hall Committee has agreed to waive the hall hire fee for this. It was agreed that the Parish Council could help to cover some of the costs of this if receipts for expenditure are submitted.

13. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th April 2012 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.25pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 25.04.12