

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8th March 2018 at 8.00p.m.

The meeting scheduled for Wednesday 28th February 2018 had been cancelled due to heavy snow and freezing weather conditions. It had been agreed that a short meeting should be held after the interviews for the new Parish Clerk had taken place on 8th March 2018.

Present: Cllr. Shelley (Chairman), Cllr. R. Clark, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk) and Cllr. J. Jones. There were no members of the press or public present.

1. Chairman's Welcome. Cllr. Shelley thanked the councillors present, for agreeing to hold a short meeting to deal with necessary business.

2. Apologies. Cllr. Crump, Cllr. Stringer, Cllr. Woodward, Cllr. Harp.

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

4. Matters arising. Three people had been interviewed prior to this meeting for the Parish Clerk position. A decision had been reached on who to appoint and an offer of employment would be made the following day. It is hoped that the new Clerk will be able to attend and minute the March meeting. The current Clerk will attend that meeting and deliver the information, but that will be her last meeting.

Other matters arising were dealt with under the relevant item.

5. Borough Councillor's Report. None received.

6. County Councillor's Report. Cllr. Parry has agreed to follow-up on the issue of the Speed Indicator Device with the relevant officers at Staffordshire County Council.

7. Planning. There were no new planning applications received in February 2018.

Status of Earlier Applications:

17/27554/COU Land at Cresswell Road, Hilderstone (Stables). Change of Use of Land to Equine based Therapy & Learning Facilities. **ALLOWED.**

17/27687/HOU Woodcutters, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone. Proposed two storey rear extensions and garage conversion. Previous application allowed. **ALLOWED.**

17/26465/FUL Jesmonde, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Detached dormer bungalow to rear of Jesmonde. **APPEAL LODGED** ref: APP/Y3435/W/17/3190515. **AWAITING APPEAL DECISION.**

The Parish Council feel that the new fence around the Roebuck public house is too high and generally not in keeping with the character of the village. Cllr. Shelley agreed to speak with the tenants to express the Parish Council's concerns and see if the fence can be lowered.

8. Traffic and Highways. The Clerk has been in contact with Highways again with regards to the 30mph flashing light on Sandon Road which has still not been repaired. She is waiting for a response from the Lighting Department, but if this is not received soon the matter will be referred to Cllr. Parry for action.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. There was nothing to report on footpaths and village maintenance. The Best Kept Village application will be submitted next week. It was agreed that Cllr. Clark could arrange for some new Best Kept Village boards to be purchased. In addition to two large boards for the centre of the village, three smaller ones

will be purchased to be displayed at the village 'gateways'. Best Kept Village publicity at the village gateways was something that was suggested by the judges in last year's report.

10. Village Events. Cllr. Davies reported that the bingo evening held on 24th February had been well attended and was very enjoyable.

Forthcoming Events:

Film Night, Friday 16th March, 7.15pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Film still to be confirmed.

Jumble Sale, Saturday 7th April, 2.00pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Donations of jumble gratefully received at the Hall from 10.00am. All proceeds to the village Christmas Party and Church funds.

Antiques Valuation Afternoon, Friday 13th April, 2.30pm to 5.00pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. £1 per valuation, all proceeds go to the Church 'Access for All' project.

Elvis Tribute Act (Mark Clay), Friday 20th April in Hilderstone Village Hall. Tickets £15.00 each which includes a hog roast and dessert. All proceeds to The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. Tickets from Hazel Woodward 01889 505263 or Jenny Crump 01889 505674

Village Dinner Party, Saturday 12th May in Hilderstone Village Hall. Host a table with friends and neighbours. Further details from Joan Carr 07837 656723.

Film Night, May. Further details to be provided by the Village Hall Committee.

Scarecrow Weekend, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June in Hilderstone Village all weekend. Full details to be published on the village website and in the Parish Magazine later.

Children's Activity Afternoon, Sunday 24th June, 2.00 – 4.00pm, Hilderstone Village Hall. Further details nearer the time.

Village Summer Fete, Saturday 21st July, from 2.00pm in the field next to Lower Farm.

Jumble Sale, Saturday 15th September, 2.00pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Donations of jumble gratefully received at the Hall from 10.00am. All proceeds to the village Christmas Party and Church funds.

Village Christmas Party, Tuesday 11th December, 7.00 for 7.30pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Further details to follow nearer the time.

11. Correspondence.

- Members' Digest 239

Members Digest 238 (Cllr. Jones). The final level of Council tax increase for 2018-19 is to be determined at the February Cabinet meeting. This will be reported in the next edition of the Members' Digest.

A number of new capital programmes for the period 2010-21 have been proposed. These include a £50,000 increase in the budget for the replacement of damaged wheeled refuse bins; a £210,000 empty homes grant scheme to bring houses back into use; a new £150,000 Traveller site and £16,000 of structural repairs to Stafford Castle.

It was reported that many villages around the Borough are making good progress in dealing with dog fouling. Problem areas and offenders can still be reported to Stafford Borough Council on 01785 619402 or by emailing: dogs@staffordbc.gov.uk.

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £8901.14 in credit and the deposit account £3121.38 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. Community Council of Staffordshire, Best Kept Village Competition Entry Fee 2018 - £16.51.
2. Mrs H. Howie, Clerk's Mileage and Home Office Allowance 2017-18 - £171.40.
3. Hilderstone Village Hall Committee, Office and Storage Fee 2017-18 - £100.00.
4. OVH Limited, Village Website Hosting Fee for 6 Months, April to September 2018 - £38.95.
5. Mr W.H. Homes, Village & Highways Maintenance February 2018 - £87.50.
6. Cllr. M. Shelley, Chairman's Allowance 2017-18 - £357.00.

13. Any Other Business. The new Clerk will need to implement the new data protection regulations before the end of May 2018. The current Clerk has read some of the new guidelines and although these are extensive for large organisations, small organisations should be able to implement them in proportion to their size.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 28th March 2018 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.00p.m.

..... Cllr. M. Shelley, Chairman. 28.03.18