

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 22nd April 2015 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 press or public present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** None received.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** The Village Hall committee has installed and paid for a community defibrillator at the village hall. The Parish Council is not required to make a donation to the cost and thanks were extended to the Village Hall Committee for funding the defibrillator. Training for volunteers has yet to be arranged. The clerk will pass details of the training contact at Fulford First Responders to Cllr. Crump. The parish election in Hilderstone is uncontested and all the current Hilderstone Parish councillors will continue to serve. Parish Councillors will be required to complete an expense claim form, an acceptance of office form and a declaration of interests form. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** Apart from Development Control meetings there is very little to report at the Borough Council, due to the impending elections. There is still little that can be done to make the Bird in Hand site safer. It is hoped that the owner will complete the development in the future, although there is no indication of this at the current time. Fly-tipping appears to have reduced locally, which might be due to the recent extra signage and spy cameras that have been placed in problem areas.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.
7. **Planning.** It was noted that the plot of land on the South side of Bearstakes along Sandon Road, which has not been fully maintained for sometime, has been formally claimed. The new owners will cultivate the land and maintain the boundary hedge.

New Planning Applications April 2015:

No new applications.

Status of Earlier Applications:

13/19733/HOU Beech Tree Byre, Moss Lane, Hilderstone. Retention of timber framed parking/store building. Retrospective Application. **WITHDRAWN BY THE APPLICANTS.**

APP/Y3425/A/14/2222107 (13/19630/FUL) Appeal lodged against refusal of wind turbine at Drumble Woods, Cotwalton. **PENDING DECISION. APPEALS INSPECTOR VISITED SITE ON 17.03.2015.**

8. **Traffic and Highways.** A few days after the last parish council meeting a car went out of control near to the Roebuck corner and crashed into the grass bank near Briar Cottage. The driver was seriously injured, but this was partly due to him not wearing a seatbelt.

Cllr. Parry has approved the notes from the traffic meeting on 24th March 2015 and the clerk will circulate these in the next few days. The volume of traffic through Hilderstone will be difficult to control, but speed is still the main safety issue. Cllr. Parry did agree to moving the existing speed indicator signs to the centre of the village and the re-painting of road markings. Cllr. Parry has indicated that there are a multitude of road safety issues throughout the County

and that funds to address these are limited. Expenditure will be focused on where the killed or seriously injured accident statistics are high (which does not currently apply to the centre of Hilderstone village). An article for the Parish Magazine written by Cllr. Clark explaining the situation with regards to traffic issues was circulated to the parish councillors at the meeting. It was agreed that the Parish Council will continue to liaise with the Police and Crime Commissioner and also the Chief Constable on the matter of speeding traffic. It is hoped that the works to improve safety at the Hardiwick crossroads will start in the next few weeks.

Speedwatch have requested that the children's posters are displayed in fixed positions around the village rather than on the A-frames as previously agreed. A map showing the suggested locations was circulated to the parish councillors. It was felt that the multiple locations suggested by Speedwatch would detract from the conservation character of the village. It was agreed that posters could be fixed at each end of the two bus shelters, one on the post near the Church where there is already a poster and one could be displayed on an A-frame on the verge in front of the village green.

A request had been made to place a banner publicising Green Lea School on the metal railings at Lower Farm. It was felt that as the banner contained quite a lot of information it might cause a road safety distraction at the junction. On behalf of the Village Hall Committee, Cllr. Crump agreed that the banner could be placed beneath the village hall notice board where it can be seen by drivers travelling North and also by visitors to the village hall.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies reported that there is build-up of mud on footpath two making it difficult to negotiate. Cllr. Davies will liaise with Bill Holmes to see if he is able to dig this out. If not, Cllr. Davies will contact the Rights of Way Officer. The seat in the play area has a loose strut. The clerk will ask Bill Holmes to repair this but also to obtain some prices for a replacement seat. The spring on the gate in the infant play area also needs repairing; the clerk will contact Stafford Borough Council about this. The Best Kept Village display boards are now in place and the Church has had its first group tidy session which was very successful. It is encouraging that residents are still volunteering to help with this. There will be another Church tidy session in early May. The Village Hall Committee is to get a new letter box fitted to the village hall so that the post is easily accessible.

Cllr. Crump had collected The Best Kept Village children's posters from Green Lea School and these were judged and enjoyed by the Parish Council. A first, second and third prize was awarded in each of the two age categories. The Parish Council was pleased to see so many entries and felt that they were, as usual of a very high standard. Thanks were expressed to the pupils and staff at Green Lea School for their contribution to the competition.

10. Village Events. The monthly village market will take place again this Saturday 25th April. The jumble sale held on 11th April raised £180.00 which will be split equally between the Church and the village Christmas party fund. The Village Summer Fair will take place on Saturday 11th July 2015 from 2.00pm.

11. Correspondence.

- Letter from Stafford Borough Council re: Parish Elections (Uncontested)
- Members' Digests 206.
- Alterations to the Electoral Register.

Members' Digest 205 (Cllr. Crump). Report supporting Cabinet Decision Ref CAB66/15 regarding the Frank Jordan Centre in Stone - lease for 35 years from 25 July 2005. The Town Council does not want to bind themselves for a further 25 years given the current uncertainties about community provision in Stone. Negotiate a five year clause break. If the lease is terminated the Council has few options:

1. Run building as a community centre (without improving the building unlikely the current usage would increase).

2. Find another organisation to take on the running of the Centre on similar terms to the Town Council. Difficult to see that this would happen if it is running at a loss.
3. Explore the possibility of letting the building for commercial use (condition and configuration of the building might make it difficult to let).
4. Sell the building (0.25 acres with substantial level difference falling from the road). Potential development for housing. Within Stone Conservation Area but not listed. This would result in loss of community facility.

Options 1 and 2 have the benefit of maintaining community use of the building but with potential costs to the council. Options 3 and 4 have potential financial benefits to the Council but would decrease the amount of community space available in Stone

Council Tax 2015/2016 pp3.9-3.17 - New rate for the period for a Band D property in Hilderstone is £1468.27 per annum.

Planning - Refusal of 14/1556/HOU Whitesytc House, Whitesytc Lane, Hilderstone (alterations and extensions).

Table Talker – a project in national chains and independent eating places in Stone to monitor the effects of too much salt in the diet (Morrisons and Marstons pubs taking part, plus The Blue Room).

Food Hygiene Certificates - Mother's Day initiative go online to find out the rating of restaurant www.food.gov.uk/ratings.

Another dog owner has been fined for not cleaning up after his pet in a village in Stafford Borough (£75).

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £5356.96 in credit and the deposit account £3118.34 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. Staffordshire Parish Council's Association, Membership Subscription 2015-16. £202.00
2. Cllr. R Clark, travelling and office expenses. £30.26.
3. Mrs H Howie, administration expenses and mileage. £36.61.
4. Mr W H Holmes, village and highways maintenance. £110.00.

The clerk has prepared the End of Year Accounts and Annual Return form for the internal audit which will take place week beginning 11th May 2015. The Parish Council will then need to approve and sign these at the Annual General Meeting on 20th May 2015.

The first precept payment for the 2015-16 financial year has been received and this will be shown on the April accounts at the next meeting.

The clerk had received a request from The Friends of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service to donate £60.00 to cover the cost of the digitisation of the tithe map for Hilderstone. This is part of a large project to digitise all the Staffordshire tithe parish maps.

Resolved: the Parish Council will donate £60. The clerk will check whether the £60 donation will cover the full costs of the map for Hilderstone .

13. Any Other Business. As no suggestions from local residents have been made about how to display the ceramic World War One poppies, the PCC has designed a scheme but would like the Parish Council's approval before it goes ahead. The suggestion is that the poppy heads are mounted on a board in a wooden cabinet with a plaque in the centre featuring the soldiers' names. The original poppy stems are more difficult to display and may be left out. Cllr. Woodward suggested that some different stems could be made or painted on the board

so that the display would look more attractive. This suggestion will be taken back to the PCC for consideration. As well as being on general display it is intended that poppy display cabinet will be used outdoors on Remembrance Sunday.

14. Date of next meeting.

The Annual General Meeting and next parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 20th May at 7.00 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.45pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 20.05.15