

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7:30p.m.

Present: Cllr. M Shelley (Chairman), Cllr. R Clark, Cllr. J Crump, Cllr. A Stringer (Vice Chairman), Cllr. H Woodward, Cllr. P Davies, Stafford Borough Cllr. A Harp and Mrs A Kingston (Clerk). There was one member of the public and no members of the press present.

1. Chairman's Welcome. Cllr. Shelley welcomed Councillors and the member of the public to the meeting.

2. Apologies. Apologies were received from Staffordshire County Councillor Ian Parry and Jim Davis

3. Election of Chairman. The election of Cllr. Michael Shelley as Chairman was proposed by Cllr. Woodward and seconded by Cllr. Stringer. **Resolved by unanimous agreement Cllr. Shelley be elected as Chairman for 2018-19.** The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Shelley and witnessed and signed by the Parish Clerk.

4. Election of Vice Chairman. The election of Cllr. Stringer as Vice Chairman was proposed by Cllr. Crump and seconded by Cllr. Davies. **Resolved by unanimous agreement Cllr. Stringer be elected as Vice Chairman for 2018-19.** The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by Cllr. Shelley and witnessed and signed by the Parish Clerk.

5. Co-option to fill vacancies. Two applications have been received for the vacancy. It was agreed to interview both candidates prior to final selection. The interviews will be completed directly after the next meeting with a view to formal co-option of the successful candidate at the meeting of the PC in July.

6. Minutes of the last meeting 25th April 2018. These were read, approved and signed.

7. Matters arising.

The sign ordered for the telephone box arrived but had holes for fixing despite a formal request for the sign to be delivered without holes. A replacement will be sent shortly.

8. Borough Councillor's Report.

Cllr. Harp provided a detailed report of the work of Stafford Borough Council over the past 12 months, including the transfer of leisure services to an arms-length trust, the change in contractor for Waste Collection services and improvements to parks and play areas. He also provided details of the planned extensive transformational improvements to Stafford Town Centre and the train station, as well as the building of the Western Access Road. A full copy of the report is available from the Parish Clerk clerk@hilderstone.staffslc.gov.uk

9. County Councillor's Report. Cllr. Parry was not in attendance to provide a report but did request feedback on three proposed ideas for his allocation of funding for highways initiatives. Possible options include a Stone Rural wide community speedwatch programme (or similar), gully cleaning or allocating funding to pick up the work previously undertaken by the Neighbourhood Highways teams. The Parish Clerk will feedback that Hilderstone PC are most interested in the latter two options.

10. Planning.

New Applications May 2018:

18/28490/HOU Netherfield, 7 Barnes Croft, Hilderstone, Staffordshire, ST15 8XU. Extension of double garage to form a triple garage and new habitable room with toilet facilities on the first floor. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections.**

11. Traffic and Highways. In light of the problems with the positioning of the speed indicator device, it was agreed to formally request SCC Highways consider the provision of a yellow line rumble strip at the Hardiwick Crossroads, similar to that on the A34 at Creswell on the approach to the Beaconside roundabout.

12. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies has been in contact with the team at SCC Rights of Way and can confirm that the footpath on Whitesytch Lane is a category C3 path which means that repair and maintenance work will only be undertaken when resources allow or by volunteers.

A schedule of work has been agreed with Bill Holmes for Village Maintenance. **Resolved Clerk to obtain quotes for the additional work required. Clerk to contact Bill Holmes and confirm that work required to repair the bus shelter can go ahead.**

Best Kept Village Judges have made their first visit to Hilderstone. The Children's Posters have been displayed and the competition entries submitted.

13. Village Events. The Village dinner party on the 12th May was well attended. The film night on the 18th May was not so well attended but as it took place the day before the Royal Wedding, this may explain the lower turn out.

Forthcoming Events:

Sunflower Competition, Seedlings can be collected from the Roebuck Inn from the end of April. Seedlings cost £5 of which £2 will be donated to Dougie Mac, £2 to prize money and £1 to cover costs.

Scarecrow Weekend, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June in Hilderstone Village from 1:30 to 5pm each day, with a Scarecrow Service in Church at 11:15am on the Sunday. Tea and cake available in the village hall both days.

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.

Harvest Supper Monday 10th September, 7.00 for 7:30pm in Hilderstone Village Hall. Further details to follow nearer the time.

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.

14. Correspondence.

- Notification was received from Stafford Borough Council that the Waste and Recycling contractors Veolia will be changing some of their bin collection routes to improve efficiency of the service. Residents may have to change their collection day, a leaflet notifying households of the potential change will be delivered to every home in the borough with a new bin collection calendar. The changes will take place from the 2nd July.
- SPCA are offering a Charimanship Skills Training Course on Tuesday 19th June.

- Members' Digest 242

Members Digest 241 (Cllr. Crump). Stafford Borough Council are proposing to become a Dementia Friendly Council. This is a government funded initiative. There is a dementia outreach worker already in post and volunteers have the opportunity to become a Dementia Friends Champion.

15. Finance.

The **internal audit of annual accounts** was completed at the end of April by the internal auditor Christine Heelis. Feedback and recommendations were noted.

The Annual Government Statement for the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the year ending March 2018 was considered. **Resolved by unanimous agreement that the PC approve the Annual Governance Statement.** The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chair Cllr. Shelley and the Clerk

The Annual Accounting Statements for the year ending March 2018 were considered. **Resolved by unanimous agreement that the PC approve the Annual Accounting Statements for 2017/18.** The completed forms were signed by the Chair Cllr. Shelley and the Clerk.

The confirmation of eligibility of exemption from external audit was considered. **Resolved by unanimous agreement that the PC confirm eligibility of exemption.** The completed forms were signed by the Chair Cllr. Shelley and the Clerk.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £11785.03 in credit and the deposit account £3121.76 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 A Kingston, Clerk's Salary and expenses - £380.52
2. Mrs C Heelis, Internal Audit - £50
3. Mr W H Holmes, Village and Highways Maintenance - £150.50

The Clerk informed the PC that the new salary scales for 2018-19 have been published by NALC. Clerk to forward a copy to all councillors.

16. Any Other Business. There was no other business to discuss.

17. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th June 2018 at 7.30pm. The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

..... Cllr. M. Shelley, Chairman. 27.06.18