

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 23rd August 2017 at 7.30p.m.

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

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Shelley welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Harp who was at a Development Control meeting.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** Cllr. Stringer reported that she had seen David Westwood in Hilderstone last week and he had stated that he was hoping to move into and open the Roebuck very soon. It would appear that he now intends to lease the pub from Admiral before buying it, but will still run it as a free house.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report. Cllr. Clark commented that the staff at the Stone Re-cycling centre no longer help service users get rubbish out of their cars, but merely tell them which skip to put it in. The clerk was asked to email Cllr. Parry to ask if there has been a change in contractor or policy.

7. New Planning Applications August 2017

17/26826/FUL Drumble Mill, Cotwalton Road, Cotwalton. Proposed stables and horticultural poly-tunnel. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application providing there is no commercial activity at the property.**

Status of Earlier Applications:

17/26691/COU Newfields Farm, Cotwalton Lane, Cotwalton. **Retrospective** planning application for the change of use of two existing agricultural buildings for use as liverys and the storage of sheep and cattle (mixed use). **AWAITING DECISION.**

17/26465/FUL Jesmonde, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Detached dormer bungalow to rear of Jesmonde. **AWAITING DECISION.** This application has been 'called in' by Cllr. Beatty for a Committee decision.

17/26565/HOU Raylings House, 2 The Meadows, Hilderstone. Garden room and bay window extension. **AWAITING DECISION.**

17/26067/FUL The Breadstores, Sandon Road. Variation on Condition 6 of previous application 16/23570/LBC. Variation includes cavity drained tanking system to the below ground walls and small detail changes to the timber frame sliding doors. Mainly technical detail. **ALLOWED.**

8. **Traffic and Highways.** It was agreed that the Sandon Road closure signs in Hilderstone relating to the new water pipe installation at Bearstakes were very poor. There were no advance warning signs at either Meir Heath, Draycott or Hardiwick resulting in traffic using the very narrow and unsuitable rural lanes around the village.

Cllr. Shelley reported that Hall Lane has been top-dressed again but this has resulted in the white lines being covered up.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. and Mrs Shelley had attended the Best Kept Village Competition presentation evening where Hilderstone had been awarded Third Place in the Stafford Area small village category. Haughton was awarded First Place and Oulton Second Place. Although the total number of villages entering the competition overall was lower than in previous years; there were the same number in the Stafford Area small village category. It was noted that Haughton is a much larger village than Hilderstone. It is hoped that Hilderstone resident will be encouraged to improve on this result next year. The judges' report is normally received in September.

It was noted that the hedge and grass verge at Priory Cottage is still in need of cutting and the nettles are becoming a problem as they are over-hanging the pavement. The clerk was asked to send a second letter to the owners. Cllr. Clark notified the Parish Council that he had been approached by the owners of Raylings House to ask if they could remove the shrubs on the grass verge near to the junction of The Meadows and Hilderstone Road. It was noted that the grass verge forms part of the property and is the responsibility of the house owner. The Parish Council has no objections to the removal of the shrubs however, as it will improve visibility at the junction.

The Clerk had recently received some information from the Staffordshire Parish Council Association about the protection of 'ownerless' village greens and common land. Hilderstone Village green on Hilderstone Road was originally a water-logged and overgrown piece of land which did appear to be owned by anybody. The Hilderstone Women's Institute initially arranged for the flooded area to be filled in and the land tidied up, turning it into a public seating area now called the Village Green. Eventually the Parish Council took on the responsibility for maintaining it. The land has never been officially registered as a village green. It was agreed the Clerk should investigate whether the Parish Council should register the land and also Roebuck Bank to protect them in the future. It was also agreed that the Clerk should check whether the Hilderstone War Memorial is on the official register of UK war memorials.

10. Village Events. Forthcoming events:

- Charity Bingo Night in aid of the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution on Friday 15th September at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Pay at the door.
- Jumble Sale on Saturday 16th September at 2.00pm in the Village Hall.
- Harvest Supper on Tuesday 19th September, 7.00 for 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Tickets £6.50 for adults and £2.50 for children from Phil Davies or Sue Stubbs. There will be an auction of harvest produce after the supper.
- Village Trip to Adam Henson's Farm in the Cotswolds on Saturday 30th September, departing at 8.30am from the Village Hall. Tickets cost will be £12.00 per person for entry to the farm. Tickets from Jean Jones or Hazel Woodward.
- Murder Mystery (instead of the Barn Dance) on Friday 17th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. Ticket details to follow.
- Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.
- Village Christmas Concert on Saturday 16th December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. To be confirmed.

It was agreed that the Village Christmas Party ticket cost should be increase to £9.00 due to the rising costs and also the changes to the County Council grant subsidy requirements.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Councillors that event details could now be circulated directly to residents who have signed up to the new the village emailing list, which has been set up by Richard Pilcher. Event organisers should email details/flyers/posters etc. to Richard who will

circulate them to everybody on the mailing list. Event details will continue to be displayed on the Events Diary on the village website and notice boards for those people who do not wish to be on the emailing list.

11. Correspondence.

- Stafford Borough Council Community Awards.
- Notification of Change of Insurance Company (from Aon to BHIB Ltd).
- Members' Digest 234

Members' Digest 233 (Cllr. Jones) Very little of interest to Hilderstone in this Digest except the planning decisions made, which have already been reported in previous Parish Council minutes.

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £8129.14 in credit and the deposit account £3121.07 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. Hilderstone Parochial Church Committee, Concurrent Funding for Churchyard - £464.00.
2. Hilderstone Village Hall Management Committee, Concurrent Funding for Village Hall Insurance - £464.00.

The 2016-17 Annual Audit Return has been approved by the external auditor Grant Thornton. This is the last time it will need to be submitted to an external auditor unless requested. The Parish Council still has to have an internal audit, complete the same documentation and display all the information on a public website.

13. Any Other Business. Cllr. Clark reported that Mr Kitchen had expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. As two of the current Parish Councillors wish to step down at or before the next Parish Elections, it was agreed that Mr Kitchen should be invited to observe some Parish Council meetings to see if it is something he wishes to do.

Cllr. Clark commented that houses seem to be selling quite quickly and for good prices in Hilderstone recently. Most of the houses sold are on The Meadows estate, but others have been sold in different parts of the village.

Cllr. Woodward asked when the dead hawthorn tree is going to be replaced on Roebuck bank. Cllr. Clark said he would check with Simon Down soon.

Cllr. Crump reminded the Parish Council that she had agreed to paint the iron railings at Lower Farm. It was agreed that she should wait until permission had been obtained from the owner. It was also agreed that the Parish Council will pay for the paint if Cllr. Crump does the painting.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th September at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Cllr. R. Shelley, Chairman. 27.09.17.