

## Hilderstone Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30p.m.

**Present:** Cllr. Clark (Chairman), Cllr. P. Davies, Cllr. A. Harp, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. I. Parry, Cllr. A. Stringer and Cllr. H. Woodward (joined the meeting at 8.00pm). There were no members of the press or public present.

- 1. Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Clark welcomed the councillors to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Crump, Cllr. Parry, Cllr Shelley.
- 3. Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
- 4. Matters arising.** No further progress has been made with the ceramic poppy display; the target date for completion of this is Remembrance Day 2015. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.
- 5. Borough Councillor's Report.** There is to be a Rural Housing meeting on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July and it is hoped as many rural parish councils will be there as possible. The meeting is to focus on current and future rural housing needs. It was noted that the 2013 Hilderstone village survey had highlighted a small possible need for starter homes for adult children living at home and for retirement housing for people wishing to downsize. Cllr. Clark commented that the village already had a relatively high number of social housing units for its size and that when these were built local people were not willing to go on the housing waiting list and the properties were let to people originating from outside the village.

Cllr. Harp reported that in response to several complaints he has asked for the street nameplates on Farm View to be re-located so that the street can be more easily identified.

Cllr. Harp has been contacted about the issue of parking on Cowleasow Lane, Sandon Road. There is also a car which is regularly blocking the pavement. The Parish Council has written to the house whose members are responsible for the inconsiderate parking and also raised the matter with the local PCSO. It was noted that Cowleasow Lane is an un-adopted road and therefore technically owned by the residents living on it. It is also a public bridleway.

As the Milwich Ward has been expanded as part of the recent review, the two Milwich Ward councillors may struggle to attend all the Parish Council meetings. Cllr. Beatty is keen to meet all the parish councils within the Milwich Ward and will endeavour to attend at least one meeting this year.

- 6. County Councillor's Report.** Reported under Item 8. Traffic and Highways.

#### **7. Planning.**

##### **New Planning Applications June 2015:**

15/22411/HOU Whitesytch House, Whitesytch Lane. Proposed garage extension to the side with bedroom above and utility/kitchen extension to the rear. **Resolved: The Parish Council has no objections to this application.**

##### **Status of Earlier Applications:**

15/22176/HOU Hillcrest, Sandon Road. Conversion of space over existing detached garage to form dependant relative accommodation. **PENDING DECISION.**

15/22275/LBC The Bower, Sandon Road. Installation of four additional conservation roof-lights to provide natural light to upstairs room. **PENDING DECISION.**

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.**

The conservation area appraisal consultation meeting has been put back until September. All householders living within the conservation area will receive a letter during the summer inviting them to the public consultation. Residents will be able to give their views on the proposal at this event.

**8. Traffic and Highways.** Cllr. Parry had reported by email that the safety measures at Hardiwick crossroads and the refreshing of the white lines in Hilderstone will take place this year but an exact date cannot currently be given due to external contractor lead times. The County Council want all the various elements to be delivered at the same time as this is more cost efficient than a 'piecemeal' approach. The moving of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) from the Church has been delayed due to staff shortages at the Road Safety Partnership. Cllr. Stringer reported that somebody was in the village to assess the new location near the village hall on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June, so it is hoped that the SID will be moved soon. The PCSO has confirmed to Cllr. Clark that the SID does record vehicle speeds; but he needs to check if parish councils are allowed access to this data. The PCSO also advised that there are only two police speed recording guns in the area and that these are concentrated on areas where high speed is a major problem. Based on current speed information Hilderstone is not seen as a priority area, so is unlikely to get regular camera van visits.

The flashing 30mph sign on Sandon Road should be fixed within the next few days. Cllr. Parry emphasised in his email that the Highways Department are having to work with a significantly reduced budget and therefore higher priority defects will be dealt with first. The clerk commented that highways defects have always been graded and parish councils are advised that lower priority jobs can often take up to 90 days to be repaired.

**9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village.** Cllr. Davies has been in contact with The Rights of Way Officer again and the fingerposts and stile on Cresswell Road should be repaired soon. He has also reported some broken planks on a bridge on Footpath 7. The Rights of Way Officer had indicated that the fallen tree and other boundary vegetation on Footpath 9 was probably not their responsibility. It was agreed that Cllr. Davies would ask for a ranger to have a look at the footpath to establish who is responsible for maintaining the boundary hedges and trees.

Cllr. Clark commented that there are some areas of the village which need extra attention if the village is to do well in the Best Kept Village Competition. Bill Holmes is doing a good job in maintaining the larger areas of the village, but to obtain a placing in the competition requires volunteers to work in the village on a very regular basis. The re-planting of Roebuck Bank will be considered again at the end of the summer; Cllr. Woodward and the Parish Clerk will research some smaller ornamental trees for the site.

**10. Village Events** The coffee morning at the Roebuck in aid of the Nepal earthquake victims was very well attended and raised £423.00. Many people mentioned that it would be nice if a regular coffee morning could be held at the pub.

The next event is the Village Fair on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00pm. Another jumble sale will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 2.00pm to raise funds for the village Christmas Party and Church. There is also to be an event to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the village hall on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September, more details to follow.

#### **11. Correspondence Received June 2015.**

- Notification of the Final Draft of the County Council Minerals Plan.
- Notification of the Part 2 Proposals of The Plan for Stafford Borough & Community Infrastructure Levy Draft Charging Schedule Consultations.
- Changes to the Electoral Register.

- Members' Digests 208.

**Members' Digest 207 (Cllr. Jones)** – this was a special edition of the Digest which dealt with planning applications which were 'called-in' and discussed by the Planning Committee. Applications relevant to Hilderstone were:

- Dingle Lane Farm which was approved by the Committee on the grounds that the proposed extension did not significantly impact on the greenbelt.
- Land owned/occupied by travellers at Spot Acre which has been ongoing for 12 years. The owners of this land did not have planning permission to live on it, but had been given extensions for several years. The residents have now been given final notice to leave the land and Stafford Borough Council is to instruct a barrister to provide advice on what further action can be taken.

## 12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £7864.97 in credit and the deposit account £3118.59 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, Clerk's Expenses & Mileage for May & June - £22.31.
2. Mr W. H. Holmes, Village Maintenance and Plants - £195.00.
3. Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman's Allowance 2015-16 - £338.50.
4. Hilderstone PCC, Concurrent Monies 2015-16 - £404.00.
5. Hilderstone Village Hall Committee, Concurrent Monies 2015-16 - £404.00.

The clerk has received notification that the Annual Return forms have been received by the external auditor. Notification of whether these have been approved should be received within the next few weeks. The grant application for the village Christmas party funding has been submitted to Cllr. Parry.

**13. Any Other Business.** Cllr. Clark reported that he has received several enquiries with regards to the village hall. He asked the clerk to put a reminder in the next village magazine that the Parish Council is not responsible for the village hall.

Cllr. Woodward asked if it was likely that an open garden event would be held in Hilderstone again. It was agreed that if there was sufficient willingness by villagers to open their gardens one could be organised.

Cllr. Davies had attended the recent meeting organised by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) about the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The PCC, Matthew Ellis spoke about the upgrading of technology within the Police Force and indicated that the intention is to roll this out to the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. Some of the attendees had indicated that they might not have the facilities or skill set to be able to use the new technology. A solution to this problem was not given at the meeting.

It was noted that the stable block on Cresswell Road is still not being used to house horses.

Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Crump are scheduled to visit Green Lea School on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> July to present the certificates and prizes for the Best Kept Village Poster Competition.

## 14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2015 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 22.07.15.