

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 25th February 2015 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. M. Shelley (Vice Chairman), Cllr. A. Stringer and Cllr. H. Woodward. Richard Pilcher was present until after item 8 had been discussed. Kirsty James a journalist from the Staffordshire Newsletter was present throughout the meeting.

1. Chairman's Welcome. Cllr. Shelley welcomed the councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

2. Apologies. Cllr. Clark and Cllr Harp.

3. Minutes of the last meeting. These were read, approved and signed. It was noted that the British Heart Foundation partial grant funding for defibrillators does not currently have a deadline for applications. It was again agreed that the purchase of a defibrillator for the village should wait until after the clerk has been notified whether the forthcoming parish election is to be contested. A contested election will incur high expenditure for the parish council.

4. Matters arising. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.

5. Borough Councillor's Report. No report.

6. County Councillor's Report. Email correspondence reported under item 8.

7. Planning.

No new applications in February.

Status of Earlier Applications:

14/20397/OUT Outline application for four bed detached house on land at the rear of the Old Chapel Cowleasow Lane. The clerk had been informed that this application had been '**made invalid**' and amended plans need to be submitted by the applicant.

14/21556/HOU Whitesytch House, Whitesytch Lane – alterations including garage extension to side with bedrooms above and single storey rear extension to kitchen and utility area.
REFUSED.

SMD/2014/0576 Blythe Business Park . Expansion of Blythe Business Park and 168 houses.
PENDING DECISION. To be considered at 26.02.15 Planning Committee at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

13/19733/HOU Beech Tree Byre, Moss Lane, Hilderstone. Retention of timber framed parking/store building. Retrospective Application. **PENDING CONSIDERATION.**

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

The Borough Conservation Officer has emailed Cllr. Clark and Cllr. Crump to advise that she is now in a position to meet with them soon to discuss the finalisation of the conservation area appraisal. It is not clear at this stage if the appraisal will be ready for public consultation by the end of April when it is hoped that a village consultation meeting will be held.

8. Traffic and Highways. Richard Pilcher reported that Hilderstone Speedwatch had their first deployment after the winter break on Thursday 19th February. The monitoring took place at the bus stop on Sandon Road. There had been 31 vehicles in one hour travelling over the speed limit and 30% of these were in excess of 40 mph. The highest speed recorded was around 45 mph. The speeds recorded by Speedwatch are not always a true reflection of what

happens on a daily basis, as many drivers often slow down when they see the Speedwatch team.

It was also reported that there had been another serious accident at the Hilderstone crossroads on Saturday 21st February. A car travelling from Sandon did not stop at the crossroads and hit another car. Debris from this crash had been left in the road and the police left the scene even though there was a lot of queuing traffic which in itself was causing a hazard. It was noted that one of the people involved in the accident at the crossroads in December was still undergoing treatment and is likely to take several months to recover. Since the accident there has been an exchange of emails about it between County Councillor Parry and Richard Pilcher. Cllr. Parry has re-iterated that the County Council were to undertake a safety review of the crossroads and that he was disappointed that this had not yet been completed. Richard Pilcher had taken the opportunity to draw Cllr. Parry's attention to the increasing volume of traffic and speed issues on the B5066. The volume of traffic on the B5066 is often higher than on the A51. Richard Pilcher has asked Cllr. Parry for a complete review of the traffic volumes travelling through Hilderstone from Meir Heath and Draycott through to Sandon. Richard Pilcher suggested that the Parish Council needs to request statistics on accidents in the parish in the last five years and also the criteria for various types of highways safety measures to be implemented. It was noted that the builds-outs in Hilderstone are slowing traffic through the centre of the village but that traffic is still speeding outside of these controls. It was also noted that many of the accidents at Hilderstone crossroads had been caused by driver error but that this could be related to poor warning signage as well as excessive speed.

There is a blocked gully on Cresswell Road near Woodcutter's Cottage and the potholes and broken tarmac around the drain on Whitesytch Lane have still not been repaired. There is also a lot of large hedge cuttings which have been left by a landowner on the verge in Whitesytch Lane. The clerk cannot take action unless the landowner's name and full address can be identified.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies is still in the process of walking all the footpaths to check for repairs and hedge cutting requirements. Cllr. Woodward reported that there is a broken finger post opposite High Tree bungalow. The swings in the children's play area need checking as they are squeaking, Cllr Davies will report this to Streetscene. The clerk has received the entry forms for the Best Kept Village competition 2015 and will send these off soon.

10. Village Events. Another village market is to be held this Saturday 28th February and they are scheduled for the last Saturday of each month for the rest of the year except December. Jumble sales will be held on Saturday 11th April and Saturday 19th September both at 2.00pm in the village hall. The date for the village Christmas party is Tuesday 8th December 2015 at 7.00pm for 7.30pm. The clerk will arrange for all these dates to be entered on the village website events diary.

11. Correspondence Received February 2015

- Community Council Diary of Village Events
- Letter re Demand for Allotments
- Walkwise Leaflets
- Furniture Mine Information
- Members' Digests 204

Members' Digest 202 (Cllr. Crump) P1.7. CAB48. Sports and Recreational Facilities Stone. Considered a report from a consulting company related to the provision of sporting and recreational facilities in Stone. Resolved: that the proposal of the Cabinet Member be approved as follows:- The findings of the report be adopted and the recommendations be used as a basis for considering further improvements to the level of sporting and recreational provision in Stone and as justification for future funding. More information on pages 2.106-2.122 Case for a new leisure centre in Stone. "A new leisure centre will give residents of Stone and

surrounding area a facility comparable to that of Stafford and will for the first time allow daytime access”.

P2.1-2.69 Reports supporting cabinet decisions including financial plans for the period 2014/15-2017/18.

Pp4.9-4.29 Draft Housing Strategy Consultation. Priorities include energy efficiency, hazard free homes, homeless prevention, health and well being support.

Pp6.24-6.25. Eyes of the Country on dog fouling in Stafford. Stafford Borough Council is backing a countrywide scheme to make people clean up after their dogs. The Council has already made national headlines following a series of clamp downs on dog fouling across the borough.

P6.27. Campaign for Safe Nights Out launched. Launched to coincide with the Christmas period. Booklets designed to fit into wallets or purses will be handed out in the town containing information on taxi rank locations, alcohol unit guidelines, how to spot a legitimate taxis and taxi marshals. Link www.staffordbc.gov.uk/beawarebesafe

Members' Digest 203 (Cllr. Jones) New Leisure Facilities in Westbridge Park, Stone. The scheme is good as long as the Borough Council can raise the required funds; as the cost is estimated to be around £2 million. The proposal is to be considered and submitted to Committee for consultation.

Traveller Site at Spot Acre. The Borough Council are limiting the site occupation by traveller vans to five years.

New temporary planning officer. Cabinet was updated on the design quality to be implemented on major housing developments. Groups of ten or more new houses are to be of mixed, high quality designs in order to make new developments look more attractive.

12. Finance. The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Vice Chairman. The current account is £6203.48 in credit and the deposit account £3118.08 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. Mr W H Holmes, village and highways maintenance - £181.00.
2. Community Council of Staffordshire, Best Kept Village Entry Fee 2015 - £15.65.
3. Mrs H Howie, Clerks Expenses & Mileage - £22.79.
4. Mr W H Holmes, balance of highways maintenance invoice (missed off cheque above in error) - £36.00.

13. Elections Information. The clerk briefed the parish councillors on the key dates for the forthcoming parish elections and on how the nomination forms should be completed. The elections will take place on Thursday 7th May 2015 on the same day as the Borough and General election. The clerk has put a notice in the last two parish magazines notifying members of the public that they can put themselves forward as a parish councillor if they wish.

14. Any Other Business. Cllr. Stringer reported that the Church has decided to allow local residents to suggest where the World War One ceramic poppies should be placed. She will report back when a final decision has been made on this.

15. Date of next meeting. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 25.03.15