

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017 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. 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.** Cllr. Crump reported that the number of children from Hilderstone currently attending Green Lea School is eight. The total number of children at Green Lea is currently 34; this will increase to 40 in September 2017. Other matters arising were reported under the relevant headings.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** The refuse collection contract is to go out to tender soon. The current contractor Biffa, will not be bidding because they only offer 50% of the value the recyclable waste to the Borough Council. The three contractors which will be bidding, offer 75% of the value of the recyclables. The new contractor may change the collection day timetable. The tender for the running of Stafford Borough sports facilities is also been issued in the near future.

Discussions about the impact of the HS2 route on the villages around Stafford will be ongoing. The HS2 route will also impact on the proposed new housing estates at Redhill. The local plan may need to be revised in light of this. There will be a review of The Plan for Stafford Borough in the next 12 months as the Borough Council has a duty to keep a 5 year housing land supply and also sufficient planned new housing numbers to meet future demand. Building outside of the key service villages may need to take place, but it is hoped that this will not be in the smaller rural villages. In the Milwich Ward as a whole there has been a relatively large amount of building given that it is a rural ward. Milwich Parish Council has decided against doing a Neighbourhood Plan due to the cost and complexity.

The Elections Office at the Borough Council will of course be very busy over the next few weeks due to the recently announced General Election.

6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.
7. **Planning.** No new applications in April.

Status of Earlier Applications:

17/25784/HOU Malthouse Croft, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Single storey utility extension, replacement windows and alterations to the forecourt. **REFUSED.**

17/25889/FUL Hilderstone Garage, Hall Lane, Hilderstone. Vehicle Storage Building. Amendment to vehicle access doors from one on gable end of building to four on side of building to allow better accessibility. **ALLOWED**

17/25766/HOU Vernon Cottage, Sandon Road, Hilderstone. Two-storey rear extension, patio, retaining wall and landscaping. Much smaller extension than the plans previously submitted and approved. **ALLOWED**

16/25047/FUL Bird in Hand, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone. Minor Variations on application 09/11677/FUL. Revised window pattern to improve the aesthetic appearance of the elevations. Dormer window numbers reduced to de-clutter eaves detailing to roof. Roof pitch reduced to

accommodate specified roof tile to address limitations of the site conditions of the existing building. **ALLOWED**

A letter has been sent to all households in Hilderstone by Phil Dale and Andy Reiss about the Roebuck. The letter asks for an indication of residents' support for keeping a pub in the village. Ian Bradford of Limestone Breweries, Stone has had discussions with Phil Dale and Andy Reiss about Limestone leasing and running the pub should a community group purchase it. Mr Bradford does not have the financial resources to purchase the pub. If there is sufficient support from local residents the next step will be to hold a meeting to discuss a way forward.

Enforcement powers with respect to the repair and maintenance of listed buildings and other properties within the conservation area lies with Stafford Borough Council. The Parish Council does not have any formal power in respect of these issues. The Borough Council has indicated that it will only take enforcement action if a listed building is in such a poor state of repair that it is in danger of being lost for good.

8. Traffic and Highways. Very little to report, other than the volume of traffic at peak times continues to be very high. There have been no accidents in the last few weeks.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. The Clerk was asked to write to the owners of Priory Cottage to notify them that the grass verge under their boundary hedge on Hilderstone Road is their responsibility to maintain. Cllr. Davies reported that Footpath Four at the side of the Church has now been strimmed. A historic map obtained by Cllr. Stringer from the Land Registry shows that Footpath Four was much wider than it is now and was possibly a cart track. Cllr. Davies will contact the County Council Rights of Way Officer with regards to this.

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. Only Class Two had provided posters, as Class One had done some for the Milwich litter picking campaign. A first, second and third prizes were awarded. Thanks were expressed to the pupils and staff at Green Lea School for their contribution to the Best Kept Village Competition

10. Village Events The April jumble sale organised by Cllr. Jones and Cllr. Woodward has raised £120.00 this will be donated equally to the Church and the village Christmas Party Fund.

Cllr. Crump reported that 20 children had attended the St. George's Day activity morning held at the Village Hall. The age range was babies to eight or nine years old. Most of the children were from Hilderstone. Thanks were extended to Debbie Brittain for organising the event. The next film night has had to be cancelled due to the withdrawal of the funding received from the County Council. The Village Hall Committee are looking at other ways of running the film nights at a reasonable cost. One possibility is that the Village Hall Committee can use the film equipment themselves. The first 'Pop up Pub' night held in the village hall was a success. Thanks were extended to Andy Reiss for providing the sound system.

Forthcoming Events:

Village Consultation Meeting on Thursday 25th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Pop up Pub Night on 26th May 2017 from 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Possibly with a Karaoke.

Summer Fair on Saturday 15th July 2017 on the Lower Farm field or in the Village Hall in case of bad weather.

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.

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 £8.50.

Barn Dance on Friday 17th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Village Christmas Party on Tuesday 12th December at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

11. Correspondence Received April 2017.

- Electoral Register Changes

Members' Digest 230 (Cllr. Jones). With regards to Stafford Hospital the Leader of the Council made the following statement:

"We have known for sometime and this Council accepts that the NHS has to change if it is to deliver high quality care for all. However the reasons for not cutting back anymore in Stafford are as follows:

1. The Stafford Borough general population will increase significantly in coming years and more health centres will be needed particularly for our aging population.
2. There is the possibility that two further regiments will come to MoD Stafford.
3. There are already huge strains and stresses being experienced at the Accident and Emergency Department at the University Hospital in Stoke-on-Trent.

The decision to reduce the Accident and Emergency Department at Stafford Hospital will not achieve the outcomes required by the Sustainability and Transformation Plans."

Waste Alert: the incidences of fly-tipping around the borough are increasing. Anybody witnessing this offence can report it to CrimeStoppers on 0800 555111.

12. Finance.

The End of Year accounts for 2016-17 which had been circulated prior to the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman. The accounts will now go through the internal audit process before the Annual Return is submitted to the External Auditor. The current account is £6402.09 in credit and the deposit account £3120.96 in credit. Most of these funds are ring-fenced for specific purposes and will be carried forward to the 2017-18 financial year.

The following payments were approved:

1. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association, Annual Subscription - £192.00
2. SD Renovations & Maintenance, Telephone Kiosk Re-Painting - £240.00.
3. Mr WH Holmes, Village & Highways Maintenance April 2017 - £240.00.
4. Clerk's Salary increase for 2017-18. (Standing order mandate adjustment)

The first precept payment for 2017-18 was received on 6th April 2017.

The Parish Council Financial Procedures and Risk Assessment documents which had been circulated prior to the meeting for review were approved. It was agreed that the volunteer litter pickers should be thanked and advised by letter that they should wear high visibility waistcoats and not work along the main roads where there are no pavements.

13. Any Other Business. Cllr. Clark reminded councillors that the next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting and a new Chairman and Vice-Chairman will need to be selected. The Annual Village Consultation Meeting will be held on Thursday 25th May 2017, although to-date no suggestions have been received from residents about how they would like to see the village develop. Cllr. Clark will put up some posters to remind villagers of the meeting nearer the date.

14. Date of next meeting.

The Annual General meeting and next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th May at 7.00 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.30pm

..... Parish Council Chairman. 24.05.17