

Hilderstone Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 27th January 2016 at 7.30p.m.

Present: Cllr. J. Crump, Cllr. P. Davies, Mrs. H. Howie (Clerk), Cllr. J. Jones, Cllr. M. Shelley (Vice-Chairman), and Cllr. A. Stringer. Kerry Ashdown a journalist from the Staffordshire Newsletter was also present.

1. **Chairman's Welcome.** Cllr. Shelley welcomed the councillors and Kerry Ashdown to the meeting.
2. **Apologies.** These were received from Cllr. Clark, Cllr. Harp and Cllr. Woodward.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting.** These were read, approved and signed.
4. **Matters arising.** The post box at the Bird in Hand has still not been replaced. Kerry Ashdown said that she would follow this up for the Parish Council with Royal Mail. The County Councillor's grant funding for the tree works and re-planting on Roebuck Bank has been received. The trees have been felled and the planting of the new trees should follow soon. Other matters arising were dealt with under the agenda headings.
5. **Borough Councillor's Report.** No report.
6. **County Councillor's Report.** No report.
7. **Planning.** The recently updated Hilderstone Conservation Area Appraisal has now been fully approved by Stafford Borough Council. All households within the new conservation area boundary should have received a letter to this effect. The full conservation area appraisal document is available to view on the Stafford Borough website at:

www.staffordbc.gov.uk/conservation-area-list

The appraisal document will be used as a material consideration in Stafford Borough Council's planning process.

New Planning Applications January 2016

16/23569/HOU The Bread Stores, Sandon Road. Proposed conversion of outbuildings to form an extension to the main dwelling. **Resolved: the Parish Council has no objections to the plans providing they meet with the Conservation Officer's Requirements.**

16/23527/HOU 1 Spot Lane, Spot Acre. **Amendment to previously approved plans.** Proposed outbuilding to include garden store, W/C and games room. 0.5 metre increase in length? **Resolved: As the previous set of plans were approved by the Planning Officer the Parish Council cannot see any point in objecting to these plans. The Parish Council is still against garden buildings being built in green belt areas unless for a very specific requirement such as a relative with care needs.**

16/23540/LBC The Bower, Sandon Road. Installation of additional roof-lights to provide natural light to the first floor. Retention of the stairs and first floor storage. **Resolved: the Parish Council has no objections to the plans.**

Status of Earlier Applications:

15/23433/FUL New Beech Tree farm, Moss Lane, Moss Gate. Proposed extension to the existing general purpose agricultural building. **AWAITING DECISION.**

15/23020/HOU Beech Tree Byre, Moss Lane, Hilderstone. Retention of timber framed parking/store building. **APPROVED**

APP/Y3425/A/14/2222107 (13/19630/FUL) Appeal lodged against refusal of wind turbine at Drumble Woods, Cotwalton. **STILL PENDING DECISION. September 2015 Notified Bill Cash has asked for the appeal to be 'Recovered'. Decision process now underway and Stafford Borough Council has been consulted on the Ministerial Statement.**

8. Traffic and Highways. Despite the recent heavy rain Hall Lane has not flooded on the corner near to the garage, so the drainage works carried out a few years ago must be very effective. The potholes and poor surface further along Hall Lane have yet to be repaired. The road edge near to the bridge over the brook on Cotwalton Road has finally been repaired. The white line on the edge of Sandon Road opposite Dingle Lane has been reinstated. The 30mph flashing sign on Sandon Road is still not working properly despite being reported several times; the clerk will report this again to Highways.

9. Footpaths/Village Maintenance/Best Kept Village. Cllr. Davies has been notified that the rotten wood on the bridge on footpath seven has now been replaced. Cllr. Davies will check the works when the weather improves. The Rights of Way (ROW) department has written to the owner of the overgrown hedge on footpath fourteen asking them to cut it as soon as possible or they will be charged for any necessary works that ROW need to carry out.

The iron railing repair at Lower Farm is currently in the hands of the insurance company and it may be a few months before this is completed.

The clerk has received the entry forms for the Best Kept Village Competition 2016 and it was agreed that the village should enter again. Cllr. Crump reported that the Village Hall Committee have got plans to improve the village hall surrounds. It is hoped that a large floral display can be provided at the entrance to the hall (in front of the main steps) to provide more impact and hopefully impress the Best Kept Village judges. The clerk will also write to the Roebuck landlord in March to ask if the pub's floral display can also be expanded.

10. Village Events Jumble sales will be held again in April and September in the village hall; dates to follow. Film nights in the village hall will be held on Friday 29th January (The Imitation Game) and Friday 29th April 2016 (The Theory of Everything) both starting at 7.00pm. Doors open at 6.30pm. The Scarecrow Weekend will be held on the weekend of 11th and 12th June 2016. The monthly village markets are to run again in 2016 on the last Saturday of each month in the village hall.

The Village Christmas Party and Christmas Concert held in December were both very successful, fully booked and enjoyed by all those who attended. Thanks goes to the organisers of both events.

11. Correspondence January 2016.

- Best Kept Village Competition 2016 Entry Form
- Electoral Register Changes
- Members' Digest 214.
- Members' Digest 215.
- Members' Digest 216.

Members' Digest 213 (Cllr. Davies) Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted and Tixall and Fulford Conservation Area Appraisals approved.

The Borough Council Financial Plans for 2016-17 and 2018-19 were proposed and recommend for approval.

The proposed extension to Mansion House Surgery approved with conditions from both Highways and Environmental Health.

Planning permission was granted for the conversion of the rear of Baileys DIY store into hot food takeaway.

Planning Permission granted for 15/22804/HOU for Ash Grange, Sandon Road extension for wet room and garage extension.

12. Finance.

The monthly accounts were presented and signed by the Chairman. The current account is £7207.37 in credit and the deposit account £3119.51 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. Stafford Borough Council, 2015 Election Re-charges - £97.68
2. Mr W H Holmes, Village and Highways Maintenance - £170.00.
3. Ven-Agri Services, Roebuck Bank Cutting - £270.00.

13. Any Other Business. Open Reach have been carrying out works in the village recently and it would appear that this relates to the installation of the superfast broadband cable. The Superfast Staffordshire Project website is currently showing that Hilderstone should have the new cable by the end of 2016 (although this might be subject to change). It is hoped that any necessary works to the local exchange are also carried out, otherwise broadband speeds may not improve even with the new cable.

Cllr. Jones will be moving to Fulford in February 2016. The regulations state that a parish councillor can reside within three miles of the parish that they serve. The Clerk will check the distance, but at this stage it is thought that Cllr. Jones's new address will meet the necessary criteria.

14. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 24th February 2016 at 7.30 p.m. The meeting closed at 9.00pm

..... Cllr. R. Clark, Chairman. 24.02.16