**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, SWINDON ON WEDNESDAY 18th JULY AT 7PM**

**PRESENT: - MRS Y NOCK**

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: - MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES, MR P HEMMINGS**

**APOLOGIES: - MRS M SINCLAIR, MR M CRISP, MRS S FROST**,

**PCSO G MURPHY**

**NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

**DECLARATION OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS –**

**Section 17 – reminds Parish Councils to review if any of the decisions made at the Parish Council meeting have implications in relation to crime, disorder, anti-social behavior or community safety in general.**

**-Cllr Lees: as a member of South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC), will reconsider any planning applications at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at that tier and at District level will declare an interest arising from membership of this Parish Council when expressing a view on any relative matters.**

POLICE REPORT - Dates: 20/6/18 – 17/7/18

• Since the last meeting there has been one theft of a motor vehicle, there have been several reports of suspicious vehicles around the new estate by Baggeridge which is good as we can then patrol the location at the appropriate times thus reducing crime.

• ASB hotspots: Increase in calls relating to Baggeridge Country Park mainly youths hanging around during the evenings and a report of youths swimming in the lake which the warden had been dealing with, this is possibly due to the hot weather and the odd vehicle on the car park. PCSO’s aware and patrolling the area to provide advice to the young people.

• We now have the use of parking buddies which are given to a school for approximately one week at a time to locate where the parking is a problem, these are cut out characters advising where not to park, slow down etc

• Please keep looking at smart alerts and if a member of the public comes to you with a problem please encourage them to sign up to smart alert and to contact via 101. Don’t forget our twitter page.

• Upcoming events – There is a speeding initiative being arranged for the villages this month.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING –

* The replacement basket swing for the Playing Field has been ordered.
* Cllr Nock has received communication from Emma Rumsby, Parliamentary Caseworker for our MP re Superfast Broadband. We now have details of contacts if we want to go ahead with fund raising to cover costs. However, the government has raised the prospect of switching off the UK's copper telephone network, some of which is 140 years old as it consults on the nation's future digital infrastructure needs so it may be more appropriate to wait.
* 101 phone calls – Clerk received this response from the Police and Crime Commissioner :-

In relation to the service around 101, I suspect that due to the postcode and the close proximity of the border to the West Midlands, the national system is recognising residents as being from the West Midlands and is selecting West Midlands Police as their primary force. If residents listen to the full 101 message it will direct them to request a specific force, where they can then ask for Staffordshire Police it will redirect them through to ourselves.

101 wait times have increased recently, this is due to a significant increase of 999 calls being made. This is not just specific to Staffordshire, it is a national trend. In 2017 for this time of year we were dealing with an average of 411 calls per day, however in 2018 up to May this has increased to 441. From June of this year we have seen as much as a 19% increase on some days with an average of 527 calls per day and on some days we have seen in excess of 650 calls – this is equivalent to New Year’s Eve demand.

As a result of the increase in 999 demand,we have to divert 101 operators away from non-emergency to 999 emergency calls which is leads to delays on occasion.

Our corporate resourcing unit and our performance managers are working hard to ensure that our staffing meets demand. Additionally next year there will be more digital access routes to enable people to report incidents and crime,therefore we should reduce some of the immediate demand pressures on the service.

* Auditors – They have confirmed receipt of the notification that as the Parish Council income/expenditure is less than £25000 for 2017/18 no further action will be taken by them. The accounts are published as per the requirements on the Himley Parish Council webpages on the SSDC website.
* The grass verges are looking better but Cllr Nock has asked if the verge by Himley notice board can be cut as it has only been cut once this year and is overgrown.
* Due to unforeseen circumstances Cllrs Nock and Oliver were unable to attend the Police Accountability Forum but Cllr Lees attended. He updated on the new Police structure.
* Wodehouse Lane has been swept but the verges were not litter-picked.
* Horse riding in Baggeridge Country Park is still a problem off the designated tracks, particularly in the amphitheatre. The warden at Baggeridge Country Park is to pursue this.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 18/00500/FUL – Baggeridge Country Park, Erection of new classroom facility, attached canopy, outdoor shelter, storage containers and climbing wall, val 19.06.18, consult to 30.07.18, deadline 14.08.18, C.O. Laura Moon.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION:

* 18/00193/FUL  - Land east of Red Lane, Proposed storage building : Amendment – val 09.03.18, consult to 28.06.18, agreed expiry date 20.07.18, C.O. Paul Turner. Applicants have reduced the size of the proposed storage building by 6ft in length and width and 12ft in height.
* 18/00363/VAR - [12A Himley Lane](https://maps.google.com/?q=12A+Himley+Lane&entry=gmail&source=g), Removal of condition 4 from application 16/00779/FUL dormer bungalow, applicant wishes to use garage as a living room. Val 03.05.18, consult to 28.05.18, deadline 28.06.18 C.O. Laura Moon.   HPC Objected
* 18/00365/FUL – [12A Himley Lane](https://maps.google.com/?q=12A+Himley+Lane&entry=gmail&source=g), Double garage and boundary wall, HPC Objected

PLANNING DECISIONS

* 18/00463/C OM – Himley Wood Landfill, To retain existing electricity generating plant for landfill gas and replace equipment to generate from compressed natural gas, val 30.05.18, consult to 27.06.18, deadline 27.06.18, C/O. Debbie Hall. Referred to Staffs County Council 27.06.18

DISCHARGE OF CONDITIONS

* 17/00727/COND - 85 School Road, val 13.06.18, Expiry date 08.08.18, deadline 05.09.18, C.O. Paul Thompson, Discharge of condition 3 (materials)
* 17/00260/COND – Himley Field Cottage, Himley Lane, erection of one dwelling and timber log store. Discharge of conditions 4, 5, and 6, val 02.07.18, consult expiry 02.08.18, deadline 24.09.18.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL - None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS:-

* HSBC bank statement was presented for information purposes.
* Posters were distributed for display on the noticeboard.
* The directional sign on Dudley Road at the junction with High Arcal Road has now been replaced.
* The sunken trench in School Road by Churns Hill Lane has been filled in.
* We received notification that if there is a councillor vacancy within six months of a Parish election, it should not be filled via the standard casual vacancy process.
* Playsafety has confirmed that they will complete the inspection of the play equipment in August.
* Cllr Lees suggested that we install informative signposts at village entrances as enhancements.
* David Wilson Homes has installed a gate across Brick Kiln Way which is locked at night to prevent ASB.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT –

* 100435 - £25.00 – Marks and Spencer voucher re local Auditor gesture of goodwill

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

**WEDNESDAY 19th SEPTEMBER 2018 at 7pm**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8pm.