**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT 11 PLANTATION LANE, HIMLEY ON WEDNESDAY 15th JULY 2020 AT 3.15PM**

**PRESENT: - MRS Y NOCK (CHAIRMAN) PRESIDING**

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: - MRS M SINCLAIR, MR R LEES,**

 **MRS S OLIVER, MRS S FROST**

**APOLOGIES:- COUNTY CLLR V WILSON, MR M CRISP, MR P HEMMINGS**

**OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK.**

**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.**

CRIME FIGURES as received :- 16/06/2020 - 18/07/2020 Himley Park & Biffa Quarry – multiple reports of use of off-road bikes

Fir Street / Baggeridge Village – Youths parking up and causing nuisance at the location, also entering Baggeridge park with bags of alcohol when closed.

Himley Country Hotel – Reports of noise and litter at the location.

ASB hotspots: Himley Park – Reports of youths on bikes causing issues

There has been a multi agency meeting regarding Himley Country Hotel, the management are working with council and licencing to resolve the issues being reported.

Operation Cable has been running Fridays/Saturday evenings where the neighbourhood team visit the hotspot locations and locations of interest.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* The Rocks litter – At the end of April Cllr Sinclair reported to SSDC that a branch had fallen from The Rocks onto the pavement. County was informed. See C Cllrs report below.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 20/00469/COU 1 Baggeridge Craft Village. Change of use for beauty and beauty training, Val 13.06.20, consult to 16.07.20, deadline 08.08.20, C.O. Laura Moon. No objections.
* 20/00507/FUL 9 Brick Kiln Way, single storey side extension sun room. Val 23.06.20, consult to 28.07.20, deadline 18.08.20, C.co. Laura Moon. No objections.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :-

* 19/00901/FUL The Firs, Wodehouse Lane. Staff and customer car park extension on neighbouring local authority land to the west of existing car park, Val 02.03.20, consult to 24.03.20, deadline 27.04.20, C.O. Gemma Smith. 17 trees need to be removed.
* Hinksford Farm. Eight applications, 19/00967/FUL, 19/00968/LUE, 19/00969/LUE, 19/00970/LUE, 19/00974/LUE, 19/00976/LUE plus 2 others below
* 19/00972/LUE Hinksford Farm Unit 11, Application for Lawful Development Certificate, Val 20.12.19, consult to 13.03.20, deadline 14.02.20, C.O. Thomas Cannon. This unit has been used and is currently used as general storage, B8. No Objections sent – THIS HAS COME THROUGH AGAIN-more satellite pictures and statement of truth from CW and tenants’ letters. 17 m from house, loud noises and swearing, has only been there since 2019 Comment from Env Health: Comment Date: Fri 14 Feb 2020. The application is for B8 General Storage use but the unit is currently being used for vehicle repairs. As a result, should the certificate of lawful use be granted the current occupier would not be able to operate from this location. I have no further comments to make in respect of this application. 2 public objections complaints of noise, swearing, grinding, banging only 17m from dwelling and say it has only been used since 2019
* 19/00977/COU Hinksford Farm. Units 12a and 12b Val 16.01.20, consult to 19.05.20.Amended application for change of use. 2 public objections state that premises have not been used for the purpose stated (industrial) but for storage of caravan, pickup, mattress, fridge, fan, chairs, bike, guitar and there have been multiple nuisances, burning of mattress & tyres, riding of motor bikes, visits by cars, vans and HGVs
* 20/00182/FUL The Firs. Staff and customer car park extension on neighbouring local authority land to the south of existing car park i.e. further back from Wodehouse Lane extending behind a house in Fir Street
* Ecologist and Natural England refer to trees and wildlife habitat but do not object, Highways has no objection to this application. 2 public objections, parking, woodland loss, further expansion, noise, excess lighting, security, de-valuation of property, loss of seclusion. The Fir St house owner is worried that car park lights on all night would disturb her along with bins being used at all hours and loss of security to her property.
* 20/00359/ FUL – Ranchette, Cherry Lane. Replacement roof and dormers, elevation alterations and balcony extension. Val 07.05.20, consult to 11.06.20, deadline 02.07.20, C.O. Kirk Denton.
* 20/00415/TTREE - Land Rear Of 43 Sunningdale Road Off Red Lane Gospel End. Tree Preservation Order 2A/1963. Prune an Oak in field at rear of property. Val 29.05.20, Consult to 12.06.20, deadline 24.07.20, C.O. Steve Dores.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 20/00046/OFFRES Baggeridge House Fir Street. Conversion of existing offices to form 9 residential units. Val 12.03.20, consult to 03.04.20, deadline 07.05.20, C.O. Gemma Smith. This is to replace 20/00046/LUP application and has an amended floor plan Prior Approval Permission not required 24.04.20.
* 20/00055/FUL Baggeridge House, Fir Street, façade alterations and extension, Val 27.01.20, consult to 25.02.20, deadline 23.03.20, C.O. Gemma Smith. No comments yet updated 16.04.20 Withdrawn
* 20/00063/FUL Baggeridge House, Fir Street, erection of second floor and extensions to provide a mix of seven 1, 2 and 3 bedroom flats. Approved with conditions 24.04.20
* 20/00079/FUL 5 Bag pool Way, Retrospective application for the erection of garden room with fitness pool and garden shed, Val 13.03.20, consult to 15.04.20, deadline 08.05.20. C.O. Matthew Hurley. Approved with conditions 06.05.20.
* 20/00083/FUL 2 Bag Pool Way, Retrospective application for a wooden pergola 3.4m x 3.17m x 2.21m high. Val 02.03.20, consult to 24.03.20, deadline 27.04.20. C.O. Kirk Denton. Approved with conditions 21.04.20.
* 20/00121/FUL 4 Bag Pool Way, Retrospective application for a metal framed exercise structure in garden.Val 15.02.20, consult to 27.03.20, deadline 11.04.20, C.O. Matthew Hurley. Approved with conditions 10.04.20.
* 20/00205/FUL 3 Monkton Way, Extension to rear of property (conservatory with tied roof), Val 10.03.20. Consult to 14.04.20, deadline 05.05.20. C.O Matthew Hurley. Replied that HPC has no objections. Approved with conditions 29.04.20.
* 20/00240/FUL 1 Ashwood Crescent, Extension to rear of property and new shed, val 01.05.20, deadline 26.06.20, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved with conditions 03.07.20
* 20/00248/FUL 15 Chalmers Road, Formation of habitable room in roof space. Val 26.03.20, consult to 29.04.20, deadline 21.05.20, C.O. Laura Moon. Amended plans approved with conditions 20.05.20.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT:

C Cllr Wilson confirmed 13.07.20 that The Rocks area will be cleaned up under her Divisional Highways Programme but no start date given at present. Cllr Nock has asked her to confirm that it includes the area towards Red Lane as well as the rocky area. At the meeting Cllrs asked the Clerk to obtain a quotation from Street Scene to complete this work as this has been ongoing for a number of years and is now a major hazard.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS

* Covid-19: We were contacted by Clodagh Peterson, Corporate Support Manager - Policy & Partnerships, South Staffordshire Council regarding developing an Action Plan to co-ordinate a community response and hoping to work in partnership with several different organisations, including Parish Councils. I replied that our villagers seemed to be coping quite well at the moment and were being sensible. Help had been offered but only two families required help. I explained that all Cllrs except one were in the vulnerable group but we could be contacted if help was needed. I had put a notice on the Himley board offering help with shopping and getting prescriptions and emailed the Himley Villagers group list asking if anyone knew someone who needed help, no replies.

Gospel End residents have had a team of volunteers who have provided an excellent service to the residents for which we thank them very much and thank you to Himley residents who continue to help their elderly neighbours as they normally do. Later, a man did ask for transport to a medical appointment which was not COVID-19 related.

HPC was very thankful to The Community Assistance Team in Wombourne that had been set up to provide help for any Wombourne resident who needed help with shopping, prescriptions etc during the CONVID-19 pandemic when they agreed to include Himley in the area they were covering. Anyone in Himley who needs help should contact either Yvonne Nock on 01902 896447, ypnock@talktalk.net or Stephanie Farley on 01902 896963, himleyparishcouncil@gmail.com for help from this team.

* The Connect bus service is offering a shopping service to any resident who is registered with it.
* In the Playing Field, stone blocks at the edge of the brook had been removed by vandals to use as stepping stones which were blocking the flow of water. There is no access across the brook onto private land and no right of way to Whitehall Barns over the land. Cllr Crisp removed the stone blocks and fixed them back at the edge of the brook in concrete. He also removed a rope swing from a tree as Himley Parish Council would be liable if anyone was injured using it. Our thanks go to Cllr Crisp for his work.
* Cllr Crisp also contacted SSDC whose tractor had got stuck in a boggy area when the grass was previously cut and left deep furrows in the grass. SSDC filled in furrows.
* Cllr Mrs Nock and Mr Nock concreted the upright block which had been dislodged from the side of the Commemorative Bench back in place.
* Slabs were necessary in front of the Baggeridge Village notice board where the ground can get very muddy. This has been completed.
* On 24.04.20 During COVID-19 Lockdown a formal complaint was received from a resident that Sandiacre had been prevented selling plants, compost etc. This was because having been inundated by customers eager to buy these goods, they were not complying with government guidelines on social distancing. After intervention from our County and District Cllrs and the fact that this is the time of year when the farm shop is busiest, SSDC allowed Sandiacre to continue to sell all goods as long as they complied with the current guidelines. The owners made alterations which allowed them to continue selling plants etc.
* Groups of scrambler bikes on The Railway Walk in April continued to be a nuisance to other users of The Walk and disturb the peace for residents for long periods on some days. Police apprehended one rider and confiscated his bike. We hope that it will deter others. Quad bikes have also been caught by police.
* Cllr Crisp found a small amount of fly-tipped rubbish (very old spade, pint beer glass and toy) on the Playing Field and removed it.
* Cllr Sinclair reported fly tipping of tyres, mattress and bedding in Red Lane at the end of April.
* On 16th May a resident reported low water level in the brook, reported it to The Environment Agency and rescued fish in trouble. Water level in brook returned back to normal two days later, Environment Agency and Himley Park confirmed an incident when a large amount of water had been released then stopped. They are in discussions with how this can be prevented in future as it is a serious incident and put the health of the white-clawed crayfish, which is a protected species, at risk as well as other fish and wildlife.
* The salary of the Parish Clerk is reviewed each April. There has been an increase in the amount of work necessary and the salary has been increased to £1950 per annum.
* SSDC asked if there are any needs in the parish to support local businesses but we have not been asked for support.
* On the night of May18th there were at least 6 break-ins to sheds and garages in Himley village, all were next to fields.
* There has been real concern in Himley that the Himley Country Hotel has been occupied by homeless people, some of whom have been causing serious ASB issues in the village. Neither Himley Parish Council, South Staffs District Council nor Staffordshire County Council knew that the hotel was being used for this purpose before a resident reported it to HPC. We have received many complaints about ASB and litter. The District Councillor has been working long hours since with officers at SSDC, agencies and police to overcome the problems that have arisen and is continuing to do so; unfortunately, it is not a situation that can be overcome at short notice as due to the Government telling all councils to remove homeless people from the streets during the COVID-19 pandemic; normal conditions as to who can be accommodated have been lifted.
* The SSDC gates in Brick Kiln Way before the Care Home which is nearing completion need to be moved to allow access to the Care Home and Baggeridge House flats. DWH and the residents association will be informed that the gates which belong to SSDC will be moved, probably back to their original proposed location at the car park entrance.
* About 1st week in July, Cllr Sinclair reported to police that a van was usually parked overnight in Penn Road with a couple sleeping there. They left each morning after leaving their rubbish in the road. PCSOs would attend.
* The Playing Field play equipment had to be closed due to COVID-19 but can now be reopened as per Government guidelines and has been sanitized. We are informed that we are not obliged to regularly sanitize outdoor Play Equipment and notices will be posted about usage at own risk. Risk assessments are being produced. Clerk to contact Zurich Insurance Company to ask if they have any special requirements/advice.
* Cllr Lees informed us that there was to be an Electoral Boundaries review and probable merger of parishes.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

Already paid

* 100473 £24.36 - S Staffs Council re grounds maintenance Q4 19/20
* 100474 £539.26 - Zurich Insurance
* 100475 £58.92 - S Farley for Stationery and printing costs £42 & stamps £16.92 for the year April 2019-20
* 100476 £8.88 - Y Nock - magnets for Gospel End notice boards
* 100477 £350.10 S Farley June salary
* 100 478 £97.60 HMRC

Payments Approved at meeting

* 100479 £68.90 -YP Nock re online payment to AF Suciu for slabs Baggeridge Village noticeboard
* 100480 £23.99 - M Crisp re pump and disinfectant for playing field equipment
* 100481 £25.00 - S Farley, Auditor gift vouchers

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

 **Wednesday 19th September at 7pm**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 4.45pm.