**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT COMMUNITY CENTRE SWINDON ON WEDNESDAY 16th SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7PM**

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

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

 **MRS S OLIVER, MR P HEMMINGS**

 **APOLOGIES:- COUNTY CLLR V WILSON, MR M CRISP, MRS S FROST**

 **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 :- 18/07/2020 - 15/09/2020 Main headlines since the last meeting :- Vehicle crime -School Road (06/08) – tools stolen from van, Churns Hill Lane (03/09) – damage to vehicle. Burglary -School Road (06/08) – theft of items including cash from business office, School Road (17/08), vehicle stolen, School Road (05/09) – attempted burglary. ASB hotspots: School Road – reports of disorder on hotel carpark (04/08). Good news:local officers spotted a suspicious vehicle on School Road Himley (06/09) officers stopped the vehicle and male was reported for driving with no insurance – vehicle seized and recovered.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* Hedge cutting and cut-back of pavement from The Rocks to the Dudley border: A quote was received from SSDC for part of the work needed but as it has become a safety issue it will be undertaken by County following Cllr Sinclair’s meeting with C Cllr Wilson and the Community Highway Liaison Officer from SCC.
* Himley Country Hotel. Homeless people were removed but ex-offenders remained. Problems with anti-social behaviour from occupants became more frequent. Updates from SSDC/Police were received and posted on Himley notice board and circulated on the Villagers email list. Police attended daily; some arrests were made. Many complaints were received from residents and Chinese Whispers ensued so a meeting was convened at Himley Cricket Club on 17.08.20 for residents to be given the true facts and reassurance. Many residents attended, facts were given by Cllrs Lees and Nock, Council Officials, the Police and the hotel leaseholder. District Cllr Lees who had worked extremely hard on this matter and together with our MP had lobbied the Ministry of Justice, announced that no more ex-offenders would be housed at the hotel and any still there would be removed as soon as alternative accommodation was found. Our thanks go to Cllr Lees for all his work.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 19/00901/FUL The Firs, Wodehouse Lane. Amended application for 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. No objections
* 20/00063/COND Baggeridge House. Discharge of conditions 4. materials, 5. Finished floor levels, 6. Foul water drainage, 7. & 8. Refuse – storage and recycling
* 20/00656/ADV Sedgley Court Care Home. V shaped directional sign at the junction of Gospel End Road and Brick Kiln Way, val 31.07.20. consult to 10.09.20., deadline 25.09.20., C.O. Kate Taylor. HPC comment: HPC has no objections but we would request that you please contact LNT Care and suggest that they spell the name correctly, i.e. Sedgley not SEDGELEY and that the address is corrected to include Gospel End, South Staffs, not Dudley. No objections
* 20/00649/FUL 45 Chalmers Road. Single storey extension 5.7m x 2.3m with pitched roof foundation to building. Val 15.06.20, consult to 07.10.20, deadline 10.11.20, C.O Ester Cuthill. 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.
* 19/00969/LUE Hinksford Farm Units 6 and 7, Application for Lawful Development Certificate for both units. Val 16.01.20, consult to 07.02.20, deadline 12.03.20, C.O. Thomas Cannon. Both units have been used for general storage (B8) by a surfacing company.
* 19/00970/LUE Hinksford Farm Units 1 and 8A, Application for Lawful Development Certificate for both Units, Val 16.01.20, consult to 07.02.20, deadline 12.03.20, C.O, Thomas Cannon. Both Units have been used for general storage (Class B8 warehousing and open-air storage) by its current and previous owners.
* 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.
* 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 2nd 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.

* 20/00554/FUL Wood Farm House, Gospel End Road. Erection of reception building (replacing a wooden shed) for equestrian business in Green Belt. Val 18.07.20, consult to 19.08.20, deadline 22.09.20, C.O. Laura Moon. Agent Anthony Atkinson, owner Mrs P Daniel.

HPC commented: Himley Parish Council objects as the site is in Green Belt and is also concerned about this application as there appears to be a lot of buildings for a site that is mainly an equestrian centre. There are also many caravans and boats stored there. Initially the upgrading of the dilapidated shed seems a good idea but why have a range fitted for heating? Is there an ulterior motive?

* 20/00569/TREE Himley Hall Walled Garden, Conservation area. Remove 37 dead/dying/poor condition Cyprus trees. Val 31.07.20, consult to 14.08.20, deadline 11.09.20, C.O. Steve Dores.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 19/00967/LUE Unit 2A, Hinksford Farm, Hinksford Lane, Use Class B8. Certificate of Lawfulness was issued 07.08.20.
* 19/00968/LUE Units 3 And 4 Hinksford Farm, Unit 3: General car repairs and general storage, Unit 4: General Storage, Certificate of Lawfulness was issued 07.08.20
* 19/00974/LUE Unit 9 Hinksford Farm, General storage (B8). Certificate of Lawfulness was issued 07.08.20
* 19/00976/FUL Unit 8B Hinksford Farm, Retrospective planning application for material alterations to the elevations and the change of use from agricultural storage to use class B2 General Industrial. Approved with conditions 07.08.20.
* 19/00977/COU Hinksford Farm. Units 12a and 12b Val 16.01.20, consult to 19.05.20, Retrospective 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. Approved with conditions 03.09.20
* 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. Approved with conditions 24.08.20.
* 20/00415/TTREE - Land Rear Of 43 Sunningdale Road Off Red Lane Gospel End. Tree Preservation Order 2A/1963, T137. 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. Consent given 13.08.20.

**The following applications were notified to HPC and approved since the HPC July meeting**

* 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. Approved with conditions 31.07.20
* 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. Approved with conditions 11.08.20.
* 20/00557/FUL 10 Lydiate Hill Road, single storey rear extension to form an open plan kitchen and living area. Val 07.07.20, consult to 18.08.20, deadline 01.09.20, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved with conditions 20.08.20.
* 20/00563/COU 14 Baggeridge Craft Village, change of use to A1 (Hair Salon), Val 04.08.20, consult to 26.08.20, deadline 29.09.20, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved with conditions 08.09.20.
* 20/00619/COU 7 Baggeridge Craft Village, fit out interior of empty craft unit to provide sit in and takeaway coffee shop/café facilities to local community. Val 06.08.20, consult to 27.08.20, deadline 01.10.20, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved with conditions 08.09.20.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: None received

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS

* The COVID-10 risk assessment was completed on reopening the Play Area on 18th July. The play area had to be closed again in August when Wicksteed announced that the surrounding fence, delayed by COVID-19, would finally be erected. The fence and picnic tables have now been completed. Three permanent signs have been made for the Play area, Cllr Nock to be reimbursed for payment.
* A complaint was received from a resident about the amount of money being spent on the Playing Field; Cllr Nock explained that the Play Area was a project that was begun many years ago and saved for; there are no plans to spend more money on it.
* In June, Land owners were given greater freedom over how they use their land by doubling the length of time that temporary structures can be placed on land without needing an application for planning permission. This will allow land to be used for a broad range of purposes such as for car boot sales and summer fayres, as well as allowing pubs and restaurants to be able to use car parks and terraces as dining and drinking areas, using their existing seating licenses. The right is time-limited and will cease to have effect from 1st January 2021.
* Cllr Nock arranged for temporary ‘Road closed and Diversion’ signs to be removed from Dudley Road where they had been left for about two months.
* The clerk received an email saying that our website had ‘7 weeks left to make our website WCAG 2.1 compliant to the government requirements’, that was by September 22nd. Our website producer advised that we were compliant.
* SSDC was asked if a litter bin could be installed near the benches in the Play Area and reminded them that the grass next to the plastic-coated fence should not be strimmed.
* The hedge by the Himley notice board had not been cut this year and at the end of June Cllr Nock reported it to SCC as we did not know who the new owners are. By the end of August, it had grown half way across the pavement and at one point a tree had grown so much that pedestrians had to walk in the road to get around it. Cllr Nock asked SSDC for a quote to cut the hedge as no contact could be found for the new owners. Most Cllrs were against HPC paying as it would set a precedent so as it is the responsibility of County, C Cllr Wilson was informed and she arranged for the owners to be informed. As there was now a real safety issue someone cut off the tree branches and brambles blocking access along the pavement, leaving them out of people’s way. The hedge remains un-cut.
* C Cllr Wilson has arranged for the gullies outside Himley Church to be un-blocked.
* After listening to feedback from residents, SCC will spend an extra £2 million on top of the £5 million already spent to fix problems with road drains and gullies in a bid to prevent floods and on further gully clearing, tackling ditches, road sweeping, weed control and cutting road-side grass.
* For personal reasons, Cllr Crisp has relinquished his position as Vice Chair of Himley Parish Council but will remain as a councillor. Nominations for a Vice Chair were requested.
* The annual ROSPA report on the Play Area has been received. The only remedial action to be taken was the replacement of 2 missing nuts on the basket swing; this is now completed.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 100482 - £389.90 S Farley clerk wages
* 100483 - £97.60 HMRC
* 100484 - £86.40 Playsafety
* 100485 - £9.60 Y P Nock (playing field signage expenses)

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 21st October 2020 at 7pm**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm.