**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: -MR R LEES, MR M CRISP, MRS S OLIVER, MRS S FROST**

**APOLOGIES:- MRS M SINCLAIR, CCLR V WILSON,** **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 :- Dates: 19/07/2021 - 14/09/2021

Main headlines since the last meeting:

**Vehicle crime -**

• Himley Lane – 05/08/21 overnight a Renault Clio which was parked by Sandi acre farm shop due to being involved in an accident was stolen. Cctv at the shop showed it being towed away by a pickup truck, several witnesses and enquiries in hand.

• Wolverhampton Road - 20/09/21 during the daytime a Honda civic which was securely parked at the rear of a large driveway was stolen, due to hot weather the kitchen side door was left open and the keys were inside. No cctv or witnesses.

• Himley Country Park – 10/08/21 at approximately 16:50am a Ford S Max was broken into, the alarm was activated, a witness saw 2 males committing the offence and drive off in a White van, nothing was taken from the vehicle and no damage caused.

• Wolverhampton Road – 16/08/21. A Seat Leon was parked up due to having a flat tyre on the way to work in the morning, when owner went back to vehicle it had gone, a farmer said it was there at 16:00 so was taken between then and 18:00, no cctv or lines of enquiry.

• Baggeridge Country Park – 20/08/21 Sometime in the afternoon before 16:45 a vehicle had window smashed and various items taken from within including a bank card which had been used just over the border on the West Midlands, enquiries ongoing at the stores where the card was used.

• Gospel End Road – 02/09/21 at 10:30 a delivery driver got out of his vehicle a Vauxhall Combo van to deliver a parcel, a male jumped in and drove off in the direction of Sedgley. No cctv footage captured, no lines of enquiry.

• Himley Hall Park- 13/09/21whilst working an event a Ford Fiesta was broken into via the boot, a bank card was taken and later found in Sedgley, cctv is being viewed and enquiries in hand.

**Anti-Social Behaviour-**

• Baggeridge Country Park – reports of mopeds driving through Baggeridge village and accessing the park through a gap at the side of a gate and driving around the park. Warning posters have been put up explaining section 59 and any vehicles found will be seized under the act. The location is patrolled regularly.

**ASB hotspots -**

• Baggeridge Country Park

**Proactive news –**

• Local officers have been working during the course of duty and also on overtime conducting Operation Lightning. This is an operation targeting criminals using our road networks and also offences such as driving without insurance / tax / MOT etc. Multiple vehicles have been seized for document offences and the increased visual presence on the road networks also acts as a deterrent to any potential criminals looking to commit crime in South Staffordshire. These operations will continue in the coming weeks.

• We are looking for volunteers for Speed Watch. If any residents are interested please direct them to http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch

• Please recommend Smart Alert to any residents interested https://staffordshiresmartalert.uk/staffs/

• Please follow @SStaffspolice for up to date tweets from your local Police. Look out for #Himley for local info.

• Please feel free to encourage public participants to try reporting incidents via our ‘Digital 101’ service. A private message can be sent to Staffordshire Police pages on Facebook / Twitter, instead of phoning 101 and waiting in a queue. Photographs and short video clips can also be sent via this service.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* Playing Field: Replacement of concrete for drop-down bolt & padlock, debris to be removed from and near brook still to be done. The dead Ash tree on the Playing Field was felled by SSDC.
* Forest of Mercia: Plans for the tree planting on part of the Playing Field have been received but Cllrs felt adjustments were necessary. Cllr Nock to ask the Community Woodlands Officer for a meeting on the field to discuss.
* Gospel End pavement: Cllr Nock is to meet with C Cllr Wilson and Community Highway Engagement Officer Diane Firkins to try to finalise work needed as HPC has agreed to provide up to £1,000 towards the cost of making it safer to walk along the only pavement out of Gospel End.
* Superfast Broadband for Himley: On 2nd August, Gareth reported that the build is now with the contractors to do the actual build and hopefully we should see some action in the coming weeks, assuming they have the resources available.  The project completion date is 26/02/2022, so everything has to be up and running by then: other projects have been completed well before their final completion date.  Speaking to the OpenReach project manager, they have just signed off on a project that has a project completion date of December 2021. If you are needing to re-contract your broadband provision, it is worthwhile checking that your provider does indeed support Fibre To The Premise (FTTP) as not all providers do, and that you will be able to upgrade to that option when the time comes.
* Four litter-picker tools were purchased, Cllr Hemmings has one for use around junction of School Road and the A449.
* Climate Change Workshop 8th September. Cllr Nock attended this on Teams.
* Cllr Nock reported to the Boundary Review that we considered that Himley and Swindon, being well defined by roads and brooks and now having approximately the required number of residents for a Ward should remain as it is.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 21/00770/FUL   Development of 7 Dwellings on Land Adjacent to Sedgley Court Care Home, Brick Kiln Way. Val 28.07.21, consult to 20.08.21, deadline 22.09.21, C.O. Laura Moon.    HPC asked that a condition be added to this development that there is no access through Fir Street.
* 21/00868/FUL  20 Lickey Close single storey rear extension to form an orangery and shed/garden room to the side of the property. Val 16.08.21, consult to 09.09.21, deadline 11.10.21, C.O. Emma Possillo.
* 21/00884/FUL   4 Whitehall Barns, Wolverhampton Road. Single storey orangery, Val 06.08.21, consult to 14.09.21, deadline 01.10.21, C.O. Tom Nutt.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :-

* 19/00922/COU     **Wood Farm**, Gospel End Road. Change of use of existing farm building from equestrian use to dog day-care and training facility, val 25.09.19, consult to 29.10.20, deadline 19.11.20 C.O. Planning team.
* 20/00974/TREE   **Beggars Bush Lodge**. Remove a Beech Tree in Conservation area. Val 16.11.20, consult to 30.11.20, deadline 28.12.20, C.O. Steve Dores.
* 21/00545/FUL    **32 Penn Road**. Proposed conversion of existing outbuilding into granny annex. Val 17.05.21, consult to 23.06.21, deadline 12.07.21. Case Officer Laura Moon. HPC objected – Green Belt, not suitable, difficult access and intrusion on neighbour’s property.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 19/00901/COND   The Firs Discharge of Conditions 4(Japanese Knotweed), 6 (Bird and Bat boxes), 11 (Root Protection) and 14 (external lighting). Application received 10.05.21, Approved 16.08.21 C.O. Matt Thomas.
* 21/00721/TREE - Himley Hall. Proposal: Section 211 Conservation Area Notification. Remove 4 Ash trees at northern end of Rock Pool. Val 15.07.21., Consult to 29.07.21., deadline 26.08.21. C.O. Gavin Pearce.  Approved 23.08.21. Large areas of Ash Dieback are a danger to the public

COUNTY COUNCILLORS HIGHWAYS DATA:

Highways data over last 2 months is: - 3014 enquiries raised, 4306 enquiries closed, 5885 gullies visited with average of 86% cleansed at first visit, 3877 potholes patched, 34 emergency jobs completed, 1668 pothole jobs completed by category of pothole\* Cat 3 – 1196, Cat 2 – 436, Cat 1 – 16, emergencies – 20. \*Please note a number of potholes could be patched under a single job, hence the difference in numbers between potholes patched and pothole jobs. Data provided on a monthly basis due to ratification process to ensure accuracy of figures. Data provided on a monthly basis due to ratification process to ensure accuracy of figures.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* A resident who asked if the pavement along the Playing Field hedge could be cut back as it is only wide enough for one person to walk on and for the hedge to be cut was told that pavements are the responsibility of County and the hedge is cut each Autumn under contract.
* Severn Trent have discovered and are now utilising, another underground chamber at the pumping station in Baggeridge Country Park which should overcome the problems with the sewage system in Fir Street.
* A Gospel End resident offered to put slabs under notice board at a very competitive price and this purchase was authorised by Cllr Nock.
* The Annual ROSPA safety report on the School Road Play Area 09.09.21 showed that the Surf Board has one bolt loose and two caps missing, otherwise, all in good condition. Cllr Frost has checked the bolt and reports that it is not loose. The caps are merely push-on caps, likely to fall off easily. The Risk assessment carried out by Cllrs on the playing field following this reported no further action was required.
* Cllr Sinclair has asked that SCC repaint the double yellow lines that have been covered over during re-surfacing. Cllr Nock reported this online; reference number is: 4255296
* A resident has reported that there is activity at night on the Playing Field: residents must notify police when activity is noted.
* It was decided that small information signs on verges when entering Himley Parish would be an enhancement; Cllr Oliver to investigate.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 100508 £86.40 Playsafety – playing field equipment safety report
* 100510 £13.99 Y P Nock – litterpickers
* 100511 £73.00 Cllr M Sinclair- slabs under Gospel End noticeboard.
* 100512 £500.00 S Farley – clerks wages
* 100513 £125.00 HMRC
* 100514 £25.00 Kinver & Enville British Legion – Donation in memory of Cllr Brian Edwards

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

**Wednesday 20TH October 2021 at 7.30pm - COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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