**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIRTUALLY ON**

**WEDNESDAY 17th MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM**

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

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

**APOLOGIES:- MRS S OLIVER, MR M CRISP (both unable to access virtual meeting)**

**OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK**

**There were some connection issues and the meeting started late at 8.15pm**

**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 :- 17/02/2021 – 14/3/2021

Main headlines since the last meeting:

Criminal damage –Crooked House Lane – Damage caused to fencing. Thought to have been caused by persons riding off-road vehicles without permission at the location.

Suspicious Incidents: -We have received multiple reports of suspicious behaviour across the locality and have, and will continue to, assess everyone. Some are innocent or misinterpreted incidents however some provide us with invaluable information. Thank you to the residents who take the time to contact us; it is much appreciated.

ASB hotspots: Quarry off Himley Rd – Off road bikes

Other news: - Over past weekends, local officers along with officers from our Roads Policing team have been working to tackle the illegal use of off-road vehicles across locality 5. These riders can cause nuisance to residents and damage to property. We have, so far, seized multiple bikes / quads and on the weekend just passed, worked with NPAS (National Police Air Service) to tackle those involved in this behaviour. Arrests have also been made in relation to driving offences. We will continue these operations, along with ‘Op Lightning’ (tackling criminals utilising our road networks) in the coming weeks.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* C Cllr Wilson sent a letter of thanks to the resident who repaired the bridle path in Himley village and made drainage channels to prevent pools forming.
* Missing tarmac around the manhole at junction of the A449 and School Road was replaced.
* Himley Country Hotel. A heavy chain was fixed across the entrance to the car park on 21st February. The court case was adjourned until 17th March due to technical issues, and adjourned further until 22nd March. The Closure Order remains in place until then.
* Playing Field. A temporary notice was put on a tree to inform people that there is no Right of Way across the brook. A more permanent notice is to be made. The notice to pull the play area gate to open it is only partially successful. The opening gate has been found on the wrong side of the bolted gate again allowing dogs to enter.
* Railway Walk off-road bikes. There has been a police operation on-going to try to stop the nuisance from bikers. Thanks to D Cllr Lees for providing funding for this operation in partnership with SSDC.
* Unsafe Trees have been removed from The Rocks in Gospel End by SCC.
* Payroll System. We have until July to find an alternative system.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 21/00172/FUL 12 Chalmers Road, single storey orangery and utility extension. Val 22.02.21, consult to 17.03.21, deadline 19.04.21, CO. Planning team.
* 21/00187/TREE Rear of 4,5,6 Churns Hill Lane. Reduce 2 Poplars T44 and T47 by 10m, crown lift to 6m 2 Limes T45 and T46. Val 26.02.21, consult to 12.03.21, deadline 23.04.21, C.O. Steve Dores.
* 21/00244/FUL Challenge Academy CIC Baggeridge Country Park. Val 15.03.21, consult to 06.04.21, deadline 10.05.21 C.O. Laura Moon. The proposal is for a mini ropes course and activity pods to be built within our existing site, directly underneath our High Ropes Course, built in 2008 - there is no additional area of our existing site being used. The development will comprise a linear course of 4 x hexagonal activity pods and 6 platforms connected by obstacles between 1 and 1.5 metres off the ground. Each pod or platform will sit on 1 cubic meter of concrete and will be constructed of steel and timber. All steel frameworks will be clad with timber to blend with the surroundings.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :-

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* 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. This application has been amended.
* 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.
* 20/00063/COND Baggeridge House, Fir Street. Discharge of conditions 4 - materials, 5 - finished floor levels, 6 - foul water drainage, 7 and 8 - refuse storage / cycle storage. Val 21.08.20, consult to 30.09.20, deadline 13.11.20, C.O. Gemma Smith.
* 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
* 20/00466/FUL Baggeridge House, Fir Street, amendments to 20/00046/OFFRES, internal and external alterations of the converted proportion. Val 12.06.20, consult to 03.11.20, deadline 07.08.20, C.O. Gemma Smith.
* 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.
* 20/01045/FUL Himley Country Hotel, The demolition of part of the former Hotel, and erection of 9 dwellings with garages and car parking, the refurbishment of the retained former School Building / Private Residence to a 2 Bed Bungalow with garage, together with private amenity and new gated private road from the existing access from School Road. Val 04.01.21, consult to 25.01.21, deadline 01.03.21, C.O. Thomas Cannon. This application has been amended from 9 to 8 dwellings plus the former school building. Consultation extended to 05.04.21. HPC commented Himley Parish Council wish to support this application as they feel it will enhance the village of Himley. They do however have concerns over the amount of parking available for these properties and would like planners to consider this. Most houses of the sizes within this development have 3 or 4 cars and there is insufficient space at each dwelling for this They do not want overflow parking along School Road to become a future problem on an already very busy road.
* 21/00049/FUL 90 Gospel End Road, two storey side and rear extensions and internal alterations for lounge and games room with bedroom balcony and bathroom over. Val 18.01.21, consult to 11.02.21, deadline 15.03.21. C.O. Ester Cuthill. Amended plans have been submitted.
* 21/00067/FUL 6 Whitehall Farm Barns, Cart Barn. Erection of a temporary timber summerhouse structure within the curtilage of a private garden in a Conservation Area. Val 07.02.21, no consultation, internal target 04.04.21., C.O. Kate Taylor.
* 21/00104/FUL Land off Red Lane, Proposed additions to existing base station installation. Val 03.02.21, consult to 26.02.21, deadline 31.03.21. C.O. Lucy Duffy.
* 21/00115/FUL 92 School Road, single storey extension/orangery with internal alterations. Val 05.02.21, consult to 02.03.21. deadline 02.04.21, C.O. Dudley Planning Team

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 20/01115/FUL 20 School Road, single storey rear extensions and alterations. Val 14.12.20, consult to 27.01.21, deadline 08.02.21, C.O. Ester Cuthill. Approved with conditions 04.03.21.
* 21/00029/FUL The Old Smithy, School Road. Erection of new garage and internal alterations at. Val 09.01.21, consult to 03.02.21, deadline 06.03.21, C.O. Ester Cuthill. HPC commented: The documents do not show the boundary of the site with existing buildings and land owned in relation to the bridle path. Be aware that there is a turning space for any vehicle on the bridle path in to the existing double gate and the side of the existing garage; the drawings do not show this. Approved 10.03.21 with conditions.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT: None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* SSDC would like any land owner who would like a hundred plus trees FOC to plant on private land to enlarge the Forest of Mercia CIC and to capture carbon to combat climate change. HPC is looking into planting some on The Playing Field along the brook. HPC need to ask SSDC who are the owners before we go ahead as they will need to complete a landowner pledge form.
* Highways reports from County Cllr Wilson at 1st, 8th, 16th March, Highways enquiries raised: 978, 853, 859, Highways enquiries closed:761,925, 1186, Gullies visited:1502, 2048, 2348, gullies visited , 78%, 77%, 76% cleansed at first visit Potholes patched: 224, 381, 286, Emergency jobs completed: 14, 14, 22 128 emergency jobs completed last month, 100% on time (at 8th Mar)
* Dog Fouling As part of its Envirocrime function, SSDC is reviewing how to deal with dog fouling and is considering if it would be worthwhile obtaining a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). This would mean that anyone caught allowing their dog to foul would be in breach of this and dealt with by way of a £100 fixed penalty notice. The PSPO process also allows other restrictions to be added, such as having means to clean up after your dog (poo bags etc) when taking them out to walk, specific localised geographical restrictions banning dogs or requiring they be kept on a lead etc.
* Cllr Sinclair had been communicating with C Cllr Wilson and SCC regarding the cutting back of the only pavement out of Gospel End not being carried out. We were informed that the work had been delayed but would be done next month.
* Cllr Nock has reported the following to SCC: -

4232414 02.03.21 Bend sign down in Bridgnorth Road opposite no 28

4232420 02.03.21 Himley sign in Bridgnorth Road damaged

4232427 02.03.21 Pothole on by-pass on border with Wombourne.Was filled by 12.03.21

4232430 02.03.21 Pothole by notice board

4232433 02.03.21 Small pothole opposite 4 Bridgnorth Road

4232554 03.03.21 High Arcal Road, north of bend, western side.

* It was decided that the Annual Meeting and the annual Parish Meeting would be next month.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

100496 SSDC – Grounds maintenance £39.72

100497 - S Farley wages £389.90

100498 - HMRC £97.60

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

**WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2021 AT 7.30pm this will include the Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.