**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT HIMLEY CRICKET CLUB ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY 2021 AT 7.30PM**

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

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

**APOLOGIES:- MRS M SINCLAIR, CCLR V WILSON**

**NOT PRESENT :- 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 :- Dates: 16/06/2021 - 18/07/2021

Main headlines since the last meeting:

Vehicle crime -Wodehouse Lane – 11/07/2021 - During day time hours, damage has been caused to a secure, unattended vehicle. Windows have been smashed and damage to body panels. Sadly, no CCTV captured the offence or offender(s). Himley House Hotel – 15/07/2021 – Unknown offenders have gained access to a secure, unattended van parked on the car park. They have damaged the locks but not taken anything from within. Possible CCTV, enquiries ongoing.

Anti-Social Behaviour- Baggeridge Country Park – 04/07/2021 – Historic report of vehicle being driven in an anti-social manner on the car park, hand brake turns, revving of the engine etc. Local officers aware to pay passing attention.

ASB hotspots -Baggeridge Country Park, Baggeridge Craft Village

Himley Country Club –On 04/07/2021 whilst responding to an incident, officers discovered a small cannabis grow inside the Himley Country Club. This investigation is ongoing and our forensics team have examined the scene – awaiting results of this. We will update you further in due course.

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.

Codsall District Council Community Safety (Maggie Quinn) and Biffa Waste disposal have provided funds for additional patrols to combat the issues caused by Off Road bikes. Operation Scramble utilises additional resources including specially trained officers from the Roads Policing Team. These operations are at least once a month

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:–

* Police raided Himley Country Hotel during their refurbishment to find a Weed Grow.
* School Road Playing Field – Work has been delayed by staff shortages but will be completed.
* Forest of Mercia - Still in planning stage.
* School Road parking. As there would be several objections to yellow lines to be taken into account by SCC, a consultation charge and a minimum charge of £5,000 to the parish for line painting, also, even with lines in place, it would not be enforceable, Cllrs decided not to pursue the idea.
* Gospel End Road pavement. C Cllr Wilson has advised that the total cost would be approx. £2,000. A hedge needs to be cut by the owner before any work can begin.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 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.

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. Object – Green Belt, not suitable, difficult access and intrusion on neighbour’s property.

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 20/01045/FUL Himley Country Hotel. The demolition of part of the former Hotel, and erection of 8 dwellings with garages and car parking, including the provision of 2no affordable dwellings, 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. Amended Val 04.01.21, consult to 25.01.21, deadline 05.04.21, C.O. Thomas Cannon. 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. They do not want overflow parking along School Road to become a future problem on an already very busy road.

This application has been amended to 8 dwellings plus the former school building, comprising two 4-bed houses, three 3-bed houses, two 2-bed bungalows, one social rented 2- bed semi-detached bungalow and one 3- bed semi-detached bungalow of shared ownership. Approved with conditions 20.07.21.

* 21/00547/FUL The Firs, new External Lobby and Reception Area, new access door to rear Courtyard, Fire exit door and Bin Enclosure. Val 24.05.21, consult to 15.03.21., deadline 19.07.21., C.C. Laura Moon. HPC objected as it is felt that this is overdevelopment of the site. This application would take away an area that is used by residents and a well utilised amenity for the use of the nursing home residents would be lost. Approved with conditions 06.07.21. Planning Officer reported: The proposal would result in the loss of four car parking spaces and a small seating area by the current entrance. The site would retain a total of 24 spaces. At the request of the planning officer and in response to a neighbour comment received, the applicant has submitted a staff/visitor parking survey. The staff/visitor parking survey provides that the biggest pressure for parking is on a Sunday and the amount of 24 spaces is adequate to meet the likely demand.
* 21/00617/TTREE 6 Churns Hill Lane, Tree Preservation Order 84/1985, T41 and T44. 2 Lombardy Poplars - Fell Val 10.06.21, consult to 24.06.21, deadline 05.08.21, C.O. Steve Dores. Approved 30.06.21.

COUNTY COUNCILLORS HIGHWAYS DATA:

Highway’s data over last month for S Staffs is: - 2204 enquiries raised, 3208 enquiries closed, 5686 gullies visited with average of 91.71% cleansed at first visit, 3536 potholes patched, 20 emergency jobs completed, 1311 pothole jobs completed by category of pothole\* Cat 3 – 948, Cat 2 – 341, Cat 1 – 15, emergencies – 7. \*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 :-

* Grass and weeds under the rope-play unit on the playing field had not been cut for some time. Cllr Crisp informed SSDC and asked for this to be listed as a regular job. Grass was trimmed and weed treated.
* A resident was concerned about a dead tree in the corner of the Playing Field, SSDC were informed and will be removing the tree ASAP.
* Work on Superfast Broadband for Himley has now begun with February 2022 being the target date but it will hopefully be delivered earlier. The Parish Council sincerely thanks Gareth for taking over this task and we hope that all goes well and Openreach delivers as soon as possible.
* There is a lot of litter on and near the lay-by on A449 to the north of School Road. Cllr Hemmings agreed to litter-pick. Cllr Nock to purchase litter-pick tools.
* During next year’s Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, there will be local road closures for one event. Details not yet available.
* Clerk to ask availability for Council Chamber at Swindon Community Centre.
* There will be another Climate Change Workshop on September 8th.
* We were reminded to contribute to intended Ward Boundary changes. Cllr Nock to follow up.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 100506 Himley Cricket Club – room hire June and July meetings £60
* 100507 SSDC – Playing field maintenance £24.36

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -

**Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 7.30pm - COUNCIL CHAMBERS, SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.