**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2022 at 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S FROST, MRS M SINCLAIR, MRS S OLIVER**

**MR R LEES, MR M CRISP, CCLR V WILSON**

**APOLOGIES:- 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 19/10/22 – 14/11/22 as received

Main headlines since the last meeting:

Burglary Business –

* Baggeridge Country Park – 02/11 – Report of two break ins to storage containers (08/08 & 2/11) Gas bottles stolen. Offenders had smashed window on container and also prised lock away from door. Sadly, no CCTV or witnesses.

Vehicle crime –

* School Road – 13/11 – Van broken into on hotel car park. Chainsaw, blower, hedge trimmer and various tools have been stolen. CCTV being obtained. *Investigation ongoing.*
* Lydiate Hill Road – 23/10 – At 0338hrs, offenders have stolen a Mercedes AMG S Class without keys. Vehicle recovered by WMP later that day and 1 x male arrested. *Investigation ongoing.*
* School Road – 03/11 – Between 1900hrs-0730hrs, offenders have accessed van parked on car park of local hotel. Tools have been stolen, approx. value £3000. *Investigation ongoing.*
* Penn Road – 03/11 – Ford Fiesta eco boost stolen from driveway of property, without keys. Offenders possibly travelling in a silver Audi.

Criminal damage –

* School Road – 13/11 – Damage caused to electric gate sensor, believed to be in an attempt to steal items. *Investigation ongoing.*

ASB hotspots –

* Baggeridge Park - Reports of electric bikes riding recklessly around the park – dedicated off road bike operation conducted 13/11 in response to these reports.

Proactive news –

* Operation Cable targeting ASB hotspots and Operation Lightning targeting vehicle crime are up and running frequently, with officers utilising both marked and unmarked vehicles. Up-to-date information regarding these operations can be found on Twitter and Facebook.
* Please follow South Staffs Police on Twitter: @SStaffsPolice. Facebook: ‘Staffordshire Police’ & ‘South Staffordshire Police’
* 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 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.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING:–

* Play Safety Report. The only tasks required for safety are for grass matting and turf. We are awaiting quotes.
* Defibrillator. Following discovering that we were having to obtain a license to attach a defib to The Dudley Arms, the clerk contacted the management committee of The Limes Apartments and we were given permission to have a defib fitted there. The original quote for installation has now been modified and a defib for both Himley and Gospel End will be ordered.
* Change of Bank. The clerk reported that £30 had been deposited in the new account from an unknown source. She had tried to ascertain the remitter, but the bank will not give details of name, only account and sort code. This could lead to a discrepancy in the accounts. We are waiting to see if more information is forthcoming.
* Car Boot toilets. The weekly removal for cleaning of toilets is being monitored.
* HMRC Penalty Charge. The clerk is paid quarterly and HMRC had altered their rules, so that the PAYE Returns we send to them quarterly also have to be declared on the months when she receives nothing. We had therefore previously received a fine of £100 for the month ended 5th July 2022, which we appealed against, had not received any explanation and have now received another fine of £200 for the 2 months that she was not paid in the months ended 5th August and 5th September 22, which we have also appealed against.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-

* 22/00963/TREE     Himley Village and Parkland Conservation Area: T1, Betula spp. (Silver Birch) - Crown reduction by up to 2 metres Cherry Cottage Cherry Lane   Val 13.10.22. consult to 08.11.22. Deadline 24.11.22., C.O. Gavin Pearce
* 22/01005/TTREE    20 Penn Road.  Acer spp. (Sycamore) TPO No. 25/1966 - Crown lift by removing three lowest branches. Val 21.10.22, Consult to 10.11.22, Deadline 16.12.22, C.O. Gavin Pearce
* 22/01008/FUL     Land at Cherry Lane, erection of one dwelling with associated access, parking and amenity areas.  Val 04.11.22, consult to 06.12.22, deadline 30.12.22. C.O. Tom Nutt. HPC to object.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :- None

PLANNING DECISIONS : - None

HIGHWAYS DATA – The Highways Bulletin was received showing details of winter maintenance.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* The long awaited clearance of the G E Road pavement from Red Lane towards the Dudley border has been completed making it a much safer place to walk along. SCC provided traffic lights with SSDC clearing the pavement. Clerk to thank all concerned.
* Cllr Nock received an email from a resident asking about the School Road Closure in December and how children would be able to catch buses to and from School with buses diverted along the by-pass. She has been liaising with C Cllr Wilson and suggestions were put forward by County for temporary bus stops. Cllr Nock reported back which site she considered the safest, asking if the stops will be for both the school buses and the number 15, that warnings need to be in place, that County ensured that there will be no car boot sale during the closure as one stop would be at the boot sale exit gate and noting other measures that will be needed. She has suggested that County themselves should take a look at safety aspects. She is awaiting a reply.
* Bonfire Night. DMBC improved arrangements this year with extra parking provided on the car boot site off the by-pass including a shuttle bus and 3 police cars patrolling the roads. No major incidents were reported to us and Chief Inspector Chris Cotton was satisfied with their efforts. {Resident’s comments: Cars came into the village and parked on roads. These had obviously been given passes by residents, who were asked to provide parking on their own properties but did not. There was too much parking on the verges in Stourbridge Road near the cricket club which made it difficult for the vast number of walkers from Wombourne and people with pushchairs were forced to walk in the road. Cones need to be placed along verges. Is it worth considering an 'approved' car parking list to be included on the advertising? So much better this year. People on the barriers were very good checking the passes. No incidents from what I saw at the park and entry in was quick and smooth. Too noisy, Dudley Council does not seem to consider the impact of such noisy events on its neighbours in South Staffordshire. Rubbish obviously, bottles wedged in the railings at church etc. Much litter in village and parking on by-pass verges. One Dog sign was trashed}. Cllr Nock has asked for a replacement sign and sent an email to Himley Hall, outlining comments received from residents and thanking them for their efforts which resulted in a better organised event. Cllr Lees will be asking DMBC for more litter picking, a limit on noise levels and a license for next year’s event.
* Weekly news on website. We were told that the SSDC weekly news would be sent out in future in a different format, i.e., to access it with a link. Since then, some weeks it has come with the link, some weeks in the old format. This makes it more difficult for Chipmonk Computing to put it on the website as they have to change the procedure each time. If it continues to be sent different ways, the company will have to charge.
* Hedges. The Playing Field Hedge in School Road has been cut. At the bend in School Road, the hedge to the field by the notice board has not been cut this year and is obstructing the pavement. We need to contact owners.
* 20mph speed limits. A Cllr in Staffordshire wants all parishes to join the campaign for 20mph speed limits in villages and Cllr Nock was invited to a virtual meeting. Several large villages which have had multiple accidents are having signs erected in their villages, particularly near schools, as they say it does reduce speeds. As we have not had any such accidents within our villages, She has not pursued this any further, particularly as it would cost ratepayers a minimum of £6,100 plus installation.
* Cllr Sinclair reminded C Cllr Wilson that gullies in Gospel End Road had still not been un-blocked.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

Automated debit HSBC bank charges 20/9-19/1022 - £13 to be debited 10/11/2022

100539 HMRC Penalty fee £200

The next meeting date was discussed and Cllrs agreed the second week in December would be more convenient as 21st December was too close to Christmas. Clerk advised that she would enquire regarding the availability of the room.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 14th December 2022**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.47pm