**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 19th OCTOBER 2022 at 7.30PM**

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

**PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S FROST, MRS M SINCLAIR, MR P HEMMINGS**

**MR M CRISP,**

**APOLOGIES:- MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES, CCLR V WILSON**

**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 21/09/22 – 18/10/2022 as received

Main headlines since the last meeting:

Vehicle crime –

* Himley Lane – 11/10 – At approximately 17:00hrs a securely parked vehicle had a window smashed and belongings taken from within whilst owner was walking dog, a white vehicle was seen leaving but no registration taken.
* Himley Lane – 03/10 – At approximately 15:00hrs a securely parked vehicle had a window smashed and items taken from within, a passer-by noticed a White Fiat 500 with 2 males in acting suspiciously at the time, enquiries made around the vehicle.
* School Road – 09/10 – Overnight entry was gained to a securely parked vehicle parked on hotel car park and a cocker spaniel which was sleeping in the vehicle was taken from within. CCTV captured the offence but not captured the registration number of the vehicle the offender arrived in.

ASB – 6 x reports between the stated dates

Hotspots –

* + Baggeridge Park - Reports of electric bikes riding recklessly around the park, cctv has captured some of the offenders but have not been identified.

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:–

* The minutes form 21 September 2022 were amended as it was agreed that the Playsafety report had been omitted from them. This was discussed and Cllr Crisp is to look into matters that have been raised in the report.
* Defibrillator – Notification has been received from Marstons that a licence needs to be entered into if the defibrillator is to be installed on The Dudley Arms – we are seeking advice regarding this.
* New Bank Account  - The clerk gave out the equipment required by Cllrs to operate the new bank account system. Some monies will be transferred immediately into the new account whilst keeping the old account open for a while to facilitate the change-over. Our thanks go to our clerk for all the work involved.
* Car Boots  - Checking that toilets are being removed regularly is on-going.
* Play area     Quotes are to be sought for replacing the matting with turf as matting is not mandatory with the fall-height and the cost of replacing the matting is over £2,000.
* Penalty charge to HMRC. This was paid at the same time as we appealed, result of which is awaited.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS :- None

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :- None

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 18/00193/COND3   Land East of Red Lane. Discharge of Condition 4 - Protected Species Report.   Val 04.10.22. target date 29.11.22, deadline 27.12.22, C.O. Lucy Duffy.Approved 17.10.22
* 21/00770/COND  Sedgley Court (Land Adjacent to Sedgley Court Care Home), Brick Kiln Way Gospel End.  Discharge of Condition 3 (Materials), Condition 4 (Landscape Scheme), Condition 5 (Boundary Treatment), Condition 6 (Finished Floor Levels) and Condition 7 (Drainage Plan). Val 13.01.22, consult to 09.02.22, deadline 07.04.22, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved 22.09.22
* 22/00782/TREE    Whitehall, Wolverhampton Road.  Crown lift Fagus spp (Beech) to 4metres in Conservation Area to clear head room for ride-on mower and to allow light to grass below. Val 12.08.22, Consult to 06.09.22, Deadline 23.09.22, C. O.  Gavin Pearce. Approved 27.09.22.
* 22/00823/FUL   2 Bag Pool Way. Proposed Garden room and relocation of pergola, Val 25.08.22, consult to 22.09.22, deadline 20.10.22, C.O.  Emma Posillico.  Approved 13.10.22

HIGHWAYS DATA – None received

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* Lower Penn Parish Council asked us to demand a change in the Local Plan regarding the number of dwellings needed and loss of Green Belt, following Dudley MBC’s decision to withdraw from their combined Plan with other local authorities. HPC felt that it was not in our best interests to withdraw at this stage due to regulations and time limits set by government, financial implications and SSDC having done their utmost to give us the best possible deal.
* SSDC is now providing a link to read the weekly news which makes it easier to be added to the website.
* Himley Country Hotel   A report was received from a resident suggesting that ex-offenders from Walsall were again being accommodated at HCH and had caused a nuisance at The Dudley Arms needing police assistance. Cllr Lees contacted the Chief Inspector who was aware of problems around HCH and said that police actions have been updated on the matter. He was not aware of Walsall sending ex-offenders to stay at the hotel but would make enquiries and accepts that more needs to be done. He corrected the initial report from a resident by saying that the incident at the Dudley Arms was nothing to do with HCH, it was a drunk from Wolverhampton. The hotel also maintains that they are not taking in homeless people and is operating as a cheap bed-only hostel where no food or drink are available.
* Discussions have been taking place about changing the sequence of the lights at the junction of the A449 and B4176 to overcome the queues of vehicles waiting to turn right. Cllr Nock informed C Cllr Wilson that this sequence was tried out previously leading to tremendous traffic jams on the B4176 back to Milking Bank Island in Dudley as well as traffic back-ups from all directions at the junction at peak times.
* After newspaper reports that overflow parking for Himley Hall Bonfire will be on the car boot site next to Sandiacre Farm shop, villagers were concerned about the safety of people crossing the by-pass and damage to property in the village as has happened previously; organisers have assured us that there will be a floodlight pedestrian crossing across the by-pass with a bus on a circular route picking up passengers near the Commemorative Bench and dropping off opposite the Dudley Arms, also a police presence. The circular bus service will then run later to take people back to the car park

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* 100538 Himley Parish Council Lloyds Bank Account £20,000.00
* Automated debit – bank charges £8.00 11/10/2022

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 16TH November 2022**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

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