

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY
CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 20th DECEMBER 2023 at 7.30PM

PRESENT: - MRS Y NOCK (CHAIRMAN) PRESIDING
PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES, MR D CLOSE,
MRS S FROST, CCLR V WILSON, MR M CRISP
APOLOGIES :- PCSO'S
OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK,
MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:- MR R PAINTER,

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 - Date range: 14/11/2023 – 17/12/2023 as received:-

Public bodies can only disclose information if they have the power to do so. Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act provides a power to exchange information where disclosure is necessary to support the local Crime Reduction Strategy and Partnership in achieving the aims of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Strategy and objectives outlined within it.

The degree of disclosure that takes place must be proportionate and relevant to the level of social ill or criminality it is intended to counter or prevent.

The information is only to be processed in relation to crime and disorder purposes. Information will be handled in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, the Human Rights Act 1998 and any other relevant legislation governing disclosures and will ultimately be disposed of in a secure

Statistics:

Burglary (residential):

- NONE

Burglary(business):

- On 19/11, it was reported that offenders had gained access to 2 x storage buildings within the grounds of Himley Park. Jerry cans of petrol and a wheelbarrow stolen. Sadly, no CCTV and no witnesses.

- On 11/12, it was reported that offenders had gained access to a large outbuilding within the grounds of Himley Park. Offenders have removed a padlock but have then been unsuccessful in trying to force second lock – they have gone on to smash a window in order to gain access. It appears nothing was stolen from within. No witnesses and no CCTV. Forensic investigation ongoing.

Vehicle crime:

- On 28/11 between 1600hrs-1700hrs, a van was broken into whilst parked on the car park of a public house on A449 Wolverhampton Road. Offenders appear to have drilled a hole in the lock in order to gain access – Dewalt battery drill stolen from within. Sadly, no witnesses and CCTV unable to provide any information in order to ID offenders.

- Around 15/12, a van that was parked on Brick Kiln Way had the rear doors forced open. Unknown if any items stolen from within. No witnesses and no CCTV.

Anti-social behaviour:

- NONE

Other incidents of note:

- On 11/12, it was reported that unknown offenders had set fire to a wooden storage hut at Himley Park, completely destroying the structure. The fire was extinguished by the Fire Service. Sadly, no witnesses and no CCTV. A press release was published by Staffordshire Police, appealing for members of the public to come forward with any information relating to the incident.

Policing operations of note:

- Due to the vehicle crime reported within the locality, our Op Bormus team have been covering Wombourne and the surround areas over the past week. The team will continue to support local patrols over the coming weeks.

With thanks from your local officers,

PCSO Paula WILKES (06635)Email: paula.wilkes@staffordshire.police.uk
PCSO Alexandra RATHBONE (23938)Email: alexandra.rathbone@staffordshire.police.uk
PCSO Lee MASON (27735)Email: lee.mason@staffordshire.police.uk

Helpful links

Volunteers requested for community speed watch, further information found at:
<http://www.staffssaferroads.co.uk/my-community/community-speed-watch>

Keep in touch with regular Smart Alert's for your area:
<https://staffordshiresmartalert.uk/staffs/>

Social media:

@Staffordshire Police & @South Staffordshire Police
@SStaffsPolice

Please feel free to encourage public participants to try reporting incidents via our 'Live chat' service accessible on our website, instead of phoning 101 and waiting in a queue.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-

- HMRC - Cllr Frost has had confirmation, after waiting many hours on the phone, that we owe nothing and are in credit by £32.62. Thanks were given to Cllr Frost.
- Wall Collapse School Rd - The wall owner now has an engineer's recommendations and will carry them out. He is waiting for the owners of Himley Mill to implement their plan to stop flash floods reaching the wall.
- The Whistle Foundation - They will give us notice before their annual week of music at Himley Cricket Club. Environmental Health will be liaising with them to keep noise levels down.
- The clerk replied to RCA Regeneration that we had not had a Housing Needs survey, but had no objection to them having one.
- Enforcement are dealing with unauthorised 'For Sale' signs at the entrance to Brick Kiln Way.
- There was no response to Notice board posters for an election for the vacant Cllr seat on Himley Parish Council.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

- 23/00871/FULHH 20 Penn Road Gospel End, Ground floor front extension and first floor infill side extension. Val 22.11.23, consult to 18.12.23, deadline 17.01.24., C.O. Natalie Ioannou.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :

- 23/00863/TREE Himley House Hotel, Himley Village and Parkland Conservation Area: Carry out all works specified in Cheshire Woodlands 'Tree Management Schedule' ref. CW/11271-MS. Val 10.10.23, consult to 19.10.23, internal target date 21.11.23, C.O. Gavin Pearce
- 23/00956/FULHH 27 Chalmers Road Gospel End. Proposed two storey side extension, single storey rear extensions and dormer windows to front and rear elevations. Val 14.11.23, Consult to 09.12.23, deadline 09.01.24, C.O. Laura Moon.
- 23/00802/LBC Himley House Hotel. Val 01.10.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 29.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon. This is for Listed Building Consent for application 23/00801/ADV (below).

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

- 23/00801/ADV (advertising consent) Himley House Hotel. Installation of replacement signs to include 1x post pictorial sign. 1x post mounted amenity sign. 1x post mounted welcome/directional sign. 1x post mounted barrier sign. 2x wall mounted directional signs. 3x bedroom signs. 1x post mounted amenity/pictorial sign. 2x lanterns and 6x floodlights, Val 04.10.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 29.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon. Approved with conditions 14.12.23. 1. The consent hereby granted is for a maximum period of 5 years. 2. The development authorised by this permission shall be carried out in complete accordance with the approved plans and specification, as listed on this decision notice, except insofar as may be otherwise required by other conditions to which this permission is subject. 3. The maximum surface brightness of any part of the sign shall not exceed 250 candelas/square metre. The reasons for the Council's decision to grant permission for development subject to compliance with the conditions hereinbefore specified are:- 1. To comply with the requirements of Part 3, Regulation 14, paragraph 7 of the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) (England) Regulations 2007. 2. In order to define the permission and to avoid doubt. 3. To safeguard the amenity of the area in accordance with policy EQ11 of the adopted Core Strategy

- 23/00900/FUL Himley House Hotel. Val 23.10.23, consult to 27.11.23, deadline 18.12.23, C.O. Laura Moon. Erection of raised terrace, glazed veranda and garden arbours, construction of 3 no. patio islands with festoon lighting, extension to existing paths and repair of existing walls and fences to northern garden; removal of existing building mounted awning, removal of ivy from building and demolition of modern porch to eastern elevation; removal of decking and installation of new patio with festoon lighting, new gate and repairs to boundary wall to southern / function room garden; installation of car park barriers at the entrance and exit points to the car parks; new external lighting; new external flue and creation of new landscape beds and footpaths within car park. No change is proposed to the floor area of the pub/ restaurant and function space. LAYOUT Minor changes are proposed to the layout of the external garden areas and to the car parking arrangements.

Amendments were received to Himley House Hotel application: To vary the licensing plan for a full refurbishment of ground floor areas including main trade areas of the bar & restaurant, toilets, function room and breakout area. Existing reception to become a breakout space from the function room and reception to be relocated to the arrival area from the main car park entrance to the rear. Alterations to extend the existing bar counter slightly to the straight section to accommodate coffee dispense service area. External garden enhancement works - external areas to be used for consumption purposes only. For full and further details please view the licensing plan. Any part of the variation application that changes the plan/layout at the premises to be of no effect until the work has been completed. There are no changes to the licensable activities or the permitted hours. Approved with conditions 14.12.23. Same conditions as 23/00801/ADV

- 23/00901/LBC Himley House Hotel. Val 23.10.23, consult to 26.11.23, deadline 18.12.23, C.O. Laura Moon. This is for Listed Building Consent for the above application. Approved with conditions 14.12.23. Same conditions as 23/00801/ADV

HIGHWAYS DATA:-

Staffordshire's roads will be getting a welcome funding boost over the next few years. Highways bosses at Staffordshire County Council have welcomed a government announcement that £8.3 billion will be invested into England's roads over the next 11 years. A total of £2.2 billion will be invested in the West and East Midlands alone, with more than £186 million coming to Staffordshire over the 11 year period. The funding is part of the Government's Network North plan to spend the money saved by cancelling HS2 north of Birmingham. An initial £3.188 million has been made available in-year, which is in addition to the £20 million the authority has already invested in the repair and maintenance of highways over the past 12 months. With more than 6,000km of roads, the county council has undertaken a comprehensive programme of repair and resurfacing. This latest fund will be allocated to maintaining, repairing and improving the county's roads.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

- Precept -It was decided to increase the Precept by 4% to cover both inflation and increased costs for maintaining proposed Speed Indication Devices in Himley and Gospel End villages.
- On 07.12.23 Clerk sent an email to the company who painted white road markings on the slip road from A449 into School Road to repair damage caused by van parked on the grass verge. We were advised by C Cllr Wilson to contact Highways. Clerk has done this.
- Speed Indicator Devices -Cllrs unanimously agreed that measures are necessary to curb the speed of vehicles through the villages and intend to purchase the necessary equipment to install the SIDS to work intermittently in Himley and Gospel End.
- Void under tarmac on pavement/road turning into Plantation Lane: Reported first on 30th March 2023 and deteriorating daily, C Cllr Wilson was asked for help to get a repair.
- A resident from Gospel End had asked why the new car par at Baggeridge Country Park had been closed last week. Cllr Lees explained that the closure was due to the turnover of the site from David Wilson Homes to SSDC, the car park is now open and yellow, no waiting lines have to be painted on Fir Street as part of the Parking Order.
- Cllr Lees explained that if SSDC's budget is passed for next year, Parishes will be allocated 2/3 days from April to have streets cleared of weeds.
- Next Parish Summit is scheduled for Thursday 1st February 2024 8.30am-12.30pm at Codsall Council Offices.
- Cllr Oliver advised that the area in Gospel End around the notice board and the bungalows was un-cared for and needed tidying up. She is to contact the Housing Association to request this.
- Cllrs asked the Clerk to contact the owner of 1 Bridgnorth Road regarding the cutting back of the hedges in Himley Lane / Bridgnorth Rd by the post box.

- Cllr Lees is to make enquiries to find out who the owners of the hedges are that surround the field between Limes Apartments and Plantation Lane so that they can be contacted to cut back the hedges.
- The Clerk advised that forms needed to be signed to complete the signatory removal of the outgoing Councillors and the addition of Cllr Close and the access for the Clerk to the online banking. These were signed.
- The Clerk advised that she had received abusive calls which seem to be from a Wombourne resident who has contacted her by mistake. It was agreed that her land line number was removed from the website and all correspondence, so that future correspondence would be either by email or post.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

- 000015 - S Farley – Salary £556.00
- 000016 – HMRC - £106.38 (remaining credit with HMRC was used making a total of £139)

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: - Wednesday 17th January 2024

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.40pm

Yvonne P. Nock

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