**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 21st FEBRUARY 2024 at 7.30PM**

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

 **PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES,**

 **MRS S FROST, MR M CRISP, C CLLR V WILSON**

 **APOLOGIES :- MR D CLOSE, 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 - 16/1/2024 – 19/2/2024 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 manner.**

**Statistics:**

**Burglary (residential):**

* NONE

**Burglary(business):**

* Between 18:00 – 21:00hrs at a stable on Red Lane, a saddle and other tack was taken by using bolt cutters on the gate and the shed. There was no CCTV covering the location and no witnesses.

**Vehicle crime:**

* 2 x reports for Himley Country Hotel of vans having holes cut in the back of the side sliding doors to gain entry taking tools from within, enquiries ongoing.
* Overnight 13/02 – 14/02, a securely parked Ford Transit Custom van was taken without keys next to a property on Chalmers Road - enquiries ongoing re CCTV at the location.
* At approx. 2240hrs on 19/02, a Nissan Navara was stolen from the car park of the Himley Country Hotel, without keys – investigation ongoing.

**Anti-social behaviour:**

2 x report this month:

* Reports of persons riding off road vehicles on railway walk causing nuisance

1) Officers attended however no sign of persons involved in reported behaviour.

2) PCSO attended however riders made off leaving their helmets behind.

**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 month. 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

January Minutes distributed to Cllrs pre-meeting, had a mistake in Planning corrected, before being approved.

MATTERS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING :-

* Collapsed Wall in School Road: Work had commenced on the repair with a large section of ground behind the collapsed wall dug out to receive concrete. Unfortunately, owners of the land which causes the collapses have not started work to resolve the problem and more earth has collapsed into the dug-out section due to heavy rain. The wall owner expects his work to be completed next week
* ‘For Sale’ notices for Baggeridge Village: There is still one notice remaining at the entrance to Brick Kiln Way.
* Void at junction of Bridgnorth Road and Plantation Lane: The void was infilled on 31st January and without C Cllr Victoria Wilson’s intervention, would not have happened. County is still insisting that Severn Trent should be responsible.
* Housing Association land in Gospel End:  This is still not tidied up and the garages are for sale. Cllr Oliver to enquire further.
* Hedge bordering No. 1 Bridgnorth Road: Cutting will have to wait as bird-breeding season is beginning.
* Hedge around field between The Limes and Plantation Lane:   Following our request, the hedge was ‘cut back’ both in School Road and Plantation Lane by the owners.  Clerk has thanked owners.
* Section 106 payments for Baggeridge Village: As SSDC has only accepted part of the area that was intended to be taken over, due to the poor condition it has been left in, none of the £52,000 allocated under Section 106 will be received.
* Request for Gospel End pavement to be cleared of detritus. SSDC will see what work can be carried out, but will be limited as SCC paid for traffic control the last time the pavement was cleared.
* Luxury Glamping business at Himley Hall: SSDC Council is working with Dudley MBC in relation to glamping proposals in The Kitchen Garden to ensure the appropriate consents are in place.  Cllr Lees will check on progress.
* Grounds Maintenance charges: No information received as yet.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS:-

* 24/00024/FUL    Railings and CCTV to improve security of the Himley Hall Sailing Club Boat Park, Himley Hall, Conservation Area. Val 24.01.24, consult to 18.02.24, deadline 24.03.24, C.O. Laura Moon. HPC supported this application.
* 24/00102/FUL     Himley House Hotel.  External works, including external redecoration/painting; replacement of 5 no uPVC windows to annex; replacement of uPVC guttering, downpipes and hoppers with cast aluminium; replacement of 4 no. modern external doors; repairs to chimneys stacks and installation of 1 no. new cowl and fan; replacement of 9 no. modern windows; repair of 8 no. windows and installation of CCTV cameras and wi-fi points. Val 02.02.24, consult to 04.03.24, deadline 29.03.24. C.O. Laura Moon.
* 24/00103/LBC      Himley House Hotel.  External works This is for Listed Building consent for the above. Val 02.02.24, consult to 04.03.24, deadline 29.03.24. C.O. Laura Moon.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :

None

PLANNING DECISIONS :-

* 23/00802/LBC      Himley House Hotel.   Val 04.10.23, consult to 28.10.23, deadline 29.11.23, C.O. Laura Moon. This is for Listed Building Consent for 23/00801/ADV 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, C.O. Laura Moon.  Approved with conditions 23.01.24.
* 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, deadline 21.10.23, C.O. Gavin Pearce.  Approved 26.01.24 with conditions.
* 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. Approved with conditions 30.01.24
* 23/01084/FUL   The Firs Residential Home. Retrospective planning application for the construction of staff and customer car park extension.  Val 28.12.23, consult to 15.02.24, deadline 22.02.24., C.O. Laura Moon. Refused 19.02.24.

Reasons for refusal: 1. The site is within the Green Belt where, in accordance with the planning policy GB1 of the adopted Core Strategy and Paragraph 155 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), there is a presumption against changes of use unless they preserve openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land in the Green Belt. The significant increase to ground levels and the erected boundary treatment fails to preserve the openness of the Green Belt and represents in inappropriate development in the Green Belt, contrary to Local Plan Policy GB1 and Paragraph 155 of the NPPF. 2. The Local Planning Authority has considered the reasons advanced but does not consider that these reasons constitute the very special circumstances required to clearly outweigh the harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, visual and spatial harm, conflict with the purposes of the Green Belt and other harm resulting from the proposal, contrary to the NPPF. 3. The significant change in land levels and the erected boundary treatment has resulted in an 'alien' feature in the local landscape, which is harmful to the character of the area, contrary to policies EQ4 and EQ11 of the Local Plan. 4. Substantial, irreversible harm has been caused on six trees of significant stature, and no details of compensatory mitigation planting has been submitted contrary to Policy EQ4 of the Local Plan. 5. Insufficient information has been submitted to determine the proposals impact on neighbouring amenity and ecological grounds (light pollution). The proposal is contrary to policies EQ1 and EQ9 of the Local Plan

**Discharge of Conditions**

Discharge of conditions 4 (CEMP) and 5 (CMEP) for application 23/00726/FUL    Himley Hall, new children’s play area containing mainly timber play elements in between existing trees and associated works which was approved with conditions 20.10.23. These conditions are regarding control of Himalayan Balsam.

HIGHWAYS DATA:- None

ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-

* Field bordered by Brick Kiln Way and Gospel End Road: The road and security compound that appeared at the southern end have been removed.
* South Staffs District Council Finances: A resident has questioned the state of SSDC’s finances, following financial difficulties announced by some other councils. Cllr Lees has issued this statement: -

 *“Firstly, can I assure you that SSDC’s finances are in a robust state with a three-year balanced budget until 2026/27. All of which have been audited by Grant Thornton with an unqualified positive report.*

*The accounts have just been out for consultation though the web site with no adverse comments, with a band D property paying £140 to SSDC, the other precepts go to SCC, Police and Fire. The £140 is excellent value for money for funding 18 front line services (Refuse, Planning etc.) and 8 back-office services (EH) when compared to Cannock which is roughly double SSDC figure.*

*If you or your residents want any further details, please let me know.*

*Kind regards*

*Roger*

*Cllr Roger Lees
Leader of the Council
South Staffordshire Council”*

*County Cllr Wilson added that Staffs County Council’s finances were also robust with a budget for five years.*

* School Road surface by the bus stop to Wombourne: Roads are the responsibility of Staffs County Council. Cllr Crisp has received more complaints about the state of the School Road surface, the noise it cases for nearby residents and danger it causes to road users. Cllr Nock has repeatedly reported potholes to Staffs County Council and after conversations with a County Council Officer, who then visited, and because of further degrading, the Rumble Strip work was escalated to be carried out in a timely manner. Despite this escalation, County have to be selective to locate the funding to the areas where they previously knew a large amount of defect was already identified. It appears that we are in a queue and have to wait until it is the turn of the required work.
* Site-specific notice board for The Playing Field - Several months ago, some Cllrs decided it would be more aesthetically pleasing to have one notice board for rules specific to the site, rather than several small ones. Cllr Crisp reports that after spending much time on the project, he cannot find an "off the shelf" notice board, so one would have to be specially made, and together with installation costs, would be almost £400 and would not achieve anything.
* Hedgerow Banks - Cllr Don Close requested hedgerow banks cut back to maintain standards, as particularly next to The Playing Field there is barely enough room for one person to walk. Clerk to ask Street Scene to carry out this work at HPC’s expense.
* Increase in Our Precept -We do need to keep a good amount in our account for situations such as general inflation, polls and unexpected expenditures which could cause Cllrs to foot the bill.
* Holes in Gospel End Road verge - Cllr Nock was informed of this problem and reported it to County on 12th February. Only having one inspector to cover the whole county, no one has inspected yet. (22nd ). There are deep holes and if you approach them, the ground gives way. Concerned for residents’ safety, Cllr Nock tried police and the Environment Agency, they both referred her back to Highways.
* Rail Freight Interchange:  The HS2 has been scrapped north of Birmingham but the Interchange will still go ahead as it is on the West Coast line and will reduce much lorry traffic throughout the country.
* Grants are available, maximum £1,000 from any of Health Inequalities Fund to tackle health inequalities in the district, S Staffs Community Wellbeing Fund to support community and Wellbeing projects and West Midlands Interchange Project Community Fund for community projects.
* Cllr Crisp advised Cllrs of a greenhouse heater which was sited in the grounds of Himley Hall from Capability Brown times. He is to do more investigation and Cllrs then suggested this be listed as a Community Asset.
* The Clerk advised that she had received notification that the list for requests for Speed Indication Devices was being reviewed and that SSDC would advise further details in due course.
* NHS peoples posters were distributed for the notice boards.
* The Lloyds bank statement was presented for information purposes.
* The next virtual locality forum is to be held via TEAMS on Thursday 29th February 6-7.30pm – all Cllrs advised that they could attend.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -

* Cheque 000017 Swindon Community Assn - £110.00 – Hire of Council chambers for 2023 meetings

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 20th March 2024**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.47pm