**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SWINDON COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 21st MAY 2025 at 7.30PM**

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

 **PRESENT COUNCILLORS: MRS S OLIVER, MR R LEES, MR G BOWEN, MR T RICHARDS**

 **APOLOGIES:- NONE**

 **OTHERS :- MRS S FARLEY CLERK, MR R PAINTER**

 **NOT PRESENT :- CCLR V WILSON**

**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**

**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL:**

Election of Chairman –

Mrs Yvonne Nock - proposed by Cllr Roger Lees, Seconded by Cllr Sandra Oliver

Election of Vice Chairman –

Mr Tim Richards – proposed by Cllr Sandra Oliver, Seconded by Cllr Roger Lees

Meeting closed

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Nock had emailed her annual address to all Cllrs prior to the meeting outlining the activities undertaken during the last 12 months.

Meeting closed.

**MAY 2025 HIMLEY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING COMMENCED:**

**MATTERS ARISING:-**

* Gospel End Flats: Some tidying and planting has taken place.
* Lime Tree in field off Plantation Lane: Following the Clerk contacting the owner, we received information that a report on the tree states that no action is required at this time. The owner also states that he intends to apply for planning permission to build 4 spacious 5 bed houses on the site.
* New Himley Notice Board: This was erected over Easter. Cllrs requested thanks were sent to Mr A Nock, a resident in Himley, for all of his efforts with this
* Speed Indication Device: The battery will need to be changed and charged monthly and is supplied with 2 batteries. A SSDC Officer will collect data when visiting and will train a Himley Cllr if required. TheCounty Officer has given permission for a site in Bridgnorth Road between the Himley sign and houses to be used but requires further detail on the SID together with any ongoing maintenance agreement we have with the supplier. Clerk to send SID details and check that the supplier has asked for a permit to dig, also if there is any maintenance agreement.
* Staffs Parish Councils’ Association: We have received info about 1. Solar Farm applications, 2. An invitation to attend a meeting about Local Government Reorganisation in Staffs at Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall, 3. Info about DATA protection. New Councillors have been advised to look for and study info on Parish Council Data Protection online and abide by the principles.
* Broken tarmac next to Gospel End traffic lights: Reported to County 16th April report no. 4437957. County want further reports. Cllr Oliver to take photos of the site to send to County.
* Gospel End Defib: When Cllr Oliver last checked the defib, she found that the battery in a sealed unit is not working, Battery should not have ceased to work and will be investigated.
* Bank Signatories: Clerk is in the process of updating the bank signatories. Documentation was signed to effect these changes and an online application for Cllr G Bowen to have access was signed. Two people will still be needed to process any transaction.
* Annual Audit: The yearly accounts are ready for our independent auditor and the Clerk will have these ready for approval at the June meeting.
* Coned off area in Himley Lane near ‘Woodlands’. After being coned off for more than two months, the County Officer answered our concern and the traffic management was removed.
* Bus Shelter Quote: Cost of a shelter opposite The Dudley Arms would be approximately £4,000 fitted. Clerk to enquire if suppliers can demolish and remove old shelter and to make some amendments to the specification and obtain an up to date quote. Cllrs gave permission for the Clerk to place the order if the requote was up to £5000
* Himley Defib: Mr Don Close had been thanked for his regular checks on the defib and will happily continue.
* Playing Field Inspections: Mr M Crisp had been thanked for regularly inspecting the Playing Field over the past year and asked if he would continue with this task. He is happy to continue.
* The Clerk has been informed that the website and the email addresses for HPC Clerk and Chair need to be changed to ‘gov.uk’. This will be investigated and a plan for these changes will be put in place over the next few months.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS :-**

* 25/00315/FULHH 24 Lydiate Hill Road. Front porch, rear extension, single storey including a glass balustrade to enable walk on roof. Val 30.03.25, consult to 09.06.25, deadline 06.07.25, C.O. Matthey Hurley. HPC to comment that we have no objection as long as the extension/balustrading does not overlook neighbours’ properties.

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS AWAITING A DECISION :-**

* 24/01056/FULM Land at Park Farm, Himley, (rear of Himley Hall). The temporary development of a battery energy storage system (BESS) with ancillary infrastructure to provide balancing services to the electricity grid. Val 29.01.25, consult to 08.03.25, deadline 30.04.25, C.O. Imogen Hopkin.

**PLANNING DECISIONS :-**

* 25/00118/FULHH Rose Cottage, Plantation Lane. Single storey rear extension and two storey front extension. Val 14.02.25, consult to 14.03.25, deadline 11.04.25, C.O. Caitlin Harper. No Objections. Approved 16.04.25 subject to conditions.
* 25/00210/TREE Himley House Hotel, Himley Village and Parkland Conservation Area. Tree works to T9, T10, G1, G2, G3, T12, T14, T15, T16 and T17 as described on application form. Val 05.03.25, consult to 19.03.25, deadline 16.04.25, Case Officer Gavin Pearce. Approved 16.04.25 subject to conditions.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS INCLUDING RESIDENTS COMPLAINTS :-**

* Street Scene asked what work had not been completed from last year’s list. This included: Clean up around G.E. flats, clear pavement on A449 from traffic lights to Dudley border, and clear weeds on pavement in Dudley Road from church to Himley Hall gate. There were 2 jobs completed last year that need to be repeated, namely weeding pavements in School Road, especially against The Limes and Dudley Arms stone walls and cutting back of brambles and weeds by the cutting to the by-pass in Himley Lane.
* There is a charity Golf Day for Rural Housing Enablement at Support Staffordshire at South Staffs Golf Club on 10th July. All are invited, cost is £400 per 4 ball. This includes your round of golf, bacon sandwiches with a hot drink on arrival, delicious meal after play, prizes for winners and games throughout the day.
* Three cyclists who were seen riding around Himley videoing houses and cars and also stole bikes and phones from children on the Railway Walk in Wombourne were arrested by police.
* From June 1st, changes are being made to the number 15 bus services through Himley. The bus will only travel both ways between Merry Hill Shopping Centre and Wombourne, NOT to Wolverhampton. Starting and finishing times may also be different. There is no mention of the 15A Sunday bus.
* We received a Healthy Workplace Bulletin from County 13.05.25
* HPC was invited to get involved in a project to reduce our carbon emissions, we do not have any.
* The Clerk’s salary was increased to cover inflation and the increase in work involved due to re-organisation of councils.
* Gornal Athletic have approached us with regard to them building an 11-a side football pitch on the Playing Field for girls under 14years old. We consider the surface not either flat or smooth enough and far too wet for a football pitch as School Road drains onto the land. We have passed the enquiry on to Himley Cricket Club. They may be able to help.
* Details have been received about grants available for community organisations from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

**ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT: -**

* Online payment authorised at the meeting by Cllrs – I A Nock £15.98 – concrete mix for noticeboard posts
* Bank charges £5.25

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING: -  **Wednesday 18th June 2025**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.27pm

**COUNCILLOR VACANCIES** There are 2 vacancies for Parish Councillors on Himley Parish Council. Please contact the clerk via email if you would like further details regarding these – himleyparishcouncil@gmail.com