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High Offley Parish Council Minutes of Meeting of Council held at 19:30 hours on Thursday 12th September 2024, at Woodseaves Village Hall.

Councillors Present.

Cllrs E. Halls (Chair); P. Haslop; R. Hockenhull; P.Mason; D. Turpin; M. Turvey, M Smith together with the Clerk.
Cllr Scott Spencer, Stafford Borough Council

Public Open Forum.

A resident attended on behalf of the blocked drains in Dicky's Lane and asked for an update. Chair Halls reported that that Highways are now aware of both blocked drains and they have been added to the next cleansing schedule which will take place in 2027. Chair Halls has asked if the cleansing could be expedited but they are unable to bring forward without evidence that they are causing problems. Recent photos would be advantageous to support the case. Another resident gave an account of the result of the blocked drain on their elderly relative. They have also reported the issues to Highways numerous times. Cllr. Spencer outlined the Section 56 process and suggested that this route be explored further.

Action: Cllr. Spencer to forward details on the Section 56 process.

Action: Cllr. Winnington to be made aware of response regarding the cleansing schedule and to see if he can help speed up.

Action: Chair Halls to forward on evidence including video to the Highways Officer.

Residents attended on behalf of agenda item 24/080 Old Hall Farm to enquire if an update was available. The last information was that an enforcement notice had been issued in which the recipient had 28 days to respond. Residents passed on that the blocked Public Rights of Way footpath is still presenting as an issue.

Chair Halls reported that the Stafford Borough Council are looking to take a holistic approach to the situation.

Action: Chair Halls to write to Stafford Borough Council Public Rights of Way Team and the Enforcement Officer for an update. Agenda item for next meeting.

Residents attended to discuss a proposed solar factory in Adbaston and they believe that the land is not a suitable site and asked for support. They reported they are not against green energy just that it needs to be in the right area. Concerns were raised about the

battery storage site which can produce poisonous gases, location to the nearest fire station and connection to the grid.

Cllr. Spencer reported that two solar farm applications have been submitted recently and one has been approved in Stafford with caveats. The second application was refused for multiple reasons. Stafford Borough Council review each application on a case by case basis. The Local Plan's consultation period is people's opportunity to object in advance.

High Offley Parish Council do have an interest in the proposed solar farm particularly because the electricity generated could be run through the parish. Cllr Spencer stated that there is potential that it could be 7 miles away in Loggerheads. It was noted that an application could proceed pending confirmation of the site.

24/078: To Receive any Apologies and Record any Absences

Apology: Councillor Mark Winnington

24/079: To Receive and Consider the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Held on Thursday 11 July 2024

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

24/080: To discuss Old Hall Farm

Discussed above.

24/081: To Discuss Highway Issues.

a) Gregory Lane correspondence

The issues have been reported to Highways and they have said that the road is on an annual inspection route and was last inspected on 03.07.24. They report that several jobs have been raised during this routine inspection but that all defects have been deemed as low priority, non urgent.

b) Dicky's Lane Blocked Gullies

Discussed above.

c) Staffordshire County Council's grit availability (Cllr Mark Winnington)

Action: Councillor Winnington to follow up with Diane Firkins on Staffordshire County Council stock.

24/082: To Receive an Update on Planning Applications

24-39326-OUT Land Off Stafford Road Woodseaves

No objections but planning application was subsequently withdrawn.

24-39366-FUL Wrekin View Shebdon Road High Offley

No objections.

24/38798/FUL The Chapel

No objections – but the original design was preferred.

24/083: To Receive Reports from Borough and County Councillors

Councillor M Winnington was absent.

Cllr. Spencer reported that a motion to Staffordshire County Council has been drafted on the state of the roads. A working group between County and Borough has been arranged. The issuing of fines to Amey have been proposed if roads need to be revisited within a 6-month period. Work will also be subject to inspection.

24/084: To Receive an update on Shebdon Defibrillator Removal

Action: Cllr Hockenhull to arrange its removal via landowner.

24/085: To Confirm CPR/Defib Training Arrangements

Training will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday 14 September 2024 at Woodseaves Village Hall. Attendance to be emailed to hopc.clerk@gmail.com

24/086: To Confirm Attendance at the Local Transport Plan Meeting – 20 September 2024

Apologies to be sent.

24/087: To Discuss correspondence relating to proposed Solar Farm in Adbaston (Cllr Mark Winnington)

Discussed above.

24/088: To Consider Finance Matters.

a) Approval of payments made since the last meeting.

PAID: Council administration costs = £146.54 and £95.99

PAID: Clerk - Internal Auditor's Gift = £19.98

PAID: Zurich Parish Council Insurance = £214.00

PAID: Room hire at Woodseaves Village = £162

PAID: Clerk training fees (agreed March 2024, minute reference 24/022) = £138

PAID: HMRC Q1 PAYE = £159

b) To approve the renewal of Staffordshire County Council's web-hosting fee = £100

Resolution: Payment was unanimously approved.

c) To approve the renewal of Staffordshire Parish Council Association membership fee = £293.33

Action: Clerk to investigate membership details further before a decision is made to renew.

24/089: To Request Items for the Next Meeting Agenda.

It was requested that all unresolved items feature on the agenda for the next meeting in October.

24/090: To Confirm the Time and Date of the Next Meeting.

19:30 – 10th October 2024

D Cox

Deb Cox, Clerk to Council.