

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 12 May 2016

Present: Mr A Vernon (Chairman), Mr S Hulme, Mrs P Massey, Mr D Leech, Mr P Atkins, Mrs D Clarke (Clerk), Mr P Riley (from the Parish), Mr G Hall (Borough Councillor for Bagot's Ward) Ms A Miller and Ms E Christie (ESBC Planning Department)

Minutes: Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 4 March 2016 were agreed and signed. Minutes of the Planning Applications Meeting dated 30 March 2016 were agreed and signed

Matters Arising:

Election of Vice Chairman – Mr S Hulme was elected to the position of Vice Chairman, being nominated by Mr D Leech and seconded by Mrs P Massey

Admaston Conservation Area – The Chairman welcomed Greg Hall, Anna Miller and Emily Christie. Councillor Hall gave a brief resumé on how ESBC responded to planning applications. The Vice Chairman posed a question to the Planning Department team regarding on what grounds planning applications could be supported or objected to. The ESBC Planning Department say that there has to be material planning considerations. The scope of what can constitute a material consideration is very wide and so the courts often do not indicate what cannot be a material consideration. However, in general they have taken the view that planning is concerned with land use in the public interest, so that the protection of purely private interests such as the impact of a development on the value of a neighbouring property or loss of private rights to light could not be material considerations. Retrospective planning applications are treated in the same way. Although we are encouraged to comment on any planning application, ultimately all decisions are made according to the Local Plan. In reply to a question on the local conservation area we were informed that there had been no review of Admaston as there was no Conservation Officer on the team, but hopefully a review would take place in the near future.

Neighbourhood Plan – After an in depth discussion between Councillors and the ESBC Planning Department team, the Vice Chairman agreed to liaise with them regarding the setting up of a Blithfield Parish Plan and may be organising a visit to a similar parish that already had a neighbourhood plan.

Local Government Transparency Code – It was reported that we had been successful in our bid for £1,229.

Planning Applications

P/2016/00287 Partial demolition and rebuilding of a brick boundary wall, Blithfield Hall, Uttoxeter Road, Admaston – ESBC permits 18 April 2016

P/2016/00288 Listed Building application for the part demolition and rebuilding of a brick wall, Blithfield Hall, Uttoxeter Road, Admaston – ESBC grants Listed Building consent 18 April 2016

P/2016/00361 Felling of oak tree, Blithfield Hall, Admaston – ESBC no objection 18 April 2016

Financial

<u>Payments Received</u>	£
Staffordshire Lengthsman Allowance	349.00
Grant from Transparency Fund	1,229.00
ESBC Precept	2,037.00

<u>Payments Made</u>	
Mrs D Clarke 6 months salary to 31 March 2016	702.70
Mrs D Clarke expenses to 29 February 2016	100.73
Mr K Massey, Lengthsman (wages to 30 April 2016)	210.00

<u>Payments Due</u>	
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association	93.00
Community Council of Staffordshire	25.00
Abbots Bromley First Responders donation	50.00
Donna Louise Trust donation	50.00
Midlands Air Ambulance	50.00
St Giles Hospice donation	50.00
British Heart Foundation donation	50.00
CPRE donation	50.00
Aon Insurance renewal commencing 1 June 2016	354.00

Correspondence

Staffordshire County Council – Highways & Transport – Concern was expressed that the lengthsman service will end in April 2017. The Clerk was asked to contact the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association regarding help with funding to continue employing a lengthsman in Blithfield Parish.

Any Other Business

Smart Alerts – Concern was expressed regarding the amount of “smart alerts” received from all over the county instead of just in the local area. It was suggested that this be discussed with our local PCSO who will be attending our next meeting

Next Meeting

The next Ordinary General meeting of Blithfield Parish Council is scheduled to take place on Friday 8 July 2016 in Admaston Village Hall at 6.30 p.m.