

## BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 01.09.2022**

**Present:** Cllr P Atkins (chairman), Cllr Vernon (vice chairman) Cllr P Massey, Cllr S Hulme, Cllr K Massey. Mrs F Shipley (clerk)

County Cllr Philip Atkins, Police Officers Sgt Lee Parden, PCSO Tim Leathers, PCSO Hayden Dibb

From the Parish, Mr P Riley, J Maddox, C Hulme, J Massey, D Brown, J Capewell, N Birch, J Malein, T Spasic, G Hampson, L Reynolds, E Sumner

**22.09.01 Apologies: for Absence:** There were none.

The Chairman welcomed the representatives from the police force along with the councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

**22.09.10 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes** This item was brought forward on the Agenda.

Sgt Lee Parden from Burton Police gave a report on what the Police were doing to stop the speeding cars along B5013 and over the reservoir causeway. He explained that there was a definite commitment to gather evidence and erect s59 Police Reform Act legislation signage. This would help to make police enforcement swifter. In addition they have been using drones in the area along with increased police patrols. Their efforts had been stepped up since the bad accident on 07.08.22 and prosecutions have been made following the accident. It is easier to prosecute for anti-social behaviour than speeding.

PCSO Tim Leathers described how all accidents and incidents on the B5013 are logged in conjunction with the neighbouring Lichfield force who look after the road beyond Lea Lane.

Following his report members of the public raised the following points:

The noise levels from exhausts are above legal limits. Sgt Parden said that one line of prosecution was that cars with modifications were often not legally insured as the insurance company had not been made aware of the modifications.

Cars and motorbikes speed down Booth Lane towards the Blythe Pub. The police are aware and sometimes patrol with unmarked cars.

On the 07.08.22 multiple calls were made to the police, by the public to report that 'hundreds' of young people and cars were congregating in the lay-bys by the reservoir and racing was taking place. The public were even advised to go and ask the perpetrators to move on. The residents of Admaston are not happy with this approach and Sgt Parden advised it would be unwise to confront these people. Cars even park in the village hall and church carparks. There are drug use issues too.

The lay-by on the Admaston side of the reservoir is unregistered and apparently has no ownership. This area could possibly be gated.

Cllr Philip Atkins thought it unlikely that the speed limit on the B5013 through Admaston could be changed although the residents felt that the road cut the village in half and a speed limit would be appropriate. They also commented on the faded white lines and lack of signage.

All vehicle related incidents including on the minor roads in the parish should be logged.

**22.09.02 Minutes of last Meeting** held on 07.07.2022 were resolved and signed.

**22.09.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.** Cllr K Massey has an interest in planning application P/2021/01474 however this is still under appeal.

**22.09.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a) The solar panel project was not thought to be applicable to our parish.
- b) Information regarding unregistered land has been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting.

**22.09.05 Clerk Update**

- a) CALCs Courses – the clerk will undertake online courses, New Clerks Finance and VAT for Unregistered Councils at a cost of £30 each.
- b) Annual meeting date 2023, there will be parish and borough council elections on 04.05.2022. The annual meeting and May ordinary meeting will be held on 11.05.2022
- c) Due to an oversight we have not been invoiced for use of the Village Hall since September 2020, we have now received an invoice which we will pay to cover meetings up to March 2022.
- d) Jubilee Oaks, Cllr K Massey and the clerk will clarify with the landowner the species of oak he would prefer. The cost of the oak will be approximately £60 delivered. We will also need to put a tree guard around it.

**22.07.06 Public Participation.** The owner of the land adjacent to watering pit corner, reported that the work on their land had now been carried out and they were confident that any further issues with water collecting were not due to issues on their land.

The custodian of the defibrillators, Mr P Riley, suggested that they may need servicing. The clerk will liaise with him to look into this.

**22.09.07 To receive oral report from Borough/County Councillors.** Cllr Philip Atkins attended the meeting and his input was reported at the head of these minutes.

**22.09.08 Chairman's Report.** The chairman had nothing further to report.

**22.09.09 Report from PCSO Tim Leathers.** PCSO Leathers had left the meeting by this point. The report covers the police area known as the 'Bagots', not just Blithfield. The clerk read the main points from the report. The main points were 130% increase in crime this year from last year. The biggest increase is the report of drug related incidents. Blithfield reservoir is considered a 'hot'spot'. The report will be uploaded to the news section of the website.

## 22.09.11 Planning Applications

### New

P/2022/00958 Felling of one Silver Birch tree Location: Cherry Tree House, Smithy Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NJ Grid Ref: 405058 323331 NO COMMENT

P/2022/00719 Installation of two N2 vehicle impact barriers to a height of 1.1m to provide protection around two existing gas governors and kiosks. Location: Land off Uttoxeter Road, Admaston, WS15 3NH Grid Ref: 406202 323973. The councillors suggested that as this is in a conservation area the barriers should be green.

P/2022/00738 St Stephens Hill Farm, Steenwood Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NQ Grid Ref: 406074 323038 Prior Approval for the conversion of existing barn to form a dwelling Registered. We will ask whether there is an agricultural tie associated with this application.

### Pending

P/2021/01474 Erection of a car port canopy Bagot Lodge, Blithfield Hall Drive, Blithfield Hall, Admaston, WS15 3N, APPEAL under sec 78 written representation. P/2019/01105 Leaway Lea Lane Newton. Communication has been received from the planning department and a report is expected shortly. The chairman and clerk will liaise regarding writing to the planning department again.

### Decisions

P/2022/00819 The Old Rectory, Fauls House, Blithfield Church Road, Admaston - Crown lifting by up to 3 metres and crown thinning by 20% of 1 Oak APPROVED

P/2022/000625 Felling of 1 Holly tree and 1 Sycamore tree, crown raise 1 Sycamore tree to 5.2 metres above ground level over the road and pavement, reduce branches on 1 Maple tree to give up to 1 metres clearance from telegraph pole and BT cable and reduce 1 Laburnum tree by up to 30% to give suitable clearance on BT cable and road Location: Bagot Lodge, Blithfield Hall Drive, Blithfield Hall, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL GRANTED

P/2022/00417 Application under Section 73 to vary condition 9 attached to planning application P/2018/00361, for the erection of a single storey function room and associated car parking, to vary the opening hours.

Location: Lakeside Drive, Steenwood Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NY PERMITS

**22.09.12 Highways and Lengthsman.**

- a) Watering Pit Corner. Cllr Vernon will liaise with Mr Mellors of the Highways department now that the landowner has completed their work.
  - b) Admaston Lay-by. The request for white lines was turned down and we are awaiting a decision on a giveaway sign.
  - c) Admaston Telephone Box, Cllr K Massey advised that the cost of materials to repair the damage would be approximately £357.36. It was agreed he should proceed.
  - d) Admaston Evacuee Memorial. The lengthsman has only got time and resources to attend the memorial twice a year. Any further work could be done by volunteers.
  - e) Booth Lane – the white lines are very faded at the T junction at Dapple Heath, we will ask for them to be re-done.
- The lengthsman provided the clerk with a report of the hours and work he has carried out over the last 12 months.

**22.09.13 Finance.**

Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
534	SLCC clerk membership	£80.00
535	Eric Roy Clerk Training	£25
536	CPRE	£50
S/O	Parish Admin	£203.32
A/c Balance 01.07.2022	A/c 054 £7183.80	A/c 575 £2499.38

The council agreed financial items submitted for approval.

**22.09.14 Items for discussion for the next agenda including any other business.**

The clerk was asked to find out more about whether the ‘Safe Staffordshire Partnership’ could be helpful with the Blithfield reservoir speeding issue and also to contact our MP.

**22.09.15 Date of Next Meeting** 10 November 2022 in Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

