

## BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 10.11.2022

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

From the Parish, Mr P Riley, Ms J Capewell, Mr S Reeves

**22.11.01 Apologies: for Absence:** Cllr Philip Atkins, Cllr Greg Hall

The Chairman welcomed the councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

**22.11.02 Minutes of last Meeting** held on 01.09.2022 were resolved and signed.

**22.11.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.** There were none.

#### **22.011.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) The clerk has written to South Staffs Water regarding the ownership of the unregistered land adjacent to the reservoir and the B5013.

b) 2 x Quercus Robur English Oak have now been ordered for delivery around the end of November. These are to be planted in Blithfield Park. The landowner has agreed to let us plant 2 Oaks to commemorate both the Platinum Jubilee and the Coronation. The parish council will supply commemorative plaques for each tree.

c) White lines have been repainted around the Parish.

#### **22.11.05 Clerk Update**

a) The Safe Staffordshire Partnership does not appear to be able to help with the speeding car problem.

b) The defibrillators are in good working order but will be serviced when temporary replacements are available. Mr P Riley is liaising with The Circuit and we are on a waiting list.

c) The parish laptop and printer are likely to need replacing at some point in the next 2 years. The laptop will be serviced shortly and advice will be taken.

d) The Royal British Legion offer merchandise to display around the Parish, it was decided not to purchase this. However, as there is now no door to door collections for the Poppy Appeal in the parish, we will donate £100 annually.

e) The clerk will make enquiries regarding a suitable mileage allowance.

**22.11.06 Public Participation.** A member of the public asked for clarification on the issues at Watering Pit Corner. The issue on the Hixon side of the junction opposite the Old Village Hall has been resolved but the problem is ongoing adjacent to the Watering Pit on the Admaston side of the junction.

A new problem was reported with water running out of a field on Heath Lane on to Booth Lane. The clerk will write to the landowner concerned.

There are some grids on Booth Lane which need clearing, the clerk will report these to the Highways Department.

A member of the public reported that he had experienced a long period of telephone disruption and the loss of his telephone number while transferring to Superfast Broadband. He had eventually received £300 compensation. In desperation he contacted Michael Fabricant MP who helped to resolve the problem. Unfortunately there have been others who have experienced severe disruption to their service during the transfer to Superfast Broadband. We now have concerns that should we have a power cut, we will have no telephones and very limited telephone signal in the parish. This could be very dangerous particularly for older residents.

**22.11.07 To receive oral reports from the County and Borough Councillors.** No Councillors were present.

**22.11.08 Chairman's Report.** The chairman has been in contact with Paul Chapman of the County Council to discuss the issue that now most of us have transferred to Superfast Broadband and we have such a poor mobile signal, we would have no telephone communication in the event of a power cut. He suggested that we contacted the owner of the nearest mast in Abbots Bromley which is EE.

**22.11.09 Report from PCSO Tim Leathers.** The written report has been posted on the website and circulated to the councillors by email. The main point was that there had been a reduction in crime around Blithfield Reservoir now the evenings were darker.

**22.11.10 Speeding Cars and Motor Bikes** The S59 signs are being processed. There may be an issue that these do not help with the speeding along the B5013 through Admaston

#### **22.11.11 Planning Application**

New

P/2022/01117 Erection of a single storey side extensions to form orangery, formation of a lantern roof over courtyard (Revised Scheme )Location: Blithfield House, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH. Grid Ref: 404931 323390. Concerns were raised about the potential for reducing the amount of parking space the property has and their need to use the courtesy parking at the Village Hall. This will be discussed at the Village Hall meeting.

Pending

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

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.

Decisions

P/2022/00999 Erection of an attached garage, Location: The Granary Cottage, Smithy Lane, Admaston, WS15 3NJ  
Grid Ref: 405062 323390 PERMITS

P/2021/01474 Erection of a car port canopy Bagot Lodge, Blithfield Hall Drive, Blithfield Hall, Admaston, WS15 3N,  
APPEAL under sec 78 DISMISSED

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

P/2021/ 01293 Conversion and alterations of former education centre to form 5 no. dwelling houses with associated works Blithfield Education Centre, Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath, WS15 3PH. PERMITS

P/2019/01105 Leaway Lea Lane Newton. Communication has been received from the planning department and a report is expected shortly.

#### **22.11.12 Highways and Lengthsman.**

a) Watering Pit Corner. The highways department will make another visit to sort out this problem on 21 November 2022. It is hoped this will resolve the problem. The issue on the Hixon side of the junction has now been rectified

b) Admaston Lay-by. The request for white lines was turned down and we are awaiting a decision on a giveaway sign. Whilst other white lines have been renewed recently, these have not.

c) Admaston Telephone Box, The clerk will order the necessary parts. We can claim for the repairs from our insurance company.

#### **22.11.13 Finance.**

Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
537	Admaston Village Hall Room hire 19/11/20 – 03.03.22	£122.50
538	Parish Clerk Expenses	135.04
S/O	Parish Admin	£203.32
A/c Balance 09.09.2022	A/c 054 £8947.11	A/c 575 £2499.59

The council agreed financial items submitted for approval.

b) The budget for 2023 – 2024 was adopted.

c) The precept for the year ending March 2024 was agreed at £4712, the same as the previous year.

e) The audit carried out by Cllr Vernon on 20.10.2022 was adopted.

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

a) Coronation. A resident has a supply of short lengths of alder ready for the beacon. Ideas were discussed for a celebration, probably along the same lines as the recent Jubilee celebration, to be held on bank holiday Monday 8 May 2023. The idea of a children's tea party on Sunday 7 May 2023 afternoon is also under consideration.

b) Parish Boundary Signs, The chairman has been in touch with Trevor Mellors from the highways department, they are expensive, locations would need to be agreed and licences obtained.

c) Lower Farm, Drointon solar energy project. This project has been noted and we will watch its progress. There is a community event at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall on 23 November 2022 which will be attended.

d) New junction layout at Lea Heath is causing concern and we are aware of several incidents at it. The clerk will write to the Hixon parish clerk to express our concern and to find out if there are any plans to improve the situation.

**22.11.15 Date of Next Meeting** 12 January 2023 in Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.22pm

Signed.....