

## BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 12.01.2023**

**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, Mr S Reeves, Mr E Simpson, (Mr J Wood, Ms S Oliphant left the meeting after giving the update on Superfast Broadband in the parish)

**23.01.01 Apologies: for Absence:** No apologies were received.

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

**23.01.02 Minutes of last Meeting** held on 10.11.2022 were resolved and signed.

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

**23.01.07** (this item was brought forward in the Agenda) Mr Jon Wood who is kindly coordinating the roll out of Superfast Broadband in the parish attended the meeting and updated us on the project so far. Phase 1 is now complete, this includes the area of Dapple Heath, Newton and Stansley Wood. There have been some teething problems but in general it has been successful.

There has been a delay in starting phase 2, which is the area of Admaston as the government changed the scheme. The cost of phase 2 is approximately double that of phase 1. It, going ahead is once again, however, dependant on enough residents of Admaston pledging to use the vouchers which the government are offering, to households to cover the cost of the work.

Jon is at present validating the list of households he has, for Admaston, so that he can contact each one, and hopefully get the necessary pledge. From acceptance of Admaston for the upgrade, until installation commences is about 12 months.

The parish council are extremely grateful to Jon for his assistance and the chairman thanked him.

Jon is happy to answer any questions on the upgrade, please contact him on [jwood17@gmail.com](mailto:jwood17@gmail.com)

#### **23.01.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

a) Unregistered land adjacent to B5013 and reservoir - The clerk has written to South Staffs Water regarding the ownership of land. A reply has been received from Richard Whiting who indicated that South Staffs Water owned the land and would not want to close it for car parking as this would mean others could not enjoy the views etc. A meeting has been requested and we have so far had no response.

b) The 2 Oak Trees have now been planted in Blithfield Park, one for the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and one for the Coronation of Charles III. It was agreed to have a commemorative plaque for each tree that can be screwed to the tree guard.

c) Lea Heath Junction – contact has been made with the Hixon parish clerk regarding the new road layout at the junction to Hixon. The changes have been planned for 9 years and have had the desired effect of slowing traffic down. Our concerns of the problems created for larger vehicles at the new junction and several accidents were raised. A bollard is to be erected on the built out grass verge and ‘change of road layout’ signs are also planned.

d) Coronation – the celebrations will take place on Monday 8 May 2023 at Adamston village hall. The hog roast has been ordered. A quotation of around £1000 including VAT has been received for the marquee. A suggestion was

made to have an extra bay on the marquee. A committee will be formed to plan further along the lines of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. There are to be no beacons for the Coronation.

e) Parish boundary signs – there is doubt whether these are practical due to the demographics of the roads in the parish but we will keep this item on the agenda for further consideration.

#### **23.01.05 Clerk Update**

a) The Civility and Respect Pledge – The parish councillors unanimously agreed that Blithfield Parish Council should make this pledge.

b) Elections – It was agreed that the clerk should attend the SPCA online training course for election training. The cost is £30 plus VAT.

c) The parish laptop has been serviced and is running well. It should not need replacing. However the quality of print on the printer is deteriorating so that may need replacing in the next financial year.

d) The chairman and clerk will work together to produce a parish newsletter in the next few weeks.

e) It was agreed to adopt the 45p/mile rate for the parish clerk's travel expenses which is suggested by the SPCA.

d) Solar Farm Drointon - the chairman, the clerk and some parish councillors attended the community consultation event. It is government policy to install these solar farms so there is little point in opposing it but we will monitor it.

**23.01.06 Public Participation.** The problems with water on Booth Lane were raised again. Both the issue at Heath Lane and the one at the Booth have been reported to Highways. No response has been received. The owner of the land adjacent to Heath Lane has been contacted twice with regards to digging out the ditch in his field. His response was that he was waiting for a suitable digger. The gullies in both locations need to be cleaned out too.

Defibrillators have been received from Welmedical to be used while ours are being serviced. The pads need replacing by the end of May 2023.

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

**23.01.09 Chairman's Report.** Nothing to report

**23.01.10 Report from PCSO Tim Leathers.** No report has been received.

**23.01.11 Speeding Cars and Motor Bikes** The S59 signs are progressing according to Cllr Philip Atkins

### **23.01.12 Planning Application**

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/2022/01117

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 PERMITS

P/2022/01119

Listed Building Consent for the erection of a single storey side extensions to form orangery, porch extension to rear courtyard with associated internal and external alterations to include new courtyard floor, rooflight to external store, gate to existing side wall of courtyard, new opening to WC and window and door to garden room (Revised Scheme) Blithfield House, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH GRANTS

P/2019/01105 Leaway Lea Lane Newton. With assistance from Cllr G Hall an update has at last been received from the planning department. In order for the a planning condition to be added for a hedge to be planted in front of the fence, the applicant needs to provide a revised red line plan. This has not been forthcoming so far. The parish council consider it to be unsatisfactory and will communicate with the planning department and Cllr Hall.

### **23.01.13 Highways and Lengthsman.**

- a) Watering Pit Corner - the work has now been completed. Some damage to the verge should repair itself in the Spring.
- b) Admaston Lay-by - the request for white lines and a giveaway sign have both been turned down. Whilst other white lines in the parish have been renewed recently, these have not. Communication with Cllr Philip Atkins will be made to apply further pressure to get something done here.
- c) Admaston Telephone Box - the parts have now been received and are with Cllr K Massey. The insurance money has been received.
- d) Booth Lane Both locations where the gullies need emptying have been reported to Highways.

**23.01.14 Finance.**

Finance. a)

23.01.14 Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
539	Lengthsman annual payment	£550.00
540	Lexis Nexis Local Council Admin book	131.99
541	Paul Riley Dapple Heath Notice Board Repair	£30.00
542	British Heart Foundation	£50.00
543	Douglas MacMillan Hospice	£50.00
544	Katharine House Hospice	£50.00
545	St Giles Hospice	£50.00
546	Rugeley Community First Responders	£50.00
547	Midlands Air Ambulance	£50.00
548	Admaston Village Hall	£95.00
SO	Fiona Shipley Parish Admin	£202.32
550	X2 Connect Admaston Telephone Box Repairs	£446.83
551	Royal British Legion	£100
552	Barry Wilkinson Lap top service	£50.00
DD	Information Commissioners Office Renewal	£35.00
SO	Fiona Shipley Parish Admin	£203.32
A/c Balance 28.11.2022	A/c 054 £7099.01	A/c 575 £2499.97

Payment of £247.36 received from Aviva Insurance for Admaston Telephone Box .

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

a) Dangerous trees in Blithfield Park - concern has been reported about a group of trees, some dead, close to a stile on a footpath in Blithfield Park. The landowner was contacted in November 2022 and he assured the clerk he would make them safe but was unsure what permissions were required. Further concern has been raised recently, the clerk has sent the landowner all the relevant information, that she has received from the planning department regarding dangerous trees. He is out of the Country until February and will deal with it on his return.

b) HS2 - this will not be in our parish, the council continues to monitor the situation.

c) BBC Any Questions - In a bid to raise the profile of the parish, the chairman has contact the BBC to see if Admaston Village Hall would be a suitable venue to host an episode of Any Questions.

**22.11.15 Date of Next Meeting** 02 March 2023 in Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed.....

