

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 06.07.2023

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

East Staffordshire Borough: Cllr Bev Ashcroft, Cllr Vicki Goluld

From the Parish: MR Paul Riley

23.07.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Peter Atkins (chairman) Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC)

The vice chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

23.07.02 Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the last Ordinary Meeting held on 18.05.2023 were resolved and signed.

23.07.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda. These were received from Cllr Vernon in relation to his involvement with the PCC and possible use of surplus cash from the Coronation and from Cllr K Massey in relation to his position as Lengthsman.

23.07.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Coronation Celebration Finance –A set of accounts for the Coronation Events had been circulated to the councillors prior to the meeting. Unexpectedly the Coronation Event had been able to obtain a retrospective grant from the Staffordshire County Council Community Fund of £500 which has been put towards the cost of the marquee. Due to this grant, the event made a profit of £517. A decision has to be made on how this cash should be used . Cllr A Vernon made the meeting aware of a project at St Leonard’s Church to install a toilet which will be very costly. It was agreed that the village hall would receive a donation. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

b) Blithfield Parish Facebook page – no further progress.

c) Bagots and Needwood Ward Liason Group. Due to the size of the new ward, with 8 councils and 3 borough councillors, it has been decided to try and create a liaison group between the parish councils in the ward. The first meeting of the chair persons of the larger councils will be in August and it is hoped that going forward a representative from each council will be involved.

23.07.05 Clerk Update

a) Agree meeting dates for the coming year – 24 August 2023, 02 November 2023, 11 January 2024, 07 March 2024 and 09 May 2024. These dates were agreed.

b) Coronation Mugs – 4 mugs remaining – to be advertised in the parish magazine for sale at £6.50 each.

23.07.06 Public Participation. No members of the public spoke at this point.

23.07.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish nothing to report.

23.07.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors. Cllr Bev Ashcroft and Cllr Vicki Gould were present at the meeting. They made us aware of The Needwood Forum which was set up by County Cllr Julia Jessel and holds on line meetings from time to time when parish councils can raise concerns with their county councillor.

23.07.09 To receive Chairman's reports. The Chairman was not present at the meeting, however he had supplied a list of items to discuss.

a) Speeding on the lanes - it was felt that this was a problem throughout rural areas and that we would be unlikely to get any further signage from the county council, given that we are unable to get a speed limit on the B5013 at Admaston and that the lanes had the national speed limit of 60 mph. The clerk has previously mentioned the issue to PCSO Tim Leathers.

b) Parish Lengthsman – Partly due to the extra time the lengthsman has spent repairing the Admaston telephone box he has had less hours to do other jobs. It was decided that if we had a particular job for the lengthsman to do, which would push him over his agreed 50 hours a year, a decision could be made to allocate extra hours for that job. It was noted that he has given a substantial amount of his own time to repairing the telephone box and he has done a great job, for which the parish council are most grateful.

23.07.10 To receive report from SPCO Tim Leathers. The format of the report that we have been receiving recently is no longer being produced. Much of the information is readily available on Staffordshire Police and Crime Commission's website. However a more relevant email report has been received advising us that there has been an increased police presence at Blithfield Reservoir. He now has a good relationship with people who just wanted to meet and show off their cars, who are not 'racers'. He is receiving fewer and fewer reports of anti-social-behaviour. It was noted by our parish councillors that the method of reporting incidents was more difficult now it had to be done through the website and not Facebook, which may effect the number of incidents reported.

23.07.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes. The situation seems to have improved. Only single cars race occasionally as opposed to multiple vehicles. The damaged S59 sign has now been repaired.

23.07.12 Planning

New

P/2023/00410 Location: Blithfield Forge, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH Reduce the crowns of two Yew trees by 25% and prune lower branches by 25% (A1 of TPO 60)

P/2023/00459 Location: Cloister House, Blithfield Hall Drive, Blithfield Hall, Admaston, WS15 3NL Staffordshire, Erection of fencing and gates. Grid Ref: 404487 32391 AMENDED LOCATION AND PLAN

Pending

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/2023/00543 Location: Blithfield Forge, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH Grid Ref: 404984 323235. Reduce height by 4 metres and width by 2 metres of one Yew tree and reduce crown by 2 metres of one Yew tree (A1 of TPO 60) GRANTED

P/2023/2083 Location: Blithfield Forge, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH Reduce the height of two Cypress trees to 6 metres and tidy up lower branches. NO OBJECTION

23.07.13 Highways and Lengthsman

a) Admaston telephone box - Completed. The telephone box now has a Yale lock on it and a sign stating who owns it.

b) Steenwood Lane. Gullies in 2 places on the lane have been reported to highways.

Cllr B Ashcroft also advised she had looked at the far end of the lane where subsidence of the road meant that 'low' cars could not safely drive along it. This has been reported by her.

c) Admaston Lay-by – The clerk will try again to get give-way signage and white lines.

d) Booth lane was discussed. The clerk will report the gully close to the telephone exchange.

23.07.14

Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
561	Fiona Shipley (Defib pads)	£143.88
562	Mr + Mrs K Massey, Coronation entertainment	£200.00
563	Eric Roy Website	£120.00
564	Zurich insurance	£214.00
SO	Fiona Shipley - Parish Admin	£220.65
565	Mrs G Vernon, Coronation cup cakes	£165.00
568	Fiona Shipley - Brightpay	£82.80
570	Majestic Event hire Coronation Marquee hire	£907.92
A/c Balance 31.05.2023	A/c 054 £7046.42	A/c 575 £2507.06

23.07.15 To discuss any other business including items on the agenda for the next meeting.

a) Possible project to install public benches in the 3 hamlets - the clerk has done some research and found that we would need to budget around £500 per bench to buy and install. There are no obvious sites to install them, so it was decided not to proceed further with this idea.

b) D-day 80 years, beacon lighting – we have provisionally booked the village hall for 6 June 2024 and some further thought will be given to how we may proceed.

23.07.16 The next meeting will be held on 24.08.2023

The meeting closed at 7.45pm