

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 24.08.2023

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

23.08.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC), Cllr Bev Ashcroft (ESBC), Cllr Vicki Gould (ESBC).

23.08.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 06.07.23 were circulated to the councillors in advance, approved and signed.

23.08.03 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 Blithfield PCC and from Cllr K Massey regarding his position on the Admaston Village Hall committee.

23.08.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Coronation Celebration Finance –it was unanimously agreed that £150 would be donated to Admaston Village Hall and £350 would be donated to Blithfield PCC towards the project to install toilets at St Leonards Church.

b) Blithfield Parish Facebook page – It was decided not to take this forward for the time being.

c) D-Day 80th anniversary 6 June 2024, beacon lighting. The council will plan to light a beacon close to the village hall and Cllr K Massey will discuss with the Admaston Village Hall committee the possibility of having a ‘pop up’ pub night in conjunction with the event.

23.08.05 Clerk Update

a) Fire Hydrant, Booth Lane. A resident of The Booth had expressed concern that the fire hydrant was not marked and may be inaccessible. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, found the fire hydrant and marked it within days of being notified for which we are most grateful.

b) Coronation Mugs – The four remaining mugs have all been allocated now.

c) Staffordshire County Council Climate Action Fund – the councillors did not think that this is suitable for our parish.

e) Staffordshire Parish Council’s Association- 84th AGM, Monday 30 October 2023 – Cllr Peter Atkins may attend.

23.08.06 Public Participation. No members of the public were present.

23.08.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish Jon Wood has reported that the Admaston project is on hold until the government have run their procurement programme which is unlikely to be before June 2024.

23.08.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors. No borough councillors were present.

23.08.09 To receive Chairman's reports. The chairman raised the subject of the nationwide problem of potholes and made us aware of an article that he had read in the Times, about a resident who repaired potholes close to their own property on a minor road.

The chairman reported that he is unable to attend the first Bagots and Needwood Forum, to be held on 12 September 2023, Cllr Kevin Massey will attend if able.

23.08.10 To receive report from SPCO Tim Leathers –the formal reports are no longer circulated however SPCO Leathers supplied the clerk with an informal email from which we learn that there has been little serious crime in the last few months. Anti-social behaviour has reduced and there is increased police presence in marked police cars due to the S59 signs. It is now possible to search for yourself, crime activity in a particular area at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/>

Concern was raised regarding the reckless way that some cyclists travel through the parish, sometimes with no high-viz clothing and riding with little awareness or regard for their own safety, overtaking on corners etc. The clerk was asked to make PCSO Tim Leathers aware and ask him if he had any contact with local cycling clubs.

Some runners, also without high-viz clothing, running with the flow of the traffic,(some with head phones) are also a cause for concern, especially at dawn and dusk with low sun.

23.08.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes. The situation seems to have improved. Only single cars race occasionally as opposed to multiple vehicles. However there are cars who come from Rugeley, turn at the Admaston lay-by and race back down the B5013 towards Rugeley and out of our parish. The clerk will make PCSO Leathers aware of this.

23.08.12 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)

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

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) GRANTS

23.08.13 Highways and Lengthsman

a) Admaston telephone box - Completed. There is some red paint left which will be used for the Newton telephone box

b) Steenwood Lane. The clerk has been advised that gullies are emptied as routine by the council. The lengthsman will keep an eye on what is necessary here and keep the pressure up as required.

c) Admaston Lay-by – Cllr Ashcroft, Cllr Hulme and the clerk have all reported this, despite the fact that the white line painting was carried out on the adjacent B5030 recently, this work has not been done. However we are advised it will be, but not as a priority.

d) Booth lane was discussed. Gullies are emptied as routine by the council.

The lengthsman, will repair the backboards on the Newton and Dapple Heath notice boards.

23.08.14

Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
569	S & S Hogroasts	£600
567	CPRE	£50
SO 28.06.23	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
571	Alistair Jepson – charity donation for audit	£30
572	Rugeley First Responders	£50
SO July 28.07.23	Fiona Shipley - Parish Admin	£220.65
A/c Balance 28.07.23	A/c 054 £6626.62	A/c 575 £2510.36

b) to agree the amount of funds to be held - it was agreed to

a) as minimum working capital in the current account 054 , we will aim to keep around £5000 in this account

b) interest paying deposit account 575, £2500 will be transferred to this account from account 054.

It was agreed that it was necessary to continue to build reserve funds so that the council had enough money to pay for any necessary highway works etc which may occur.

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

23.08.16 The next meeting will be held on 24.08.2023

The meeting closed at 7.50pm