

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 11.01.24

Present: Cllr Peter Atkins (chairman), Cllr Anthony Vernon (vice chairman) Cllr Phyllis Massey, Cllr Kevin Massey, Cllr Stan Hulme, Mrs Fiona Shipley (clerk), Mr Jim Ross (from the parish)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24.01.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Philip Atkins (SCC) Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC), Cllr Bev Ashcroft (ESBC), Cllr Vicki Gould (ESBC),

234.01.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 02.11.2023 were circulated to the councillors in advance, approved and signed.

24.01.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda. No declarations of interest were made.

24.01.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

24.01.05 Clerk Update

a) Robert Pettiigrew, chief executive of the SPCA has been on sick leave for some time and the SPCA are experiencing some difficulty in delivering the service we have been used to, particularly answering queries. Members of the executive committee are helping where ever they can.

b) An email of welcome and introduction has been sent to our new PCSO Chris Edwards.

24.01.06 Public Participation. The subject of litter in the parish was raised. The clerk will look into litter picking support from the borough council, i.e. supply of bags, litter pickers, gloves and coordinated collection etc before the council launches a parish wide appeal for volunteers.

24.01.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish - no further progress to report and problems in the Admaston area remain. Contact with BT suggested.

24.01.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors. No borough councillors were present however Cllr Jones had asked if a grant from the Ward Enhancement Programme would be of interest to us. This may be of use to the Village Hall, Cllr Kevin Massey will make the Village Hall committee aware.

24.01.09 To receive Chairman's reports The Chairman continues to be concerned by speeding cars through the lanes of the parish. Hixon have a speed indicator sign (SID) at the entrance to Hixon from Lea Heath. It was agreed to make some enquiries about these including where they would be appropriate within our parish. Speed limits, SID positioning and road signage are to be the subject of a proposed meeting with appropriate county council highways officials. See 24.01.14.

24.01.10 SPCO Report The SPCO will no longer be supplying reports as routine. These can be obtained online at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/>

Reported crimes from the website for September 2023 (Needwood)

Violence and sexual offences 24, Burglary 8,
Criminal damage and arson 8, all other crime 27

Reported crimes from the website for October 2023 (Needwood)

Violence and sexual offences 25, Burglary 4,
Criminal damage and arson 4, all other crime 15

There has been a spate of farm related crime involving livestock and theft in the parish and surrounding area. A resident of the parish has set up a Facebook group to help monitor this called Farm and Rural Community Watch Uttoxeter and Abbots Bromley. A meeting has been arranged at Admaston Village Hall on 17.01.2024 with a ranking police officer and the police and crime commissioner to discuss the issue. The parish council will have members attending.

24.01.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes. There continues to be a problem with cars using the Admaston lay-by to race to and then turn round and race back along the straight road to Rugeley. It is considered that the S59 signs have been very successful over the causeway but it would be useful if they could encompass the Admaston lay-by, as originally suggested by the residents. This would discourage the use of the lay-by for turning and waiting.

The clerk will make PCSO Edwards and highways officers aware and request action.

24.01.12 D-Day 80th Anniversary 6 June 2024. It was reported that the village hall committee were potentially happy to coordinate an event with the lighting of the beacon.

24.01.13 Planning

a) New

P/2023/01379 Felling of 3 Leyland Cypress trees Location: Blithfield Hall, Uttoxeter Road, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404474 323943 NO COMMENT

P/2023/01358 Reduce height by up to 1-1.5m, reduce lateral growth to nearest suitable growth points, crown lift lower branches by up to 4m of one Beech tree T1. Location: Blithfield House, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH Grid Ref: 404931 323390. COMMENT The parish council believe that this tree should be cut down as it is so close to the village hall.

b) Pending

c) Decisions

P/2023/01272 Crown reduce by up to 2m to Sycamore (T006), prune Yew to obtain 1m clearance from the fabric of the garage (T007), remove major deadwood from 4 Oak trees (T009, T012, T017, T022) and Sycamore (T010), prune Yew to obtain 2m clearance from the fabric of the garage building (T013), reduce height of new growth by 3-4m to one Oak (T014), clear basal growth and ivy to one Yew tree (T018), remove deadwood from Sweet Chestnut (T019), sever ivy on main stems to one Holly (T024), remove major deadwood or truncate to three Oak trees (T029, T036 and T041) Location: The Old Rectory, Blithfield Church Road, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404196 323966 NO OBJECTION

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) WITHDRAWN

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 PERMITS

d) Proposed planning application for Moreton Brook solar Farm by Aura Power, south of Newton.

Advice has been received from SPCA that it would be a good idea for the parish council to have a meeting with Aura Power to confirm some key points, ahead of a public meeting, once the planning application has been made.

24.01.14 Highways and Lengthsman

- a) Steenwood Lane gullies - complete
- b) Booth Lane Potholes – the clerk has reported 3 potholes on Booth Lane
- c) The pothole on Newton Lane has been partially repaired, but further work by another ‘team’ is required.

The lengthsman reported that he had tidied around the memorial in Admaston and been round the parish clearing drains while there is a lull in the wet weather.

There is a sign on Watering Pit Corner which has been left in the long grass and not collected by the council. The clerk will ask for it to be moved.

Some of the wooden posts on School Lane, Admaston, which are there to protect the verge have been knocked down. Staffordshire County Council are to be asked to replace these.

There is extreme concern regarding the state of the road surfaces in the parish and the number of potholes. The roads are potentially hazardous, particularly to cyclists. The clerk is to write to the County Council, Highways department and ask for a meeting in the parish so that the problem can be discussed.

24.01.15 Finance.

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
583	Royal British Legion Donaton	£50
584	Admaston Village Hall – Hire and defib electricity	£130
585	Clerks expences	£65.54
DD	Information Commission	£35
SO 28.11.23	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
A/c Balance 28.11.23	A/c 054 £3808.18	A/c 575 £5023.05

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

A new First Responders scheme is to be started in Hixon in 2024. It will cover a 5 to 7 mile radius which will take in Newton and Dapple Heath.

The Bliithfield Branch of the WI will have it's centenary year next year, they are struggling with numbers, is there anything the council could do to support them?

24.01.17 The next meeting will be held on 07.03.2024

The meeting closed at 7.48pm