

## BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### **DRAFT Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 12.09.2024**

**Present:** Cllr Peter Atkins (Chairman), Cllr Anthony Vernon (vice chairman), Cllr Phyllis Massey, Fiona Shipley (clerk),

From the Parish: Mr Paul Riley

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**24.09.01 Apologies: for Absence:** Cllr Kevin Massey, Cllr Stan Hulme,

**24.09.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting** held on 11.07.2024 were circulated to the councillors in advance, approved and signed by the vice chairman and the clerk.

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

**24.09.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes** Dr Nicola Birch has agreed to become the assistant custodian of the defibrillator and assist Mr Paul Riley. The parish council are very grateful to her for taking on this roll.

#### **24.09.05 Clerk Update**

a) Green Waste Collection – East Staffordshire Borough Council have confirmed that they will be charging for green waste collection in the future. The parish council felt that although this policy is common practice across the country, there had been a distinct lack of consultation at local level and that the survey available to fill in on line offered no opportunity to oppose the policy. Several parishioners had contacted the clerk to register their objections which included dissatisfaction with the survey.

b) Communities Strategy - The County Council has been developing a Communities Strategy, to set out how it will work with residents across the county and with partners including town and parish councils. For the first time, this will set the long term vision and a set of key priority areas for the council to focus on in partnership with others.

c) Newsletter - the 2<sup>nd</sup> newsletter of the year has been distributed by email and the parish notice boards.

d) Rural Speed Limits - The SPCA executive committee are interested in parish councils thoughts in them developing a policy position on rural speed limits. Should they for instance, push for more 20 mph stretches around all schools. Are there other situations where 20 mph should be considered? Is it possible to identify criteria for proposing limits other than the current national speed limit which applies on most rural roads?

The parish council considered there were no areas in our parish that a 20mph speed limit would be applicable although they would still like to find ways of making motorists obey existing speed limits.

e) Emergency plan for the unexpected absence of parish clerk. The clerk will give written information to the Chairman and Vice Chairman to hold in the event of an emergency.

The clerk also gave details of a CPRE online training course, details of which had been circulated to the councillors. It was decided that the clerk would try to attend.

#### **24.09.06 Public Participation.**

**24.09.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish** - There appears to be some work going on in the Admaston area in relation to this upgrade and we have reason to be optimistic.

**24.09.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors.** There were none.

**24.09.09 To receive Chairman's reports** The chairman reported that he had attended the CPRE AGM at Blithfield Hall on Saturday 07.09.2024. He had found this to be an interesting event and included a tour of the church, gardens and a wing of the hall. He had also made some useful contacts.

**24.09.10 Police and crime** The SPCO will no longer be providing reports as routine. These can be obtained on-line at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/> Needwood area 66 crimes in May 2024, 42 crimes in June 2024

**24.09.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes.** The assistant police and crime commissioner David Evans had telephoned the clerk to discuss this issue. Prior to the meeting, Cllr Kevin Massey had reported that there had been an improvement recently.

**24.09.12 Admaston Telephone Box.** Cllr Kevin Massey and parishioner Mr Paul Riley have drawn up a plan to reinstate the telephone box on the existing substantial concrete base. It is estimated that this will cost in the region of £500. The clerk will apply to Cllr Philip Aktins for a grant from the Community Fund. A combination lock will be put on the telephone box and it will be used as a community library. There is significant community support for the reinstatement of the telephone box.

**24.09.13 Admaston Village Hall update.** The village hall committee has more members and there has been more involvement from volunteers which is helping with maintenance and cleaning. The new and more regular events are bringing the community together and raising funds for the upkeep of the village hall. These events are beginning to attract an increase in numbers regularly.

There is also an increase in private bookings for example the band Quill for 3 nights in December.

The hall was opened for teas and coffees on Horn Dance Day. Other events planned are

Sept 28th. Harvest Supper and photography competition.

October 26th Admaston Arms pop up pub "Oktoberfest" with oompah lumpah Band.

November 25th. Our annual Whist Drive

December 14th. Christmas get together and Quiz

#### **24.09.14 Planning**

a) New P/2024/00850 Installation of roof mounted 76.56kW solar PV system comprising of 176 x Canadian Solar 435w modules Location: Newbuildings Farm, Lea Lane, Newton, Staffordshire, WS15 3NR Grid Ref: 403147 325584 NO COMMENT

P/2024/00858 Felling of one multi-stem Lleylandii tree Location: Blithfield Hall, Uttoxeter Road, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404474 323943 NO COMMENT

P/2024/00643 Retention of two unauthorised windows on north east elevation Location: 2 Stansley Wood Cottages, Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath, Staffordshire, WS15 3PH Grid Ref: 405284 325116 NO COMMENT

P/2024/00515 Retention of a single storey rear extension, the alteration of a pitched roof to flat roof and associated alterations including installation of first floor side window Location: 1 Stansley Wood Cottages, Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath, WS15 3PH Grid Ref: 405282 325123 NO COMMENT

b) Pending P/2024/00371 Conversion and alterations of former education centre to form 7 no dwelling houses with associated works. Location: Blithfield Education Centre, Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath, Staffordshire, WS15 3PH

- c) Decisions P/2024/00365 Prune the side of the canopy back by up to 1.5m to clear the building of one Yew tree (T18), reduce and shape the canopy by up to 2m of one Cherry tree (T49). Location: The Old Rectory, Blithfield Church Road, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404196 323966 APPROVAL DELEGATED
- d) Anticipated planning application for Moreton Brook Solar Farm by Aura Power south of Newton. No application has been received. The parish council will keep a watching brief on this matter.
- e) P/2019/01105 Leaways, Newton – apparent non-compliance with planning decision. *Within 6 months of the date of this consent a scheme of landscaping to provide a native species hedge for the land in front of the fencing hereby approved has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.* The planning department are following up the complaint. Nothing has been heard and the clerk will follow up.

#### 24.09.15 Highways and Lengthsman

- a) Booth Lane Potholes – majority repaired.
- b) Newton Lane Pothole – majority repaired.
- c) Newton Hurst Lane Road Surface – majority repaired.
- d) Grit bin – Rectory Farm – hope that this will be sorted as part of regular schedule this autumn.
- f) School Lane, Admaston – replacement of verge posts, notification received that these are the responsibility of the parish or ESBC but not SCC highways.
- h) ESBC and Admaston signage upgrade on B5013 – Staffordshire County Council have now agreed that they are responsible for removal of the ESBC sign if ESBC are not willing to replace it. Clerk has asked that they remove it and lower the Admaston sign to the usual height of village signs.

The Newton sign at the Dapple Heath end of the hamlet has been bent by the verge mower, Mr Paul Riley kindly offered to straighten it.

#### 24.09.16 Finance

| Ref/Cheque           | Item                         | Amount           |
|----------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| SO 28.06.24          | Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin | £220.65          |
| Chq 596 11.07.24     | Clerks expenses              | £119.30          |
| SO 29.07.24          | Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin | £220.65          |
| A/c Balance 29.07.24 | A/c 054 £3561.15             | A/c 575 £5066.68 |

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

**24.09.18** The date of the next meeting is Thursday 7 November 2024

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk