

## BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 02.11.2023

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

**23.11.01 Apologies: for Absence:** Cllr Philip Atkins (SCC) Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC), Cllr Bev Ashcroft (ESBC), Cllr Vicki Gould (ESBC), Cllr Stan Hulme (Blithfield PC)

**23.11.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting** held on 24.08.2023 were circulated to the councillors in advance, approved and signed.

**23.11.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.** These were received from Cllr Vernon in relation to the proposed planning application for Moreton Brook Solar Farm.

#### **23.11.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

There were none.

#### **23.11.05 Clerk Update**

a) Correspondence from Staffordshire County Council had been received who are promoting concessionary bus passes – made aware we have no bus stops in the parish.

b) Coronation Mugs – all gone

c) Climate and Ecology Bill – should Blithfield Parish Council join at least 168 other parish councils to support this Bill. Information circulated to councillors. No further action to be taken at this time.

d) PCSO Tim Leathers has been moved to new role. He has been replaced by PCSO Chris Edwards. The clerk has thanked PCSO Leathers for his help, particularly with the problems on the reservoir causeway and B5013.

e) Polling district review - consultation period ends 30.11.2023. This was noted.

**23.11.06 Public Participation.** No members of the public were present.

**23.11.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish** - no further progress to report.

**23.11.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors.** No borough councillors were present and they had advised they had nothing to report.

**23.11.09 To receive Chairman's reports.** The chairman reported that he had attended the AGM of Staffordshire Parish Councils Association. Croxden Parish Council had tabled a motion to reduce the speed limits on rural roads from 60 mph to 40 mph. No further action could be taken as no councillors from Croxden attended.

There are to be some boundary changes within the wards of Staffordshire County Council and the chairman has had some discussion with Cllr Philip Atkins. It was agreed, that the council had a preference to remain part of the Uttoxeter Rural Division.

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

Crime figures for Bagots and Needwood Ward during August are as follows:

Violence and sexual offences 29, public order offences 7, anti-social behaviour 5, criminal damage and arson 4. Some concern was expressed by the councillors at the number of violent and sexual offences, although it was noted that this was across the whole ward.

**23.11.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes.** There has undoubtedly been an improvement but we will continue to monitor.

**23.11.12 D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> 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.

#### **23.11.13 Planning**

a) 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.

b)

Proposed planning application for Moreton Brook Solar Farm by Aura Power south of Newton.

Aura Power held a community consultation event online on Tuesday 24 October 2023 and an in person exhibition at Admaston Village Hall on Wednesday 25 October. There was also a councillor's site visit on 25 October 2023 which Cllrs Vernon and Atkins attended.

Once the formal planning application has been made, a parish meeting will be called so that members of the parish can express their views, and these can be considered by the councillors when they respond to the application.

#### **23.11.14 Highways and Lengthsman**

a) Steenwood Lane gullies – the lengthsman will assess these and report back.

b)) Admaston Lay-by – White lines have now been painted.

c) Booth lane was discussed. A neighbouring landowner has cleared the ditch on his land and it is anticipated that this will overcome the issue on the corner by the telephone exchange.

d) It was agreed to increase the lengthsman's pay to £12/hour in line with an increase to the minimum wage.

Outside our parish on Newton Hurst Lane close to the junction with the B5013 is an area which floods regularly. The clerk will report it and notify Abbots Bromley's Parish Clerk.

The clerk will also report the pothole on the bank between Dapple Heath and Newton.

**23.11.15** Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
573	ESBC -election	£91.30
574	East Midlands Air Ambulance	£50
575	St Giles Hospice	£50
576	Katherine House Hospice	£50
577	Douglas Macmillan Hospice	£50
578	The British Heart Foundation	£50
579	Mr K Massey Lengthsman	£575
580	Fiona Shipley - expenses	£141.50
SO 28.08.23	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
581	Admaston Village Hall – donation from Coronation	£150
582	Blithfield PCC donation from Coronation	£350
SO July 28.10.23	Fiona Shipley - Parish Admin	£220.65
A/c Balance 28.09.23	A/c 054 £7510.52	A/c 575 £2514.57

22.09.2023 £2383.00 received from ESBC Precept payment, 2<sup>nd</sup> instalment

02.10.2023 £2500.00 transferred from A/c 054 to A/c 575

b) To agree budget for 2024 -2025 previously circulated to councillors. Cllr Vernon proposed that the charitable donations should be increased to £100, this was seconded by Cllr Atkins.

c) The councillors agreed a precept of £5436 for 2024 -2025

d) The councillors adopted an internal audit carried out by Cllr Vernon on 03.10.23.

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

It was unfortunate that no councillors had been able to attend the Bagots and Needwood Forum, which is an opportunity to liaise with county, borough and parish councillors across the whole ward. Cllr Atkins agreed to make every effort to attend the next one.

Cllr Atkins expressed a wish to obtain a hard copy of a map of the parish. The clerk advised of mapping software available to parish councils with a subscription of £32/year. She will research further

**23.11.16** The next meeting will be held on 11.01.2024

The meeting closed at 7.40pm