

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 11.07.2024

Present: Cllr Anthony Vernon (vice chairman) Cllr Phyllis Massey, Cllr Kevin Massey, Cllr Stan Hulme, Fiona Shipley (clerk),

From the Parish: Mr Paul Riley

Representing East Staffordshire Police: Sgt Robbie Glanvill, PC Joe Gates

In the absence of Cllr Peter Atkins (chairman), Cllr Anthony Vernon (vice chairman) chaired the meeting.

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24.07.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Peter Atkins, Cllr Bev Ashcroft (ESBC), Cllr Vicki Gould (ESBC), Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC)

24.07.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11.01.2024 were circulated to the councillors in advance, approved and signed by the vice chairman and the clerk.

24.07.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes S59 signs (this item was brought forward so that the police representatives could leave the meeting prior to other business)

There has been an escalation in anti-social behaviour, concerning speeding vehicles, along the B5013, over the Blithfield Reservoir Causeway and around Admaston Village. On Sunday 16 June 2024, Cllr K Massey was assaulted while trying to collect photographic evidence of criminal behaviour. Sgt Glanville informed the meeting that the police were now prioritising the area for patrols and 7 prosecutions had been made. PC Gates who covers the Uttoxeter area explained there was a local plan and they aimed to visit the area at the times when the anti-social behaviour was most likely to take place. The police have prioritised the area due to the number of complaints received, so it is important to keep reporting any incidents. Cllr S Hulme stated that it was now much more laborious to report crimes either by phoning 101 or reporting on line. Sgt Glanville noted this, but explained that the old system via Facebook often resulted in not enough information reported. He also explained that the culprits were a close knit community and moved around the area, looking for places to congregate, and tended to move to avoid the police, so this is likely to be a sporadic problem.

Much discussion took place about the difficulties of getting other agencies to engage with us, although the S59 signs are very helpful, it is a pity that they do not encompass Admaston. Admaston has no speed limit. The possibility of average speed cameras was also mentioned.

Sgt Glanville explained that he organised quarterly Police Partnership meetings, the next one is on 21 September 2024. He will put Admaston on the Agenda, and this will be an opportunity to discuss our issues with other agencies.

It was also registered (again) that the speeding and noise problem extends from Colton to Abbots Bromley as far as Admaston is concerned. The two Officers were aware of this and a discussion concerning the essential involvement of the two Chief Inspectors responsible for the adjoining areas, took place.

The Vice Chairman, Cllr Vernon informed the meeting that the council do not advocate members of the public or councillors putting themselves in danger to either intervene or collect evidence. This was supported by Sgt Glanvill and PC Gates.

Cllr Vernon thanked Sgt Glanville and PC Gates for attending.

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

24.07.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes The SPCA have appointed a new chief officer, Mr Robert Pritchard, he will commence work in August.

24.07.05 Clerk Update

a) CPRE Countryside Day at Blithfield Hall 7 September 2024. Tickets for members of Parish council £15, non-members £25.00. Cllr Peter Atkins will attend and has stated he will pay for his own ticket.

b) Mr and Mrs J Ross laid a wreath in Normandy to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day on behalf of the Parish Council. The clerk has thanked them on behalf of the parish council and there are pictures and a short report on the website.

c) ESBC Councillors Forum which was to be held on 19 June 2024, was cancelled due to the general election.

d) Staffordshire County Council are working on a proposed local transport plan. There will be a meeting for parish councillors in Stafford on 20 September 2024.

e) Following the electoral review of Staffordshire County Council, Blithfield Parish will remain part of Uttoxeter Rural division.

24.07.06 Public Participation. Mr Paul Riley who is the custodian of the two defibrillators in the parish asked if someone could be found to work with him and learn the job so that he can retire when he is ready. The job entails checking each one once a month and reporting on the Circuit website.

24.07.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish - There has been no progress. The clerk will write to the new MP Dave Robertson and Mr Jon Wood continues to apply pressure in the various channels available to us.

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

24.07.09 To receive Chairman's reports The chairman arranged an informal meeting with Sir Michael Fabricant in May 2024, just before the general election was called. Broadband, mobile phone signals, potholes, speeding traffic, supporting farmers and solar panels on agricultural buildings were discussed.

24.07.10 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 52 crimes in March 2024 70 crimes in April 2024

24.07.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes. This item was moved to the beginning of the meeting

24.07.12 Admaston Telephone Box Cllr Philip Atkins has indicated that the reinstatement of the telephone box falls within the criteria of the Community Fund. More likely to receive grant of up to £500 if the telephone box has a use. Cllr K Massey to provide a plan and quotation for the clerk to submit by the next meeting.

24.07.13 D-Day 80th Anniversary 6 June 2024. A celebration took place in the village hall on Saturday 8 June 2024 with a sing along and bar.

24.01.14 Planning

- a) New P/2024/00371 Conversion and alterations of former education centre to form 7 no dwellinghouses with associated works. Location: Blithfield Education Centre , Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath,Staffordshire, WS15 3PH NO COMMENT
- b) Pending 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
- c) Decisions P/2024/00203 Proposal: Replacement of mobile home units with a permanent dwelling. Location: Booth Meadow Farm, Booth Lane, The Blythe, Staffordshire, S18 0LU REFUSED
- P/2024/00366 Remove to 6m habitat stump of one Pine tree (T1), fell to obtain a 3m clearance from the rear of the garages self-set mixed vegetation (G1), remove the 2 lowest branches which are overhanging the corner of the garage and parking area of one Oak tree (T2) Location: The Old Rectory, Blithfield Church Road, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404196 323966 NO OBJECTION
- 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.

24.07.15 Highways and Lengthsman

Highways and Lengthsman

- a) Booth Lane Potholes –reported, they are a non-urgent work list.
- b) Newton Lane Pothole – some pot holes have been repaired including the worst one at the bottom of the hill.
- c) Newton Hurst Lane Road Surface – some work has been carried out.
- d) Grit bin – Rectory Farm – hope that this will be sorted as part of regular schedule next autumn
- e) General poor state of roads in the parish – clerk has received an email from Cllr Philip Atkins stating the Staffordshire County Council’s intent to repair the roads, a further £8 million has been pledged on top of the £30 million already allocated over the next 2 years.
- Clerk is also in receipt of a Safety Inspection Code of Practice for the Highways.
- f) School Lane, Admaston – replacement of verge posts, no further progress. Unlikely to be a priority.

h) ESBC and Admaston signage up grade on B5013 – ESBC Councillor Jones is trying hard to find a department within ESBC who will take responsibility for this. Cllr Jones is asking who installed them and the clerk will research if the parish are responsible for parish signs.

24.07.16 Finance

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
SO 29.04.24	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
Chq 589 11.05.24	SLCC subscription	£85.00
Chq 590 11.05.24	Eric Roy Website	£120.00
Chq 591 11.05.24	Alistair Jepson donation for audit	£30.00
Chq 592 11.05.24	SPCA subscription	£91.00
Chq 593 11.05.24	Fiona Shipley clerks expenses	£123.69
Chq 594 11.05.24	CPRE membership	£100.00
Chq 595 11.05.24	Zurich insurance	£214.00
SO 29.05.24	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
A/c Balance 30.05.24	A/c 054 £4221.75	A/c 575 £5055.69

b) To adopt new Financial Regulations (in line with new model produced by NALC May 2024 and circulated to parish councillors prior to the meeting) These were adopted and will be uploaded to the website.

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

The clerk will put together a newsletter and will include on it a list of diary dates at the village hall.

A new item on the meeting agendas will be village hall and Cllr K Massey who is on the village hall committee can report anything of interest at this point.

24.07.18 The date of the next meeting is Thursday 12 September 2024

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk