

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 09.05.24

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

From the parish: Mr S McLeavy, Ms I McLeavy, Mr S Reeves, Mr P Riley, Mr C Simpson, Mr E Simpson, Mr J Ross

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

24.05.01 Apologies: for Absence:), Cllr J Jones (ESBC) Cllr B Ashcroft (ESBC) Cllr Ashcroft is on sick leave but asked to be sent copies of minutes etc so she remained informed.

24.05.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11.01.2024 were circulated to the councillors in advance, approved and signed.

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

24.05.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes There were none.

24.05.05 Clerk Update

a) Received portrait of King Charles 111, to be hung in the village hall. This was left with Cllr K Massey.

b) Purchased new printer for £119.99 as the existing one stopped working.

c) Emails received from 2 residents of Admaston hoping the the Admaston telephone box will be reinstated on original site, 1 offered to contribute financially.

d) SPCA have launched a health and wellbeing toolkit as a resource for town and local councils.

e) Parish council insurance for year commencing 1 June 2024. Quotes received from Zurich for £214 and Clear Insurance (previously BHIB) for £493.87. It was agreed to stay with Zurich for another year.

f) CPRE AGM and Countryside Day to be held at Blithfield Hall on 7 September 2024. CPRE online training for planning 24 September 2024.

g) Eric Roy invoice for £120 received to host and support website. This was approved.

h) SLCC – clerk has rejoined this organisation.

24.05.06 Public Participation. The meeting was made aware that a resident was going to Normandy on 9 June 2024. They had offered to lay a wreath on behalf of Blithfield Parish Council. This was agreed and the clerk will order one from The Royal British Legion.

24.05.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish - The clerk emailed Paul Chetwin at Staffordshire County Council to see if there was any progress, prior to the meeting, however no response was received.

24.05.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors. No reports have been received and no councillors were present.

24.05.09 To receive Chairman's reports The chairman has organised an informal chat with Sir Michael Fabricant MP at which some parish councillors will be present.

24.05.10 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/>

There were 54 crimes reported in January 2024 and 53 in February 2024 in the Needwood area. Violence and sexual crimes make up the majority.

24.05.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes Since the weather has improved there has been a noticeable increase in speeding, noisy vehicles and anti-social behaviour in the area. The clerk will contact PCSO Chris Edwards to make him aware and to ask that the police patrol the area more frequently and to ascertain if there is any more residents can do to collect evidence so that more arrests can be made.

24.05.12 Admaston Telephone Box It was agreed to reinstate the telephone box in the original position. Concrete and metal ground anchors will be used. The clerk will seek funding from Staffordshire County Council Community fund to help pay for the cost of materials and also the re-painting of the Newton telephone box.

24.05.13 D-Day 80th Anniversary 6 June 2024. The village hall committee have organised a pianist for a sing-along. Bring your own snacks and drinks on the evening of 8 June 2024.

24.05.14 Planning

P/2024/00203 Proposal: Replacement of mobile home units with a permanent dwelling. Location: Booth Meadow Farm , Booth Lane, The Blythe, Staffordshire, S18 0LU. The councillors agreed to ask for an agricultural covenant on the dwelling.

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

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 32396d)

b) Proposed 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.

24.05.15 Highways and Lengthsman

- a) Booth Lane Potholes –reported.
- b) Newton Lane Pothole – reported, were not repaired as we had anticipated.
- c) Newton Hurst Lane Road Surface – reported.
- 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 no communication from either. Highways department or Cllr Philip Atkins following emails to both.
- f) School Lane, Admaston – replacement of verge posts, these have been requested but no response received.
- g) Newton phone box – re-paint, Lengthsman will do this over the summer.
- h) ESBC and Admaston signage upgrade on B5013 – requested, no response received. The clerk will make the ESBC councillors aware.
- g) Blocked drain –Lea Lane, Newton, this will be cleared as routine.

In addition to the above, a pothole opposite New Buildings Farm was noted, the council have put a cone in it. The issue of tractors damaging grass verges was also noted.

Cllr Kevin Massey (lengthsman) intends to organise a community litter pick during the summer.

24.05.16 Finance

a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
SO 29.02.24	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
Chq 587	Fiona Shipley – clerk expenses	£130
Chq 588	Defib Store Ltd 2 x defib’batteries	£504.00
SO 28.03.24	Fiona Shipley – Parish Admin	£220.65
A/c Balance 28.03.24	A/c 054 £2266.63	A/c 575 £5045.08

24.05.17 To discuss any other business including items on the agenda for the next meeting. There was none.

24.05.18 The date of the next meeting is Thursday 11 July 2024.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

