

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 12.05.2022

Present: Cllr P Atkins, Cllr P Massey, Cllr K Massey, Cllr Vernon.

22.05.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr S Hulme, Mrs F Shipley (Clerk due to a positive covid test) were accepted

It was agreed that in the absence of the clerk, the chairman, Cllr Atkins would make notes at the meeting to pass to the clerk.

22.05.02 Minutes of last Meeting held on 03 March 2022 were resolved and signed

22.05.03 There were no declarations of interest.

22.05.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes

a) Queen's Platinum Jubilee. 2 June 2022, celebration to include hog roast, concert and beacon lighting. An update report was accepted. Approximately 150 tickets have been sold, arrangements for additional chairs have been made from Cllr Vernon and the Parish Church, final numbers will be confirmed nearer to the event. A working party will meet at the village hall at 3pm on 2 June 2022 prior to the event. There will be a follow up party on 3 June 2022 to clear away.

b) Superfast Broadband Update. Mixed reports about the Better Blithfield Broadband service were discussed and some concern was expressed regarding additional costs and service some residents were facing. To date, apart from teething problems, it was generally considered positive, beneficial and inevitable. It was agreed that with the inconsistent mobile phone signal available across parts of the parish, the Parish Council will make enquiries and appropriate approaches to seek a better, efficient signal across the area.

c) Defibrillator and First aid Training. It was agreed that the clerk would make contact with a member of the parish who is a professional within the emergency medical services, to take up his offer, subject to demand, for new and refresher training on defibrillators and first aid training.

22.05.05 Clerk Update

a) Insurance. The Parish Councils' two telephone boxes are under valued at £1 each and could cost up to £3,500 each to replace. The current insurers are to be contacted and advised. The clerk is instructed in the next 12 months to evaluate the Parish Council's insurance arrangements and costs and recommend accordingly. It was agreed to remain with BHIB for another year.

b) Purchase of Arnold Baker Local Council Administration for £155.49 was approved.

c) Website Training, the clerk is to undertake an online training session with Eric Roy on 20 May 2022.

d) Home working allowance, an amount of £5 per week was agreed.

e) Future meeting dates. It was agreed that the members of the Parish Council would check their diaries and confirm dates for the next year at the next meeting. Suggested dates are 7 July, 8 September, 10 November 2022, 12 January, 2 March, 4 May 2023.

f) We have an invoice for £120 for website hosting for a further 12 months, it was agreed to pay this.

g) Alistair Jepson has carried out the audit for the Parish Council and has been most helpful. He does not ask for a fee, but would be very grateful for a donation (suggested £25) which he will give to a charity of his choice. This was approved.

22.05.06 Public Participation. There were no items raised by the public.

22.05.07 To receive oral report from Borough/County Councillors. There were no councillors present at the meeting. It was suggested that the clerk make contact with the two councillors giving them when agreed, dates for future meetings, preferably with advance notice. It was also agreed to check that they both receive appropriate communication from the Parish Council on a regular basis. The clerk confirms that she contacted them over 3 weeks before the meeting to confirm the date of this meeting and also sent them agendas as appropriate in advance of the meeting.

22.05.08 The chairman outlined a complaint about agricultural debris being spilt on the road in the parish by a resident. He briefed councillors on the background to the complaint and it was agreed that he would, acting on the advice of Staffordshire Parish Council's Association, contact the complainant in writing offering a face to face meeting to discuss the matter.

It was also agreed that the Parish Council would contact all working farmers in the parish informing them of the matter and warn them of the complaint and their responsibilities.

An incident involving a beggar soliciting money in the parish, which had been reported to our PCSO, 22 hours previously, was also recorded and it was agreed that residents should be warned of the situation and to make appropriate security arrangements if necessary.

22.05.09 Planning Applications

New: P/2022/00417 Application under Section 73 to vary condition 9 attached to planning application P/2018/00361, for the erection of a single storey function building room and associated car parking, to vary the opening hours.

Location: Lakeside Drive, Steenwood Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NY REGISTERED

It was agreed that while welcoming a plan to diversify and enhance facilities there was real concern that varying the opening hours beyond 1am could have a detrimental effect on nearby residents in Steenwood Lane and East Staffs Planning Committee should be informed as a matter of priority.

New: P/2022/00314 Oakfields Cottage School Lane Admaston Staffordshire WS15 3NH
Crown reduction in height by up to 4 metres of 1 Holly tree (TPO 60) REFUSED

Decisions: P/2022/00117 The Hayloft, Stansley Wood Court, Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath, Staffordshire, WS15 3PH Erection of a single storey rear extension, porch to the North Elevation, alterations to window and doors on the North, South and West Elevations and installation of photovoltaics to South Elevation roof slope. PERMITS.

P/2022/00255 Orchard House The Old Rectory Blithfield Church Road Admaston Staffordshire WS15 3NL
Crown raise and crown reduction of one English Elm tree APPROVED - delegated

P/2019/01105 Leaway Lea Lane Newton. Communication has been received from the planning department and a report is expected shortly. It was agreed that the parish council contact East Staffordshire Borough council about the overflowing rubbish skip outside Leaway, Newton. It has been on site since last year and poses a health problem and eye sore. It has now escalated in to a

road safety problem as all the cars parked at the property overnight, cannot park off the highway and are on occasions sticking out onto the road.

Concerns were again raised about road safety in the Parish and while accepting the inability of Staffordshire Police to deal with all of the problems, it was agreed to try, once again, to re-establish a rapport with the local police officers, so that some action could be taken, before a death or serious injury is sustained by an innocent person in collision with a speeding motorist. The clerk will make contact and ask for a meeting to discuss as a priority, racing over the reservoir and the problem, with high speed noisy cars and bikes heading to and from The Blythe pub through parts of the parish on a Tuesday and Thursday evenings.

22.05.10 Highways and Lengthsman. It was reported that work at Watering Pit Corner, Newton was yet to be completed by the County Council and Cllr Vernon undertook to seek out who could assist the landowner responsible for the leakage on to the road from their field.

The Lengthsman's report was noted as was the list of jobs scheduled to be completed.

22.05.11 Finance.

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
525	Eric Roy - website	£150
526	Village Hall - defib	£25
527	SPCA - sub	£88.63
528	SPCA – clerk training	£40
S/O	Parish Admin	£203.32
A/c Balance 28.03.2022	A/c 054 £6047.69	A/c 575 £2499.32

The council agreed financial items submitted for approval.

22.05.12 Items for discussion for the next agenda. No items were put forward.

The distribution of new blue bags for the collection of paper and cardboard was welcomed.

22.05.13 Date of Next Meeting 7 July 2022 in Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed.....

Signed.....

