

## BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 24.08.2023

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

**23.08.01 Apologies: for Absence:** Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC), Cllr Bev Ashcroft (ESBC), Cllr Vicki Gould (ESBC).

**23.08.02 Minutes of the Annual Meeting and the last Ordinary Meeting** held on 06.07.23 were resolved and signed.

**23.08.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.** These were received from Cllr Vernon in relation to his involvement with Blithfield PCC and from Cllr K Massey regarding his position on the Admaston Village Hall committee.

#### **23.08.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes**

- a) Coronation Celebration Finance –it was unanimously agreed that £150 would be donated to Admaston Village Hall and £50 would be donated to Blithfield PCC towards the project to install toilets at St Leonards Church.
- b) Blithfield Parish Facebook page – It was decided not to take this forward for the time being.
- c) D-Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary beacon lighting. The council will plan to light a beacon close to the village hall and Cllr Massey will discuss with the Admaston Village Hall committee the possibility of having a ‘pop up’ pub night in conjunction with the event.

#### **23.08.05 Clerk Update**

- a) Fire Hydrant, Booth Lane. A resident of The Booth had expressed concern that the fire hydrant was not marked and may be inaccessible. Staffordshire Fire and Rescue, found the fire hydrant and marked it within days of being notified for which we are most grateful.
- b) Coronation Mugs – The four remaining mugs have all been allocated now.
- c) Staffordshire County Council Climate Action Fund – the councillors did not think that this suitable for our parish.
- e) Staffordshire Parish Council’s Association- 84<sup>th</sup> AGM, Monday 30 October 2023 – Cllr Peter Atkins may attend.

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

**23.08.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish** Jon Wood has reported that the Admaston project is on hold until the government have run their procurement programme which is unlikely to be before June 2024.

**23.08.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors.** No borough councillors were present.

**23.08.09 To receive Chairman's reports.** The Chairman was not present at the meeting, however he had supplied a list of items to discuss.

a) Speeding on the lanes - it was felt that this was a problem throughout rural areas and that we would be unlikely to get any further signage from the county council, given that we are unable to get a speed limit on the B5013 at Admaston and that the lanes had the national speed limit of 60 mph. The clerk has previously mentioned the issue to PCSO Tim Leathers.

b) Parish Lengthsman – Partly due to the extra time the lengthsman has spent repairing the Admaston telephone box he has had less hours to do other jobs. It was decided that if we had a particular job for the lengthsman to do, which would push him over his agreed 50 hours a year, a decision could be made to allocate extra hours for that job. It was noted that he has given a substantial amount of his own time to repairing the telephone box and he has done a great job, for which the parish council are most grateful.

**23.07.10 To receive report from SPCO Tim Leathers.** The format of the report that we have been receiving recently is no longer being produced. Much of the information is readily available on Staffordshire Police and Crime Commission's website. However a more relevant email report has been received advising us that there has been an increased police presence at Blithfield Reservoir. He now has a good relationship with people who just wanted to meet and show off their cars, who are not 'racers'. He is receiving fewer and fewer reports of anti-social-behaviour. It was noted by our parish councillors that the method of reporting incidents was more difficult now it had to be done through the website and not Facebook, which may effect the number of incidents reported.

**23.07.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes.** The situation seems to have improved. Only single cars race occasionally as opposed to multiple vehicles. The damaged S59 sign has now been repaired.

**23.07.12 Planning**

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)

P/2023/00459 Location: Cloister House, Blithfield Hall Drive, Blithfield Hall, Admaston, WS15 3NL Staffordshire, Erection of fencing and gates. Grid Ref: 404487 32391 AMENDED LOCATION AND PLAN

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.

Decisions

P/2023/00543 Location: Blithfield Forge, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH Grid Ref: 404984 323235. Reduce height by 4 metres and width by 2 metres of one Yew tree and reduce crown by 2 metres of one Yew tree (A1 of TPO 60) GRANTED

P/2023/2083 Location: Blithfield Forge, School Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NH Reduce the height of two Cypress trees to 6 metres and tidy up lower branches. NO OBJECTION

### **23.07.13** Highways and Lengthsman

a) Admaston telephone box - Completed. The telephone box now has a Yale lock on it and a sign stating who owns it.

b) Steenwood Lane. Gullies in 2 places on the lane have been reported to highways.

Cllr B Ashcroft also advised she had looked at the far end of the lane where subsidence of the road meant that 'low' cars could not safely drive along it. This has been reported by her.

c) Admaston Lay-by – The clerk will try again to get give-way signage and white lines.

d) Booth lane was discussed. The clerk will report the gully close to the telephone exchange.

### **23.07.14**

Finance. a)

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
561	Fiona Shipley (Defib pads)	£143.88
562	Mr + Mrs K Massey, Coronation entertainment	£200.00
563	Eric Roy Website	£120.00
564	Zurich insurance	£214.00
SO	Fiona Shipley - Parish Admin	£220.65
565	Mrs G Vernon, Coronation cup cakes	£165.00
568	Fiona Shipley - Brightpay	£82.80
570	Majestic Event hire Coronation Marquee hire	£907.92
A/c Balance 31.05.2023	A/c 054 £7046.42	A/c 575 £2507.06

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

a) Possible project to install public benches in the 3 hamlets - the clerk has done some research and found that we would need to budget around £500 per bench to buy and install. There are no obvious sites to install them, so it was decided not to proceed further with this idea.

b) D-day 80 years, beacon lighting – we have provisionally booked the village hall for 6 June 2024 and some further thought will be given to how we may proceed.

**23.07.16** The next meeting will be held on 24.08.2023

The meeting closed at 7.45pm