

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 06 November 2025 at Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

Present: Cllr Anthony Vernon (vice chairman), Cllr Kevin Massey, Cllr Jon Wood, Mrs Fiona Shipley (clerk)

Cllr Gary Hales (SCC)

From the Parish: Mr Paul Riley, Mr John Hyde

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked County Cllr Gary Hales who was attending his first Blithfield Parish Council Meeting.

In the absence of Cllr Peter Atkins, Cllr Anthony Vernon took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25.11.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Peter Atkins, Cllr Stan Hulme, Cllr Bev George (ESBC)

25.11.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting and the Annual Meeting held on 28.08.2025 were circulated to the councillors in advance and signed by the vice chairman.

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

25.11.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising from the minutes.

25.11.05 Clerk Update

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a) Lloyds Bank – change in mandate. We now need the primary banking contact to be a signatory on the account and therefore need to appoint a councillor. Lloyds bank do not have Cllr Kevin Massey as a signatory so he needs to be added along with Cllr Jon Wood. Cllr Kevin Massey proposed Cllr Jon Wood should become the primary bank contact, this was seconded by Cllr Anthony Vernon.

b) It will be compulsory for all parish councillors to have a '@blithfieldparishcouncil.gov.uk' email address for parish council business from 1 April 2026. Cllr Wood has kindly agreed to support parish councillors in setting them up. It was agreed that the clerk would set up gov.uk email addresses for all the councillors with a view to moving forward with the role out following the next meeting.

c) B5013 steering group meeting organised by Needwood Ward SCC Cllr Catherine Brown, next meeting 9 January 2026 at 2pm. Representatives from Blithfield Parish Council will be in attendance.

d) SPCA AGM to be held on 24 November 2025 at 10am in Uttoxeter Town Hall. Cllr Jon Wood and the clerk will attend this meeting.

e) New defibrillator pads have been purchased for both defibrillators. The cost is £105/set of 2 plus VAT, 1 set for each defibrillator, the existing ones go out of date on 11.11.25. Cllr Jon Wood is assisting Paul Riley as custodian of the defibrillators. The new pads have now been installed.

f) Confirmation of meeting dates 2026. Dates for meetings in the first half of 2026 have been confirmed as 15 January 2026, 12 March 2026, 7 May 2026, 9 July 2026.

g) SCC have introduced a major new plan to tackle road repairs, focusing on fixing roads properly and providing value for money. However lack of money and the issue of being tied to a contract with Amey are proving restrictive.

f) Cllr Jon Wood attended a clerks introduction course on 30.10.2025.

25.11.06 Public Participation.

25.11.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish Cllr Wood has ascertained that most areas should be delivered by the end of March 2026. Two extremities of the parish Steenwood Lane area and the Hixon end of Lea Lane are not included along with a partial installation in the Coach House Mews at Admaston.

Cllr Vernon raised an issue with the new telegraph poles being sited opposite each other but not wide enough apart to allow two wide vehicles to pass, at Dapple Heath, close to the Blythe bridge. Clerk to look in to this.

25.11.08 To receive oral reports from Borough and County Council Cllr Hales reported that he was very concerned by Staffordshire Police's plan to cut the number of PCSOs. He has written to all parish councils asking parish councillors who feel the same to write to the Police expressing their disapproval.

Cllr Hales also reported that at a recent Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) meeting, across party unanimous agreement was recorded that no councillor approved of the reorganisation of local government in Staffordshire on the grounds of it being very costly. A letter against LGR signed by all councillors would be sent to government requesting that Staffordshire remain as it is. The county council would however submit a plan for an East/West division with Stoke on Trent being in the East.

Cllr Wood has also attended a meeting in Uttoxeter Town where a North/South split was approved. All plans are to be submitted to government by 28 November 2025 with a ruling expected by the summer recess in July 2026.

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25.11.09 To receive Chairman's report – nothing to report.

25.11.10 Police and Crime – more information can be found at <https://www.staffordshire.police.uk/>

Needwood Ward 54 crimes reported in July, 53 crimes reported in August 1 possible car meet reported.

25.11.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes. Following on from the B5013 Steering Group meeting in September, PCSO Tim Leathers has asked that residents collate and report incidents of concern to him. However it has been noted that this is the wrong time of year as most issues of speeding and anti-social behaviour occur in the summer months and when the evenings are lighter. Speed checks are being planned for spring 2026. Cllr Hales reported that he and Cllr Catherine Brown would like to push for a 50mph speed limit through Admaston and over the Blithfield Reservoir Causeway, however they did not have the support of all the highways management team.

25.11.12 Village gateway signs Cllr Hales said he would chase the improvements to these signs as he would have expected it to have happened by now.

25.11.13 Red Telephone Boxes The ivy has been stripped off the Newton telephone box and the lengthsman will repaint it next summer. There is money in the budget for any repairs and materials needed.

25.11.14 Admaston Village Hall update. Nothing to report.

25.11.15 Planning

- a) New
- b) Pending
- c) Decisions

P/2025/00098 Erection of a part two, part single storey side and rear extension, including Dormer windows to front and rear, and erection of Porch. Location: Rose Cottage, Steenwood Lane, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NG Grid Ref: 405111 323168 PERMITS

P/2025/00598 Remove to ground level one Pine tree (T1)
Location: Orchard House, The Old Rectory, Blithfield Church Road, Admaston, Staffordshire, WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404168 323992 NO OBJECTION

P/2025/00349 Conversion of one dwelling house to form two dwelling houses with associated internal alterations Location: The Hayloft, Stansley Wood Court, Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath, Staffordshire, WS15 3PH Grid Ref: 405369 324789 PERMITS

P/2024/00696 Construction of a solar farm comprising ground mounted photovoltaic solar arrays and associated infrastructure and landscaping Location: Land at Newton Farm, Lea Lane, Newton, Staffordshire, WS15 3NP Grid Ref: 403822 325257 PERMITS

25.11.16 Highways

- a) Grit bin – Rectory Farm – This has been replaced.
- b) School Lane, Admaston – carriageway repairs are awaiting scheduling. The oak posts were originally installed by the council so the clerk will report again. Some discussion took place about the hedges that need cutting back on the lane.
- c) Steenwood Lane – The large pothole has been repaired.
- d) Newton Lane – Ditches, potholes, excess of water, between Manor Lane and Dapple Heath, the necessary work will be carried out when resources allow from Newton to Dapple Heath.
- e) Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath deep pothole – This was finely found to be a water main leak and has been repaired by South Staffs Water.

25.11.17 Lengthsman – nothing to report**25.11.18 Finance**

PAID OUT Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
Chq 618 26.08.25	Barry Wilkinson lap-top update	£49.12
Chq 619 26.08.25	Paul Riley – re-instating Admaston Phone Box	£80.00

Chq 620 26.08.25	Fiona Shipley - expences	£179.02
Chq 621	Kevin Massey - Lengthsman and parts for Admaston phone box	£652.04
Lloyds Bank 19.09.25	10.07.25 – 09.08.25 Bank charge	£4.25
SO 28.08.25	Fiona Shipley clerk salary	£249.58
Lloyds Bank 19.10.2025	10.08.25 – 09.09.25 Bank charge	£6.25
SO 28.09.25	Fiona Shipley clerk salary	
PAID IN		
09.09.2025	Lloyds Bank interest	£2.83
19.09.25	ESBC Precept	£3165.00
A/c Balance 28.07.2025	A/C 575 £5121.46	A/C 054 £5324.38

b) To adopt the budget for 2026-2027 and agree precept - Cllr Wood asked that a discussion could take place about the charitable donations. In the absence of Cllr Atkins and Cllr Hulme it was decided to defer this until the next meeting.

Cllr Wood also suggested that the parish council considered not replacing the lap top and printer but looked at recompensing the clerk to use her hardware. The clerk said that she personally did not own suitable hardware to facilitate this idea but further thought could be given when replacements are required.

c) To adopt Cllr Anthony Vernon's internal audit on behalf of the parish council. This was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Massey.

25.11.19 To discuss any other business including items for the next agenda

The clerk was asked to contact the landowner of the hedges between Admaston and the Blithfield reservoir along the B5013 to ask them to cut the hedge back. A further issue of an over grown hedge on the B5013 was noted in the parish of Colton and the clerk will contact their clerk regarding this.

A member of the public, commented on the narrow approach to the village hall along School Lane due to some hedges and verges being overgrown. The lengthsman stated that he had endeavoured to pull back the verges in the summer, but the edges of the road were broken and he didn't think it was a good idea. He would look at the hedges but they were much in line with the width of the verges.

25.11.20 Date of next meeting - 15 January 2026

The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk

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