

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 06.03.2025

Present: Cllr Anthony Vernon Vice Chairman who chaired this meeting), Cllr Phyllis Massey, Cllr Stan Hulme, Fiona Shipley (clerk)

From the Parish: Mrs Barbara Hyde, Mr John Hyde, Mr Paul Riley

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25.03.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Peter Atkins (Chairman BPC), Cllr Philip Atkins (SCC) Cllr George (ESBC), Cllr Jones (ESBC), Cllr Gould (ESBC)

25.03.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 09.01.2025 were circulated to the councillors in advance.

25.03.03 To receive declarations of interest by members in respect of items on the agenda.

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

a) New website provider – to be approved JKE Design, Mansfield. This was approved by the councillors and we will switch before the middle of June.

b) Spring Newsletter this has been circulated by email and will be put on the notice boards.

c) Great British Spring Clean 21 March 2025 – 6 April 2025.

d) Staffordshire County Council have a revamped 'Reportit' website which is intended to be more user friendly and enables individuals to report and follow issues.

e) Severn Trent have issued a newsletter aimed at councillors.

f) Clear Insurance – Risk Free Management Webinair – clerk did not attend due to personal reasons.

g) Bleed Kits – the parish council agreed that we would not purchase or install these at this time,

h) Devolution and local government reorganisation. This will not effect parish councils but will effect borough councils, consultation events etc are taking place..

25.03.06 Public Participation. The chairman of the Admaston Village Hall Committee reported that Island Green Power are looking to lease approximately 2,500 acres of farmland in our local area in order to build solar farms (Solar = PhotoVoltaic [PV] farms). Two pockets of land owned by the Village Hall Trust are involved and ongoing legal advice is being sought by the Committee so that any agreement reached complies with the requirements laid out in the deeds..

Some discussion then ensued about the best way for the VH Committee to go about this.

25.03.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish - In progress. At least one resident is unhappy about the disruption and lack of care and respect being taken by the contractors and has written to Cllr Philip Atkins and our MP.

25.03.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors.

25.03.09 To receive Chairman's reports In the Chairman's absence there was nothing to report.

25.03.10 Police and crime

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

Needwood area 47 crimes in September 2024, 59 crimes in October 2024

25.03.11 Speeding cars and motorbikes S59 signs There continues to be a sporadic issue with speeding vehicles.

25.03.12 Village gateway signs Cllr K Massey and the clerk met with Kayleigh Lees on site in Admaston on 5 February 2025 to discuss where to site new village gateway signs. Also discussed was grant funding from the County Council and suitable contractors. Ms Lees stated that she would forward a list of approved contractors and confirmation of the availability of how much funding was available, the following week. Despite the clerk chasing both Ms Lees and Cllr Philip Atkins on several occasions, no further information has been forthcoming. The clerk will continue to try and communicate with the County Council.

The clerk has contacted the clerk of Colton Parish Council who already have village gateway signs, they had struggled to get any contractors to quote and had finally used the County Council's own contractor Amey which was an expensive option.

The clerk has requested a review of the speed limit in Admaston but this was turned down.

It was agreed that the clerk would send out a separate email to all residents whose email address she holds, asking them to contact our MP Dave Robertson to ask for the speed limit through Admaston to be reduced. She was also asked to see if the same request could be put in the Parish Magazine.

25.03.13 Admaston Telephone Box. The lengthsman and Mr Paul Riley will reinstate the telephone box as soon as the weather allows. The clerk asked if this could be as soon as possible.

25.03.14 Admaston Village Hall update. Coming events have been circulated on the parish council newsletter. The toilet refurbishment is underway.

25.03.15 Planning

a) New

b) Pending 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

Cllr Richard Rayson of Drointon Parish Council was asked to attend this meeting but no response was received.

The application is likely to go before the planning committee in March.

Aura Power have seen the parish council's response to their application and have sent the clerk their response.

c) Decisions

25.03.16 Highways and Lengthsman

- a) Grit bin – Rectory Farm – Reported again
- b) School Lane, Admaston – replacement of verge posts, it was agreed that the parish council would pay for upto 10 posts at £10 ea. Plus VAT
- c) Steenwood Lane - Amey have communicated that repairs to the road surface on Steenwood Lane will take place asap, originally planned for November 2024
- d) Booth Lane Potholes – assessed as non-urgent
- e) Lea Lane Pothole opposite New Buildings Farm – reported again
- f) Newton Lane – Passing Place sign missing, ditches, potholes, excess of water, between Manor Lane and Dapple Heath - reported
- g) Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath pothole, this is over a 1ft deep and is just off the highway. A vehicle which had driven into it was pictured in a post on a local social media site recently. As the hole is full of water which appears to be coming up through it rather than running into it, it is impossible to see how deep it is. Therefore it is a danger to cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles who pull over for any reason. It has been reported as requiring urgent attention.

Communication has been received for Cllr Philip Atkins which indicates that a team from the highways division will be repairing potholes in the parish on 13 and 14 March 2025.

25.03.17 Finance

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
SO 30.12.24	Fiona Shipley – Clerk salary	£249.58
SO 28.01.25	Fiona Shipley – Clerk salary	£249.58
A/c Balance 28.01.25	A/c 054 £2940.16	A/c 575 £5092.28

25.03.18 To discuss any other business including items for the next agenda. There was none.

The clerk will look into accessing bleed kits to be kept with the defibrillators.

25.03.19 Date of next meeting - 15.05.2025

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk