

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting dated 15.05.2025

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

From the Parish: Mrs Alice Ashcroft, Mr Paul Riley

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

25.05.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Kevin Massey (BPC) Cllr George (ESBC), Cllr Jones (ESBC), Cllr Gould (ESBC)

25.05.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 06.03.2025 were circulated to the councillors in advance and signed by the vice chairman.

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

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

25.05.05 Clerk Update

a) Website is now hosted by JKE Design, they have been very helpful and the changeover has run smoothly.

b) New domain Blithfieldparishcouncil@gov.uk has now been set up but there remains some work to do before the clerk will be using it for emails.

c) Insurance, Zurich are the most competitive, it has gone up to £241 from £214. It was agreed to proceed with Zurich again for the coming year.

d) Windows 10 will not be supported from October 2025. The clerk is advised it will be relatively easy to upgrade to Windows 11.

e) Stowe-by-Chartley Parish Council concerns about Solar Farms meeting 19 May 2025. Several BPC councillors and the clerk will be attending with the objective of showing consolidated support against the increasing number of solar farm applications in the area.

f) CPRE Countryside Day is at Ilam on 6 September 2025

g) Parish Facebook Page – Mrs Alice Ashcroft has volunteered to set up and run a community Facebook page. She gave a short presentation and it was agreed to go forward to provide a service that would benefit the community. The Council will review activity in due course.

h) SPCA online Briefing Government reorganisation 20th May 2025 1pm

i) County Council elections, we have a new Reform UK councillor for Uttoxeter Rural, Cllr Gary Hales. Reform UK now run the County Council. The clerk will email to congratulate him and introduce herself and Blithfield Parish Council.

25.05.06 Public Participation. Nothing to report.

25.05.07 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish - In progress.

25.05.08 To receive oral report from Borough and County Councillors. Nothing to report.

25.05.09 To receive Chairman's report. Having recently heard some very noisy motor vehicles along the B5013 for an extended period, the chairman is renewing efforts to pressure the police to have a greater presence in the area and to help alleviate the issue.

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

Needwood area 43 crimes in January 2025, 47 crimes in February 2025

25.05.11 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes. There has been an upturn in the noise and speeding issues since the weather improved and the evenings became lighter.

25.05.12 Village gateway signs Due to persistent non-cooperation the clerk has been unable to make any further progress with this project. The change of County Council may help.

25.05.13 Admaston Telephone Box. The lengthsmen and Mr Paul Riley will reinstate the telephone box soon. The delay is due to other work pressures but it is hoped that it will be reinstated by the end of June. Given the amount of work the lengthsmen has to do in the parish, it was agreed that alternatives would be explored to get the Newton telephone box refurbished.

25.05.14 Admaston Village Hall update. Awaiting updates.

25.05.15 Planning

- a) New 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
- P/2025/00166 Erection of a slurry store. Location: Newton Hurst Farm, Newton Hurst Lane, Newton Hurst, Staffordshire, WS15 3PL Grid Ref: 405331 326265
- 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
- Planning meeting held on 25 March 2025, no official notification of result although the planning committee appeared to pass the application with conditions. It is understood that it may be sometime before the conditions associated with this application can be ratified.

25.05.16 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 up to 10 posts at £10 ea. Plus VAT, to be completed by the lengthsmen in due course.
- Scheduled road repairs to School Lane has not taken place.
- c) Steenwood Lane - Amey have communicated that repairs to the road surface on Steenwood Lane will take place asap
- e) Newton Lane – Ditches, potholes, excess of water, between Manor Lane and Dapple Heath all reported and classed non urgent by Amey.
- g) Newton Hurst Lane, Dapple Heath pothole – repaired. Tractors have now driven over the hole as it is in a field gateway and the hole is collapsing inwards and water is rising through it again.
- h) Lea Lane resurfaced

25.05.17 Finance

Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
Chq 610 06.03.25	SLCC subscription	£80.00
Chq 611 06.03.25	Fiona Shipley – expenses	£135.85
18.03.25	Bank charges	£ 4.25
SO 28.03.25	Fiona Shipley	£249.58
SO 28.04.25	Fiona Shipley	£249.58
A/c Balance 28.04.25	A/c 054 £5132.07	A/c 575 £5105.55

Precept payment of £3165.00 received 17.04.2025

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

The clerk will write to Mr Steve Reeves, who assisted by Mr Paul Riley, has cut the hedge back on the bridge over The Blythe on Newton Hurst Lane, to thank him.

25.05.19 Date of next meeting - 03.07.2025

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk