

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting held on 7 May 2026 at Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

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

From the Parish: Mr Paul Riley, Mr John Hyde

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26.05.01 Apologies: for Absence: Cllr Peter Atkins (BPC) Cllr Gary Hales (SCC), Cllr Bev George (ESBC) Cllr Jacqui Jones (ESBC)

26.05.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on 12.05.2026 were circulated to the councillors in advance and signed by the chairman.

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

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

26.05.05 Resignation of Clerk The clerk has resigned due to other commitments taking up more of her time and is happy to stay in post until a new clerk is appointed. The post has been advertised and the new chairman will follow up the applicants.

26.06.06 Clerk Update

a) Lloyds Bank – All councillors are now signatories for cheque payments. Further consideration can now be given to banking digitally.

b) Assertion 10 – Mandatory Compliance – update.

- i. Most councillors have a Blithfield Parish Council domain email address for council business which is a requirement.
- ii. The website has been updated to meet accessibility requirements
- iii. An IT policy still needs to be adopted.

e) Confirmation of meeting dates for July, September, November 2026. The next meeting will be 9 July 2026. Future dates will be confirmed after the appointment of a new clerk at the next meeting.

f) SPCA are offering a new planning advice service. Cllr Vernon commented that the new ESBC planning hub was not as easy to use as the previous one.

26.05.07 Public Participation. None.

26.05.08 Upgrade of Broadband in the Parish We believe is complete.

26.05.09 To receive oral reports from the Borough and County Councillors. There were none.

26.05.10 To receive Chairman's report – The retiring chairman Cllr P Atkins sent a report to be read out in his absence, thanking the clerk for her work over the last 4 years and also the lengthsman and in particular for his work refurbishing both telephone boxes. He also said that he would not stand for re-election as a councillor next May and hoped some younger members of the parish would stand for election and make a contribution to the wellbeing of the parish and its' residents.

26.05.11 Police and Crime

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

Needwood Ward 61 crimes reported in January 2026, 49 crimes reported in February 2026

PCSO Dominika Bond-Siwiek attended the meeting and gave a short talk on her work for the parish in particular the issues on the B5013 over the Blithfield Reservoir and through Admaston. She said there was a greater presence of unmarked police cars monitoring the area although they were known to most of the culprits who often moved on when they knew the police were about. There is now a response officer based at Uttoxeter so she can get back up more quickly. Despite a very busy workload she will monitor the reporting system set up by PCSO Tim Leathers and that all incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area should be reported. She would collate the reports and pass to Cllr Catherine Brown (SCC) ahead of the next B5013 Steering Group meeting in September. She believes a multi-agency approach is needed.

N.B. PCSO Dominika Bond-Siwiek gave her presentation at the beginning of the evening at 7pm before any business took place.

26.05.12 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes, S59 signs

Cllr C Brown (SCC) is planning the next B5013 Steering Group meeting on 4 September 2026 at 2pm in Admaston Village Hall. The parish council agreed to support this.

25.05.13 Village gateway signs - The existing village sign on the reservoir side of the village has now been lowered. The clerk emailed Dom Key at SCC, the contact she has been given, to progress the village gateway sign project on 07.04.2026 and has had no reply to date.

26.05.14 Red Telephone Boxes the parish council thanked the lengthsman Cllr K Massey as he has now completed the refurbishment of the Newton telephone box. Both telephone boxes are looking good.

26.05.15 Admaston Village Hall update. The chairman of Admaston village hall committee reported that repairs have commenced to repair the leaking roof on the village hall. There is a beetle drive and pop-up pub on Saturday 09.05.2026.

26.05.16 Planning

a) New P/2026/00380 Proposal: Erection of a single story rear extension and installation of roof lights to the side elevations. Location; Orchard House ,The Old Rectory, Blithfield, Church Road, Admaston WS15 3NL Grid Ref: 404168 / 323991 NO COMMENT

b)

c) Decisions 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

26.05.17 Highways

a) School Lane, Admaston – replacement of verge posts – ongoing, SCC scheduled resurfacing has not taken place – SCC have notified work has been raised

b) Newton Lane – Ditches, potholes, excess of water, between Newton and Dapple Heath - a significant repair has taken place of the road surface, particularly on the hill between Dapple Heath and Newton Lane, however some deep potholes have been left. The only improvement to the ditches and drainage has been carried out by our Lengthsman. SCC have notified more work will be carried out when resources allow.

c) Dapple Heath - Potholes have had temporary repair.

d) Booth Lane – the deteriorating state of the road surface has been reported.

e) Lea Lane – 30 mph sign missing, reported. The lengthsman has removed the vegetation from around the remaining sign to improve visibility.

f) Manor Lane, Newton - some potholes have had a temporary repair this week.

g) SCC will fill our community grit bins once a year. The salt in them is very hard, the lengthsman will see if he can break up the salt. There are old saucepans/shovels in some to help with dispensing the salt.

26.05.18 Lengthsman – will have a look at the over-hanging trees opposite Booth Meadow Farm which have also been reported to SCC. He will also strim round Watering Pit Corner when his strimmer is repaired.

26.05.19 Finance

a)

PAID OUT Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
17.02.2026	Bank charges	£4.75
28.02.2026 SO/11	Fiona Shipley clerks salary	£257.58
12.03.2026 chq 632	Admaston Village Hall room hire and defib' electricity	£130
12.03.2026 chq 633	JKE Design Ltd website update	£84
12.03.2026 chq 634	Fiona Shipley clerk expences , defib parts, stationary, wfh allowance	£390.71
12.03.2026 chq 635	Paul Riley Defib' maintenance	£30
17.03.2026	Bank Charges	£4.75
28.03.2026 SO/12	Fiona Shipley clerks salary	£257.58
PAID IN		
09.02.2026	Lloyds Bank interest	+£2.32
09.03.2026	Lloyds Bank Interest	+ £1.97
A/c Balance 31.03.26	A/C 575 £5136.03	A/C 054 £1977.20

26.05.20 To discuss any other business including items for the next agenda.

The clerk reported the filing cabinets in the village hall were quite full and perhaps a councillor would take on the responsibility of going through them and deciding what should be kept and if anything was worth taking to the SCC archive facility.

26.05.21 Date of next meeting - 09.07.2026

The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed Chairman

Signed Clerk

DRAFT