

BLITHFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Ordinary General Meeting

Held on 2 July 2026 at Admaston Village Hall at 7pm

Present:

Cllr Jon Wood (chairman), Cllr Anthony Vernon (vice chairman), Cllr Peter Atkins, Cllr Stan Hulme, Mrs Tracey Dibble (clerk)

Also Present:

From the Parish: 2 members of public

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

26.07.01 Apologies: for Absence:

Cllr Kevin Massey (BPC), Cllr Gary Hales (SCC)

26.07.02 Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting and the Annual Meeting

The minutes for the meeting held on 7th May 2026 were circulated to the councillors in advance and the Council resolved to approve as a correct record and signed by the chairman.

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

Cllr J Wood declared his interest in Planning Application P/2026/00679, which was noted.

26.07.04 Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

26.07.05 Clerk Update

- a) Confirmation of meeting dates September 2026, November 2026 and January 2027
Meeting dates of 3rd September 2026, 5th November 2026, and 7th January 2027 were confirmed.
The Clerk will issue notices for display on Notice Boards.
- b) Defibrillator Training
It was agreed to organise a defibrillator training session at Admaston Village Hall. The Clerk will contact the first responder regarding availability. It was agreed a Defibrillator training session to be offer to all interested parishioners.
- c) Notice Boards
It was noted one notice board requires a lock. Cllr Wood will take responsibility for posting notices going forward. The Clerk will forward information accordingly.
- d) Telephone Numbers
Clerk confirmed she is content to use her personal mobile number for council business.
- e) Closure of Blithfield Reservoir Fishing
Concerns were raised by Cllr Hulme regarding South Staffs Water's decision to close fishing at Blithfield Reservoir without sufficient explanation. It was agreed to invite representatives from SSW to the September meeting to speak to the council. The Clerk to contact SSW. Cllr Wood will also liaise with neighbouring parish councils to see if they want to be involved in any conversations.

- f) **Data Breach**
Clerk reported there had been no further feedback. The Council responded appropriately and mitigation measures have been implemented, including new IT Policy, email policy and also recorded the incident via a Data Breach Log. The Clerk suggested implementing a rule on the current email system, if possible, that prevents sending external emails to more than 6 individuals via To or CC.
- g) **Hedge Cutting at Gas Works**
Partial hedge cutting has been completed by Cadent, following a resident's persistence requests, but visibility remains an issue. The Clerk to write to Cadent requesting inclusion in an annual maintenance schedule and further work in October, once nesting birds have gone, so the wild life is not disturbed.
- h) **Hedge Cutting –Bridge over River Blithe on Newton Hurst Lane and Dapple Heath**
Hedges have been trimmed by a farmer and resident on the River Bridge on Newton Hurst Lane improving visibility for drivers. They also trimmed the hedge around the road signs at Dapple Heath and Booth Lane. The Council had emailed the resident to express their thanks.
The grass will be cut, around Newton Hurst Lane and Dapple Heath, once the grass stops growing in autumn to clear the areas for daffodils in the spring.

26.07.06 Public Participation

The overgrown hedge on School Lane was noted, which needed cutting back to allow cars to pass. Cllr S Hulme to make enquiries who owns the hedge. It was noted the Yew Tree at Admaston Village Hall needed cutting subject to appropriate consent being obtained from ESBC via the Village Hall.

26.07.07 To receive oral reports from the Borough and County Councillors

A report from Cllr Hales was received, which the clerk read out, covering
Village gateway signage - which Cllr Hales believes the signs entering and leaving village have now been lowered. It was noted one gateway sign has been lowered on the roadside as you leave the reservoir heading towards Rugeley. However the sign coming away from Rugeley has not been lowered.
Traffic data collection - highways have been advised of the location for the speed and volume count.
Flooding on B5013 - drains have been cleared.
Community funding payment- application is open and accessible via the SCC website, but Cllr Hales is unsure if the Village Hall meets the criteria regarding cluster files – funding up to £500.

Further discussion took place regarding gateway signage. The Clerk will obtain costs for licences and installation to enable the council to make an informed decision regarding installing village gateway signs or continue with the current Admaston sign being lowered and new posts put in.

26.07.08 To receive Chairman's report

Cllr Wood reported he had received information regarding opportunities for community funding from solar farms which were discussed and the council agreed should be pursued.

The council agreed for Cllr Wood to join the solar farm working committee with Cllr Hulme suggesting as an active member, to facilitate a co-ordinated approach concerning the 3 Solar Farms. It was noted that Lower Farm and Moreton Brook has gained planning permission, but Yew Tree had not yet been granted. Lower Farm will go live in March 2027. There was a discussion regarding how any funding should be utilised and proposal to establish a Blithfield Parish Funding Committee was suggested to meet twice annually. The council were in agreement to

contact Aura Power to start dialogue. Clerk to contact in the first instance, although Cllr Atkins commented he did not think it would be straight forward.

Cllr Atkins raised concerns regarding Local Plan communications and potential housing developments in Hixon. The Clerk to find out more about the Local Plan from East Staffordshire Borough Council and how cross boundary co-ordination with Stafford BC and Lichfield DC is being handled, ensuring the parish council is being routinely notified of any relevant information.

Cllr Hulme express the view acknowledging the difficulty encouraging younger residents to join the Parish Council, but acknowledged that there were very few younger residents in the parish.

Cllr P Atkins commented he had spoken with Cllr G Hayes regarding the default 60 mph speed limit on the country lanes. Cllr S Hulme commented this is a national level concern.

Clerk was asked to look at previous minutes regarding a missing 30 mph sign, just before Vaughn Farm.

It was noted that an Operator's Licence for tractors units and trailers (4) at Holly Hurst had been granted, and concerns was expressed for road usage.

26.07.09 Police and Crime

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

Needwood Ward - 63 crimes reported in March 2026, 43 crimes reported in April.

26.07.10 Speeding Cars and Motorbikes, S59 signs

The Council confirmed they were waiting for traffic data from Cllr Hayes, and felt that the data collection was required to progress the case forward. Clerk to write and confirm the data collection status and timelines.

25.07.11 Village gateway signs

Discussed under minute 27.07.07.

26.07.12 Admaston Village Hall update

It was reported repairs have been completed to bell tower, and window by Cllr Massey, and there are plans for some redecoration in the winter once sealing of the roof is complete. Cllr Wood has sprayed the outside area to kill the weeds, and plans are to tidy the car park filing in the pot holes where cars use the car park to turn round.

Upcoming Event on 8th August - Race Night.

26.07.13 Planning

a) New **Application Number: P/2026/00659. Proposal:** Formation of a glazed balcony with associated patio doors to the back elevation and alterations to existing fenestration on the left and back elevation. **Location:** WYNDLETT, MANOR LANE, NEWTON, WS15 3PE. **Grid Reference:** 403937/32539 – **NO OBJECTION**

Application Number: P/2026/00679. **Proposal:** Installation of 2 x Electric Vehicle chargers on the front of the property to be accessed from the two parking spaces. **Location:** THE HAYLOFT, STANSLEY WOOD COURT, NEWTON HURST LANE, DAPPLE HEATH, WS15 3PH. **Grid Ref:** 405369 / 324789 – **NO OBJECTION**

b) Pending none

c) Decisions **Application Number:** P/2026/00521. **Proposal:** (TN) Removal to ground level of Cherry tree T1. **Location:** THE OLD RECTORY, BLITHFIELD CHURCH ROAD, ADMASTON. Grid Reference 404196/323966. – **NO OBJECTION**

Application Number: 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 – **PERMITS**

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

26.07.14 Highways

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

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 – on going.

c) Booth Lane – the deteriorating state of the road surface has been reported – on going.

d) Lea Lane – 30 mph sign missing, reported – on going.

26.07.15 Lengthsman

No report received.

26.07.16 Finance

a) Payments and receipts were authorised as below.

PAID OUT Ref/Cheque	Item	Amount
07.05.2026 chq 640	Clerk Expenses	£37.28
04.05.2026 chq 637	Zurich Insurance	£241.00
19.05.2026	Bank Charges	£6.25
28.05.2026 SO/2	Clerks Salary	£257.58
27.05.2026 chq639	CPRE Subscriptions	£100.00

PAID IN		
09.04.2026	Lloyds Bank Interest	£2.18
17.04.2026	Initial Precept Payment	£3,515.50
11.05.2026	Lloyds Bank Interest	£2.25
A/c Balance 31.05.26	A/C 575 £5,140.46	A/C 054 £4,420.01

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

There was none.

26.07.18 Date of next meeting - Thursday 3rd September 2026

The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed :

Chairman

Signed :

Clerk