

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 18 MAY 2023.

THE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY OF BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD TOOK PLACE IN THE BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD VILLAGE HALL.

- 1 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –**
Were read and approved at the 28th September 2022 Parish Council meeting.
MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES –
None

- 2 **REPORT ON THE BUSINESS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL SINCE THE PREVIOUS MEETING –** the report for the year was read out by the Parish Clerk of the Parish Council – attached to this document.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT
None

- 3 **MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PRESENT AT THE MEETING –**
No Members of the Public were in attendance –The Public were notified of meeting on both the Parish Council Website and also the Facebook group Blymhill Buzz.

- 4 **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**
Cllr Mark Sutton was unable to attend

- 5 **REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:**
None were present

- 6 **REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES**
None in attendance

- 7 **VISITORS**
Nil

- 8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
None

The Assembly finished at 19.40 and the Vice Chairman, Councillor Doug McCowan thanked Cllr Mark Sutton, the Staffordshire County Councillor and then the District Councillors, Cllr Brian Cox and Cllr Ve Jackson, for all their support during the past year.
As had been stated in the meeting, he again repeated that all residents in any part of the community should raise any issues they have with their local Parish Councillors straight away and not just wait for the annual Parish Assembly.

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2022-2023

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council wishes the Village Hall Committee well and for it to have continued success and remain financially sound with the completed extension. It was happy to extend a loan and grant to the Village Hall committee to assist in the Kitchen build and extension.

FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS

Council Members expressed their continued concern regarding the worsening situation relating to pot holes in a number of roads around the Parish especially with the winter conditions this year. County Councillor Mark Sutton was also pro-active in looking at the issues and although there has been considerable work done there are still areas that need work. The A5 through Weston under Lizard's 30mph

speed limit, is still a concern with the majority of vehicles are going slower but there are still many HGV's and Company vans and vehicles seemingly going faster than 40 mph let alone 30mph and the Parish Council have continued to ask for more measures to police the new speed limit, especially as the mobile speed camera has been in less attendance than before.

The Clerk reminded members that residents could help the situation by recording details of potholes; flooding etc on the County Council's computerised road maintenance system –

<https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/web/reportfault/#divSelectionHeader>

If the pothole is on a motorway or an A road Contact Highways England.

On info@highwaysengland.co.uk or 0300 123 5000

PLANNING

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 11 planning applications during the past twelve months, 3 changes of use and 1 incorporation of land into residential curtilage. This included extensions and change of use for buildings. All these applications, had no objections raised and have been approved by the District Council.

FINANCE

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and after having the precept at £6,000 it was raised it to £6,500.

The Parish Council has its own Website live on <https://blymhill-westonparishcouncil.org.uk> where Parish Council Information can be found and the weekly update from South Staffordshire District Council is also posted.

In addition, the Parish Council has continued to undertake the distribution of funds from the V-Festival account to a number of areas in the community including the Village Hall. This year a further £6,000 released for a number of projects including St Marys Church Boiler repairs, both Play Areas up keep and also refurbishments and repairs, assisting with the removal of a dangerous Yew tree in the St Andrews graveyard, contributions to Jubilee events in both Weston under Lizard and Blymhill as well as to help Coronation celebrations.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2021 to 2022 were audited by the Mazars LLP Accountants for the Audit Commission.

PLAY AREAS

The Blymhill Play area has been inspected by ROSPA, as has the Weston under Lizard Play area. Since that inspection some remedial work has been reported as being needed to be carried out in the Weston under Lizard play area and all has been made good.

COMMUNITY SHOP

The village Hall has allowed the shop to carry on in the back room with a Shop committee in place and the Parish Council want to thank all those involved especially all the Volunteers as well as the Village Hall Committee. It also is very grateful to the new committee members and volunteers for the work that they are and will be putting into this in the future and wishing them well for a successful future.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all the members of the Parish Council for their support and commitment during the year. Thanks also go for the regular reports and support received from our Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Sutton for his help and work over the past few years. We also thank our South Staffordshire District Councillors Ve Jackson and especially Brian Cox who has stood after many years of help advice and guidance especially on planning matters.

The Parish Council would have liked to have thanked David Maddocks personally for all the work that he has done for the Community especially as the Chair of the Blymhill and Weston under Lizard Parish Council which he was stepping down from this year, after holding the office for more than 16 years and presided over his last official meeting in March this year but has since sadly passed away.

David Maddocks had been the Chair of the Blymhill and Weston under Lizard Parish Council for over 16 years, missing only two meetings due to ill health. He had also in that time been involved with assisting the community in a number of ways by leading the Parish Council to aid and assist different groups in the community but by also keeping the Parish Council finances lean, so as not to put a burden on the residents Council Tax.

When the new Blymhill and Weston Village hall was proposed and then built, he helped to make the transition smooth, always trying to balance what the whole community wanted. He was also at the forefront of the revitalization of the Weston under Lizard play area and a completely new one in Blymhill.

In recent years he was the lead in looking at the introduction of a community shop for the area, which was then introduced during the start of the Pandemic in the Village Hall itself and continues to this day. In the time that the shop has been operating he himself regularly collected produce and delivered it to the shop.

During the first Lockdown when some of the Community residents came with the idea of "Blymhill Here To Help", a shopping service and free meals for the vulnerable delivered from the local Public House, he fully backed this operation with the Parish Charity fund, and this did help many of the over 70's and vulnerable in the area.

David was also very strong in trying to get the County Council to improve the roads and pathways in the area as well as trying to get low-cost housing into the area as he was concerned that local youngsters were unable to buy homes in the area due to the cost.

David Maddocks had unstintingly and selflessly given his time to help the community in good and bad times, without any thought of himself, just to do it for the local community and will be missed

Signed


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(Chairman)

Date: 20th September 2023.....