

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE
BLYMHILL HILL AND WESTON UNDER LIZARD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM
ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025**

PRESENT: Cllr Doug McCowan (Chairman)
Cllr V Cook
Cllr L Cross
Cllr A Hough

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Delaloye – Parish Clerk
Cllr C Large – Staffordshire County Council
S Farrow - Bradford Estates

APOLOGIES : Cllr A Lowe
Cllr P Maddocks
Cllr R Newton
Cllr N Parton (Vice Chairman)
Cllr D Holmes – South Staffordshire District Council
Cllr W Sutton – South Staffordshire District Council
Cllr S Szalapski – South Staffordshire District Council

3307 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

3308 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15.09.2025 were Proposed by Cllr V Cook and seconded by Cllr A Hough and approved as a correct Record and governance of the Parish Council.

3309 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

All Parish Councillors had been emailed to see if they wanted to be part of a subcommittee on Rural Crime, for which none had volunteered. At the meeting it was unanimous that there was not one required, especially with the Bradford Estates running a live Crime WhatsApp group for the area, which included members of the Police force so there was instant notifications happening and area wide warnings on incidents as they happened. It was suggested that the Highman's would be invited to join that group. Steve Farrow said he would organize that.

3310 VISITORS

None

3311 REPORT OF The COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr D McGowan introduced the new County Councillor for the Parish Council, Cllr Chris Large.

Cllr C Large informed the Council that he was the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources for Staffordshire County Council and had a background in Transformation and Change in large organisations. He and the other Reform Councillors had already started investigating and putting into action efficiencies throughout the Council and gave examples where there was large amount of savings to be made in a variety of different departments of the County Council that

would serve all residents well not just by saving the Council money and nor wasting the Council Tax paid by them but also making the services better and more efficient.

- A Finance review to get a 5% efficiency (£10 million)
- A Head Count efficiency review to include appraisals and to find out who working remotely, hybrid or in the office.
- Since May's elections the County Council has paid £15 million off of the County's Debt, which gives a saving of £1 million in interest payments per month
- The Local Government Reorganisation
- Previous incumbents wanted a North South Split of the County but after a review the new County Council have put forward a proposal for an East West split as it makes more financial sense, taking into account certain Councils debts.
- HS2 has been stopped for 1 year and not now going to Manchester but stopping at Litchfield due to the increased costs and over spending. The County Council has been asked by Andy Burnham Mayor of Manchester, if the County would help buy the land that had been bought by HS2 and would not be used. This request has been refused.
- Review of future Planning Applications to stop building on land that is in a Flood Risk area. Also to review the change of use of Agricultural land to enable Solar Battery Farms as these could be Fire Risks and also normally rented out. After 15 years of a different use these could then be used for building rather than agriculture.

He said that a number of the new Councillors were well established businessmen who knew about making organisations run smoothly and efficiently and not letting the organisation be unregulated and not controlled. He gave example of how already Highways Cabinet Member Peter Mason, who previous experience of the Manchester Metro, had already started to change how the utility companies needed to give more notice of traffic works than previously so plans could be made to limit the congestion that had previously been experienced.

3312 **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Due last minute sickness Cllr S Szalapski was unable to attend but sent some notes through:

Hide & Seek Festival

I have requested, through our Environmental Health & Licensing Dept the following be addressed:

- That all Parish and District Councillors are supplied with an 24/7 contact number for the Event Control Room for the duration of the event during its live phase.
- In the event of 3 day event tickets not selling fully, day tickets will then be released - if this is the case I have requested that both Staffordshire and Shropshire Highways are contacted to kindly request that no routine road work permits are issued for the surrounding A roads for the duration of the event - this has previously caused chaos and accidents within the surrounding villages.
- That pre sound checks are undertaken within other local villages, not just Weston.

The issues I have raised will be addressed by The District Council with the Safety Advisory Group associated with the event and have assured me that they will update me in due course.

Local Government Review

Following detailed analysis on various options we are supporting a three unitary model, our area being South West Staffordshire – Stafford, South Staffs and Cannock. We feel this is the best fit for Staffordshire as opposed to other potential models put forward by other Staffordshire Councils. We believe that the three unitary model is the only option that reflects local democracy and keeps decision making local. A residents survey endorsed this decision with 16,700 responses. We believe that a three unitary model will return substantial financial savings. Further updates will be given as this progresses.

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3313 **PLAY AREAS**

- Cllr L Cross said that the Blymhill Fete Committee had offered to pay for a table and benches to be put by the Blymhill Play Area, Cllr A Hough proposed to accept the offer and Cllr L Cross seconded it and it was passed. Steve Farrer was to look at proposed site and see if okay.

3314 **FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS**

- Footpaths Nothing reported
- The Cllr D McCowan reported the One way system for the Severn Trent Water Treatment works refurbishment was now only going to be 1 day in first week in December and that the Parish Council wanted to thank Cllr C Large for him being able to stop the original order of an 18 month one way system
- Cllr V Cook asked what was happening with the Speed Limit indicator for the A5. Cllr D McCowan said a meeting tried to be arranged with himself, SSDC – A Aston and Steve Farrow from Bradford Estates, but they had not heard from A Aston but as it looks to be that the siting of the SID will need to be opposite Weston Park it would be on Bradford Estate Land and he and Steve Farrar would meet on the 1st December and look at the best site, with the invite to SSDC as well.

3315 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning Application considered by Parish Council since the meeting held on 15th September 2025

Nil

Planning Applications to be Considered by the Parish Council

Nil

Planning Applications approved or refused by South Staffordshire District Council since the meeting held on 15th September 2025

Nil

SSDC Planning Approvals, Validation and Enforcement Emails sent to all Parish Councillors when received.

Severn Trent Water one way System through Blymhill and Weston under Lizard to be one day only in 2025 on the 3rd December 2025

Tree Planning

Nil

Licence Planning

Sent 30.10.2025 with all documents

Application for the grant of a NEW premises licence for Weston Park for the Hide and Seek Festival (the application, site plan and supporting documents are attached)

Applicant: Hide & Seek Festival Ltd

The Application is applied for as follows:-

Provision Of Plays Friday to Saturday 12 noon to 11pm Sunday 12 noon to 10pm (in/outdoors)

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Provision Of Films; Provision Of Live Music, Provision Of Performances Of Dance, Provision Of Anything Of A Similar Description To Live Music, Recorded Music Or Performances Of Dance
 Friday 12 noon to Midnight Saturday Midnight to 4am & 12 noon to Midnight; Sunday Midnight to 4am & 12 noon to 10pm (in/outdoors)
 Provision Of Recorded Music Friday 12 noon to Midnight Saturday Midnight to 4am & 12 noon to Midnight; Sunday Midnight to 4am & 12 noon to Midnight; Monday Midnight to 2am (in/outdoors)
 Late Night Refreshment Friday 11pm to Midnight Saturday Midnight to 5am & 11pm to Midnight; Sunday Midnight to 5am & 11pm to Midnight ; Monday Midnight to 5am (in/outdoors)
 Supply Of Alcohol Friday 10am to Midnight Saturday Midnight to 4am & 10am to Midnight; Sunday Midnight to 4am & 10am to Midnight ; Monday Midnight to 2am (in/outdoors)
 Hours Premises Are Open To The Public Friday 8am to Midnight, Saturday and Sunday 24 hours Monday Midnight to 2pm (in/outdoors)
 The application is for a maximum capacity of 29,999
 1st Event capacity will be set at 15,000, 2nd Event capacity will be set at 20,000 3rd Event onwards capacity will be set at 29999
 Ward: Wheaton Aston, Bishopswood & Lapley
 Comments no later than MONDAY 24th November 2025

SSDC Planning Approvals, Validation and Enforcement Emails sent when received.

3316 FINANCIAL MATTERS

FINANCIAL MATTERS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Balance as at 15th September 2025	£8,341.96
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Payments since meeting held on 15th September 2025 to be confirmed

Payment Made as Approved since 15th September 2025

Clerks fee 3rd Quarter	£500.00
Bank Charges July and August (1@£5.75 and 1@£6.75)	£12.50
Bradford Estates Play area rent September 2025 to March 2026	£15.00
Blymhill Graveyard Fund for St Marys	£350.00
South Staffs Grounds Maintenance 1 st Quarter 2025/2026	£333.32
South Staffs Grounds Maintenance 2nd Quarter 2025/2026	£353.69

Payment to be Approved

Nil

Subtotal	£1,564.51
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Income received since Meeting held on 15th September 2025

Precept	£3,412.50
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Subtotal**£3,412.50****Balance as at 26th November 2025****£10,189.95**

N.B Still £1,000 of the amount is Grant from Bradford Estates for when the Speed Indicator Device is installed

Parish Council's Blymhill and Weston Community Shop account has now been closed.

Blymhill and Weston Under Lizard Parish Council Accounts
1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS AT 31st MARCH 2025**Funds at 1st April 2025****£8,332.05****Income since 1 April 2025**

Parish Precept – 12 months

£6825.00**Subtotal****£6825.00****TOTAL****£15,157.05****Expenditure since 1st April 2025**Clerks fee 1st, 2nd & 3rd Quarter**£1,500.00**

Zurich Municipal Parish Council Insurances

£353.70

Bank Charges March to August (1@£5.75, 1@£6.75, 2 @£5.35 and 2@£4.25)

£31.70

Staffordshire Parish Council Association annual subscription

£255.04SSDC Grounds Maintenance 4th Quarter 24/25 1st & 2nd Quarter 2025/2026**£735.86**

St Andrews PCC Graveyard Fund Grant

£800.00

The Weston Club Grant

£150.00

Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine Grant

£250.00

Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme

£200.00

Blymhill Graveyard Fund for St Marys

£350.00

Town and Parish Council Websites Hosting and Maintenance

£302.00

Parish Council's Blymhill and Weston Community Shop account

£9.00**Sub total****£4937.30****Funds for 31st March 2026****£10,189.95**

N.B Still £1,000 of the amount is Grant from Bradford Estates for when the Speed Indicator Device is installed

BUDGET 2026 TO 2027

BLYMILL AND WESTON- UNDER- LIZARD PARISH COUNCIL
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FROM 1 APRIL 2026 TO 31 MARCH 2027

	£
Insurance (awaiting new quote)	400.00
Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	260.00

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Donations	
- Churchyards	1150.00
- Parish Magazine	250.00
- Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme	200.00
- Weston Club / Weston Institute Rooms	150.00
Rent for Playing Field	30.00
Clerk's Fee	2,000.00
Grounds Maintenance	500.00
Stationary	100.00
Parish Council Website hosting fees	350.00
Lloyds Bank £4.25 per month a/c charge	60.00

TOTAL **£5,450.00**

NB Loan to South Staffs now paid off.

ESTIMATED INCOME FROM 1 APRIL 2026 TO 31 MARCH 2027

Parish Precept **£6825.00**

ESTIMATED EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE **£1050.00**

ESTIMATED BALANCE AT BANK - 31 MARCH 2026 **£8,500.00**

DO WE WANT TO INCREASE THE PRECEPT?

- 1) **May need to change way handle emails and have to have separate Parish Clerk email for all "official" mail**
- 2) **Potential 2027 Election Costs**
 Blymhill Ward – 370 Electors - £900.00
 Weston under Lizard Ward – 222 Electors - £800
Total cost to the Parish Council = 1,700.00
- 3) **Possibly change Bank account to Nat West as heard they do not charge similar types of Bank Accounts**

RESOLVED: All Councilors agreed the Accounts

As 4 Councillors were not at the meeting to vote on an increase for the Precept an email was sent to all with a choice of an increase of either 10, 15 or 20 percent increase which vote had to be back to the Parish Clerk by 5th December 2025 - this was done and all voted for an increase of 10%.

3317 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- Cllr V Cook asked Steve Farrow of the Bradford Estate (BE) why a part of the walk had been closed. He responded by saying that the Walking routes have been popular but the Charles Walk that had been closed was because walkers had been going off the official route on to private land, parking in gateways and even removing a chain on a gate. But overall the walks were being used
- Steve Farrow also reported that following the previous request from the Village Hall committee regarding the reported issues with the Pass through with the 2 accesses to the Village Hall car park, he would need to look into it more re whose responsibility it was. It was suggested he talk with Bill Hill as he had been involved with it from the start.

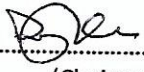
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- Cllr V Cook said that the temporary replacement light in Bridgeman Court was causing some issues as it was exceedingly bright. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact SSDC to find out when it was supposed to get its correct Light back.
- A new member had joined the Community Speed Watch group after receiving training, but more would be greatly welcomed and that anyone who wanted more information on this and the training involved should contact the Parish Clerk on phil.delaloye@googlemail.com

3318 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Monday 26th January 2026 at 7:30pm
Then Monday 30.03.2026, Thursday 21.05.2026, Monday 28.09.2026 and Monday 23.11.2026

Signed


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(Chairman)

Date:

..... 26th January 2026.....

Dsn
26-01-2026