

**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 12 NOVEMBER 2018**

PRESENT: Cllr D Maddocks (Chairman)  
Cllr A Lowe  
Cllr P Maddocks  
Cllr N Parton  
Cllr M Stokes

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Delaloye – Parish Clerk

Cllr B J W Cox – South Staffordshire District Council  
Cllr R A Wright – South Staffordshire District Council

APOLOGIES: Cllr B Cambridge  
Cllr D McGowan  
Cllr G Carter  
Cllr M Sutton – Staffordshire County Council

2002 **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**  
None

2003 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the Parish Assembly meeting held on Monday 17.09.18 be approved as a correct record.

2004 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

No matters Arising from the previous meeting were recorded

2005 **REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr M Sutton was absent so there was no County Council report

2006 **REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr R Wright Reported:

- The SSDC are still working on the budget for next year and have been investing in buildings to get long term returns
- The Waste Collection Contractor will have contract extended.
- Universal Credit for the area has had its implementation delayed for another 3 years in the area

Cllr B Cox Reported:

- The Planning Consultations should be reviewed by the councilors and commented on but to be looked on both Parochially as well as SSDC wide.

2007 **PLAY AREAS**

No issues were raised.

2008 **FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS**

- Cllr M Stokes said the Style at Gatherwynde and the Bridle Path had been fixed.
- As per the Parish Assembly in May, the Parish Clerk and the Chairman wrote a letter to the Leader of the County Council with the concerns of the Parish Council on the System of dealing with Road Repairs and Pot holes in particular and the Quality Control from the Council and the accountability of the contractor. This was sent to the local MP and the Staffordshire County Council Chief Executive as well as appropriate Cabinet members. The Parish Clerk reported that he had now received a response October. This has been sent to all Councillors and will be attached to the Parish Council Minutes. The Parish Councillors were all of one accord being unhappy with the County Councils response.
- Cllr D Maddocks said he had received complaints that the grass verges had been cut in October and that a good job was done that there had not been a need for it and they had felt it was a waste of money. Cllr B Cox said that the grass cutting had been taken back in house and this will save the District Council £500,000 over 5 years.
- Cllr D Maddocks said that he had been in touch with the Sign maker from Wheaton Aston and Lapley, with the aim of going around and showing him what signs were needed and to get a quote. This was unanimously backed by all.

2009 **PLANNING MATTERS**

**Planning Application considered by Parish Council since the meeting held on 17th September 2018**

8/00900/TREE - 2 Rectory Cottages Blymhill Road Blymhill Shifnal TF11 8LN removal of a Cherry Tree

**Planning Applications to be Considered by the Parish Council**

Nil

**Planning Applications approved or refused by South Staffordshire Council since the meeting held on 17th September 2018**

SSDC Local Plan update sent to all Cllrs 14.09.18

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

2010 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Balance as at 14th May 2018

**£19,387.12**

**Payments since meeting held on 14th May 2018- to be confirmed**

Nil

**Payment Made as Approved since 14th May 2018**

SSDC Grounds Maintenance (4<sup>th</sup> Quarter)

£39.08

Zurich Insurance

£353.70

St Andrews Parish (Graveyard fund)	£800.00
Message Maker (Speed Sign) includes £2,000 grant from Cllr Sutton	£7,437.60
St Marys Parish Churchyard fund	£350.00
Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme	£200.00
Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine	£250.00
Parish Clerks Fees Quarters 1 & 2	£600.00

Payment to be Approved

Nil

Income received since Meeting held on 14th May 2018

Nil

Balance as at 14th May 2018 **£10,808.62**

**Blymhill and Weston Under Lizard Parish Council Accounts****1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 to 31st March 2019****STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS AT 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2018**

<b>Funds at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018</b>	<b>£19,267.40</b>
<b>Income since 1 April 2018</b>	
Parish Precept – 6 months	£2480.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£2480.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£21,747.00</b>
<b>Expenditure since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018</b>	
SSDC Interest free loan (Village Hall) (2018)	£450.00
Staffordshire Parish Council Association	£229.00
SSDC Grounds Maintenance (4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter)	£39.08
Zurich Insurance	£353.70
St Andrews Parish (Graveyard fund)	£800.00
	52/93
Message Maker (Speed Sign)	£7,437.60
St Marys Parish Churchyard fund	£350.00
Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme	£200.00
Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine	£250.00
Parish Clerks Fees Quarters 1 & 2	£600.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£10,938.00</b>
<b>Funds for 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019</b>	<b>£10,808.62</b>

**RESOLVED:** All Agreed the Accounts**BLYMHILL AND WESTON- UNDER- LIZARD PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2019 / 2020**

## **ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE FROM 1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020**

	£
Insurance (awaiting new quote)	370.00
Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	40.00
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	1,200.00
South Staffordshire District Council Loan	450.00
Grounds Maintenance	500.00
Stationary	50.00
Audit Fee	360.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,950.00</b>

## **ESTIMATED INCOME FROM 1 APRIL 2019 TO 31 MARCH 2020**

Parish Precept	4,960.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,960.00</b>

## **ESTIMATED EXCESS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE £10.00**

The Parish Clerk asked if any increase in the Precept was wanted?

The Parish Council unanimously agreed with the amount in the account just to review again next year and keep the precept the same for another year.

### **2011 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr D Maddocks reported that the Bradford Estate was asking for ideas of how the Garages in Blymhill could be used for the community. Ideas centred around a voluntary run shop. The Parish Clerk and Cllr D Maddocks are to compile a survey for ideas of what sort of shop and volunteers for it

### **2012 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Monday 7th January 2019 at 7.30 pm at the Blymhill and Weston under Lizard Village Hall.

The following dates were also agreed upon for the Parish Council meetings in 2019:- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2019, Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and Monday November 18<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Signed.....  
(Chairman)

Date: .....7th January 2019.....

Dear Mr Delaloye,

Thank you for your correspondence in regards road repairs undertaken within Blymhill and Weston under Lizard, I hope you can accept my apologies for the delay in responding to you.

Firstly I would say it is fully understandable to me why the Parish Council would have aspirations regarding the maintenance of the road network in Staffordshire.

Staffordshire has one of the largest county council road networks in England with a replacement value of around £8 billion and ideally requiring around £38m maintenance investment each year, in order to keep roads and bridges in a reasonable condition.

The capital maintenance funding available to the County Council has always fallen short of what is realistically needed, however, and this historic under-investment by central government over many years has now resulted in significant pressure on local revenue-funded 'reactive' maintenance operations provided by the County Council.

The County Council's Highways and Transport budget from Council Tax allocations for 2018/19 is approximately 6% and around half of this will be spent supporting concessionary travel and home-to-school transport.

Of the remaining funding, almost half is needed each year to finance a 25-year street lighting PFI contract (2004 – 2029): replacing age-expired and dangerous lighting columns; upgrading to energy efficient LED technology; and paying the annual electrical bill for more than 100,000 lighting columns, lit road signs, traffic signals and other roadside equipment.

Our revenue-funded maintenance operations are not limited to pothole repairs and involve the upkeep of over 6000km of roads, 4,500kms of footways and cycle ways, 200kms of retaining walls, 50kms of safety fencing, 1,200 bridges and culverts, 180,000+ highway gullies, an unquantified length of highway drainage systems, around 2.5 million sq. meters of grass verges, a winter maintenance operation (gritting routes and restocking over 4000 grit bins and salt piles) and a 24-hr emergency response service.

Staffordshire's public highway is crucial to our growing local economy and to our communities and we have already committed to invest a further £5m during 2018/19 to help tackle road defects. However; I am sure you will appreciate that the Local Authority has a wide range of responsibilities including safeguarding vulnerable children as well as looking after our increasing elderly population and, understandably; these essential services require major proportions of our budget.

Turning to the matter of the localised issues. New potholes and defects can appear each day and is an ongoing maintenance challenge. Often our repairs can involve temporary works intended to make the most dangerous defects safe, whilst permanent repairs are carried out at a later time where we will also tackle adjacent lower-risk defects. This might be because the location or scale of the permanent repair requires the planning of quite onerous temporary traffic management such as lane closures or signals or due to the sheer volumes of high category reports at that time.

Making durable lasting ad hoc repairs can be difficult to achieve in some locations such as sites without positive drainage systems. We have made improvements by repairing defects “right first time” by the use of formal patching teams, our Road Master resource and via routine repairs, however, the level of response is based on the current volume of emergencies, cat 1 & cat 2 defects, if the amount is more than we have the resources for then we have no option but to do temporary repairs.

All roads in Staffordshire receive routine highway safety inspections and roads are inspected monthly, quarterly or annually depending on their classification. Any unresolved defects or failing repairs are of course monitored during these inspections. In addition to our routine inspection regime, we have a small team of ‘Reactive’ highway inspectors that respond to publicly generated reports of highway defects.

In terms of quality control measures, the various teams have area based supervision, we also have a small team of compliance officers who take sample inspections against Amey’s agreed performance measures, the County Council also has its own internal audit program which samples across the whole of the delivery areas. ISO 9001 - Quality Management forms part of a suite of ISO standards together with PAS 99 Integrated Management Systems and a number of National Highway Sector Schemes for Quality Management in Highway Works. All of these are, of course, subject to certification by bodies accredited by UKAS, the council itself, like all others relies on the certification process, in Amey’s case BSI are the certifying body.

Finally should you have any specific site examples of poor workmanship then please make County Councillor Mark Sutton aware who will liaise with our local highway teams and provide a response.

I trust the above is of assistance.

Kind regards.

Helen Fisher  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport