

**BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2019.**

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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018 Parish Council meeting.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES –

None other than Highways that would be covered in the Visitors Section

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 –

The Parish Assembly had a good attendance of 15 residents.

It was raised that the Parish Assembly meeting had not been advertised in the Parish Magazine. – The Parish Clerk apologised for this, but did point out that there were notices put in the Notice Boards in Blymhill and Weston under Lizard, as well as in the Institute Rooms in Weston under Lizard and the Blymhill and Weston Village Hall as well as an email sent out via the Blymhill and Weston Village Hall to their mailing list. He would ensure that the Date of the Parish Assembly, as it is always held on the same day as the May Parish Council meeting, would be stated in the notes of the Parish Council Meetings that appear in the Parish Magazine.

**Issues raised by the Assembly**

- The A5 was a major topic for the evening focussing on safety:
  - The 40 mph speed limit being exceeded
  - Cars overtaking on the double white line section through the village
  - A large section of one of the Double white lines through the village had been worn away and could not be seen
  - Increased numbers of HGVs throughout the day and night
  - Noise from HGVs
  - Speed sensor sign not as effective as it could be
  - Average speed cameras as at Woodseaves
  - Lower speed limit to 30mph
  - The poor state of the A5 and the Pot holes on it
  - The wall of Weston Park falling on to the A5 and needing repair
  - A number of walls on the north and south sides of the A5 being in disrepair – one resident pointed out that the village was still a conservation area.
  - Wall from Granary Gate to Lichfield Gate next to Weston Park covered with weeds.
  - Weed growth on through the Village on the north side of the A5, where as on the south side the Weston Park Foundation pays for the clearance and maintenance of that side from the Granary Gate to the Institute Rooms.
  - Signage on the A5 being covered in dirt / algae, as well as other roads
- More technological method of communication of information to the residents
- School bus pick up / drop off point in Weston under Lizard issue was raised, where residents using the drive through, to safely drop off and pick up children had been told that it was not for public usage only shop access. This had been raised with Bradford estates but nothing had been done.
- The surface of Beighterton Lane to Rectory Drive being in a poor state of repair with no action from Staffordshire County Council
- In the play area in Weston under Lizard

- There was a need to replace a table and seating with potentially extra seating to attract more users
- The grass was in need of cutting
- The paths needed weeding

#### **Parish Council Responses**

- They agreed on the majority of points raised on the safety concerns raised for the A5 regarding speed and HGVs and road conditions and pointed out that the Parish Council raised the same points and offered similar solutions directly to Highways and the Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
- With regard the condition of Roads the Parish Clerk pointed out that residents can contact the Staffordshire Highways department to report pot holes and other issues via their website. A member of the public assembly said that you do not get a response from this. The Parish Clerk stated that he himself had reported the condition of Beighterton Lane on the website a week previously, received a notification of the report. 2 days later received a message to say that an inspector would look into the issue. 2 further days later an email stated that would be undertaken on that stretch of road within 60 days. So encouraged all attending to use the website (details in the Annual Report below).
- Cllr Brian Cox stated that the responsibility of the pavements along the A5 was actually the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council and does not come under the purview of the Parish Council or the Weston Park Foundation. Cllr D Maddocks did say that the Parish Council had already obtained a quote from South Staffordshire's Street Scene to clear it up, as it was thought to be unsafe to have any residents clear it themselves. It was then raised that the person contracted by the Weston Park Foundation to do their side of the A5, was present at the meeting and it was requested from him to also provide a quotation for the work.
- It was pointed out by Cllr D Maddocks, that there was a position available on the Parish Council as there were 8 seats and only 7 people had put themselves forward for them. A number of people said that they did not know how to have put in for the positions. It was pointed out that the information for the elections and how to become a Parish Councillor had appeared at least twice in the Parish Magazine, on the notice boards in Blymhill and Weston under Lizard, including the Village Hall and also sent out to the email list of the Blymhill and Weston Village Hall.
- The Parish Council said that they would look into replacing the bench and seating in the Weston under Lizard play area. It would also review the cutting of the grass and weeds, but it had to be pointed out that this time of year and with the weather experienced over the past couple of weeks, the grass was growing exceedingly quickly.
- Regarding the School drop off / pick up area issue the Parish Council were not happy with the response given regarding this and would approach the Bradford Estate as well, especially as the person contacted had now left them.
- At the same time the Parish Council would raise the issue of the state of the Walls along the A5 and what was being done on them.
- The Parish Council will get a quotation for the cleaning of signs in the Parish Council's area.
- The Parish Clerk was to contact Highways and Cllr M Sutton regarding the Double white lines and if there could be a count of Cars and HGVs as well as the speed measurement of vehicles that went through the village on the A5.
- The Parish Clerk agreed that to email all those who wanted to be part of the Weston under Lizard Action Group, who had supplied him with an email address, to email them asking their permission to send them information and to allow the other members of the Action Group visibility of their email address to stay within GDPR regulations. He also agreed to send them the emails received from the Highways at Staffordshire County Council in response to the Parish Council's requests for Average Speed Cameras including the offer to assist with the funding of them and the response from Helen Fisher, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport following a letter regarding the state of the roads in the Parish Council's area.
- The Parish Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Highways, Cllr M Sutton for the Parish Council and the Weston under Lizard Action Group, led by Mr Ian Davies.

- 5 REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:  
Cllr B Cox Reported:
- Following the elections on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May the SSDC was still in the process of getting organised and appointing Cabinet members due to changes following the retirement of Roy Wright and other situations, including the unexpected death of an elected Councillor for which a Bye Election will have to take place.
  - That on the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, a new Chair of the District Council would be elected.
  - There were also meetings going to be held with County Councillors.
  - That he would try to bring Cllr Venetia Jackson who won the seat that Roy Wright had held before retiring.
- 6 REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES  
None in attendance
- 7 VISITORS  
Nil
- 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
None

The Assembly finished at 21.00 and the Chairman, Councillor David Maddocks thanked Cllr Mark Sutton, the Staffordshire County Councillor and then the District Councillors, Cllr Brian Cox and Cllr Roy Wright, for all their support during the past year. He also thanked the members of the public for the input, ideas, concerns, views and passion shown during the evening. He was also pleased moving forward, that by their forming an action group for Weston under Lizard that they can work with the Parish Council on a variety of issues and help put pressure on the District and County Councils for the benefit of the community. **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.**

**Parish Councillors from 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019:**

Cllr B Cambridge  
Cllr A Lowe  
Cllr D McGowan  
Cllr D Maddocks  
Cllr P Maddocks  
Cllr N Parton  
Cllr M Stokes

[www.sstaffs.gov.uk/council-democracy/blymhill-weston-under-lizard-parish-council.cfm](http://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/council-democracy/blymhill-weston-under-lizard-parish-council.cfm)

**BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD**  
**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018-2019**

**BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL**

The Parish Council wishes the Village Hall Committee well and for it to have continued success with it being financially sound and with the completed 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 is also being pro-active in looking at the issues and although there has been considerable work done there are still areas

that need work and some areas that Cllr Mark Sutton is taking Highways officers back to after work has been completed.

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://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/roadworks/schemeinfo/Potholes.aspx> .  
If the pothole is on a motorway or an A road Contact Highways England.  
On [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk) or 0300 123 5000

A Solar Powered SAM Speed Warning Sign, for the A5 at the entrance to Weston under Lizard to help address road safety issues, has been installed following difficulty with suppliers and County Council process, paid for by the Parish Council and a grant of £2000 from Cllr M Sutton's fund.

## **PLANNING**

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 7 planning applications during the past twelve months, included extensions, changes of use and Tree conservation issues. All these applications, had no objections raised, have been approved by the District Council.

There has been some discussion about the Proposed Rail Interchange in 4 Ashes off the A449 and A5. These do not go directly to the District or County Council but to the Secretary of States Department and its Inspectorate.

## **FINANCE**

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and has kept the precept at £4,960 for the 5th year.

In addition the Council has continued to undertake the distribution of donations from the V-Festival organisers for local organisations including the Village Hall. A further £3,000 had been donated to a variety of good causes in the current year, that included Children's events - both in the summer and at Christmas, St Andrews Church, St Marys Church, and Christmas lunch for the Blymhill and Weston Old Friends Club.  
Since February 2007 the V Festival Account has paid out £137,918 of which £40,000 went direct to the Blymhill and Weston Village Hall, As well as for causes such as First Responders, a Defribulator, both Play areas, Children's events and many other grants and requests to volunteer groups.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2017 to 2018 have been 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 on the Tyre swing – which has been completed, as well as a table and bench set needing repair / replacement.

## **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 County Councillor Mark Sutton, District Councillors Brian Cox and Roy Wright. Our special thanks and thought go to Cllr R Wright who retired from his position after many decades of service and who has given the Blymhill and Weston under Lizard Parish Council much good advice and assistance over the decades of service he has given. Also thanks were given to Tony Townsend who acted again as Internal Auditor for the Parish Council Accounts.