

**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 6 MARCH 2017**

PRESENT: Cllr D L Maddocks (Chairman)  
Cllr B Cambridge  
Cllr G Carter  
Cllr A J T Lowe  
Cllr P D Maddocks  
Cllr D McCowan  
Cllr N Parton  
Cllr M Stokes (Deputy Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Delaloye – Parish Clerk  
Cllr M Sutton – Staffordshire County Council  
Cllr R A Wright – South Staffordshire District Council

APOLOGIES: Cllr B J W Cox – South Staffordshire District Council

1911 **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None

1912 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 09.01.17 be approved as a correct record.

1913 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Parish Clerk had received notification that the South Staffordshire District Council had passed on the objections to British Telecom that the Parish Council did not want the 3 pay phones in the area to be dismantled.

No other matters Arising from the previous meeting were recorded

1914 **REPORT OF The COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

Cllr M Sutton reported

- The Budget has been finalised with an increase in the County Council Tax of 1.95% plus 3% Social Care Precept, this is in line with Top Tier County Councils. The Government is allowing 6% over 2 years. So more to be spent on all areas of care of approx. £1 million per day which will be 2/3 of the budget excluding education. This is needed as the Living wage will increase the cost of carers. The present Gap between funding and budget there is pressure on the County Council to find savings or income of £2 million per month.
- Staffordshire is in the bottom 4 of County Councils for Council Tax and SSDC is in the bottom 3 for District Councils.
- Still looking for Foster Carer's over the next 12 months and 35 from care have gone to University.
- Cllr G Carter asked for more Top Line figures on Care – Cllr M Sutton said he would get them for the next meeting.

1915 **REPORT OF THE SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr R Wright reported

- That SSDC is in the middle of a restructure 2 Directors in place and looking for a Finance Director.
- A new Energy Storage System with solar panels for the Council Offices and will save money and then get money from putting energy into the National Grid

1916 **VISITOR**

No Visitors

1917 **PLAY AREAS**

Nothing to report but Cllr D Maddocks and Cllr G Carter are to meet at the Weston under Lizard play area.

1918 **FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS**

- Cllr M Stokes queried about the style at the Gatherwynd outside Gatherwynd Cottage needed replacing. Cllr M Sutton reported that the County Ranger had been informed and that he will check on what is happening.
- The Parish Clerk reported that the £2,000 grant from Cllr M Sutton's fund had been received and that and he would talk to him and Mark Keeling of Highways to move forward the new sign for Weson under Lizard on the A5.
- Cllr M Sutton said the A5 turn to Blymhill would stay as it is now until he had more funding available.
- Cllr D Maddocks had received a letter from Penny Wall regarding the state of the roads. He said that he had then driven round the roads mentioned and there were some very valid points made and had replied to the letter.
- The Councilors came up with a number of roads and area with issues. These were all noted by Cllr M Sutton to investigated.
- Cllr R Wright reported a joint meeting with Stafford Council with Highways and the same points were raised and that Amey's contract should be reviewed.

- Cllr P Maddocks asked how the Automatic Potholer filler was doing. Cllr M Sutton responded that it was not able to be used as well in the wet and cold weather. Also the staff used for it, were also on the Gritting rotas and they are also do the Pot hole filling.
- Cllr M Sutton said that more had been done with Highways in his area than any other in Stafford. The Carriageways were Priority over verges. Highways are regularly inspected and assessed but there are 12 thousand of Pot holes of category 3.
- Cllr D Maddocks asked if the Parish Council could get funding and arrange to fill the Pothole itself – Cllr M Sutton said he would ask the question.
- Cllr M Sutton said he would try to get Mark Keeling and / or a Cabinet Member for Highways to attend the next meeting.
- Cllr G Carter said that the Parish Council was in the middle as have no authority to do or control the work when people think they do. Cllr R Wright concurred and added it was the same with the District Council.
- Cllr P Maddocks said the roads not designed the vehicles used by them now.
- Cllr D Maddocks said that some areas of the Roads were muddy and farming community need to look at what they could do.
- Cllr P Maddocks said if farmers had a responsibility then should deal with it but they would need to know the legal standing of it.
- Cllr M Sutton said he would find out and let Cllr D Maddocks know.
- It was then suggested a letter be sent out with that information and copied in the Magazine.as it may help to keep the roads manageable.

## 1919 **PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Planning Application considered by Parish Council since the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Application No: 17/00104/FUL Proposal: Erection of timber garage Location: Pool Cottage Brockhurst Road Blymhill Lawn Shifnal South Staffordshire TF11 8ND Observations by 15 March 2017

Application Number: 17/00133/COU Proposed: Retrospective application for part change of use of the site for a recreational caravan facility comprising 11 pitches and winter storage facilities. The current situation prevailing since 2015. At: Wyndford Mill Farm Great Chatwell Newport South Staffordshire TF10 9BJ observations by 9 March 2017

Application No: 17/00133/COU Proposal: Touring caravan park and winter storage facility. The site has been operational since 2005 under the umbrella of The Camping and Caravaning Club certified site No 127/131C Wyndford Mill Farm Location: Wyndford Mill Farm Great Chatwell Newport South Staffordshire TF10 9BJ observations by 9 March 2017

Application No: 17/00121/FUL Proposal: Proposed detached car garage. Location: Manor Cottage Orslow Newport South Staffordshire TF10 9BL observations by 2 March 2017

Application No: 17/00053/FUL Proposal: 4 no. Solarcentury Sunstation Photovoltaic panels to south facing roof. Location: The Hayloft Gatherwynd Lane Blymhill Common Shifnal South Staffordshire TF11 8GP observations by 23 February 2017

Application No: 17/00054/LBC Proposal: 4 no. Solarcentury Sunstation Photovoltaic panels to south facing roof. Location: The Hayloft Gatherwynd Lane Blymhill Common Shifnal South Staffordshire TF11 8GP observations by 23 February 2017

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

Nil

**Planning Applications approved or refused by South Staffordshire Council since the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

BT notification of the removal of 39 payphone kiosks within South Staffordshire by South Staffordshire Council – Final Notification – Objections held for all 3 Kiosks in the Parish environs.

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

**1920 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Balance as at 09.01.2017	£22,583.50
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**Payments since meeting held on 9th January 2017 - to be confirmed****Payment Made as Approved since 9th January 2017**

SSDC Ground Maintenance Quarter 3	£37.79
Parish Clerks Quarterly Fee	£300.00

**Payment to be Approved**

Nil

**Income received since Meeting held on 9th January 2017**

Dividends	£0.00
Precept	£0.00
Blymhill & Weston Village Hall	£1,600.00
Grant towards Speed limit sign from Stafford County Councillors fund	£2,000.00

Balance as at 06.03.2017	£25,845.71
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**Blymhill and Weston Under Lizard Parish Council Accounts****1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31st March 2017****STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS AT 9th MAY 2016**

<b>Balance in Account as at 1 April 2014</b>	<b>£20,821.16</b>
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**Income since 1 April 2016**

Consolidated 2.5% Dividend	£0.00
Parish Precept – 12 months	£4,960.00
Solar Panel Repayment	£3,200.00

<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>£8,160.00</b>
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<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£28,981.16</b>
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**Expenditure since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014**

SSDC Interest free loan (Village Hall) (2016)	£450.00
Zurich Parish Insurance	£345.83
Tower Mint Ltd (Queen Elizabeth memorial medals)	£247.80
Bradford Estates Blymhill Play area rent	£30.00
Parish Clerk Quarterly Fees	£1200.00
Petty Cash expenses	£52.33
Staffordshire Parish Council Association	£227.00
St Andrews Graveyard Committee	£800.00
SSDC Ground Maintenance Quarters 4 (2016) and 1, 2 & 3	£593.09
Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme	£200.00
Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine	£250.00
Weston under Lizard Institute Rooms via The Weston Club	£150.00
The Blymhill Churchyard Fund (St Mary's Churchyard)	£350.00
ROSPA Annual Playground Inspections	£239.40

**Total** **£5,135.45**

**Funds as at 9th January 2017** **£23,845.71**

Certified Annual Return, dated 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016 from Grant Thornton the Auditors was received for April 2015 to March 2016 and as Income and expenditure was below £10,000 there is no fee incurred.

#### 1921 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr G Carter is meeting Ros Burton of the South Staffordshire Community & Voluntary Action Group regarding the Goodlife Directory Champions initiative.

Following the request for a grant for Link for Life South Africa, by Wolgarston High School the Parish Clerk asked for more information and no one from the Parish environs was involved so it was decided that there would not be a grant.

Cllr G Carter reported the Blymhill and Weston Social Club the proposed extension for the Village Hall was still obtaining quotes and trying for grants. Cllr D Maddocks said that he knew that the Village Hall was trying to get quotes from local people as well.

**RESOLVED** To discuss any aid from the Parish Council at the next meeting.

#### 1922 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7.30 pm at the Blymhill and Weston under Lizard Village Hall.

Dates for 2017

Monday September 11th 2017 and Monday November 13<sup>th</sup> 2017

Signed.....  
(Chairman)

Date: .....6th March 2017.....

Copy of Letter to The Farmers in the Parish

Dear

**At the Parish Council on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March after a very heated debate on the state of the roads in the Parish Council boundaries, it was suggested that a letter be sent to all farmers in the parish asking for their assistance in keeping the roads in as good a state as possible. By ensuring that as much soil, mud or anything deposited on roads by farm vehicles and livestock be brushed away or removed and that drains or ditches, in close proximity to the road should be maintained to try alleviate water staying on the road surface, as this does have a detrimental effect on the road surfaces and can accelerate the degradation of the road surfaces.**

**Since our Parish Council meeting, we now have had confirmation that it is the responsibility of the farmer (often called Riparian Owner) to maintain and clear ditches and water courses. It seems that under Common Law, Ditches or watercourses are the responsibility of landowners, often called riparian owners. There will also be 'riparian owner' responsibilities if your land boundary is next to a watercourse.**

**Below are a number of links that explain the situation and if you do a search on 'Riparian Owner' you will find lots of advice and information from different bodies and local authorities but all say much the same.**

**Please find the links for you all to see the legal position:**

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/flooding/Types/Ditches-and-atercourses.aspx](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/flooding/Types/Ditches-and-atercourses.aspx)

[www.gov.uk/guidance/river-maintenance-and-drainage-charges-farmers-and-landowners](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/river-maintenance-and-drainage-charges-farmers-and-landowners)

[www.walkermorris.co.uk/publications/in-brief-march-2015/and-on-the-river-flows-riparian-rights-and-responsibilities/](http://www.walkermorris.co.uk/publications/in-brief-march-2015/and-on-the-river-flows-riparian-rights-and-responsibilities/)

[www.info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=28251&p=0](http://www.info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=28251&p=0)

**We know that the main reason for the state that the roads are in at the moment, is a lack of repair and proper maintenance of potholes and subsidence and inadequate temporary repairs that are made that should be remedied by the Highways Department of the County Council, to which we have made very strong representation on this subject, most of it to little effect, but we do have a representative from them attending the next Parish Council meeting in May. So anything that the farming community can do to help mitigate the erosion of road surfaces is going to help.**

Yours Sincerely

Philip Delaloye  
Parish Clerk