

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON
MONDAY 14 MAY 2012.

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

AGENDA

- 1 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING –
Were read and approved at the September 2011 Paris 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 passed around – attached to this document.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT
None

MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PRESENT AT THE MEETING –
None

- 3 VISITORS
The Local Community Police Officer, Constable Andy Smith and his colleague from Great Wyrley attended.
They Answered questions on :-
Fly tipping – the police work together with the Environmental Agency to obtain evidence and prosecutions.
Theft in Rural areas – if they know about an increase in thefts extra police patrols would be put in place.
Policy on Hare Coursing – If caught they would be prosecuted
Horse and cart racing on the A5 & A41 – The Police have taken action previously including confiscation of vehicles involved due to lack of tax or insurance. Due to the timings of the racing PC Smith requested that if seen to call the police immediately.
To Contact PC Smith – 101 or he was happy to have his mobile published 07854 774715

- 4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR- nil due to absence from the meeting.

- 5 REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:
Councillor Roy Wright said

- a. Collection of Council tax was down .02%
- b. The fraud team had had 82 successful prosecutions
- c. The Council's business units that they rent out had higher occupation rates than expected.
- d. Due to a change in method of application for the councils own housing applications therefore administration costs were down.
- e. Higher attendance and membership of Leisure centres has increased revenue than before

Councillor Brian Cox said

- a. There was to be a new bus service for the Parishes
 1. Would involve the residents booking their place on it.
 2. Residents need to register prior to initial booking.
 3. This uses 10 seat buses equipped to take wheelchairs.
 4. Like Ring and Ride.
 5. Times were 8-6 Monday to Friday and 10 til 4 on Saturday.
 6. He was not sure that it went to Newport but certainly to Cannock.
 7. Cost as bus fares with concessions
 8. Medical appointments were guaranteed to be on time (but does not include hospital appointments).
 9. Fully funded by the County Council
- b. When asked when the Planning Committee would deal with the White Sytch planning application Cllr Cox said a date had not been arranged.
- c. The Wind Turbine Decision by the Inspector had been delayed to 20th June 2012 due to the new planning regulations that had come into effect and she had to see if anything was affected by the new legislation.

5 REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES

The Trustees had nothing to present at the meeting.

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. None

The Assembly finished at 20.20 and the Chairman, Councillor David Maddocks thanked all those attending and said if any body wanted to stay for the Parish Council meeting to observe what went on they would be welcome to do so.

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011- 2012**

V FESTIVAL - 2011

The following matters were raised

- Noise levels seemed to be acceptable as no objections had been raised to the Parish Council.
- Possible issue of free tickets to these residences because of the inconvenience caused to the residents

- Traffic Management still an issue for the Friday and Monday

V FESTIVAL – 2012

There is a meeting with South Staffordshire Council in May

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

The New Village Hall has been completed and opened in August 2011. The Parish Council congratulates the Village Hall Committee and all who have worked to get it completed and wish them well and to success now it has opened.

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. Further letters and photographs had been sent to Cllr Maryon of Staffordshire County Council the County Council and a letter received saying that they are investigating and temporary measures had taken place with other works being planned and prioritised.

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 – CLARENCE.

PLANNING

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 16 planning applications during the past twelve months. A large majority of all these applications, to which no objections were raised, have been approved by the District Council but the proposed Wind Farm and White Sytch applications had been objected to by the Parish Council.

FINANCE

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and has increased the precept from £4,000 to £4,600. The increase had been approved to cover the current rate of inflation, increase in Insurance costs and works (including lawn mowing of recreation areas etc) currently under taken by South Staffordshire Council at no cost that could be charged for in the near future and also an extra cost from the Elections held in May 2011 from the South Staffordshire Council.

In addition the Council has continued to undertake the distribution of the donation from the V-Festival organisers for local organisations. A further £11,300 had been donated to a variety of good causes in the current year.

£13,000 (approximately £2,000 is being claimed back from the HMRC) had been used to refurbish the Weston under Lizard.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2011 to 2012 have been Audited by the Audit Commission.

Wind Turbine Farm at Marston

Planning Applications had been put in for a 70 metre Wind Monitoring mast for 2 years and for six 126-metre high Wind Turbines, an 80 metre Anemometry mast and associated infrastructure at New House Farm Brineton. Both applications had been robustly objected to by the Parish Council. The refusal for the Monitoring Mast has been appealed against and went to a public hearing but was approved. The application for the Wind Farm itself went to a full appeal hearing held at the Blymhill and Weston Village Hall in February and lasted 2 weeks. The final decision is still being awaited.

Holiday Cottage Development at White Sytch

A Planning Application had been put in for up to 100 Holiday cottages and the associated infrastructure. This has been objected to by the Parish Council after an extra ordinary meeting of the Parish Council, a petition of over 100 had against the development had also been made.

Blymhill Old School

Planning Applications had been put in for a Change of Use for the Old School to enable planning approval for a 4 bedroom dwelling with landscaping to the playground for a garden.

PLAY AREAS

The Weston under Lizard Play Area has now been completed been inspected by ROSPA. The Blymhill Play area will next to be looked at for refurbishment. This was completed using V Festival funds as well as an extra donation from Roseclaim and the V Festival of £2,500.

THANK YOU'S

Thank you to all the members of the Parish Council for their support and commitment during the year. Thanks also for the regular reports and support received from our District Councillors, Brian Cox and Roy Wright and our County Councillor Rex Roberts.