BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2013.

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 2012 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 read out by the Chairman of the Parish Council – attached to this document.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE REPORT
None

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

3 VISITORS
None

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

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

a. Cllr B Cox was to be Head of Planning and that was to be in the Council Cabinet

Councillor Brian Cox said

a. There was a new Bill going through Parliament that will mean that if a Parish Council wants to increase its Precept by more than 2% it will have to be approved only by a referendum of all Parish Residents, not just the Parish Councillors. The referendum itself would incur costs for the Parish Council.
b. The White Sytch planning appeal is to be held on 19.06.2013 and a Barrister has been taken on by the South Staffordshire District Council for it defence of its refusal of the original application.
c. The Secretary of State had published details of a Permitted Development Scheme for 3 years starting 30.05.2013. For People to develop homes as

long a neighbours do not object, the District Council will automatically grant permission as long as the building is to Building Regulations. If a neighbour objects, then the normal Planning Application process will then have to be used.

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 20.00 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 2012- 2013

V FESTIVAL - 2012

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

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

The New Village Hall has been in operation for almost 18 months and held some exceptional events. The Parish Council congratulates the Village Hall Committee and all who have worked for the success it is getting and wish them well for the coming year.

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.

Mr Mark Keeling the Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager from Staffordshire County Councils Highways Department attended the March meeting.
He reported that in Staffordshire there were: - 2,500 potholes outstanding - 700 were repaired each month - There were 2000 defects in Pavements - 1000 Drainage Defects. The Parish Councillor's raised the subject of the system used as temporary repairs of a poor standard were made rather than permanent repairs and that they found that the sub-contractors used did their own quality control rather than the County Council.

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 8 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's appeal was refused and White Sytch applications had been objected to by the Parish Council, the first application being refused but is now at the appeal stage.

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 and the Wind Farm appeal has been refused.

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. The initial application had been refused by South Staffordshire District Council but an appeal has been submitted and the appeal is waiting to be held.

FINANCE

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and has increased the precept from £4,600 to £5,000. 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 a low cost that was increasing year on year and also an extra cost from Elections the to be held in May 2013 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 £921.00 had been donated to a variety of good causes in the current year.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2012 to 2013 have been Audited by the Audit Commission and Mr Tony Townsend acted as the Internal Auditor.

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 and was granted. The property put up for sale and an offer made.

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. Planning for the new play area at Blymhill is continuing with work being started in 2013.

THE PARISH COUNCIL CODE OF CONDUCT

This Code of Conduct was adopted by Blymhill and Weston under Lizard Parish Council as required by Section 27 of the Localism Act, 2011at a meeting of the Council held on 10th September 2012

The Council has a statutory duty under the Act to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the Council. This means that the Council expects Members to follow this Code when they are conducting the work of the Council, representing the Council on any external organisation, and otherwise acting in their official capacity. The Code of Conduct does not apply to what Members do in their private and personal lives.

THANK YOU'S

Thanks 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.