

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 12 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 2013 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
- 3 MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE PARISH PRESENT AT THE MEETING –
Mr M Tebbett said that the path by the old car Park by the Old School in Weston under Lizard was more mud than path. It was arranged for Cllr D Maddocks with another councillor would meet Mr Tebbett and look at the area and then decide what was to be done.
- 4 VISITORS
Carla Whelton of the Bradford Estate was welcomed by Cllr D Maddocks. She said that she was there as a contact for now and in the future to enable the Estate to help and assist with the Community.
The Clerk asked if the Estate would look at re-dressing the path in the Weston under Lizard play area as it had been taken over by mud. She said that she would look into that.
Cllr D Maddocks told that the Parish Council was planning to put in a new Play area in Blymhill and that they were going to be informing the Bradford Estate of that in the near future as it was their land. Carl Whelton said that the Estate would also be happy to quote for the work as it did contract work as well. It was agreed that Cllr R Osborne would contact Mr N Stokes of the Estate with the Specifications to enable the quote to be raised.
- 5 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR- Although Absent attached is the report sent in by Cllr Mark Sutton.
- 6 REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:
None As both Cllr B Cox and Cllr R Wright were unable to attend.
- 7 REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES
The Trustee Cllr R Osborne said that Adams Norris Charity £668.00 in it – this was originally to help with Children’s Clothing needs. He also said that the School Managers Fund – the Mannings Charity had £50.00 in it.
- 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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 2013- 2014

V FESTIVAL - 2013

The following matters were raised

- Noise levels seemed to be acceptable as no objections had been raised to the Parish Council.
- Traffic Management still an issue for the Friday and Monday

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council has paid off £23,000 of Debt for the Village Hall and the V Festival Fund has written off the loan to the Village Hall. It wishes the Village Hall Committee well and for it to have continued Success with it being financially sound.

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 Staffordshire County Council. County Councillor Mark Sutton is also being pro-active in looking at the issues.

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 10 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 White Sytch applications had been objected to by the Parish Council and has been turned down..

FINANCE

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and has increased the precept from £4,600 to £4,960. The increase had been approved to cover the current rate of inflation, increase in Insurance costs.

In addition the Council has continued to undertake the distribution of the donation from the V-Festival organisers for local organisations. A further £6,144 had been donated to a variety of good causes in the current year.

Including a new printer for the Parish Magazine grant towards a new Lawn mower for the St. Marys Graveyard Committee, a grant towards the Defibrillator at the Village Hall.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2012 to 2013 have been Audited by the Audit Commission.

Holiday Cottage Development at White Sytch

A Planning Application had been put in for up to 100 Holiday cottages and the associated infrastructure at Appeal for it was refused. 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

The Old School was sold and the revenue from this has helped to pay off debts for the Village Hall.

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..

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 new County Councillor Mark Sutton.

Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Sutton's Report

92 per cent of Parents Get First Choice Primary Schools in Staffordshire

Nine out of 10 parents or carers in Staffordshire have been offered their first choice primary school for their children in 2014, despite rises in pupil numbers putting pressure on school places.

Figures show the overwhelming majority of parents have been allocated their first choice school, with 97 per cent in total allocated one of their top three preferred schools. A total of 8,867 places have been allocated, with 8,167 of those receiving their first choice primary school and 8,674 getting one of their top three.

This is despite a rise in birth rate of up to 11 per cent in Staffordshire over the past decade putting more pressure on school places.

The county council has received £81 million from the government's 'basic need' allocation up to 2017 to increase capacity across Staffordshire. Already, council officers have managed to provide an extra 2,000 primary school places across the county through expanding existing schools and building two new ones. With birth rates set to rise again and a planned increase in local housing, the county council is now looking to build more primary and secondary schools in the areas where they are most needed. The total forecasted spend on this will be in the region of £120 million, funded by government and developer contributions.

Ofsted Rates Staffordshire Child Protection Services at "Good"

Staffordshire County Council has received a "Good" rating from Ofsted following the inspection of the Council's services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after, and care leavers, which took place in early 2014. The Staffordshire Safeguarding Children Board (SCB) was also rated 'Good' by Ofsted – the first time under Ofsted's tougher inspection regime that both children's services and an SCB were both rated 'Good' simultaneously.

Staffordshire Has the Third Safest Roads in the Country

The latest road casualty figures for Staffordshire are the lowest ever recorded and put Staffordshire's roads amongst the top three safest in the country. The number of people killed or seriously injured on Staffordshire's roads continues to fall, latest statistics have revealed.

Figures for the county for 2013 have reported a reduction of 25.3 per cent in the number of people killed or seriously injured on the county's roads between January and December 2013 when compared with the same period for 2012.

In 2013, 165 people were either killed or seriously injured compared to 221 in the previous year, a reduction of 56. In addition the number of people slightly injured has also reduced by 6.3 per cent to 2,697 a drop of 180.

Unemployment Falls in Staffordshire as the Economy Grows

The unemployed claimant count that measures the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) stood at just over 960,000 people (2.8%) in England in March 2014. The following data highlights the level of JSA claimants in Staffordshire:

• **Number of Claimants:** In Staffordshire there were 9,528 working age people claiming JSA in March 2014; this was a decrease of 817 since February 2014. In Stoke-on-Trent there were 6,401 JSA claimants in March 2014, a decrease of 295 on the previous month. Newcastle-under-Lyme has the largest caseload of claimants with 1,830. All Staffordshire Districts have seen a decrease over the past month with East Staffordshire seeing the biggest decrease with 169 fewer claimants.

- **Claimant Proportion:** The proportion of Staffordshire's working age population claiming JSA decreased from 1.9% in February 2014 to 1.8% in March 2014. This is a similar decline to both regionally and nationally. The claimant rate in Staffordshire still remains lower than both the regional (3.6%) and national (2.8%) averages.

Funding boost for Count's arts community

Staffordshire's arts organisations and community groups are being invited to apply for funding to host arts events in their local area.

The County Council has announced its latest round of the Community Arts Fund and is making £52,000 available to support local arts groups.

The funding is available to any arts organisation or community group planning an arts project or event in Staffordshire which benefits the community. This year, organisations can apply for up to £800 towards the cost of their activity or event.

Last year over 50 organisations were funded, with projects including, drama workshops for those with learning difficulties, intergenerational arts classes, singing sessions to improve health and wellbeing, festivals, poetry, crafts, dance and music workshops.

To find out more about the Community Arts Fund or to make an application visit

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/communityartsfund or contact Tracie Meredith, Community Arts Officer on 01785 278571.

Groups and organisations must be based in Staffordshire to be eligible for the funding, unfortunately groups from Stoke on Trent are not eligible.