

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 9 MAY 2016.

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 7th September 2015 Parish 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 –

None

4 VISITORS

Ben Tomkinson from the Blymhill and Weston Sports and Social who sent a letter to the Parish Council thanking it for its assistance with a grant for Queen Elizabeth's 90th Birthday Celebrations and again wanted to thank the Parish Council.

5 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mark Sutton was absent from the Assembly due to Holiday commitments but had sent a report that was read out:

a. Proposed rail/road freight terminal at Gailey, the exact details are not available, the proposed location is the land between the A449, A5, M6 and Vicarage Rd. Permission for this will be a national decision but both District and County will be required to complete an impact statement and I would hope that Parish Councils will be involved in ensuring this is done to reflect local views. <http://www.westmidlandsinterchange.co.uk/>

b. My Local members Fund is now open for applications, community groups and individuals who would like to make an application for funds should contact me. For information on this please email Cllr Mark Sutton on mark.sutton@staffordshire.gov.uk

c. In relation to the A5 I have agreed with Highways to use part of my Highways Budget to improve the markings around the junction with Blymhill Road to make it more visible at night, they have looked at increasing the number of solid white lines along this section but at no point is the view sufficiently restricted to justify them under the nationally regulations.

I have also investigated the possibility of a Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) on the approach to Weston from Telford (similar to the one in the other direction), to make this financially possible would the Parish Council consider part funding it by 50% and I would allocate the rest from my Highways budget. (Another Parish in South Staffs are in the process of doing something similar).

Highways are looking at getting some figures for us to consider but the total cost is properly about £4000 to £5000

RESOLVED

In Principle the Parish Council would fund signage up to £5,000 dependent on what signage was involved.

6 REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

Cllr R Wright reported

- 1) Also on the Rail Terminal but said that this would be a Government decision that potentially could increase employment. The SSDC would try to alleviate any problems arising, but this could also be an opportunity to make improvements in the surrounding road infrastructure.
- 2) Cllr Brian Cox had been made Chair of the Planning Committee.
- 3) That he Cllr R Wright had been promoted to be a member of the SSDC Cabinet.
- 4) That to raise more money for the SSDC to offset cuts in grants from the Government it has rented out more of its office space and buildings.

7 REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES

None in attendance

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr P Maddocks asked if it was possible for the Sports and Social Club to install a wall between the Kitchen area of the meeting room and the Entry and Toilet in the meeting room for Hygiene and noise insulation purposes.
Ben Tomkinson said he would look into the matter

The Assembly finished at 20.00 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.

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015-2016

V FESTIVAL - 2015

The following matters were raised

- Noise levels seemed to be acceptable for the main part but some objections were raised regarding the Bass levels.
- Traffic Management still an issue for the Friday and Monday but improving.

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

Has had an installation of Solar panels to assist with covering electricity costs and also to generate future funding. 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. 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 – CLARENCE.

There was an extra Parish Council Meeting in December to discuss the issues of road safety on the A5, both in Weston under Lizard village by the old Village shop which is being reviewed regarding speed and safety. As well as the stretch from the end of Weston Park up to the Bradford Arms following a number of accidents and fatalities there during the summer period. These are ongoing issues that Cllr M Sutton is talking with Highways at Staffordshire County Council.

The Parish has 3 new Grit Bins as part of the County Councils "Ice Busters" strategy, with a request to Cllr M Sutton for 2 more.

PLANNING

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 15 planning applications during the past twelve months, included extensions, changes of use, ground mounted solar panels erection of a grain storage facility. A large majority of all these applications, to which no objections were raised except for the 1, have been approved by the District Council.

FINANCE

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

In addition the Council has continued to undertake the distribution of the donation from the V-Festival organisers for local organisations. A further £6,191 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, Wheaton Aston's First Responders car, St Andrews Church, A Christmas lunch for the Blymhill and Weston Old Friends Club.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2014 to 2015 have been audited by the Grant Thornton Accountants for the Audit Commission.

PLAY AREAS

The Blymhill Play area has now been completed and been inspected by ROSPA, as has the Weston under Lizard Play area.

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 District Councillors, Brian Cox and Roy

Wright and our County Councillor Mark Sutton. Special thanks go to Michael Tebbett, who has stood down from the Parish Council to look after his wife Hazel, his work and commitment will be missed.

Thanks also go to the Nigel Parten and Cllr D McCowan for volunteering as Co-Opted councillors during the year until the next Parish Council Elections. Thanks also go to Tony Townsend who acted as Internal Auditor on the Parish's Accounts prior to them going to the External Auditor.