

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON MONDAY 8 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 9th 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 Parish Clerk 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 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr Mark Sutton had nothing to report having been re-elected to the County Council the previous week.

5 REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:

No Report was given as both South Staffordshire District Councillors had sent apologies.

6 REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES

None in attendance

7 VISITORS

Mark Keeling – Community Liaison Officer from Staffordshire County Council Highways Department dealing with Potholes, Lighting, Parking and Surfaces.

Members of the Public and the Parish Councillors discussed a variety of topics with Mark Keeling and Cllr M Sutton over an hour and 10 minutes regarding the Highways especially Potholes, Gully's and Culverts.

It was noted and commented on that water was the biggest cause of damage to the Roads and creates the Potholes and that all 3 must be dealt with to help the other areas.

Amongst some of the questions asked:

1) Potholes

– Why the present contractor for the Council does not have its work inspected by the County Council

- Why some Pot holes are repaired and not others a few yards up the same road
- Why poor temporary fixings used that come out with the first drop of rain
- Why marked and not dealt with for long periods of time so that they had to be marked out again.

2) Gulleys and Culverts

- Why some Gulleys that did not need clearing were cleared and those that did not were.
- Why large numbers of Culverts and Gulleys not been touched for 30 years

The responses from the County Council were:

- That of cost as they have reduced funding both in budget and grants from the Government.
- Cost is an issue for them and also the scale of the problem.
- the Council have 130,000 gulley's and still have 30,000 to map.
- During the Winter the team that do the road repairs also do the gritting.
- Whilst weather is poor rain snow etc. the roads cannot be fixed anyway.
- The machines introduced in the past couple of years have helped to fill more Potholes than before.
- There is a meeting soon to discuss a structured plan for Highways

Photo's taken by the Public / Richard Cutts were handed over of some of the areas and roads where poor work had been carried for Mark Keeling to investigate.

3) Road Safety

The fatalities on the A5 were raised as an issue to which Mark Keeling explained that they Monitored all accidents and tried to see if they could be resolved in the future. This was done by Engineering, Enforcement and Education. Engineering where they could use some traffic measures – Signs, speed humps etc, enforcement such as speed cameras and Education. What they could not do was stop bad, dangerous or reckless driving which was the cause of most fatalities.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Penny Hall suggested, following the discussions on Culverts and Gulley's, to Cllr Mark Sutton the County Councillor and Mark Keeling that the Council/Highways Department commission a study by an educational establishment, such as Harper Adams or the Wolverhampton University, on the Gulley's and Culverts in Staffordshire – This they said they would look into.

The Assembly finished at 20.40 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. He also thanked Mark Keeling for attending the meeting and the members of the public for the input and views which have mirrored the views and thoughts of the Parish Council and its work trying to get better quality of work and processes used in dealing with Potholes.

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD **ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016-2017**

V FESTIVAL - 2016

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.

Overall most agreed that it gets better organized year on year.

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

Plans have been generated and Planning permission gained to extend the bar and Cellar areas due to the increased business. The Parish Council 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.

The Parish Council have received a grant from Cllr M Suttons funding to help pay for a new Speed waring sign for the A5 at the entrance to Weston under Lizard to help address road safety issue. Bollards have been put up by the turn to Blymhill but more measures are asked for and being looked at by Cllr M Sutton and the Highways department at Staffordshire County Council.

PLANNING

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 14 planning applications during the past twelve months, included extensions, changes of use, solar panels for 2 houses, 2 Garages, and 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 £2,921 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, St Andrews Church, St Marys Church, and Christmas lunch for the Blymhill and Weston Old Friends Club.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2015 to 2016 have been audited by the Grant Thornton Accountants for the Audit Commission.

PLAY AREAS

The Blymhill Play area has 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. Also thanks were given to Tony Townsend who acted as Internal Auditor for the Parish Council Accounts.