BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019-2020

BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL

The Parish Council wishes the Village Hall Committee well and for it to have continued success, following the Covid19 virus outbreak, and remain financially sound with the completed extension.

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 Parish Council also facilitated a meeting on Monday 20th January 2020 regarding the issues of speed control on the A5 and the way the footpaths and signs through the village are kept, with the Weston under Lizard Action Group and from Staffordshire County Council; Cllr Helen Fisher - Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, Cllr Mark Sutton and Mark Keeling the Strategic Community Infrastructure Manager. The Action Group gave a very well-prepared presentation regarding the safety issues surrounding the A5 that goes through Weston under Lizard. They are awaiting a response to this from Staffordshire County Council, but understand this may be delayed due to the Coronavirus situation.

The during the summer of 2019 the Parish Council arranged to have the road signs around the Parish area cleaned. It also engaged Optimus Groundcare to clear the weeds and debris on pavement on the north side of the A5 through Weston under Lizard.

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 – <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/roadworks/schemeinfo/Potholes.aspx> .

If the pothole is on a motorway or an A road Contact Highways England.

On info@highwaysengland.co.uk or 0300 123 5000

PLANNING

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 10 planning applications during the past twelve months, 3 changes of use and Tree conservation issues. This included extensions, a small hotel as part of the Granary in Weston Park and a residential dwelling to become a small care home. All these applications, had no objections raised, have been approved by the District Council. There was also a proposal for 8 dwellings to be built on the old poultry farm in Chatwell, which is still going through the planning process.

There has been some discussion about the Proposed Rail Interchange in 4 Ashes off the A449 and A5. These do not go directly to the District or County Council but to the Secretary of States Department and its Inspectorate and news on this is still awaited. The Bradford Estate has also put a proposal to Shropshire County Council to try to be included in the bid to provide a new residential and commercial area under the Lizard on the Shropshire side of the A41. They are still awaiting information from the Shropshire County Council on the outcome of this proposal.

FINANCE

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and after keeping the precept at £4,960 for 5 years it has raised it to £5,500.

Due to the South Staffordshire District Council stopping hosting Parish Council Websites, The Parish Council have had to get a new Website developed and setup that is now live on <https://blymhill-westonparishcouncil.org.uk>

In addition, the Parish Council has continued to undertake the distribution of donations from the V-Festival organisers for local organisations including the Village Hall. Almost £9,000 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 for the restoration of the Lady Chapel floor, St Marys Church, Blymhill Village Hall, and Christmas lunch for the Blymhill and Weston Old Friends Club. It also had a number of wooden signs and fingerposts built and erected.

This year it has Since February 2007 the V Festival Account has paid out £146,633 of which £40,000 went direct to the Blymhill and Weston Village Hall, As well as for causes such as First Responders, a Defribulator, both Play areas, Children’s events and many other grants and requests to volunteer groups including Blymhill here to help.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2018 to 2019 have been audited by the Mazars LLP Accountants for the Audit Commission.

PLAY AREAS

The Blymhill Play area has been inspected by ROSPA, as has the Weston under Lizard Play area. Since that inspection some remedial work has been reported as being needed to be carried out in the Weston under Lizard play area and all was made good. New tables and chairs were installed in the Weston under Lizard Play area. For the Blymhill Play Area it was decided that it needed more regular upkeep then it had been having on an ad hoc basis, so Optimus Groundcare has been contracted to do the appropriate work.

COMMUNITY SHOP

A Sub Committee has been set up into the potential of a Community Shop for the Residents of the Parishes for which a Public Meeting had been arranged but that had to cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This committee will carry on working on this project for the community.

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 County Councillor Mark Sutton, District Councillors Brian Cox and Ve Jackson. Also thanks were given to Tony Townsend who acted again as Internal Auditor for the Parish Council Accounts.