

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT THE BLYMHILL HILL AND WESTON UNDER LIZARD VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 19th AUGUST 2020

PRESENT: Cllr D Maddocks (Chairman)

Cllr B Camidge

Cllr V Cook

Cllr A Lowe

Cllr D McCowan

Cllr N Parton

Cllr P Maddocks

Cllr M Stokes

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P Delaloye – Parish Clerk

Cllr B J W Cox – South Staffordshire District Council

Cllr V Jackson – South Staffordshire District Council

APOLOGIES: Cllr M Sutton – Staffordshire County Council

2092 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

None

2093 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 02.03.2020 be approved as a correct Record.

The Parish Clerk read out the Blymhill And Weston-Under-Lizard Parish Council Annual Report for 2019-2020

2094 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None

2095 VISITORS

None

2096 REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr M Sutton had sent apologies

2097 REPORT OF THE DISTRICT COUNTY COUNCILLORS

B Cox reported

- The West Midlands Interchange at Gailey has been given the go ahead, by Transport Secretary Grant Shapps, the Department for Transport has confirmed.

Planning Applications approved or refused by South Staffordshire Council since the meeting held on 2nd March 2020

Planning Applications to be Considered by the Parish Council

3000

Planning Application considered by Parish Council since the meeting held on 2nd March 2020

2099

PLANNING MATTERS

- Cllr D Maddocks reported that the Finger post signs installed last year were being refurbished by the supplier as some of the lettering was coming away. This it seems was due to a reaction between the wood and the transfers but was being now rectified.
- Cllr D Maddocks also reported that following the meeting with the Weston under Lizard Action Group and the Parish and County Council earlier in the year, he had been informed that the County Council were assessing whether they could reduce the speed limit of the A5 going through Weston under Lizard.
- Cllr M Stokes raised the issue of the state of the Hedges on High Hall Bank the farmer who responsibility for cutting the hedges was happy to cut his area but the rest comes under the responsibility of the Bradford Estate. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact them.
- Cllr M Stokes also raised the issue of the Blocked Drain in Brineton and that a team of Council workers had been out to but had not completed the task siting that it was too close to an electricity pole and had left it. He is sure though that it is a telephone pole and happy to show people where it is what is required. The Parish Clerk was asked to pass this onto Cllr M Sutton and Mark Keeling of the Highways Department of Staffordshire County Council.

2098

FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS

Cllrs V Cook and A Lowe reported that the Weston under Lizard play area seemed to be being kept better than last year.

2097

PLAY AREAS

- It will see 700 acres of land close to the A5, A449 and M6 at Gailey, Four Ashes and Calf Heath, with the completed site set to feature rail links to the West Coast Main Line as well as dozens of warehouses.
- That the changes to the Codrall Offices of the District Council with upgrades and New rooms had been approved. Once completed, these will be rented out to bring in more regular extra income to the Council.
- Highways England has submitted an application to build a new dual carriageway linking the M54 and M6 has been formally lodged with the Government's Planning Inspector. It will run near to the A460 Cannock Road currently connecting Junction 1 of the M54 to Junction 11 of the M6, if given the go-ahead the new road would not be built until 2024.
- Cllr D Maddocks asked about the Poultry Farm housing development as seems it is not moving forward with planning and if there was anything that the Parish Council could do to push it forward as the majority of people in the area want it. Cllrs B Cox and V Jackson said they would look into it and get back to the Council.

Nil

SSDC Planning Approvals, Validation and Enforcement Emails sent to all Parish Councillors when received.

3001 FINANCIAL MATTERS

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT

Balance as at 2nd March 2020

£8,835.24

Payments since meeting held on 2nd March 2020 - to be confirmed Nil

Payment Made as Approved since 2nd March 2020

£229.00

Staffordshire Parish Council Association Annual Subscription

£68.26

SSDC Grounds Maintenance (4th Quarter)

£353.70

Zurich Insurance

£800.00

Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme

£200.00

St Marys Parish Churchyard fund

£350.00

SPCA Local Councillor Training Course – V Cook

£20.00

Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine

£250.00

Weston Club – Institute rooms

£150.00

Parish Clerks Fee Quarter 1,

£300.00

Bradford Estates Rent (29.3.20 to 28.9.20)

£15.00

Town and Parish Council Websites – Parish Council Website, Set up and Development

£996.00

Payment to be Approved

£500.00

Bridget Theaker on behalf of Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the

£500.00

Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund

£500.00

Grant from Groundwork.org.uk dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the

£500.00

Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund

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Grant from Cllr Mark Sutton to be dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the

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£500.00

Grant from Cllr Mark Sutton to be dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the

£500.00

Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund

£2,750.00

Precept

£7,553.28

Balance as at 19th August 2020

Blymhill and Weston Under Lizard Parish Council Accounts

1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Prepared by Phillip Delaloye Parish Clerk

Blymhill and Weston Under Lizard Parish Council Accounts

1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

Income since 1 April 2020
 Parish Precept – 6 months
 Grant from Cllr Mark Sutton to be dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the
 Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund
 £2,750.00
 £500.00

Funds at 1st April 2020 £8,535.24

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS AT 31 March 2020

Blymhill and Weston Under Lizard Parish Council Accounts
1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

RESOLVED: Cllr A Lowe proposed and Cllr D McCowan seconded and all Councillors agreed the Accounts for April 2019 to March 2020 and the Clerk confirmed that the Audit forms had been completed and sent to the external Auditors.

Funds for 31st March 2020 £8,535.24

Subtotal £8,160.78

Expenditure since 1st April 2019

- SDDC Interest free loan (Village Hall) (2019) £450.00
- Clerks expenses £131.27
- Haven Landscaping for Moss removal Beightherton Lane and Rectory Drive £250.00
- Staffordshire Parish Council Association £229.00
- SDDC Grounds Maintenance (4th & 1st, 2nd, & 3rd Quarters) £632.36
- SDDC May 2019 Election charges £198.67
- Zurich Insurance £353.70
- St Andrews Parish (Graveyard fund) £1020.00
- St Marys Parish Churchyard fund £350.00
- Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme £200.00
- Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine £250.00
- Parish Clerks Fee Quarters 1, 2, 3 and 4 £1200.00
- Weston Club – Institute rooms £150.00
- Optimus Ground Care A5 footpath clean up £1200.00
- Weston Sawmill Village sign erection £354.78
- Bradford Estates Rent (29.9.18 to 28.3.20) £45.00
- J Bent Parish sign cleaning £596.00
- Optimus Groundcare – Blymhill Village footpath £550.00

TOTAL £16,696.02

Subtotal £4960.00

Income since 1 April 2019
 Parish Precept – 12 months
 £4960.00

Funds at 1st April 2019 £11,736.02

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT AS AT 31 March 2020

hiring the Albrington Flyer on a 1 day a week basis but that it was prohibitive, even with the bus service again. Cllr D Maddocks responded in the meeting that Costs had been received for dentists not to mention the beneficial effects on the environment. It might be worth looking at a Lizard to Newport. This could be useful for people going shopping/opticians/ doctors and

- 1) Plans for a means of public transport, perhaps a minibus, from Blymhill and Weston under following:
- The Parish Clerk reported that he had received an update from the Bradford Estate that the Bradford Estate's proposal for the new villages by Lizard Wood called Junction 3, was not to be taken into consideration along with Shropshire County Councils 3 preferred sites at this stage but found on the Parish Council Website <https://blymhill-westonparishcouncil.org.uk/>
 - Following a communication from Ann Lonsdale asking about the outcome of discussions on the

3002 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

RESOLVED: The Parish Clerks fee be increased to £2,000 per annum.
 reviewed each year.
 £2,000 per annum all Cllrs agreed to the Proposal and Cllr V Cook suggested that the Clerks fee be reviewed each year.
 As there had not been an increase in the Parish Clerks fees for over 7 years it was proposed by Cllr D McCowan and seconded by Cllr P Maddocks that the Clerks fee be increased from £1,200 per annum to £2,000 per annum

RESOLVED: All Councillors agreed the Accounts

Funds for 31st March 2021

Subtotal £4,731.96

£996.00	Town and Parish Council Websites – Parish Council Website, Set up and Development
£15.00	Bradford Estates Rent (29.3.20 to 28.9.20)
£300.00	Parish Clerks Fee Quarter 1,
£150.00	Weston Club – Institute rooms
£250.00	Blymhill and Weston Parish Magazine
£20.00	SPCA Local Councillor Training Course – V Cook
£350.00	St Marys Parish Churchyard fund
£200.00	Brewood and District Voluntary Car Scheme
£800.00	St Andrews Parish (Graveyard fund)
£353.70	Zurich Insurance
£68.26	SSDC Grounds Maintenance (4 th Quarter)
£229.00	Staffordshire Parish Council Association Annual Subscription
£500.00	Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund
£500.00	Grant from Cllr Mark Sutton dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund
£500.00	Grant from Groundwork.org.uk dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund

TOTAL £12,285.24

Subtotal £3,750.00

Grant from Groundwork.org.uk dispersed to Blymhill Here to Help and Admin of the Blymhill & Weston Under Lizard COVID-19 Emergency Fund £500.00

Handwritten signature

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Parish Council be held on Monday January 13th 2020.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

3003

- actual residents travelling paying an amount for the journeys. Also, when a survey had been carried out approximately 3 years ago there had only been 3 people who had responded positively to using it. Another option could be The Brewood voluntary car scheme that the Parish Council gives an annual grant to: Telephone 01902 851786, E-mail brewoodcarscheme@btconnect.com and <https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb/s/staffordshire/directory/service.page?id=3Kp14XfXSWQ>
- 2) What happened to the local shop? The Community Shop Committee is moving forward with a new survey.
- 3) What happened to the proposed development between Junction 3 of the M54 to the A5? It is not now going forward.
- 4) Extra payment for green bin removal. Why could it not be included in the rates. Cllr B Cox said that the Council had to come up with a way so that the collectors could see who was paying for the service and who was not. Also there were many households in the District that do not have gardens and do not make use of the service. This was the easiest and fairest way of doing it. It was not possible to individually change peoples Council Tax on this scale. Cllr V Jackson added that there had been long discussions on this matter and it had gone to a majority vote for it to be agreed on the method.
- Cllr V Cook reported on the Community Shop following a meeting of the Sub Committee on the 12th August 2020 and that the Open Meeting that was taken place on March 19th 2020 had to be cancelled due to the Covid19 situation. It was agreed at the meeting that to move the project forward it would be useful to see how many residents would actually use the shop, that would be sited in the same field as Blymhill Play area, so it can be determined whether it will be viable proposition. A form will be delivered to all households asking them to see if they would regularly use the shop and if anyone in the household would volunteer for it. All responses would need to be in by the 30th of September 2020. The Parish Clerk said he would put a copy of the form on the Parish Council Website so that if any one for any reason does not receive the form they can download it, complete it and email to him. Cllr V Cook said that she would contact the Plunkett Foundation to see if this, in the circumstance, be acceptable to them instead of the Public Meeting to ask for a grant from them to help with the project.
- A card and email had been received from the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire thanking Parish Councils for what had been done during the lockdown period.
- Cllr D Maddocks reported that following the conversations in March and April that the Parish Council had helped fund the Blymhill Here To Help campaign and that funds had gone to help pay for 2 free meals a week for the vulnerable and over 70's and other assistance that Bridget Theaker and her team of helpers had selflessly given over the lockdown period and wanted to thank them for what they had done. The Parish Clerk reported that just over £6,000 had been granted to this project from the V Festival fund as well as a further £1,000 coming from County Cllr M Sutton's fund and the Groundwork.org.uk
- Cllr D McCowan wanted on behalf of the Parish Council to thank Cllr D Maddocks for what he had done behind the scenes for the project as well.
- Cllr B Cambridge proposed and Cllr M Stokes seconded that both Cllr D Maddocks and Bridget Theaker be highlighted to the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire for special commendation. This resolution was unanimously passed and the Parish Clerk asked to contact the Lord Lieutenant of Staffordshire to that effect.



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

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.

PLANNING

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/schemein/fo/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

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.

Council Members expressed their continued concern regarding the worsening situation relating to potholes 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 Highway 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.

FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS

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.

BLVMHILL VILLAGE HALL

BLVMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019-2020

Proposed meetings for 2020: Monday November 16th 2020.

Signed

(Chairman)

Date:16th November 2020.....



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 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 Defibrillator, 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 be 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.