

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD
ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 19 MAY 2021.

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 –
Due to the Pandemic the Annual Parish Assembly Of Blymhill And Weston-Under-Lizard was unable to be held

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 –
No Members of the Public were in attendance – there were, due to Government restriction for the Covid situation the ability to have had a maximum of 6 people other than the Parish Councillors, and that included the County and District Councillors. The Public were notified of this over a number of weeks before the scheduled meeting on both the Parish Council Website and also the facebook group Blymhill Buzz.
- 4 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR
Cllr Mark Sutton was unable to attend due to illness and Cllr D Maddocks wished him a speedy recovery. He had however sent some items be read out at the Assembly
 1. Locality forums: starting to be quite successful with good Parish participation in locality 2, but unfortunately, I think I'm correct in saying Blymhill and Weston haven't attended any. This is a shame as issues such as fly tipping, local public transport, flooding, road safety (A5) and climate change have been discussed. These are issues raised mainly by Parish Councillors and we are looking at how a joint approach can help to sort; I would encourage the Parish to be involved and bring ideas and solutions forward.
 2. This is linked to the above, you've had an e - mail regarding how locality 2 wishes to spend the £5000 community safety budget, can the Parish tonight discuss the ideas that have been put forward as I need to make a decision and I don't want it to be done without your input.
 3. The 40 to 30 speed reduction on the A5 through Weston is law and the physical work should start within the next 3 weeks
- 5 REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:
Cllr B Cox Reported:
 - That following the conversation he had had with the Reverend Rachel Dale, five computers had been bought for children in the parish to help with their educational needs by St Marys Blymhill, Church Trustees. He said that if there were any other children in the Parish needed similar assistance the Church Trustees should be able to help
 - There was nothing else to report as it was all in the weekly SSDC round up – this is posted on the Parish Council website weekly <https://blymhill-westonparishcouncil.org.uk> .
- 6 REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES
None in attendance
- 7 VISITORS
Nil
- 8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS
None



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 Ve Jackson, for all their support during the past year. He also thanked the members of the public for the input, ideas, concerns, views and passion shown during the evening. . **As had been stated in the meeting, he again repeated that all residents in any part of the community should raise any issues they have with their local Parish Councillors straight away and not just wait for the annual Parish Assembly.**

BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020-2021

Parish Council meeting during this Pandemic period were affected by the legislation and commands of the British Government, in that the May meeting had to be cancelled and a meeting was held in August as there had to be a meeting of the Councillors within a six month period. At that time the Parish Council was able to meet following Government guidelines in the Parish Hall on the 19th of August 2020. Due to the timing, it was felt that the September meeting would be cancelled and the November meeting carried on as normal. Due to Government guidelines at that time both the November, January and March meetings were held virtually. Following the High Court's dismissal of the application the by ADSO, LLG and Hertfordshire County Council, the judgement confirms that beyond 6th May 2021 'remote' meetings of Parish and Town Councils will no longer be lawful. The Parish Council hope that with the vaccination roll out the meetings will happen as they ever did.

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. It was happy to extend a loan and grant to the Village Hall committee to assist in the Kitchen build and 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. Cllr Mark Sutton has informed the Parish Council that the 40mph speed limit on the A5 through Weston under Lizard has been made to a 30mph speed limit, but as yet no date on the signage to be put in place has been received.

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 8 planning applications during the past twelve months, 3 changes of use and 1 Tree conservation issues. This included extensions. 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 from the previous year that has now been denied approval.

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 that it has been approved. 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, but this has at this time not been successful.

FINANCE

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and after keeping the precept at £4,960 for 5 years last year it was raised it to £5,500, but has not been increased this year.

Due to the South Staffordshire District Council stopping hosting Parish Council Websites, The Parish Council has got its own 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 funds from the V-Festival account to a number of areas in the community including the Village Hall. This being a very difficult year for many people almost £11,000 was spent on the Blymhill Here to Help project supplying free meals from the Red Lion to the vulnerable in the Parish area during the Lockdowns in the pandemic. It has also helped set up the Pop up Community shop and the basis to keep it going in the back room of the Village Hall with the help of the Village Hall committee. It has also helped the Village Hall with a grant and a loan to help with the extension to the Kitchen.

To date, since February 2007 the V Festival Account has paid out £178,728 of which £45,000 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 2019 to 2020 were 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.

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. Following the length of the pandemic and its affect on the community, it was suggested to try and put in place a "pop up" community shop in the Village Hall, this was done and has been successful. This to the extent that the village Hall has allowed the shop to carry on in the back room once the main hall was able to open. A new Shop committee is being formed to move forward. The Parish Council want to thank all those involved. in making the Pop up shop such a success especially Bridget Theaker, David Maddocks and all the Volunteers as well as the Village Hall Committee. It also is very grateful to the new committee members and volunteers for the work that they are and will be putting into this in the future.

BLYMHILL HERE TO HELP.

The Parish Council wants to thank Matthew Moulson and all the staff at the Red Lion for the great work they have done during the Lockdown periods of the Pandemic in supplying great food for the vulnerable members of our community that the Parish Council has funded as well as to Bridget Theaker for her idea for this and her organization of it in these difficult times.

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 Staffordshire County Councillor Mark Sutton, our South Staffordshire 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.

