

**BLYMHILL AND WESTON-UNDER-LIZARD**  
**ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY MINUTES AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 22 MAY 2024.**

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 20th September 2023 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 –** The Public were notified of meeting on both the Parish Council Website and also the Facebook group Blymhill Buzz. Mr Highman was the only member of the public in attendance – As well as discussing the new variation to the previous application to increase the number of dogs from 30 per day to 80 at the Dog day care centre (24/00297/ VAR) and the implications for the community and the road safety issues connected to such an increase in traffic. The Parish Council stated that it had put in its objection to the application as mentioned in the Annual Report. When the point was raised that the business's number had been limited to 30 by SSDC for certain reasons, and the operation still had not opened, there could be no statistical or measured information as to what effect 30 dogs per day would have on the community, roads safety, road infrastructure or noise levels let alone almost trebling the number now requested. The District Councillor that sat on the Planning Committee, Cllr S Szalapaski, said she could not comment on the application at present until the planning Committee meeting regarding that and other applications. Cllr D Holmes said that she would do some research on it but they were waiting for a report on noise levels and also from the Highways. Cllr M Sutton, following a question from Mr Highman, as to whether the Highways department had actually visited the site and viewed the surrounding roads, responded that they would not have done so, as they would have received many applications that required Highways reports. He went on to say that he would speak to the Highways Department and try to get them to visit the site.

Mr Highman also raised an issue in that there had been many instances of robberies from farms and various other sites in the area and that there had been reports of various cars "casing" establishments prior to the robberies. He asked if the District Council had access to mobile CCTV to try and catch these offenders. Cllr D Holmes said they had weekly updates from the police on the various offences carried out. Cllr M Sutton said that SSDC do have mobile CCTV but used for covering regular spots used for Fly tipping. The view held was that any sighting of these vehicles that seem to be involved in "casing" potential robbery sites or in a robbery should be reported to the Police, but for the Public not to get involved going up to them as it could be dangerous. It was also suggested that any report made would be given a reference number by the Police and that the incident be reported onto Blymhill Buzz but to use the anonymous button to place the report. Cllr S Szalapaski also suggested to the Parish Council that they ask that Policing in the Rural Community be put on the agenda as a subject on one of the District Council's 4 annual Summits.

- 4        **REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**  
Cllr M Sutton reported that:
  - 1) He had funding of £2,500 to distribute to Community projects and for people to contact him to request a grant – He has previously helped with funding for the Village Shop that helped with getting Shelving.
  - 2) There is also a Climate Change fund for projects and Parish Councils to apply to examples have been – A Parish Council wanted to introduce new composting areas in an allotment site and LED bulbs replace old light bulbs. So environmentally friendly changes or upgrades.

DM

- 3) He had entered the Blymhill and Weston Community Shop volunteers in to the Unsung Heros category at the Voluntary Awards for South Staffordshire District Council and Stafford for which they won an award.
- 4) He had arranged a meeting with the new Staffordshire County Council Cabinet Member for Highways in June, to take him around Brockenhurst Road, among others, to see the state they are in.

5 **REPORT FROM SOUTH STAFFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR:**

Cllr S Szalapski reported that:

- 1) South Staffordshire District Council was 50 years old this year and currently there will be celebration on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of July 2024 at the Council Houses in Codsall with displays of areas and Landmarks through time. She went on to say that this could change because of the recent Election announcement. Cllr M Sutton added that SSDC came about from when the Seisden and Cannock Rural Council and Shifnal Council were conjoined as one.
- 2) Warned that there was an email Scam alert and that unknown or unrecognised emails should not be opened. It seems a number of Local Authorities have suffered from these scams but want also to warn the Public about them.
- 3) The SSDC has received 2 training sessions recently, one on the 4 Leisure Centres in the District, Penkridge, Cheslyn Hay, Codsall and Wombourne, as £3million has been spent on upgrading and refurbishing them. The second on the Health of trees in the District.

Cllr S Szalapski reported that: Our Parish Council area has 12 days of the time of 2 of the street Teams members to carry out works in our area this year. Cllr R Newton was to send some sites and paths that needed clearing / Cleaning up.

6 **REPORTS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE LOCAL CHARITIES**

None in attendance

7 **VISITORS**

Nil

8 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

The Assembly finished at 18.30 and the Chairman, Councillor Doug McCowan thanked Cllr Mark Sutton, the Staffordshire County Councillor and then the District Councillors, Cllr Diane Holmes, Cllr Wendy Sutton and Cllr S Szalapski, for all their support during the past year.

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 2023-2024**

**BLYMHILL VILLAGE HALL**

The Parish Council wishes the Village Hall Committee well and for it to have continued success 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 was also pro-active in looking at the issues and although there has been considerable work done there are still areas that need work. The A5 through Weston under Lizard's 30mph speed limit, is still a concern with the majority of vehicles are going slower but there are still many HGV's and Company vans and vehicles seemingly going faster than 40 mph let alone 30mph and the Parish Council have continued to ask for more measures to police the new speed limit, especially as the mobile speed camera has been in less attendance than before.

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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 –

If the pothole is on a motorway or an A road Contact Highways England go to or call  
0300 123 5000.

The Parish Clerk, also tries, when notified, to put on the Parish Council Website

There is now the Community Speed Watch Team active on the A5, having had the training from the Police and the Parish Council having paid for that training and the equipment and have done a number of events on the A5. The Parish Council would like to thank all the members of that team for volunteering and being so proactive, it would also like to thank the Bradford Estates for assisting with the storage of the equipment and also for their charitable donation for when the fixed Speed Awareness signage goes up.

The group are still looking for volunteers and if interested in getting involved, please contact the Parish Clerk via  
or the Parish Council Website

#### **PLANNING**

The Parish Council has been involved in consultation relating to 13 planning applications during the past twelve months, 3 changes of use and 1 incorporation of land into residential curtilage. This included extensions and change of use for buildings.

All these applications, had no objections raised by the Parish Council, except for the Application for an increase in the number of dogs that could be accepted for a Dogs Day care Centre based in Brockhurst Road, Blymhill, following an earlier application a few months prior.

Following some resident's concerns regarding not being able to react to Planning applications the Parish Council now puts any Planning applications that come to them from SSDC on its own website, on Blymhill Buzz and thanks to Blymhill Village Hall, onto one of their Notice Boards as well, to enable the community to see what Planning Applications are made.

#### **FINANCE**

The Parish Council has continued to monitor carefully expenditure of the precept, and after having the precept raised last year to £6,500 for the present year April 2024 to March 2025 it has been kept at the same level.

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 year a further £4,000 released for a number of projects including to assist with St Andrews Church building repairs, both the Play Areas upkeep and also refurbishment and repairs, and contribution to help Coronation celebrations.

The Parish Councils Accounts for 2022 to 2023 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 has been made good.

#### **COMMUNITY SHOP**

The village Hall has allowed the shop to carry on in the back room with a Shop committee in place and the Parish Council want to thank all those involved especially 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 and wishing them well for a successful future.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

On the Parish Council's Website you can contact the Parish Clerk and view Parish Council Information as well as:  
The weekly update from South Staffordshire District Council.  
Planning Applications.  
Road Closure Notifications.

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Minutes and Notes of previous Parish Council meetings.


**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 for his help and work over the past few years. We also thank our South Staffordshire District Councillors - Cllr Diane Holmes, Cllr Wendy Sutton and Cllr S Szalapski for their help, advice and guidance especially on planning matters during the past year. The Parish Council would also like to thank Steve Robertson for acting as the Internal Auditor on the Parish Council accounts.

The Parish Council would also like to thank David Smith for his time as a Parish Councillor and wish him well.

Note: We are still looking for a new Parish Councillor for the Blymhill Ward – if interested please email the Parish Clerk

Signed



(Chairman)

Date:

..... 25<sup>th</sup> September 2024.....

DM.