

## **Blo' Norton Parish Council notes for 2022 Annual Meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at Blo' Norton Village Hall**

### **Corona Virus**

The meeting last year was held under very different circumstances, and I think we can all be grateful that we are even able to hold this meeting in a perfectly normal manner.

### **Introduction**

We live in a village with a small , scattered population and which has not had a shop or Post Office for many years. We have a village hall which is very old and in need of a great deal of tender loving care and much money to bring it up to date. The two ladies who have responsibility for the Hall are doing a grand job, but all their efforts are doomed to failure unless much more use is made of the hall.

As a Parish Council we frequently run into problems with losing parish councillors – sometimes because they leave the area, sometimes because family pressures mean they leave the area, sometimes they have just had enough and sometimes they simply die – and at this point I would like us all to silently give thanks to the late Michael Bristow for all the help he gave over the years to the Parish Council.

We are a small, scattered village and there does not seem to be any way of keeping the Church as “ours”, as it needs a certain number of locals to be responsible for looking after it – and we just don't have enough of those people.

We have the same problem with the Parish Council; we are required to have 5 Parish Councillors – no more, no less, and as with the Church, if we cannot keep that number, we will have no Parish Council and will be controlled from the next higher level. One of the current Councillors has just moved away from Blo' Norton and another needs to give priority to matters other than the PC. We probably have one replacement member, but still need a definite “yes” to be certain of the new member, and then there is Councillor number 2 needed.....

### **SAM 2 Speed Signs update**

We published a summary of the data which covered the first 18 months of use at the last Annual Meeting. These results showed that significant numbers of vehicles entering the village from the West were only slowing down after passing the 30 sign and not before – as of course they should have done.

The short straights before Broadway Lane and Church Lane when approached from the East were also taken as an invitation to break the speed limit.

A summary of the figures for vehicles breaking the 30mph limit are given below and show that a very significant number of drivers are completely ignoring the speed limit.

60	0							1		1		
55	3	7			10	13	3	5	1	4		
50	12	27	1	1	32	49	8	31	50	88		
45	51	130	9	21	268	409	90	244	442	762		
40	245	745	60	144	1,401	2,122	795	1,465	2,148	3,508	5	5
35	854	3,126	342	690	5,286	7,997	3,350	6874	6,076	10,078	52	121
	East end of the Village, traffic from the East	East end of the Village, traffic from the West	Middle of the Village, traffic from the East	Middle of the Village, traffic from the West	West end of the Village, traffic from the East	West end of the Village traffic from the West						

Figures in black for 2021 and figures in red for 2022

We will be supplying the full results and our comments to the police to see if we can get their support in terms of full roadside speed checks.

#### **Defibrillator**

We reported on the planned purchase at the last Annual Meeting and as anyone who uses the Village Hall can see it has been installed on the front wall here. We are also pleased to report that use of the defibrillator has not been required.

#### **Ditch Flooding**

The major flooding problem in Church Lane has now been alleviated – I hesitate to say cured because the future cannot be forecast and a problem downstream of Church Lane could easily be the reason for the flooding to occur again in the future.

The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the new owners of Hill Drop Farm for their sterling efforts in clearing the roadside ditch adjoining their property.

#### **Fibre to the Premises/County Broadband**

There has been a considerable amount of unsupported and often vitriolic criticism of County Broadband, including suggestions that there will be plenty of other companies ready to provide this service. I am sure that this is most unlikely as the financial cost of providing the infrastructure is an enormous hurdle to jump in an area of scattered homes such as our village