

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2010 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor S. P. Fox,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor W. Day,
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Members of the public (3).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. S.A. Harrison and Councillor B. Yates.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
SCC Rights of Way Issues	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department.
SCC Highway Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery – personal friend.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

3.1.1 Remembrance Parade.

Mrs. June Bassett commented that there was an excellent turn out for the Remembrance Parade and thanked the Council for organising the event.

3.1.2 Poor surface condition of Cheadle Road and motorists parking on pavements.

Mr. Michael Shufflebotham asked:

- (a) What the intentions of Staffordshire County Council were regarding the resurfacing of Cheadle Road? He pointed out that other roads, which were not in such a poor condition and carried less traffic for example the road through Tean were being resurfaced.
- (b) The police intentions with regard to addressing the issue of motorists parking vehicles on pavements.

County Councillor W. Day said that he had not got a timescale for resurfacing work on Cheadle Road, but in the meantime patching would continue to ensure the road was safe. He assured Councillors that the same amount of County money is spent per resident in Parishes/Towns.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read extract from letter (agenda item 6.1) received from Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer David Greatbatch.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that two letters had been received from Staffordshire Police – as agenda item 6.2 and the clerk confirmed that Inspector Neil Sherratt had replied but Council had not yet received the letter.

3.1.3 Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction.

A resident suggested that traffic congestion on Cheadle Road could be eased if road realignment and road markings were introduced to allow two way traffic to exit Cheadle Road.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that a similar proposal to reduce the width of the pavement adjacent to The Duke of Wellington to provide space for the road to be realigned to allow two-way traffic to exit Cheadle Road has been requested by the Parish Council.

County Councillor W. Day advised that Staffordshire County Council engineers were currently looking at improvements to the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction and the Parish Council would, in due course, receive plans of the scheme for consideration.

3.2 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report.

3.2.1 Bus Passes.

Staffordshire County Council will be taking over responsibility for bus passes in April 2011. Travel between 9.30am to 11.00pm is being proposed but District and Borough Councils will be consulted.

3.2.2 Filling of potholes.

County Councillor W. Day referred to an article in the national press in which it was reported that Kent Council have developed a new way of repairing potholes which is much quicker and more effective. They blast the holes with high pressure and then inject materials at high pressure. He said he had asked his County Council colleagues to look into this particular method of repair.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton quoted from paragraph 2 of David Greatbatch's letter (agenda item 6.1) and asked at what intervals the Divisional Highway Programme was reviewed and how issues are prioritised and referred in particular to improved signage at Forsbrook Cemetery, which a resident has requested.

County Councillor W. Day said that the Divisional Highway Programme is reviewed every six months but that he only had an input for works up to the value of £10000. Bigger schemes are included in the Local Transport Plan such as improvements to the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction. He said that Staffordshire County Council Officer Rob Steele has been asked to look into where improved Cemetery signing can be erected.

Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker asked if there was any update on the request for signage for the new Children's Centre.

County Councillor W. Day said that he had raised this with Staffordshire County Council Officer David Greatbatch and this was in hand, but someone would have to cover the costs.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that at the SPCA AGM a Councillor from Merseyside said that more work could be devolved to Parish Councils from County and District/Borough level because Parish Councils are not subject to any freeze or cut in their Parish precepts.

Councillor A. J. Mould referred to paragraph 3 of David Greatbatch's letter in which he advised that SIDs (Speed Indication Devices) are not installed on a permanent basis at any location throughout the county and said that if this was the case why was there a permanent Speed Indication Device at Brookhouses.

County Councillor W. Day said that possibly this was installed before the current review system and criteria.

Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker referred to David Greatbatch's letter and in particular his comments regarding 'local aspirations for future consideration' which inferred that the issues requested for inclusion in the Divisional Highway Programme were a bit like a 'wish list' as against what Forsbrook Parish Council felt were priorities.

County Councillor W. Day distributed to each member an extract from a Staffordshire County Council document entitled “Cabinet Member Accountability Session: Regeneration and Infrastructure Scrutiny Committee – Development Services – Performance Self Assessment Form, Appendix 1c” the content of which is appended below for reference purposes.

“Outcome 3

Ensure that Staffordshire’s communities are safe and can access everyday facilities via the transport and highways networks.

Supporting priorities:

The achievement of this outcome is reliant on delivering against the following supporting priorities:

- *Develop and manage a transport network which supports sustainable economic growth, promotes sustainable travel and improves accessibility*
- *Improve and maintain the condition and safety of Staffordshire’s roads, footways and rights of way*

Assessment of current performance

Progress against the achievement of this outcome has currently been assessed as Green, based upon recent activity and performance against headline performance indicators. The three supporting performance indicators for Outcome 3 (one of which is made up of four parts) are performing well, and are currently assessed as Green or Strong Green. Construction, improvements and various projects are planned, in development or have been completed (to include those working to improve road safety across the county), and the County Council continues to be held up as delivering best practice in relation to its Highways Service. Commitment to delivery of this outcome is demonstrated by the £30m Highway Maintenance Investment Programme which is in the second year of delivery.

There are three headline performance indicators which demonstrate performance against this outcome. Performance information is available against these indicators within Appendix 1 –

DPT2/N1175- Access to services and facilities by public transport, walking and cycling; access to Stafford and Cannock Hospitals within 30 and 60 minutes

DRS1 (CAS01) – Number of people killed or seriously injured (KSIs) in road traffic collisions

DSH101 / N1168 – Principal roads where maintenance should be considered.”

Standing Orders were reinstated.

4. INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING 'OUTSIDE' MEETINGS'.

4.1 Remembrance Parade.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked everyone who had helped with the Remembrance Parade which this year had not been without its problems. She also thanked Michael Shufflebotham, Brian Snape and Graham Stanier for their help with the serving of refreshments.

4.2 Staffordshire Parish Council's Association – A.G.M.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she had attended the above with Councillor Miss S. Farr and that the minutes from the meeting will be forwarded in due course.

5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 18th October 2010.

RESOLVED:

- To approve and sign the minutes as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

6.1 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – pages 90/91/92/93/94 – agenda item 3.2

The response from Staffordshire County Council Officer David Greatbatch to outstanding highway issues raised by Forsbrook Parish Council was noted. (Copy of letter distributed to Council members the contents of which are detailed below for reference purposes).

“Thank you for your letter dated 25th October 2010 regarding the highway issues in the parish of Forsbrook.

I can confirm that a number of the issues raised concerning traffic management initiatives and requests for Integrated Transport schemes had been included in County Councillor Day's Divisional Highway Programme as local aspirations for future consideration but have not yet been prioritized for action. These include:

- *Further consideration of pedestrian facilities on Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.*
- *20mph speed limit around schools.*
- *Improved signage at Forsbrook Cemetery.*
- *Bollards on the footway adjacent to the Spar in Forsbrook Square.*

The Divisional Highway Programme is reviewed on a regular basis with County Councillor Day and includes a significant number of outstanding requests throughout his Division.

With regard to your request for permanent SIDs on Cheadle Road, Forsbrook I need to explain that Forsbrook already benefits from inclusion in the countrywide rotation system of Speed Indication Devices but these are not installed on a permanent basis at any location throughout the county.

The request for parking restrictions on Uttoxeter Road have been forwarded for consideration by the Joint Parking Committee and are currently programmed for investigation in 2012/13.

Improvements at the junction of Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road remain as a scheme in the current Capital Programme.

The resolution of the ownership issues regarding the fence on Lavender Avenue was prioritized for action by County Councillor Day as part of the Divisional Highway Programme for this financial year. We expect to establish a way forward regarding the repair of the fence by the end of March 2011.

The County Council operates an asset management regime in its identification of forward programmes of structural maintenance work. Cheadle Road is regularly inspected and we are aware of its condition. Patching works will continue to make the area “safe” until funding becomes available to invest in larger scale resurfacing/reconstruction of the carriageway. We are also aware of the condition of a number of footways throughout the Parish where the slurry seal treatment has now failed and we will continue to carry out temporary repairs as and when necessary. These areas are included in the lists of sites throughout the county where extensive permanent work is required but have not yet been prioritized for funding. The works to Elmwood Drive footways have not yet been completed; however, I will arrange for an inspection of the location and ensure that any workmanship issues are addressed appropriately. I will also ask for further inspection of the drainage issue on Caverswall Old Road and ask for it to be prioritized against all other flooding issues throughout the county.

We are currently determining whether or not the gullies on the Library/Police Station access form part of the highway network and will advise you in due course as to whether they could be repaired by the Neighbourhood Highway Team.

We will also carry out a grit bin assessment for Stratford Close and install a bin if the site meets the necessary criteria. Information on the County’s Winter Maintenance policy can be found at www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transport/staffshighways/winterdriving.

I trust the above information is of use to you.”

6.2 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – page 94 – agenda item 3.3.

Letter dated 22nd October, 2010 from Janet Fellows, PA to Chief Constable Cunningham advising that the question raised by members of Forsbrook Parish Council re the parking of vehicles on pavements has been passed to Chief Superintendent Drake who is the Divisional Commander for the North Staffs Division was noted as was letter dated 26th October 2010 from Chief Superintendent Jonathan Drake advising that Inspector Neil Sherratt, NPU Inspector for Cheadle will be contacting the Parish Council in response to the concerns raised.

6.3 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – page 96 – agenda item 8.5.

The Customer Focus for Highways survey has been completed. The link for the survey is:

<http://scorelink.econtract.co.uk?cede0d644b904a72b474ece6203af96e>

and the results of the survey will be lodged directly onto the database.

6.4 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – page 97 – agenda item 8.8 – Keep Britain Tidy ‘There’s no such thing as the dog poo fairy’ Campaign.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the above campaign resulted in a 67% decrease in dog fouling problems but said she had not got a percentage breakdown for specific areas. She thanked all councillors and residents who had helped with the campaign. She reminded members that the new telephone number for reporting dog fouling is: **0345 605 3014**.

6.5 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – page 102 – agenda item 11.2.

It was noted that the streetlights in Chestnut Crescent are scheduled to be replaced during the five-year programme 2018-2022, subject to on site verification of the actual age of columns. If there are no issues with the County Council's recorded data, this will mean that the whole of Chestnut Crescent will be designed to ensure that it will be illuminated to the required standard, which will be applicable at that time. Unfortunately, a specific timescale for the works within the five-year period cannot be given, as it is the contractor's responsibility to programme the works. Staffordshire County Council recognise that this work may seem a long way off, but the PFI replacement programme is a long term strategy that ensures lighting is replaced when it reaches the end of its serviceable life. Residents will be notified by the contractor of the lighting replacement works prior to works commencing on site.

6.6 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – page 102 – agenda item 11.2 – 'No waiting signs'.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that 'no waiting' signs are no longer required to carry out enforcement. This is all part of the Government's decluttering of streets' directives.

6.7 Minutes dated 18th October 2010 – page 103 – agenda item 11.2 – brook adjacent to footpath 18.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that after the October Council meeting Michael Shufflebotham kindly volunteered to remove the glass from the brook adjacent to footpath 18 and at the same time has removed Himalayan Balsam, which is an invasive weed. She thanked Mr. Shufflebotham on behalf of Council for his community spirit.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.1 The clerk's report was received and noted.

7.2 There were no dates of 'outside' meetings to note.

7.3 The following circulation material was made available to members.

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues No. 745 and 746.
- Staffordshire 3rd Section Network (S3SN) E. Bulletins.
- Link Staffordshire – Issues 1 and 2.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – November Issue.
- North Staffordshire CRP Progress Report 2009/2010.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Tree Heritage – subject: Land to the rear of the Village Hall.

Report and quotation for recommended work on the trees on land to the rear of the Village Hall were received and noted.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the above report and quotation had been obtained in readiness for the Communities Mean Business funding bid.

- 8.2 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan Draft Supplementary Planning Document.

It was noted that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has published a Cheadle Town Centre Masterplan for formal representations prior to its adoption as a Supplementary Planning Document. The statutory six-week period in which representations can be made will run between 1st November and 10th December 2010. Details can be found on:

www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/theadletowncentremasterplan.

- 8.3 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Keeping the Moorlands Clean – Dog Fouling.

It was noted that the above initiative will be continuing and the District Council is encouraging people to report dog fouling problems – times/locations/description of the dog/description of the owner and if the dog owner is using a car, the number on the registration plate. The enforcement officers can then be deployed to problem locations at the relevant time to see if irresponsible dog owners can be caught.

- 8.4 To receive and note general correspondence and to agree action as required.

Letters

British Red Cross
 Blythe Bridge Luncheon Club (Homelink)
 Campaign to Protect Rural England
 Cheadle and District Animal Welfare Society
 Cheadle Citizens Advice Bureau
 Community Council of Staffordshire
 Donna Louise Trust
 Douglas Macmillan Hospice
 Marie Curie Cancer Care
 Mencap
 Moorlands Home Link
 Royal British Legion
 Samaritans
 Savana
 Staffordshire Wildlife
 Victim Support
 Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall

Email Exchanges:

P. Jones
 Faye Lambert (Community Rail Partnership Officer)

Qstar

Subject:

Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
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 AGM documents.

Water leak – Eastbank Ride.

Fixing of bird boxes/removal of shoes hung over CCTV. **(It was noted that the shoes have now been removed).**

Request for replacement keys to deterrent camera pole.

Staffordshire Police	Boy racers on B.B.Village Hall site and potential drug issues.
Rev. David Bickersteth	Remembrance Sunday.
John Brian	Cleaning of changing rooms.
David Mazuruk	Memorial approval.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council/ Christina Wright	The Smithfield Hotel.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Agenda for Parish Assembly on 02.12.10.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Application details for Environmental Enhancement Grants.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Online report re litter on footpath 12.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Planning application – extension to changing rooms.
Local Council Review	LCR online weekly.
Staffordshire County Council	Procedure for obtaining regular updates on gritting of road network.
Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects:	Overgrown hedges – adjacent to the Butchers Arms; Overgrown hedges – junction of Elmwood Drive/Uttoxeter Road. Footway resurfacing – Elmwood Drive; Tarmac laid on highway outside 121 Elmwood Drive; Light level – Chestnut Crescent; Condition of road surface – Elmwood Drive: Flooding – junction of Cheadle Road/Stallington Road/Uttoxeter Road; Filling of grit bins; Condition of footway outside The Black Cock, Uttoxeter Road: Pothole – Elmwood Drive.
Eon	Report of shoes hanging over electricity cables. (It was noted that these have been removed).
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association	Various issues – documents made available for members to view.
Staffordshire County Council	Watchdog alerts.
Staffordshire County Council	Licence to plant – Blythe Mount Park.
Wrights Landscapes	Request for quotation for stonewall work at cemetery.

Came and Company

Insurance cover details for Council committees and other charitable organisations.

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00923/FUL – 16 Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – single storey front extension including rear roof lights.

RESOLVED:

➤ **To respond to the above planning application as follows:**

00923/FUL – To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approval was noted:

00703/FUL – 100 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey front and side extensions, first floor rear extensions, front/rear dormer windows and raising of roof line.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted:

00262/OUT – 23 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge – outline application for 2 detached and 1 pair of semi detached dwellings with garages.

Reasons: (1) The proposal by reason of its overly engineered appearance and incongruous property positioning would fail to create a sense of place and high quality design for the benefit of its future residents. It would further lead to a loss of amenity with respect to its future residents, due to the adverse relationships posed by the double garage concerning plot nos. 3 and 4 in terms of loss of light and an overbearing appearance. The proposal is therefore considered to conflict with the requirements of “saved” Policy B13 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan and national planning guidance in the form of PPS.1 and PPS.3. (2) In view of the information available, there remains a scientific uncertainty, such that it would appear possible that the granting of planning permission would introduce receptors to an area undesirable for such receptors due to poor air quality. Until further information is put forward to the contrary, it is considered that the proposal has not demonstrated that there would be no adverse effects to the future residents of the development due to air quality issues. The proposal is therefore considered to conflict with the requirements of “saved” Policy B13 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan and national planning guidance in the form of PPG 24.

9.4 Planning matters.

There were no additional planning matters to note.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no matters to bring to the attention of Council.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

No cemetery issues were raised.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) gave the following report:

Christmas Tree.

Mr. Andrew Scott from Town and Country Services is looking at what arrangements can be made to site a Christmas Tree in the centre of Blythe Bridge.

Moorlands Partnership Board – Environmental Enhancement Grants.

The clerk has the necessary application forms for applying for a grant under the above scheme, to replace an old cemetery field entrance with stone walling to match the existing wall. Grants are awarded up to 50% of the total cost to schemes, which meet the criteria.. Two quotations, which are presently being obtained by the clerk, must be submitted with the application. The clerk is meeting with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Conservation Officer Christopher Drage on the 30th November 2010.

Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department.

The above department is presently offering to arrange for one of their Officers to attend Parish Council meetings to see if there would be any interest in local volunteers in the area wishing to take on work usually undertaken by their department such as installing/improving finger posts, stiles and footpaths. Any materials required will be provided by the Rights of Way Department. Forsbrook Parish Council is in a fortunate position in that Mr. Michael Shufflebotham has offered to volunteer his services and to recruit other volunteers.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested that we invite an Officer from the Right of Way Department to a Council meeting to explain what exactly is involved.
AGREED.

Litter bin adjacent to Scizzatrix, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has now installed a litterbin at the above location.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Condition of pavement – junction of Green Lane/Uttoxeter Road.	Councillor P. Jones said that he has reported this several times. The broken tarmac has been cleared away but no repairs have been undertaken. Clerk to follow up.
Condition of Footway over railway crossing in Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Clerk to report to the Highways Defects Department.
Garden bed at railway Station.	Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stainer reported that the plants have now been ordered from Heath House Farm and that it is the intention to plant them on Monday 22 nd November 2010. Two flower tubs have also been reserved, part funded by Heath House Farm.
Elmwood Drive – dangerous pothole.	Clerk to report to the Highways Defects Department.
Overgrown hedge, which is protruding over neighbours rear garden at a property in Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.	It was felt that initially this was a problem to be sorted out between the two parties. Any protruding hedges/trees can be pruned but all cuttings should be returned to the owner of the hedge/trees. It was suggested that if the matter could not be concluded amicably the concerned party should contact Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department. Councillor J. W. Burgess said he would relay this to the resident.
Survey being circulated around the Parish asking for personal details. Thornton chocolates were being given to residents who complete the survey.	Identify fraud was a concern if residents freely gave personal details but it was felt that this had to be a judgement call by them.
Meir Park outreach facility for drug users.	Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that the Drugs Rehabilitation Centre in Hanley was providing an outreach service to Meir Park to enable drug users to exchange old needles for new ones.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank Balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st October 2010 was:

Community Direct Account	41627.32
14 Day Account	57753.31
Outstanding debits	(1551.50)
Total	97829.13

12.2 November 2010 accounts.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402024	Town and Country Services	717.00	125.47	842.47
402025	Severn Trent Water	29.82		29.82
402026	Severn Trent Water	55.04		55.04
402027	John Payne (Architect)	1285.00		1285.00
402028	Heath House Farm	171.00	29.93	200.93
402029	Christine J. Snape	878.95		878.95
DD	Eon	38.09	1.91	40.00
Total		3174.90	157.31	3332.21

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of November 2010 accounts.**

12.3 The Income and Expenditure Account for period 1st April 2010 to 30th September 2010 (six months) as attached was noted. A copy was distributed to all Councillors who raised no questions.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman