

## FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

---

### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2010 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),  
Councillor J. W. Burgess,  
Councillor Mrs. S. M. Edwards,  
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 A. E. Wilson,  
Councillor B. Yates

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),  
Members of the public (1),  
Press Officer.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. S. A. Harrison, Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker and County Councillor W. Day.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

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

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

#### 3. OPEN SESSION.

##### 3.1 Residents Issues.

##### 3.1.1 Pedestrian Crossing, Forsbrook.

Mrs. June Bassett asked if there was any update on the provision of a Pedestrian Crossing in Forsbrook.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that Council were waiting for County Councillor W. Day to arrange a meeting to discuss all outstanding highway issues, including the Safer Routes to School Scheme, Divisional Highway Plan and Local Transport Plan.

3.1.2 Mr. & Mrs. Carter, 25 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read a letter of thanks from the above for the help and support Council gave residents with regard to the planning application for residential development at 23 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge and also for all Council's efforts on behalf of the community.

3.1 County Council Report.

In the absence of County Councillor W. Day there was no report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she was hoping County Councillor Day would have been present because she felt Council wanted clarification on the Highways Community Team directives. The intended work identified by Staffordshire County Council for the Highways Community Team to carry out when they were in the Parish from 23<sup>rd</sup> September to 29<sup>th</sup> September was the removal of weeds in various areas, which she presumed had been collated from 'Clarence' reports over the years, which could be viewed by Forsbrook Parish Council as low priority and would not be a problem if regular weed maintenance treatment was undertaken. She said that she felt more important jobs could be undertaken such as maintenance work on blocked drains which the clerk has already reported to the Highways Defects Department and also included on previous Highway Community Team work schedules.

**Standing Orders were reinstated.**

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

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she had attended the Parish Assembly meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2010 along with Councillor Miss S. Farr and Councillor A. J. Mould and that minutes from the meeting will be forwarded in due course. She also said that she had represented Council at Werrington Chairman's Civic Service on 5<sup>th</sup> September, which was very enjoyable.

Councillor A. J. Mould reported that he had recently attended a Moorlands Partnership Board Meeting. The Moorlands Partnership Board has received £50000 funding for year 2010/2011 and at the moment there is still £25000 left in the budget. He suggested Council consider replacing the metal gate to what was the entrance into the cemetery field with a continuation of the stonewall and applying for funding. This access/egress is no longer needed and does not meet highway safety criteria. **Agreed to investigate.**

**5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:  
Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010.**

**RESOLVED:**

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

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Page 69 – agenda item 8.4.  
Subject: Traffic Regulation Orders.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she had recently attended a meeting with Staffordshire County Council Officers David Greatbatch and Nick Miller. The request from Forsbrook Parish Council with regard to introducing waiting restrictions along one side of Uttoxeter Road from Elmwood Drive to Grindley Lane and the entrance to Blythe Bridge Library and Police Station have been included in the programme for investigation in 2012.

- 6.2 Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Page 70 – agenda item 8.4.  
Subject: Bird Nesting Boxes for Blythe Bridge Railway Station.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the Community Payback Team have built and supplied four bird nesting boxes free of charge for siting at Blythe Bridge Railway Station.

- 6.3 Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Page 70 – agenda item 8.4.  
Subject: The Late Shop, Blythe Bridge.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the pot holes on The Late Shop car park have been repaired, a new barrier has been installed and the Manager has given permission for a litterbin to be sited by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council on the grassed area at the entrance to the shop.

- 6.4 Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Page 72 – agenda item 9.4.3.  
Subject: The Smithfield Hotel.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Department contacted the owners of The Smithfield Hotel on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2010 with regard to tidying up the site. As they have received no reply they will be contacting them again.

- 6.4 Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Page 72 agenda item 9.4.4.  
Subject: Land adjacent to 38 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Department has contacted the residents of 38 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook and they have agreed to move the caravan, which was parked on the agricultural green belt land adjacent to their property.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton asked the clerk to clarify whether the Chicken Coop, which was still in situ, met with planning guidelines and could remain.

- 6.5 Minutes of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – Page 72 – agenda item 11.1.  
Subject: ‘Children Crossing’ sign in Caverswall Old Road.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the ‘Children Crossing’ sign was removed on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

## 7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.1 The clerk's report was received and noted.

7.2 Dates and venues of 'outside' meetings were noted as follows:

- Community Council of Staffordshire Annual General Meeting – 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2010 at 7.30pm at Haling Dene Centre, Cannock Road, Penkridge, Stafford. (Light refreshments will be served from 7.00pm and the formal business will commence at 7.30pm).
- Staffordshire Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at 2.00pm at Stafford Boat Club, Hazelstrine Arm, Off Maplewood, Wildwood, Stafford.
- Staffordshire Parish Councils Association - Seminar on Council Employment – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 7.00pm at Room 3, Peel Building, St. Chads Place, Stafford. (Cost £20 for the first delegate, £15 for the second delegate and £10 each for subsequent delegate).
- Staffordshire County Council – Electoral Review of Staffordshire 2010 – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at 2.00pm at the Oak Room, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford.  
(Councillors received prior notice of the above meeting).

7.3 The following circulation material was made available to members.

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues No. 741 and 742.
- Staffordshire 3<sup>rd</sup> Section Network (S3SN) E. Bulletins.
- Rural Services Community Newsletters.
- Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – September issue.
- Local Council Review.
- Staffordshire Police Newsletter – September issue (Copy distributed to each Councillor).

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Building Regulation Charges for the extension to the changing rooms.

To note that the charges are as follows: Plan submission charge £140.00 plus VAT and site inspection charge £335.00 plus VAT.

8.2 Construction Plans & Regulations Limited – subject: Building Regulation Charges for the extension to the changing rooms.

To note that the charges are as follows: Plan submission charge £180.00 plus VAT and site inspection charge £370.00 plus VAT.

### RESOLVED:

- **To use the services of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council with regard to the extension to the Changing Rooms should planning permission be granted and funding identified.**

- 8.3 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog alerts.

The latest watchdog alerts were received and noted.

- 8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: New telephone numbers.

The following new telephone numbers were noted:

Staffordshire County Council’s Services telephone number 0300 111 8000

Staffordshire County Council’s Highway Defects telephone number 0300 111 8020

- 8.5 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Tree Preservation Order No. SM 277.

It was noted that it is proposed to introduce a tree preservation order on trees at 11 Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge.

- 8.6 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Road Closure – Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that Stallington Road in the vicinity of the Level Crossing will be closed on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010 between the hours of 06.00 and 15.00 and the A521 Uttoxeter Road in the vicinity of the Level Crossing will be closed on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2010 between the hours of 06.00 and 15.00.

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

**General**

C. J. Brian

Douglas Macmillan Hospice

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

**Email Exchanges:**

Ken Jones

M. Warren

Barry Snape

Mr. Jim Corden

Community Council of Staffordshire

Owl Messaging

**Subject:**

Quotation for cemetery shed repairs.

**Clerk has agreed necessary work.**

Request for donation towards Christmas Tree Lights. **(Note: This charity is already on the Council’s list for donations, which are sent out in October of each year).**

Waste and Recycling Collection Services in rural areas to be brought into line with those across the rest of the District.

Parish Elections 5<sup>th</sup> May 2011. Parish Councils to budget for costs.

Provision of allotments.

Request to advertise in newsletter. **(Note: Clerk has explained that advertisements are not allowed).**

Copy of email sent to SMDC Planning Department querying vehicle access at 51 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.

Flashcam security camera.

Community Right to Build and Change to Policy direction for the Big Lottery Fund.

Neighbourhood Watch alerts.

The Memorial Specialist Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall	Memorial fees. Response to Mrs. Kirkland's complaint – refer to Council minutes of 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2010.
Britannia Building Society Faye Lambert, Rail Partnership Officer	Weed growth – entrance to Britannia B.S. Blythe Bridge Railway Station – next project.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Agricultural field adjacent to 38 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook – refer to Council minutes of 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2010.
Touch Properties	Confirming that they are still the owners of The Smithfield Hotel.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Smithfield Hotel – refer to Council minutes of 16 <sup>th</sup> August 2010.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Parish Online access information. Environment Issue Reports: Fly tipping and fly posting.
Staffordshire County Council	Dates of Parish Council meetings as Margy Woodhead (DCYPF) wishes to attend to give update.
Staffordshire County Council	List of works to be carried out by the Highways Team when they are next in the Parish from 23 <sup>rd</sup> to 29 <sup>th</sup> September 2010.
Staffordshire County Council	Update on Parish Council's position with regard to applying for 'Communities Mean Business' funding.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway Defects Reports: Overgrown hedges/trees and damaged bus shelter.
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association.	Weekly updates, meetings, funding opportunities, Local Government Boundary Commission changes etc. etc.

## 9. PLANNING.

### 9.1 Planning Applications:

00681/FUL – Land adjacent to Road House Garage, Uttoxeter Road, Draycott in the Moors – change of use to provide 3 No. Parking Spaces.

00728/FUL – The Recreation Ground, Mount Road, Blythe Bridge – proposed front extension to existing changing rooms.

00747/FUL – The Limes, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – conversion of 1 dwelling to 2 dwellings.

000641/FUL – Roshni Restaurant, 19 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – change of use of outbuilding to auxiliary accommodation/holiday accommodation.

### **RESOLVED:**

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

**00681/FUL**

*“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council have studied the above planning application and have concerns regarding the proposals.*

*The site is located within green belt and planning permission was refused for car sales on this site in October 1998 on the grounds that it was “inappropriate development within the green belt as it was detrimental to its openness and visual amenity contrary to the provision of national and local planning policies”.*

*Your officer should consider refusing the above application on the same grounds.”*

**00728/FUL**

*“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council do not wish to comment on the above planning application as it is one that we have submitted.”*

**00747/FUL**

*“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council have studied the above plans and re-examined previous planning applications on the same site - 00200/FUL for the erection of detached bungalow and 00427/FUL for the conversion of former coach house to 2 storey dwelling, both of which have been approved.*

*Originally, on this site was one large semi detached house. The site now includes three substantial properties and this later proposal, if approved will mean that from one original property there will be four properties. One can presume that each property will have at least two cars and members consider that the access/egress is not wide enough for two cars to pass. The access/egress point is on an extremely busy road close to one High School and one Primary School and is on a very bad bend and poses highway safety issues. There is now also the presumption against ‘garden grabbing’. Already a precedent has been set for other properties to convert gardens for residential development. Only nearby two properties The Rectory and The Furlongs have had planning permission refused for similar development.*

*Forsbrook Parish Council believe that by submitting individual planning applications for development on the site, with each one being determined on its own merit, the consequences of overdevelopment and highway safety have been somewhat compromised as opposed to if one application for the whole development had been submitted at the same time.*

*Trusting your Officer will consider our concerns when making a decision.”*

**000641/FUL**

*“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council have studied the above planning application and have several concerns.*

- 1. The site lies within a flood zone area and the property has been flooded several times during the last ten years. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is in possession of photographic evidence of this.*

2. *The proposed development lies within an area, which could be subject to current coal mining or hazards resulting from past coal mining. Such hazards may currently exist, be caused as a result of the proposed development, or occur at some time in the future.*
3. *The proposals are for accommodation for owner/staff or holiday lets at the rear of the staff car park. Additional living accommodation has recently been approved on the first floor of Roshni's Restaurant. The car park adjacent to the Restaurant is used by staff and customers and is extremely busy. Residents, customers and staff using this busy car park will obviously pose a pedestrian/vehicle conflict to any residents needing to access the proposed accommodation to the rear of the car park either by car or on foot. The existing access/egress is already unsuitable across a very busy pavement on a bend and on a junction.*
4. *Government has issued guidelines against 'garden grabbing' for development.*
5. *The applicant states that the building is currently used as a store by Roshni Restaurant but that the original use may have been a coach house or garage. As far as Council is aware the outbuilding has never been used as a coach house.*  
*Trusting you Officer will consider our concerns when making a decision."*

## 9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00538/FUL – 118 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – first floor bedroom extension over existing kitchen and garage. (Note: The proposed development lies within an area which could be subject to current coal mining or hazards resulting from past coal mining. Such hazards may currently exist, be caused as a result of the proposed development, or occur at some time in the future).

00424/ADV – Roshni Restaurant, 19 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – 3 no. internally illuminated signs. (Note: The proposed development lies within an area which could be subject to current coal mining or hazards resulting from past coal mining. Such hazards may currently exist, be caused as a result of the proposed development, or occur at some time in the future).

## 9.3 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

## 9.4 Planning matters.

427 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Councillor Mrs. S. M. Edwards agreed to check with the Planning Department to ascertain if the large barn/stable structure recently erected in the agricultural field to the rear of the above met with planning guidelines.

## 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.

10.2.1 Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that he had received a telephone call from a resident complaining about the grass not being collected by the contractor when mowing the cemetery.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that this was not part of his contract and the cost for undertaking such work would be prohibitive.

10.2.2 Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier asked for permission to plant more spring bulbs at the cemetery. **Agreed.**

## 11. ENVIRONMENT:

### 11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read out an article from the Sentinel printed on 11<sup>th</sup> September with regard to community centres. An extract from the news article is appended below:

*“Almost a dozen youth and community centres could be saved if residents come up with plans to revive them. Teenagers, pensioners and other social groups feared they were going to be left homeless after Staffordshire County Council announced the buildings were on a closure list three years ago. But now, the new Conservative-led authority has urged communities to draw up their own plans for reducing costs to make the centres viable. They could include handing over the management to voluntary committees, sharing the buildings with other organisation, increasing charges for events or putting on more activities. In some cases, youth clubs could switch to alternative premises nearby and the old buildings be sold off. But Councillor Ben Adams, cabinet member for communities and culture said plans needed to be realistic and he revealed two of the buildings previously unaffected by the closure plans are now under review. They are Knutton Youth Centre and Gnosall Youth Centre, near Stafford. Villagers in Gnosall only have until the end of this year to come up with their plan for the building. In Knutton, residents have two years to turn it around. Those which could get a reprieve include youth and community education centres in Blythe Bridge and Bradwell, where residents are being given two years to drum up ideas.”*

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said it was appalling that the first indication of what was being proposed was the article in The Sentinel when the Parish Council, since the conception of the Egerton Centre and new Library has asked to be involved and to be included in meetings.

### **RESOLVED:**

- **To write to Staffordshire County Council referring to previous correspondence and asking at what point they were going to consider consulting the Parish Council and enquire as to the current position with regard to the service level agreement that was being drawn up together with usage and income source.**

For reference purposes a copy of the letter the clerk has sent to Councillor Ben Adams is appended hereunder.

*“The recent news article printed in The Sentinel on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2010 under the heading ‘Social groups can save their centres’ was discussed at our Parish Council meeting on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2010.*

*Councillors were quite appalled that this was their first knowledge of what is being proposed and it therefore seems obvious that for whatever reason you do not want any input from us. Forsbrook Parish Councillors receive no remuneration for the work they do and as the elected body we try to listen to the needs and aspirations of our community and help to bring about improvements within the Parish. If you refer to previous correspondence you will see that from the conception of the Egerton Centre we have been very interested in playing a part and when the Service Level Agreement was being drawn up, which we understand has now come to a standstill, we asked to be included in meetings/discussions.*

*We have recently published our Parish Plan and Design Statement, which is at this moment being delivered to all households within the Parish. This document could well help you in realising what the community want from the Egerton Centre, Library and High School. On our web site at [www.forsbrookparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.forsbrookparishcouncil.org.uk) you will find details of the Parish Plan Questionnaire, the Survey Results in edited format and also the Survey Results listing all the individual comments, which residents have made. The Parish Plan and Design Statement will be included on the website shortly.*

*In the past we have asked for a breakdown of the income from the Egerton Centre together with usage and by whom. Is it possible to provide us with this information or do we need to request it under The Freedom of Information Act?*

*If you do not want to work or consult with the Parish Council it would be appreciated if you would let us know.”*

## 11.2 Environment Issues.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
Pavement surface from Draycott Old Road to Forsbrook Cemetery.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department.
Tarmac surface around utility chamber in the centre of the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road crossroads.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department.
Car sales on Staffordshire County Council land near Tesco roundabout obstructing grass cutting – suggest installation of bollards.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department. Councillors to collect details of registration numbers and telephone numbers to pass on to Trading Standards.
Trees perceived as being dangerous – Cheadle Road near to the junction with Caverswall Old Road.	Report again to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department.

Overgrown trees/hedges obscuring light from street lamp – footpath from Uttoxeter Road to Elmwood Drive – previous ‘Clarence’ reference number N1070099.	Ask Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department for an update.
Road surface – Cheadle Road	Ask Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department for an update.
Parking problems: Adjacent to The Methodist Chapel, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge. Junction of Brook Close/Mount Road. Uttoxeter Road from The Post Office to Grindley Lane.	Report to Police.
Blanket Tree Preservation Order.	Ask Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Officer Steve Massey for an update.
Footpath overgrown – Brook Close to Mount Road.	The clerk advised that this was the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department but she understood Town and Country Services would be carrying out the work on behalf of SCC in the next few weeks.
Animal Offal falling off vehicles belonging to John Pointon.	Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that he was trying to get John Pointon to use covered containers but at the moment their response was that this was not possible.
Article in National Press regarding ‘Halal’ Meat slaughtered according to Muslim law and end of food chain users who are unaware of how their meat is killed.	Write to Staffordshire County Council Education Department to see if they can confirm that the meat supplied to schools is not ‘Halal’.
Weed growth – Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Car Park on Uttoxeter Road.	Contractors will be carrying out maintenance work in the near future.
Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook – a large quantity of tyres have been dumped.	It was agreed that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council could take no action as this was private land.
Planters – junction of Blythe Mount Park/Cheadle Road.	Clerk advised that Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Rob Steele has approved the planters and positioning.
Barrier to Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall/Medical Centre is locked open and youth are congregating in cars on the Medical Centre car park.	Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier (Council Representative on the Village Hall Committee) reported that the Committee are aware of the problem and will be discussing this at the next meeting. She pointed out that the Medical Centre requires unrestricted access when the surgery is open.

## 12. FINANCE:

### 12.1 Bank Balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010 was:

Community Direct Account	27321.06
14 Day Account	57706.26
Outstanding debits	(874.20)
Outstanding credits	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>84183.12</b>

### 12.2 September 2010 accounts.

The following cheques were submitted for approval.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
401987	Herron Group	1195.00	209.13	1404.13
401988	Town and Country Services	1441.00	252.17	1693.17
401989	Mr. D. A. Shaw	60.00		60.00
401990	SPCA	20.00		20.00
401991	Staffordshire Playing Fields Association	15.00		15.00
401992	Christine J. Snape	878.95		878.95
401993	Christine J. Snape	117.43	10.85	128.28
401994	HM Revenue & Customs	833.07		833.07
401995	Mr. C. J. Brian	860.00		860.00
DD	Eon	38.09	1.91	40.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>5458.54</b>	<b>474.06</b>	<b>5932.60</b>

### **RESOLVED:**

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

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm

**Clerk to the Council**

**Chairman**