

## **FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> JUNE 2010 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),  
Councillor S. P. Fox,  
Councillor P. Jones,  
Councillor A. J. Mould,  
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,  
Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker,  
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),  
Members of the public (11),  
Press Officer.

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Mrs. S. A. Harrison and Councillor B. Yates.

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Member declaring interest</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>
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 Maryanne Raftery – personal friend.

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

#### **3. OPEN SESSION.**

##### **3.1 Residents Issues.**

- 3.1.1 00262/OUT – 23 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge – outline application for two detached and one pair of semi-detached dwellings with garages. Existing property to be demolished.

Seven residents from Cedar Avenue attended the meeting to ask for Council's support in objecting to the above outline planning application and raised the following concerns:

- a) Over development – insufficient space about dwellings.
- b) Insufficient room to construct private road access off the turning circle of Cedar Avenue to four properties (two four bedroomed detached and two three bedroomed semi-detached houses with four garages) – access width to site is 4.3m instead of the required 4.5m.
- c) Noise pollution.
- d) Privacy of adjacent neighbours will be compromised.
- e) Highway safety issues: disruption during construction; finished development will not be able to provide safe access/egress to properties for emergency services, refuse collections, deliveries, visitors etc.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked residents for attending the meeting and said they were welcome to stay, as Council would be discussing the planning application under agenda item 9.1

### 3.1.2 Litter issues – Sizzatrix, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Mrs. Rachael Moore, proprietor of Sizzatrix and her parents attended the meeting following correspondence between them and Forsbrook Parish Council regarding litter issues on their land. She felt they were being victimised as she was not aware of any other premises receiving similar letters of concern and they had also previously received complaints regarding a mobility scooter obstructing footway access outside their premises. She asked if the two complaints were linked and added that they had also received anonymous abusive telephone calls regarding the mobility scooter. She said that she would prefer complainants to go into the Salon to speak directly with her rather than raising issues with the Parish Council. Mrs. Moore confirmed that the side entrance/alleyway was in their ownership and the deeds stipulated it could not be fenced off, that they had CCTV surveillance to help identify the culprits who were causing anti social problems - drinking, dropping litter and damage to property and asked for Council's help in trying to resolve the problems.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reassured Mrs. Moore that they were not being victimised and many business in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook have been asked for their co-operation with regard to controlling litter and that the District Council Enforcement Officer has also visited several businesses to advise them of their obligations. She added that the Parish Council has a duty to act on any complaints that they receive.

It was **agreed** to support Sizzatrix in trying to resolve the issues, by asking Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to consider resiting a litter bin near to their premises, to ask the local police officers to liaise with them with regard to identifying the persistent offenders from their CCTV system and to make enquiries to the District Council regarding the siting of a Mosquito device.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that, if agreeable, she would read the letter from Sizzatrix under agenda item 6.1. Mrs. Moore said she had no objections to this.

### 3.1.3 Complaint from resident regarding the large pothole adjacent to The Grange, 2 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that this and other potholes were constantly being reported to Staffordshire County Council and that the Parish Council would again chase these repairs up.

### 3.2 Report from County Councillor W. Day.

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

### **Standing Orders were reinstated.**

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

Meeting with Staffordshire County Council Officer Maryanne Raftery, County Councillor W. Day, Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton and the clerk Mrs. Christine Snape on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton gave the following report on the above meeting:

**Area Survey** – This is a document for information and may help the Parish Council and County Councillor W. Day to prioritise schemes for inclusion in the Divisional Highway Programme.

**Divisional Highway Programme** – This is a 2/4 year programme for committed funded schemes. Council has been given a copy of the schemes included in the 2010-11 programme and these will shortly be available via a County Council website link and can also be included on the Parish Council web site. County Councillor Day can prioritise requests from Councils in his ward and add to the Divisional Highway Programme. Schemes included in the 2010/11 Divisional Highway Programme for Forsbrook Parish, which are not referred to separately below are:

Repairs/replacement of chain link fencing in Lavender Avenue, Blythe Bridge; Streetlight improvements (various areas); improved signage at Forsbrook Cemetery.

**Junction: Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road** – The Safer Routes to School proposals for this junction have not yet been finalised. Emphasis will be on safety and accessibility, not necessarily on congestion. Reduction of the pavement adjacent to The Duke of Wellington to allow two-way traffic to exit Cheadle Road is still being considered.

Signal controls and mini roundabout have been dismissed because this is a four-arm junction, with poor visibility and large capacity of vehicles.

**Speed** – It is unlikely the County Council will introduce legislation to reduce the speed of vehicles on any of our Parish roads. VAS (Vehicle Activated Signs) and permanent SIDS (Speed Indicator Signs) have been requested by Forsbrook Parish Council on Cheadle Road and Uttoxeter Road as well as a speed reduction to 20 mph around schools. These speed issues will remain in the Divisional Highway programme.

**Pedestrian Crossing, Forsbrook** – No amended scheme is being designed by Staffordshire County Council – this will remain on the file as ongoing. County Councillor W. Day has now promised to look at the provision of bollards/remarking on the pavement adjacent to The Spar, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook funded from the Member's Initiative Scheme.

**Pedestrian crossing island – junction of Grindley Lane/Uttoxeter Road (Fulford Parish)** – This scheme will be implemented as part of the Safer Routes to School programme.

**Resurfacing** – Slurry resurfacing is planned for footways in Elmwood Drive (remainder of estate) and some roads off Stallington Road.

**Meetings regarding County Council Issues** – County Councillor W. Day will represent the County Council at meetings.

It was **agreed** to forward the following list in order of priority, to County Councillor W. Day for his consideration for inclusion in the Divisional Highway Plan.

1. Improvements to the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction.
2. Pedestrian Crossing for centre of Forsbrook.
3. Permanent SIDs.
4. Reduction of Speed around Schools to 20mph.

and to also list the issues, as detailed below, which Council would like an update on:

1. Maintenance of Cheadle Road.
2. Safer Routes to School Programme.
3. Slurry treatment of pavements, which have not been successful and require further maintenance.

It was also **agreed** that when County Councillor W. Day has a report/update available for Council to arrange an Environment meeting to give more time for discussions on the above important issues.

## 5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:

**Annual Parish Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May 2010.  
Council Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010.**

### **RESOLVED:**

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

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – page 34 – agenda item 14.4.

To receive and note response from Sizzatrix, 327 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge regarding litter on their land, which Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read to members.

- 6.2 Minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010 – page 20 – agenda item 11.2.  
Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – page 25 – agenda item 9.1.1.

To receive and note the following response from the Senior Planning Enforcement Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding The Smithfield Hotel:

*“I refer to your complaint regarding the above matter.*

*I am able to understand the effect that vacant properties can have on the appearance and character of an area. Unfortunately, redundant vacant properties become vulnerable to vandalism and dereliction. However, while an untidy land notice (Section 215) may secure some initial improvement it would not bring about a long-term solution to these issues and the properties condition is just as likely to decline.*

*The premises are currently for sale with permission granted on appeal for demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 12 no. 3 bedroom dwellings (Ref: 08/00119/FUL), and the sites long-term future seems to lie in its redevelopment. I will*

*will ask him to address some of the maintenance issues that you raise. Perhaps you could suggest the steps that you would like to see the property owner undertake to address your concerns.*

*I look forward to your response.”*

It was **agreed** to reiterate the concerns of the Parish Council to the Enforcement Officer - litter, graffiti (some of which was obscene), vegetation overgrowth, danger of tiles falling from outbuilding roof and unauthorised parking as the restriction bollards have been removed. Photographs illustrating the concerns to be forwarded.

6.3 Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – page 34 – agenda item 14.4.

To receive the following response from Cameron Property Management:

*“I acknowledge receipt of your email and have noted your comments.*

*I, and the residents of this development, are very tired of having to pay our grounds contractor to clear away the continual rubbish in the mill stream area. I have been in touch with the high school and they have committed to get their scholars to litter pick the back of the bank (how often this happens I do not know!). I have actually been on site and witnessed scholars throwing their cans over the fence – I have visited the school and have also written to them which resulted in their offer to carry out the litter pick.*

*The mill stream is no longer in use and fills up from the water table from the bank and obviously when it rains.*

*As the managing agent of this development I would really like to solve this matter so that the residents of the development are not constantly paying to clean up other peoples rubbish/abandoned items. My contractor told me today that he removed a for sale board, trees, vodka bottles, cans, crisps packets etc. So if you have any suggestions they would be gratefully received.”*

It was **agreed** to send a copy of the above response from Cameron Property Management to County Councillor Ian Parry in his capacity as Chairman of Governors at Blythe Bridge High School.

6.4 Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – page 34 – agenda item 14.4.

To note that Blythe Bridge Police Officers will monitor the situation with regard to vehicles causing an obstruction in the vicinity of Trinity Medical Centre and have also passed the concerns raised by Council on to Stone Police division.

6.5 Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – page 34 – agenda item 14.4.

To note that Jenny Weston from the SMDC Pollution Team is dealing with the noise problem at Finney’s Builder Merchants, Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

6.6 Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 – page 34 – agenda item 14.4.

To note that SCC Rights of Way Department is looking at carrying out repairs to the wooden bridge and also the clapper bridge in the very near future.

6.7 Minutes dated 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 - page 34 - agenda item 14.4.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham said she has received a telephone call thanking Council for their action with regard to the reinstatement of the bus stop sign in Forsbrook Square.

## **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:

NALC Meetings:

- Localism in Action Conference 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2010 in Bristol.
- Leadership Academy 13-16<sup>th</sup> July 2010 in Coventry.
- Localism in Action Conference 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in York.
- Leadership Academy 16-19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 in Coventry.
- Larger Councils Conference 1st December 2010 in London.
- Clerks' Networking Luncheon 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010 in Cheltenham.
  
- Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010 commencing at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber at Moorlands House, Leek.

7.3 The following circulation material was made available to members:

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues No. 734, 735 and 736.
- Link Staffordshire Bulletin – Issue 3.
- Staffordshire 3<sup>rd</sup> Section Network (S3SN) E. Bulletins.
- Rural Services Community Newsletters.
- East Midlands Train Timetables and Guides.
- Local Council Review.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

8.1 Came & Company – subject: Insurance Policy.

Schedule of insurance cover and policy documents were received and noted.

8.2 John David Payne (Architectural & Interior Designer) – subject: Extension to Changing Rooms.

Members studied the two extension options for the changing rooms and asked the clerk to liaise with John Payne with regard to an amended design to provide maximum space for a meeting room and office/storage facilities, which can be accessed from one main foyer.

8.3 Peter Scott Treecare – subject: Tree Management.

Details of the services provided by the above company were received and noted and will be kept on file for future reference.

8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Scams.

Details of the latest watchdog scams were received and noted and have been included on the Parish Council website.

8.5 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Order at Stallington Road Level Crossing, Blythe Bridge – diversion of vehicular traffic.

The above Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Order from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> June was noted.

8.6 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Calculating the Annual Precept.

Guidance notes, which explain the procedure for calculating the annual precept were received and noted.

8.7 W. Cash MP – subject: Planning application 00339/FUL - 222 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that Mr. Cash has taken the above planning proposals up with the Chief Executive of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and will write to Council again when he has a full response, which addresses all the points raised.

8.8 W. Cash MP – subject: A50 Noise Barriers.

The response Mr. Cash has received from The Highways Agency to the questions raised by residents at the Public Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2009 are detailed below:

Question: The fence is not the same height as the original and it has been moved down the slope thus reducing the height. Can the Agency confirm that this is the case?

Answer: The DBFO Company have confirmed that the location of the fence is in the same position as the old 2m fence and is at least 2m high. Inspection by The Highways Agency would indicate that this is a correct statement.

Question: Can the fence be extended to cover Meadow Close?

Answer: Extension of the fence to cover Meadow Close has not been considered under this contract and with the financial restraints now being imposed on The Highways Agency it is highly unlikely that this will be implemented in the foreseeable future.

Question: Can a low noise surfacing be put in place to reduce noise?

Answer: At the meeting it was acknowledged by the DBFO Company that the surface was serviceable and there were no plans to resurface the road at this moment in time.

Question: Can a speed limit be introduced to reduce noise?

Answer: The Highways Agency has discussed the reduction of speed limits with Staffordshire Police. They, the Police, have concerns that a speed reduction at this location would not be enforceable without some form of control such as speed cameras and any reduction in speed could cause bunching of vehicles.

Question: Why is the acoustic fencing so unattractive (described as looking like bin bags). Can it be changed?

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Answer: We are addressing the visual impact of the acoustic fencing at Grindley Lane and will shortly be facing this fence with 150mm wooden boarding.

**RESOLVED:**

➤ **To update residents on the response W. Cash MP has received from The Highways Agency.**

8.9 Land Registry – subject: Registering property.

The guide for town and parish councils together with fees applicable for registering land/property was received and noted.

8.10 Rural Services Network – subject: Fairer Funding Campaign.

It was noted that Rural Services Network has written to the Prime Minister regarding fairer funding for rural areas. A copy of the letter was made available to members.

8.11 Staffordshire County Council – subject: previous requests for the introduction of traffic waiting restrictions on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

To note the following response received from Staffordshire County Council regarding the above issue:

*“Further to your e-mail I wish to confirm that I have now added the requests to the list of parking related issues which are to be submitted to the Joint Parking Committee at the next meeting in order that the Committee can consider which are to be prioritised, which are not to be progressed and which are to sit in the list of issues/locations yet to be prioritised.*

*At the meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> May it was recognised by the Committee (which I confirmed) that a number of issues were missing from the list – your three locations being one example. Therefore the opportunity has been taken to request issues from various sources within the Moorlands in order to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practicable, the list of issues is as aforementioned action will take place.*

*I would confirm at this stage that the 4 issues/locations identified as a priority for this financial year (year 1, 2010/2011) were accepted by the Committee in order that investigation of them can commence. The 4 priorities for year 2 to 5 will, therefore, be those set at the next meeting.*

*I trust the above is of assistance.”*

8.12 Staffordshire County Council – subject: chain link fencing – Lavender Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

To note the following response received from Staffordshire County Council regarding the above issue:

*“I apologise for the lengthy delay in responding to this e-mail but wish to confirm the following.*

*Thank you for the additional information provided although it does appear to indicate that SCC are responsible for the chain link fencing.*



*Following County Councillor Day's first Divisional Highway Programme (DHP) meeting with the Community Highway Liaison Team the issue of the chain link fencing was made a priority by him for us to investigate in order to confirm ownership and, if in*

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*SCC ownership (as appears to be the case based on your e-mail although I will try to clarify the information from our end if at all possible), confirm what action is to be taken (the two main options being repair or remove, each of which will have a cost). I will be looking towards dealing with this matter in the next 2 months although actual works on site (depending what is the favoured outcome) may take a little longer. I trust the above is of assistance as an update at this time."*

- 8.13 Staffordshire County Council – subject: grit bin for Stratford Close, Forsbrook.

To note the following response received from Staffordshire County Council regarding the above issue:

*"I apologise for the delay in replying. I have requested that the Community Highway Liaison Officer (Rob Steele) place an instruction onto IHMS for the provision of a grit bin at a suitable location (based on a site visit). If he is uncertain about the location or is concerned that the most appropriate location may cause a resident to object he will contact you to discuss."*

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

**General:**

**From:**

Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly  
  
Communities and Local Government

**Subject:**

Staffordshire Moorlands Community Awards – launched on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010.  
Poster displayed on notice boards.  
Budget Announcement – increase in level of small business rate relief.

**Email Exchanges:**

Q-Star Technology

Confirming that a replacement/upgraded deterrent camera is being shipped from America and will be exchanged with the original camera.

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association

Community Games Toolkit;  
Trading Standards updates;  
Messages re the new Political situation;  
Availability of 100 unused boxed folding chairs;  
Dates of various conferences;  
Coalfields Regeneration Trust funding opportunities;  
Promoting Volunteer Work;  
Details on local government cuts;  
Garden Grabbing government directive;  
Housing density targets to be scrapped;  
Appointment of City Champions to drive economic growth;  
Mobile phones;

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

England to open its doors for heritage long weekend;  
ISA registration scheme.  
Links to meetings/agendas etc;  
Dog stencilling on footpath from Uttoxeter Road to Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge.  
Tidying up of vacant site adjacent to Blythe Bridge Post Office;  
Case study with regard to 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge will be used to improve the way they deliver the service;  
Parish Assembly representatives;  
Watering of flower containers;  
Article for My Moorlands magazine on work at Blythe Bridge Railway Station.  
Service reports on sweeping of footpath 5a:

Staffordshire County Council

Poop scoop bags to local outlets.  
Meeting with Highway Officer Maryanne Raftery;  
(Documents as requested at the above meeting – maps showing pavement area adjacent to The Spar and Duke of Wellington together with email from Ian Turner regarding the blocked drains at the entrance to the Library/Police Station have been provided);  
Play Day in Blythe Bridge;  
Enterprise programme;  
Clarence issues: missed grass cutting; faulty streetlight; pothole adjacent to Britannia Building Society;  
Potholes Elmwood Drive;  
Planning application 00339/FUL.  
Details of recent crime incidents in the area.

County Councillor W. Day  
Owl Online Watch Link

Community Council of Staffordshire

Travis Perkins

Press release about the recent Sustainable Staffordshire event.  
Contractor instructed to address Council's concern.

## 9. PLANNING.

### 9.1 Planning Application:

00188/FUL – Rose Cottage, Commonsides, Boundary – first floor side, single storey rear and side extension and chimney stack.

00262/OUT – 23 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge – outline application for two detached and one pair of semi-detached dwellings with garages. Existing property to be demolished.

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Note: Council has received letter from Mr. R. L. Carter, 25 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge raising concerns regarding this development together with a copy of letters forwarded to the planning department by Mr. R. L. Carter and Mrs. and Mrs. Kelsey.

**RESOLVED:**

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

**00188/FUL – to raise no objections providing the scale and design are suitable in this green belt location and the privacy of adjacent neighbours is not compromised.**

➤ **00262/OUT – Following a lengthy debate and taking into account concerns raised by residents at the meeting and those pointed out by the Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton the following letter has been sent to the District Council Head of Planning and Building Control Mr. M. Green;**

*“Members of Council have studied the above planning application in detail and have several concerns, which we would like your officer to consider.*

**Previous Outline Planning Permission**

*The supporting documents from Stephen Gower Associates refer to a previous outline planning application for four dwellings, which was granted on appeal in October 1992, which has now lapsed. The present proposals are completely different as the above planning application no longer includes the curtilage from 25 Cedar Avenue so cannot be construed as being resolved with the last appeal. There are significant changes with this planning application, which do require reconsideration of the principle of this development.*

**Government’s planning guidance on ‘Garden Grabbing’.**

*We have received details of recent government legislation from NALC regarding ‘garden grabbing’ as follows: “The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) has responded to the recent announcement from Decentralisation minister, Greg Clark MP, that he has re-issued Planning Policy Statement 3: Housing (PPS3) to decentralise the planning system by giving Local Authorities the freedom to prevent over development of neighbourhoods and ‘garden grabbing’.”*

*If this was the only concern it should be sufficient for the above proposals to be refused. In addition to this new legislation it is obvious that the plot will be overdeveloped.*

**Highway Safety**

*Highways guidance is that there should be a minimum width for an access road of 4.5 metres to enable vehicles to pass. The actual maximum width for access is 4.3 metres. We therefore assume that as this falls short the Highway Officer will be objecting to the scheme. There should also be 4.8 metres by 2.4 metres provided for parking bays together with a clear 6m corridor fronting each bay to enable vehicles to manoeuvre. Taking into account that there will probably be a minimum of eight cars for the four proposed properties, which does not*

allow for visitors, deliveries, refuse collections, the Highway directives obviously cannot be met.

**Noise Survey**

The noise survey undertaken by Helen Woollaston places the existing noise level in Noise Exposure Category B under PPG24 and as such noise may be a determining factor when considering this application. The Highway Agency has recently carried out lengthy noise monitoring in various locations with regard to replacing the noise barriers on the A50. 13 Cedar Avenue was one location where noise-monitoring devices were sited. Any development in the garden of 23 Cedar Avenue will be far closer to the A50 and subjected to higher noise levels. A copy of the Highway Agency monitoring exercise has been emailed to you to enable your officer to study the document and thus conclude that the development fails to meet the acceptable noise level criteria. Any new development needs to take into account that residents need and should be able to open their windows without being affected by noise above the recommended levels. Traffic on the A50 will continue to rise increasing the noise levels. There are presently over 33000 vehicles using the A50 daily.

**Flood Zone**

The Flood Risk Assessment shows that the area is situated within Zone 3a, which is classed as 'high' meaning that it has a 1 in 100 greater annual probability of river flooding. There should be no developments in flood risk zones.

**Sound Detached Property with saleable value**

The documents state that a bat survey has been carried out, albeit not from an independent body. It also states that the property has only been vacant since January 2007 and that the basic structure has been maintained, particularly the roof. This therefore confirms that the house is of sound construction and planning permission is being sought merely for financial gain for one person whilst having an unacceptable adverse effect on all other residents living in Cedar Avenue.

**Housing Survey**

We are also emailing to you a copy of our Parish Plan Survey and Section 7 includes the response on Housing Provision. It should also be noted that there are homes of a similar type as those proposed for sale in the area so there is no shortage for prospective buyers.

**Strength of Concerns**

At our Council meeting yesterday evening seven residents from Cedar Avenue attended strongly objecting to the proposals and we believe you have already received letters from Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Carter and Mr. and Mrs. Kelsey who live either side of the proposed development outlining their concerns.

We trust that we have listed sufficient reasons why this planning application should be refused and trust you will support the Parish Council and the residents.”

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

01205/FUL – 12 Dove Road, Forsbrook – single storey rear extension and alterations to garage roof.

01234/FUL – Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey side and rear extensions.

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9.3 Planning Refusal:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

Planning Application Committee Meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010.

It was noted that planning application 00337/FUL – 1 Egerton Close, Blythe Bridge (single storey rear extension) was approved by the Committee and planning application 00339/FUL – 222 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge (extension and conversion into 2 ground floor retail units and 3 first floor apartments) was not included on the agenda for 17<sup>th</sup> June 2010 as the agent is in dialogue with County Council and District Council Officers to try and address the concerns raised by residents and Council.

**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 gave the following report:

**Blythe Bridge Library**

The library is having a small extension, which encompasses the area where the Parish Council's flag pole was sited. Assurances have been given by the contractors that the flagpole will be reinstated and fixed to a wall bracket. However, this leaves Council with a problem as regards the siting of the Christmas tree.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested approaching the Police because there is a small area adjacent to the Police Station Offices, which may be suitable, providing Town and Country Services feel this area is appropriate.

**AGREED.**

**Conservation Area**

Following the expression of interest by the Parish Council a few years ago with regard to the Parish being considered for recognition as a Conservation Area and the meeting with SMDC Conservation Officer Christopher Drage, a district review has been undertaken to identify whether there are settlements that ought to be designated. 35 settlements, including Blythe Bridge, Blythe Marsh and Forsbrook have been evaluated by researching old maps and photographs. A numerical scoring system has been

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produced and a value attributed to a number of features such as listed buildings, archaeological sites, plan form. A final review will be compiled, the findings of which will be reported to cabinet in August together with recommendations.

### **Staffordshire County Council Play Day**

A request has been received from Caroline Johnson the Early Years Quality Support Officer for Staffordshire Moorlands to hold a Play Day on the Recreation Ground. Proposed dates are 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and she has requested permission from the Parish Council to use the facilities and to erect a gazebo type marquee together with stall(s). She has also asked if this event will be covered by the Parish Council insurance.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that we give permission, with a small charge of £50, to cover the Parish Council maintenance costs, which is in line with what Football Clubs are charged for one-day special football matches and to advise that they must arrange their own insurance.

**AGREED.**

#### 11.2 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Area Survey.

A copy of the above Area Survey was distributed to all members. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council had kindly copied them for the Parish Council, as Staffordshire County Council had not supplied sufficient copies. She reminded members that this area survey was requested to provide valuable data for the County Council and other agencies to enable traffic congestion/traffic safety to be investigated and suitable schemes/road traffic management to be introduced to ease the situation but because of the stance of the County Council the whole exercise now seems pointless other than having a document which can be referred to with regard to traffic flow, pedestrian flow, speed and accidents. The other agencies originally involved in the Traffic Management meetings will now need to be consulted to discuss the best way forward.

#### 11.3 Environment Issues.

The following Environment issues were raised:

Pothole – Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge (near bridge).	To again report to ‘Clarence’.
Condition of pavement surface – junction of Elmwood Drive and Uttoxeter Road.	Report to ‘Clarence’.
Safety Barrier – The Late Shop, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	To report the broken barrier to the Co-operative Head Office.
Pot holes – entrance to The Late Shop, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to ‘Clarence’.
Re-siting of some streetlights is upsetting residents.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the County Council has said

	this was necessary to provide maximum light levels.
Steel pole (possibly from an old highway sign) on the pavement by Henry Rice Motors, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to 'Clarence'.

**12. FINANCE:**

12.1 Bank Balance.

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

Community Direct Account	35942.62
14 Day Account	57706.26
Less outstanding debits	(90.50)
<b>Total</b>	<b>93558.38</b>

12.2 June 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>
401968	C. J. Brian	415.00		415.00
401969	Town and Country Services	944.00	165.20	1109.20
401970	Heath House Farm	261.00	45.68	306.68
401971	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	320.00	56.00	376.00
401972	Christine J. Snape	878.95		878.95
401973	HM Customs and Excise	733.06		733.06
401974	Christine J. Snape	128.42	1.15	129.57
DD	Eon	38.09	1.91	40.00
DD	British Telecom	107.53	18.82	126.35
<b>Total</b>		<b>3826.05</b>	<b>288.76</b>	<b>4114.81</b>

**RESOLVED:**

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

**13. ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2010.**

13.1 Copies of the following financial documents were distributed to all members with the agenda:

- Annual Return for period ending 31 March 2010.
- Accounts for period ending 31 March 2010.
- Payments due as at 31 March 2010.
- Statement of significant variances and bank reconciliation as at 31 March 2010.
- Fixed asset register for period ending 31 March 2010.
- Parish Council Internal Audit Control.
- Income and Expenditure for period 1st April 2009 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010.

13.2 Internal Auditor.

The following report from the internal auditor Mr. David Ingman was noted:

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*“To the Chairman and Members of the Council.  
I have completed the key tests recommended by the Audit Commission for the purpose of signing the Annual Return. The Council’s internal controls in place are effective. The records and accounts maintained are kept to a high standard and in good order. There are no matters which need to be brought to the attention of the Council.”*

13.3 Annual Return – Declaration Section 2 – Annual governance statement.

**RESOLVED:**

- **To record a ‘Yes’ response to all the questions in section 2 of the above statement.**

13.4 Risk Assessment (as copy distributed to all Councillors).

Members agreed that the Risk Assessment was being followed effectively.

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm.

**Clerk to the Council**

**Chairman**