

## **FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE RECREATION GROUND CHANGING ROOMS.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs. G. Burton,  
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,  
Councillor Miss S. Farr,  
Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley,  
Councillor P. Jones,  
Councillor Miss. J. P. Morris,  
Councillor A. J. Mould,  
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,  
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,  
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from Councillor F. J. Hopley.

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.**

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham proposed re-election of present Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton. Councillor P. Jones seconded the proposal. There were no other nominations and Councillor Mrs. G. Burton was duly re-elected.

**3. 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.

**4. TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES WITH REGARD TO THE CHANGING ROOMS.**

Committee members agreed that the cleanliness of the changing rooms was acceptable and no action was required.

## 5. ENVIRONMENT ISSUES.

### 5.1 Flower Planters.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported how disappointed she was that Heath House Farm had not regularly watered the planters as arranged and because of the recent dry spell the plants, particularly the ones in Blythe Bridge had died. Heath House Farm has now replanted the containers.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- **To advertise for tenders for watering of the containers for next season.**

### 5.2 Open Space, Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised members that there have been several complaints recently from the older residents living in Crossfield Avenue, with regard to what they consider to be misuse of the open space. On Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2011 it has been reported that there were go carts riding through and over the shrubs, playing of ball games and youth aged around 15 climbing trees. The problems escalated when an older resident spoke to some of the children. She said that the erection of a 'No ball game' sign had been discussed by Council in the past but as this was not enforceable and a bye law to this effect would not help as they were not enforceable for anyone under the age of 14 it was time to explore different options with regard to suitable wording of a sign and planting of shrubs. Fencing would be a too costly option and would be abused and if the land was not maintained it would be an eyesore for all residents. It was noted that the Police will be able to take action against anyone causing criminal damage to Council property.

#### **RECOMMENDED:**

- **To obtain a quotation for a sturdy sign with the wording:  
PRIVATE LAND  
ANYONE CAUSING CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO FORSBROOK  
PARISH COUNCIL PROPERTY WILL BE PROSECUTED.  
BY ORDER OF FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL.**
- **To ask Town and Country Services to undertake the planting of prickly plants/shrubs over a wide area of the open space.**
- **To ask the local Police Officers to regularly patrol the area and to deal with anyone who causes damage to Council property.**

### 5.3 Maintenance of footpath surfaces.

The clerk reported that several of the footpaths were overgrown. Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way reimburse Town and Country Services twice a year for maintaining the footpaths but between these cuts – May and October a further cut would be beneficial but the Parish Council will have to cover the cost (£200 for 2012).

**RECOMMENDED:**

- **To ask Town and Country Services to undertake an extra cut of all footpaths end July/beginning of August.**

5.4 Footpath 12- adjacent to The Late Shop.

It was noted that this footpath is gradually becoming narrower due to the increasing width of the boundary hedges.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- **To contact Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department to ask them to undertake a site visit to see what action can be taken.**

**Clerk to the Council**

**Chairman**