

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH APRIL 2011 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Members of the public (6),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. S. M. Edwards, Councillor Mrs. S. A. Harrison, Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor S. P. Fox, Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker 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.
Planning Application 00189/Ful – Heath House Farm	All Councillors present at meeting.	Personal – Heath House Farm is one of Council's suppliers.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

3.1.1 Mr. Frank Hopley, Blythe Bridge raised the following issues:

Overgrown hedge adjacent to the Late Shop (Co-op), Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

He also said that it was the intention of the Youth Support Group to hold a Playday on August 13th 2011, providing funding could be secured and asked for permission to use the Recreation ground from 10.00am-4.00pm. Plans were being discussed regarding what activities to provide and a five a side football match and fun fair were being considered. Mr. F. J. Hopley gave assurance that insurance cover would be in place, which would include damage to any Council property.

Councillor J. W. Burgess added that fun dog shows were very popular at events such as this.

Council **agreed** in principle. Mr. F J. Hopley to report back to Council when more details were available.

- 3.1.2 Mrs. Toni Barnes, Blythe Bridge said that she was concerned regarding dog fouling on the recreation ground. She said that 7.30am was a popular time for exercising dogs when some owners allow their dogs to foul on the play park, do not carry poop scoop bags and do not intend clearing up after their pets.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council was presently consulting on introducing Dog Control Orders throughout the Moorlands and that Forsbrook Parish Council has expressed an interest in being included in the following orders:

The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Order 2011).

The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council) Order 2011.

The Dogs Exclusion (Staffordshire Moorlands District Council) order 2011 - (Children's fenced in play area on Blythe Bridge Recreation ground).

She said she would pass the concerns through to the District Council Enforcement Officers.

- 3.1.3 Mr. Paul Quinton (District Council Candidate) said that whilst he has been canvassing he has received complaints from residents in Blythe Mount Park with regard to parents blocking access/egress to their drives when dropping and collecting children from school and also from residents in Eastbank Ride regarding the condition of the road and pavement surface. He felt that the introduction of parking restrictions on Blythe Mount Park would solve the problem. The question as to how this would be policed and where cars would be displaced to was raised. It was accepted that there are parking problems around all schools.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that no complaints had been received by the Parish Council from residents in Blythe Mount Park but Staffordshire County Council were aware of the road/pavement maintenance work required in Eastbank Ride.

- 3.1.4 Mr. Michael Shufflebotham asked why speed humps in Caverswall Old Road, which were proposed under the Safer Routes to School Scheme, are not being implemented and suggested that representatives from the SRS committee and SCC Officers witness the speed of vehicles at this location and reconsider.

County Councillor W. Day said that the Safer Routes to School Committee endorsed the installation of speed humps but some residents and Council had raised concerns about the proposals.

(Comments made by Forsbrook Parish Council in their letter to Staffordshire County Council dated 16th December 2008 were: "Members of Council would prefer that the consultation letter being sent to residents in Caverswall Old Road regarding the road humps and chicanes be worded in such a way as to make residents feel comfortable in replying should they have any concerns. Several Forsbrook Parish Councillors drive vehicles as a career and are opposed to road humps and question whether these are the only options available to reduce the speed of traffic. The introduction of traffic parking restrictions on the junction with Cheadle Road should eliminate the dangers posed by vehicles parking in this vicinity".)

County Councillor W. Day also referred to the comments made at the March Council meeting regarding the bollards and guard rails installed adjacent to Shoetime and said that this did not come under his remit as the area was in Fulford ward not Forsbrook but that they have been installed for the safety of children.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham said that so far Forsbrook Parish Council has not benefited in any way from the Safer Routes to School Scheme.

County Councillor W. Day replied by saying that Forsbrook Parish Council did not support all the proposals. Schemes still being considered are a pedestrian crossing by Travis Perkins and a pedestrian crossing near to the entrance to Forsbrook Primary School providing permission can be obtained from the developer at The Furlongs to release land for the provision of a pavement.

Mr. M. Shufflebotham again raised the issue of the surface of Cheadle Road, Forsbrook. He said that the C109 through Tean is going to be resurfaced which does not carry the same amount of traffic as Cheadle Road and is not in such a poor condition. He also said that the drains in Caverswall Old Road have been blocked for decades.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that the issue of blocked drains in Caverswall Old Road has again recently been raised with James Bailey, Area Highway Manager (West) at Staffordshire County Council who has promised to investigate.

Mr. F. J. Hopley said that he was concerned regarding the volume of heavy goods vehicles through the village and asked if there was any update on a relief road.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton replied by saying there were no proposals at the moment to provide a relief road around Blythe Bridge/Forsbrook.

3.1.5 Mr. Joe Cornwall, Blythe Bridge asked the following questions. The Chairman responded, as detailed in italics.

1. Is there any update on the proposals for a Power Station at Blythe Bridge Business Park?

The planning application is now in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate and every planning application is decided on its own merit.

2. Why can't Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, as the authority responsible, issue literature to warn dog owners about clearing up after their pets without relying on volunteers?

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, because of continued complaints from Forsbrook Parish Council, has asked members to highlight hot spot areas for dog fouling and to help with providing informative leaflets in the areas of concern.

3. Is it acceptable for residents to keep fowl, the noise from which is causing a disturbance to residents?

Residential areas have no restrictions with regard to the keeping of fowl and residents in Crossfield Avenue have been provided with forms to monitor any noise disturbance.

4. Why are residents having problems with their waste bins going missing or being damaged by SMDC when they are emptied.

Residents are being provided with replacement bins when requested.

Councillor P. Jones said that he had attended all the meetings regarding the Power Station proposals and seen the plans and what was not commonly known was that this will affect many areas because wastewater from the plant will need to be disposed of through outlet pipes all the way to Liverpool.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised Council that Mr. J. Cornwall has expressed an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor and as the Parish election for Forsbrook is uncontested and there is one vacancy suggested including his co-option as an agenda item on the May Parish Council agenda. **Agreed.**

3.2. County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day said he had nothing further to report as he had addressed issues under Open Forum.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

4.1 Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she had attended the last Parish Assembly meeting with Councillor Miss S. Farr and Councillor A. J. Mould and notes from the briefing by James Bailey, Staffordshire County Council Area Highway Manager (West Division) have been circulated to all members and would be discussed under agenda item 8.2.

4.2 Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that there was a Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association Executive meeting this evening but said he had made the decision to attend the Parish Council meeting as it was the last one before the elections.

**5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:
Council Meeting of 21st March 2011.**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

6.1 Minutes dated 21st March 2011 – page 157 and 158 – agenda item 3.1.

To note that W. Cash MP has acknowledged Council's letter and has advised that he is taking the matter up with the Secretary of State for Transport and Staffordshire County Council.

To also note that Blythe Bridge High School has verbally responded to Council's concerns regarding litter and cigarette butts being discarded by students, which they are taking very seriously and the School's Business Manager has been asked to investigate and take appropriate action.

6.2 Minutes dated 21st March 2011 – page 167 – agenda item 11.3.

To note that the Driving Standards Agency has advised that:
"Under the Section 15 of the Greater London (General Powers) Act 1974 it is an offence to park partially or wholly on the pavement in the Greater London Area. **There is no similar legislation in place for the rest of Great Britain**"

Councillor P. Jones added that it was a criminal offence to park within 30 metres of a school entrance and road junction. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton emphasised the need to continue to report any obstructions to the police.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.1 To receive and note – agenda enclosures, correspondence outgoing and emails not detailed as separate agenda items.

7.2 To receive dates of 'outside' meetings as follows:
There were no meetings to note.

7.3 To receive the following circulation material:

- Rural Service Network Newsletters.
- Staffordshire 3rd Section Network E-Bulletins.
- LCR Online Newsletter.
- NALC Direct Information Service – Issue 755 and 756.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Magazine.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Outside, Active and Health Spring/Summer leaflet.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Elections 5th May 2011.

Statements of persons nominated for Parish and District Councillors were received and noted. As there were only 12 nominees for the Parish there will not be a Parish election.

- 8.2 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Parish Assembly Meeting of 24th March, 2011.

Minutes of the Parish Assembly Meeting and briefing notes from James Bailey were received and noted. A copy of the briefing notes was distributed to all Council members with the agenda.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that at the Parish Assembly meeting she had raised the question of regular maintenance on drains because several in the Parish were blocked and specifically mentioned the ones in Caverswall Old Road. As requested by James Bailey it was **agreed** for the clerk to write directly to him to enable him to investigate. She also reported that James Bailey said that Cheadle Road would be resurfaced in 2012.

- 8.3 Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – subject: Weekly Updates/Information

The above documents were received and noted.

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

General:

Stoke-on-Trent City Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Staffordshire County Council

Subject:

Local Development Framework – Healthy Urban Planning and Sustainability and Climate Change Supplementary Planning Document – Public Participation.

Notice of Parish Uncontested Elections.
Update on Neighbourhood Highway Teams and potholes. (Each Parish will receive two visits by the Neighbourhood Highway Team in 2011. Since the beginning of March, 2000 potholes have been repaired, equivalent to 200 a week).

Email Exchanges:

Parish Online
Journal of Local Planning

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Licence number.
Budget 2011 – significant changes to planning.
Community Action Day.

Owl Online Watch Link	Suspicious incidents in Stockton Brook and Endon where motorists have approached children. Councillor P. Jones reported that there has been a similar incident in Sandon Road, Meir where a man in a car has approached children.
Staffordshire Police	Speeding; Motorbikes on recreation ground.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway Defect Reports: Pavement surface outside no. 76a Cheadle Road, Forsbrook. Potholes – Hillside Avenue, Blythe Bridge. Faulty street light – Beverley Crescent, Forsbrook.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Replacement litter bins for Cheadle Road and Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.
John Brian (B.B. Senior Football Team)	Damage to upright football post/intentions for repair work and unsatisfactory cleanliness of changing rooms.
Came & Company	Details of benefits of insuring with Came & Company.

Note: All correspondence/documents are available to view on the evening of the Council Meeting or by prior arrangement with the clerk.

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00189/FUL – Heath House Farm, Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook – change of use of first floor storage area above farm tearoom into staff residential accommodation.

00203/FUL – 34 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook – two-storey side extension and widening of drive.

00255/FUL – Blythe Bridge Mill, Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – replacement of two storage buildings.

RESOLVED:

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

00189/FUL – Ask the officer to consider whether the proposals are acceptable in this green belt location, taking into account the extensive development on this site over the last decade. To also ask the officer, if planning permission is granted to include a planning condition, as suggested by Mr. and Mrs. Doherty, which would link the residential occupation of the first floor area to the business, to tie the occupation of the accommodation to the uses within the ground floor (or across the premises) to ensure that it remains a subordinate entity to the commercial activity.

00203/FUL – To raise no concerns in principle providing the design and scale are in keeping and the planning officer is satisfied that the closeness of the extension to the boundary is acceptable. To also ask for the tree preservation officer to arrange a site visit to determine if the removal of a silver birch tree is acceptable.

00255/FUL – To raise no concerns providing the design and scale of the replacement storage buildings are in keeping with this agricultural/commercial site.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00100/FUL – 16 Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – single storey front extension, rear roof lights and front dormer.

00065/FUL – former Smithfield Hotel, 229 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – temporary security fencing for a period of up to two years.

00090/FUL - Spar, 13 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – installation of new cladding to external walls, new shop front installation including new automatic sliding doors, glazing and security shutters, replacement timber fencing, minor internal alterations.

9.1 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.2 Planning matters.

No planning matters were raised.

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 other than when the clerk was on holiday she had received a telephone call from a grantee (Davies) who has requested the return of unauthorised items removed from their burial plot. Unfortunately, no contact details were left.

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 reports:

At the last Parish Council meeting members discussed the proposed Dog Control Orders but did not discuss including Forsbrook Cemetery in the Dogs Exclusion Order and as this would give the Enforcement Officers extra powers suggested we ask for the cemetery to be included. **Agreed.**

Trail bikes being ridden over the recreation ground have been reported to the Police.

11.2 Stoke City Junior Football Training on Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground.

Resident Toni Barnes has approached Council regarding Stoke City being allowed to carry out football training on Blythe Bridge recreation ground during the summer holidays (weekdays).

The clerk has spoken to Stoke City who advise that at the moment training is undertaken on Blythe Bridge High School who charge £35.00 per hour. They undertake training at ten venues and pay under different terms – some venues charge £1.00 per child others £25 per day. C&LP funding has been cut so Stoke City is looking at alternative venues at competitive rates.

A site inspection and risk assessment of the recreation ground is being undertaken by Stoke City who will get back to Council if suitable, after which a meeting can be arranged with them to discuss terms and conditions. All trainers are CRB registered and Stoke City carries their own insurance.

11.3 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Councillor P. Jones reported that a resident from Clematis Avenue has spoken to him asking why potholes in this location have been filled when there were large dangerous potholes on Cheadle Road, which carries far more traffic.	In the briefing notes from James Bailey, Area Highway Manager (West), Staffordshire County Council they advise that Cheadle Road will be resurfaced in 2012.
Duke of Wellington – discarded cigarette stubs at the entrance.	Report to SMDC Environmental Enforcement Department.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank Balance

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st March 2011 was:

Community Direct Account	28557.94
14 Day Account	57753.31
Plus outstanding credits	475.00
Less outstanding debits	(712.10)
Total	86074.15

The clerk gave a detailed report on the finances of Council and it was **agreed** to hold all monies in the Community Direct Account, as the interest rate was similar to the 14-day account.

12.2 April 2011 accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401053	Town and Country	1249.00	249.80	1498.80
402054	B.B. & Forsbrook Village Hall	130.00		130.00
402055	Mr. D. W. Shaw	75.00		75.00
402056	SMDC	640.00	128.00	768.00
402057	SMDC	26.62		26.62
402058	Christine J. Snape	890.75		890.75
402059	SPCA	596.00		596.00
402060	NALC	105.00		105.00
402061	Community Council of Staffs.	22.00		22.00
402062	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	39.00		39.00
DD	Eon	40.00		40.00
	VAT adjustment on Eon Account	(46.99)	46.99	
Total		3766.38	424.79	4191.17

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of April 2011 accounts.**

13. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

RESOLVED:

- **To hold the Annual Parish Meeting on 9th May 2011 commencing at 7.00pm at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall.**

The meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman