

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th DECEMBER 2011 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley,
Councillor F. J. 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: Sgt. Nigel Spooner,
County Councillor W. Day,
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Press Officer (1)
Members of the public (1).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss S. Farr and Councillor B. Yates.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
SCC Rights of Way Issues Forsbrook Primary School	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department. Personal – employee.
Planning	Councillor F. J. Hopley Note: Councillor F. J. Hopley left Council Chambers whilst planning related issues were being discussed.	Personal – Member of SMDC Planning Committee.
SCC Highways Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery – personal friend.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton welcomed Sgt. Nigel Spooner and explained that he was representing Inspector Clare Riley who could not attend because of an urgent last minute engagement.

3.1 Sgt Nigel Spooner addressed Councillors concerns/questions as follows:

Police Cover.

The same number of officers are deployed in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook – PC Steve Critchlow, PC Neil Lawton, PCSO Daniel Peake with additional part time cover from PCSO Kash Ullah and PCSO Adam Charlesworth. The area they now cover is Blythe Bridge, Forsbrook, Caverswall, Draycott and Tean. All calls to 101 are allocated an incident number unless the caller is seeking advice.

Anti Social Behaviour Concerns.

There is a total of 6/8 hardcore youth from Blythe Bridge, Meir and Meir Heath who are causing problems. At least six have been invited to the Police Station along with Ian McLackland from SMDC Community Safety Department. The youth have been entered into anti social behaviour contracts, which is the first step towards anti social behaviour orders. This has happened within the last ten days and PC Steve Critchlow is still obtaining statements. If in the meantime any of the youth step out of line they could find themselves before the court.

Sale of Alcohol to the Underaged.

Operations in partnership with Trading Standards are ongoing and identified premises will be visited.

Parking Issues.

Following on from the attendance at a Council meeting of Inspector Lee Crowther, PCSO Daniel Peake has been liaising with your Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton regarding the problem areas – Trent Road/Dove Road, Stallington Road and the centre of Blythe Bridge. Parking on yellow lines comes under the remit of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Civil Enforcement Officers and the police deal with vehicles that are causing an obstruction. The police are working with the schools and letters are being sent to parents telling them that there will be no more warnings and penalty tickets will be issued if they cause an obstruction. There is no action that can be taken to prohibit the school bus parking adjacent to St. Peters Church unless the police consider it to be causing an obstruction. Officers will investigate the concern regarding vehicles parked on the grass verge in Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook and will take action if it is viewed that they are causing an obstruction.

Speeding.

Speeding checks are ongoing. Caverswall Old Road between the junction with Hillside Avenue and Caverswall Road is derestricted which means that vehicles can travel up to 60mph.

Scrap Metal Dealers.

Licences are checked on a regular basis and generally found to be in order but there are some unscrupulous scrap metal dealers.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked Sgt. Nigel Spooner for attending the meeting and giving members an update.

3.2 Residents Issues.

There were no resident's issues.

3.3 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report:

Gulley Covers.

Scrap metal merchants are stealing gulley covers across Staffordshire so if you witness anything suspicious please report immediately to the Police.

Slow Road Markings.

Staffordshire County Council no longer provide 'slow' road markings as this is too costly. Dilhorne Parish Council has asked for costings should they wish to undertake this themselves and commit to regular maintenance and when this information is available it can be shared with Forsbrook Parish Council.

Highway Meeting with Staffordshire County Council Officer Neil Porter on 19th October 2011.

No update.

Cemetery Concealed Entrance Sign.

Need to seek clarification from Staffordshire County Council Officer Maryanne Raftery regarding the recent stance that these signs do not meet with DfT regulations and therefore cannot be provided.

Flooding adjacent to Chandri Cottage.

Cleaning of gulleys across Staffordshire County Council is currently being carried out so hopefully this issue will be resolved.

The clerk added that with regard to this location Staffordshire County Council has identified and scheduled necessary work but given no specific time scale.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

4.1 The Localism Bill – meeting attended by Councillor F. J. Hopley on 4th November 2011.

Councillor F. J. Hopley gave the following briefing on the overall effect of the Act taken from the Communities and Local Government publication entitled ‘A plain English guide to the Localism Act’ – pages 21 and 22.

“Taken together, the measures in the Act mean.

New freedoms and flexibilities for local government.

The Act:

- *gives local authorities everywhere the formal legal ability and greater confidence to get on with the job of responding to what local people want*
- *cuts red tape to enable councillors everywhere to play a full and active part in local life without fear of legal challenge*
- *encourages a new generation of powerful leaders with the potential to raise the profile of English cities, strengthen local democracy and boost economic growth*
- *enables ministers to transfer functions to public authorities in cities in order to harness their potential to drive growth and prosperity*
- *reforms the governance of London so that more power lies in the hands of elected representatives who are democratically accountable to London citizens*

New rights and powers for local communities

The Act:

- *makes it easier for local people to take over the amenities they love and keep them part of local life*
- *ensures that local social enterprises, volunteers and community groups with a bright idea for improving local services get a chance to change how things are done*
- *enables local residents to call local authorities to account for the careful management of taxpayers’ money*

Reform to make the planning system clearer, more democratic and more effective

The Act:

- *places significantly more influence in the hands of local people over issues that make a big difference to their lives*
- *provides appropriate support and recognition to communities who welcome new development*
- *reduces red tape, making it easier for authorities to get on with the job of working with local people to draw up a vision for their area’s future*
- *reinforces the democratic nature of the planning system – pass power from bodies not directly answerable to the public, to democratically accountable ministers*

Reform to ensure that decisions about housing are taken locally

The Act:

- *enables local authorities to make their own decisions to adapt housing provision to local needs and make the system fairer and more effective*
- *gives local authorities more control over the funding of social housing, helping them to plan for the long term*
- *gives people who live in social housing new ways of holding their landlords to account and make it easier for them to move*

This is, in sum an Act with the potential to effect a significant change in national life, passing power to a local level, creating space for local authorities to lead and innovate and giving people the opportunity to take control of decisions that matter to them.

Together with other wider Government reforms, putting the Act into practice will represent a major milestone towards the transfer of power and control set out in the coalition agreement.

*More information about the various consultations and guidance about the use of the powers in the Localism Act and about the Department for Communities and Local Government's wider work can be found on the following website:
<http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/whatsnew>. “*

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

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Minutes dated 21st November 2011 – Page 89 – agenda item 8.7.

It was noted that the consultation period for NHS and Social Care Services has been extended to 16th January 2012.

- 6.2 Minutes dated 21st November 2011 – Page 95 – agenda item 11.2 – subject: Blocked drains.

The following update from Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department on outstanding drain problems was noted.
Blocked drain outside 11 Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge – reference N11114194 and general drain cleaning in the Parish – reference N11117202 have both been allocated a Category 3 status to jet gullies.

- 6.3 Minutes dated 21st November 2011 – page 87 – agenda item 4.2 – subject: High Speed Train.

Councillor F. J. Hopley reported that during the special train excursion he had a conversation with an executive of East Midlands Trains who believes that work will start on HS1 – London to Birmingham in four years time and that there will be a link to Manchester HS2.

- 6.4 Minutes dated 21st November 2011 – Page 96 – subject: District Councillor Abigail Wilkinson.

Councillors asked for clarification on the remit of District Ward Councillors in attending Parish Council meetings.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton responded by saying that District Councillor Abigail Wilkinson was elected and it is entirely up to her as to how she carries out her duties and added that she does attend some District Council meetings.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.1 Agenda enclosures, correspondence outgoing and emails not detailed as separate agenda items were noted.

7.2 Dates of 'outside' meetings as detailed below were noted:

None

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network – Weekly News.
- NALC – Direct Information Service – Issue No. 772
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins.
- LCR Winter 2011.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – December Newsletter.
- Public Sector Mapping Agreement – December Newsletter.
- Staffordshire Link – November/December Bulletin.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Brief Updates on Several Transformation Projects.

Details on the above including the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) were received and noted.

8.2 Stoke-on-Trent Citizens Advice Bureau – subject: Challenge North Staffs.

It was noted that Project Officer Rebecca Patel is offering 'raising awareness sessions' to individuals and organisation in order to help create a safer environment for communities to live, work and play in and welcomes the opportunity to speak with Council.

It was **agreed** to make the information available by displaying on the Parish Council's notice boards.

8.3 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Local Development Framework – Publication of Revised Submission Core Strategy.

A hard copy of the above together with a statement of the representations procedure along with a representations form and guidance notes were received and noted. It was also noted that information can also be downloaded from: <http://staffsmoorlands-consult.objective.co.uk/portal>.

Invitations to make representations runs from 12th December 2011 to 3rd February 2012.

8.4 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates and December 2011 newsletter (copy of newsletter distributed to all members).

The above documents were received and noted. No issues were raised.

8.5 The following general correspondence was noted and appropriate action agreed.

General:

Boundary Commission for England.
Royal British Legion
Samaritans
Staffordshire County Council

CPRE & NALC

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Email Exchanges:

Owl Online Watch Link

Came & Company

Resident from Crossfield Avenue
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Came and Company

Environment Agency

Bill Cross
Rev. David Bickersteth

East Midlands Trains
County Councillor W. Day

Bob Lee

Local Police Officers

Inspector Lee Crowther

Staffordshire County Council – Neil Porter

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council
In memoriam 2014
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Subject:

Acknowledgement of response.
Donation acknowledgement.
Donation acknowledgement.
Consultation on post 16 home to school and college transport policy which runs from 13th December 2011 until 1st February 2012. Further information available on:

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/transportconsultation.

Guide – ‘Planning Explained’.

Copies can be downloaded from:

www.planninghelp.org.uk.

Parish Precept for 2012/2013.

Subject:

Crime/missing persons incidents.

Advice on crime prevention.

Advice on winter water damage, gritting by Parish Councils and damage to war memorials.

Sign – Crossfield Avenue.

Photographs for Tourism information.

Parish Assembly agenda, minutes etc.

Insurance – details of PAYE reference.

Proposals to remove flood gate off Ashwood Grove and to replace with fixed level wall.

Bus shelter work.

Footpath through St. Peters Churchyard.

Photographs of train excursion.

Criteria for ‘Slow’ road markings.

Location of potholes for site visit.

Invite to February Council meeting.

Registration numbers of vehicles causing an obstruction.

Notes from meeting held on 19th October 2011.

Notes from meeting held on 19th October 2011.

New cemetery sign – identification of land ownership. (Note: Concealed entrance signs do not meet DFT regulations).

Watchdog reports.

Details of cenotaph.

CRM report on;

Litter;

Staffordshire County Council

Fly tipping – rear of Pizzaman,
Blythe Bridge;
Dog Fouling.
Highway Defect reports on:
Flooding – Chandri Cottage
(copied to County Councillor
Day).
Drain cleaning throughout the
Parish;
Parking – County Council land
adjacent to Tesco roundabout;
Replacement signs;
Road works – Uttoxeter Road.

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

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

01087/FUL – 25 Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook – demolition of existing garage and replacement double garage.

01140/FUL – 10 Parkway, Forsbrook – two storey extension to enlarge kitchen and provide additional bedroom.

01119/REM_1 – 48 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – variation of condition 4 of permission 00059/FUL to allow opening on Sunday mornings between 7.00 and 12.00.

RESOLVED: To respond to the above planning applications as follows:

- **01087/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and the privacy of neighbours is not compromised particularly in view of the fact that the replacement garage is closer to the boundary.**
- **01140/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and the privacy of neighbours is not compromised.**
- **01119/REM_1 – to raise no concerns.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approval was noted.

00781/FUL – Smithfield Hotel, 229 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – extension of time for implementation of application 00119/FUL – demolition of existing buildings and erection of 12 3 bed dwellings, parking, access and landscaping.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

No planning issues 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.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

Councillor F. J. Hopley reported that a resident who regularly visits the cemetery has spoken to him and the Chairman raising concern regarding a shire horse being exercised on the cemetery driveway.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the groundsman has found no evidence of this but the clerk has produced notices to display in the cemetery, which hopefully will deter this happening in the future.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) reported that the bus shelter on Cheadle Road opposite the junction for Bridgwood Road, Forsbrook and on the Cheadle Road/Dilhorne Road junction have both been repaired, refurbished and cleaned and added that the contractor has made an excellent job.

She also proposed that Council writes a letter of thanks to Mrs. N. Richards, Headteacher of Forsbrook Primary School for inviting Councillors to the school's Christmas concerts. Councillors who attended said they were made very welcome and thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

11.2 District Environmental and County Highway concerns.

Members noted the following contact details for reporting issues:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – litter, fly posting, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, graffiti, noise, dog fouling, nuisance – 0345 605 3014 or www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk/doitonline.

Staffordshire County Council – highway defects, drain cleaning, faulty street lights – 0300 111 8000 or by email to highways@staffordshire.gov.uk

11.3 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Wheelie bin cleaning and disposal of cleaning water and residue from the bins.	Clerk to identify if there is any guidance on this issue.
Footpath 4a – overgrown hedges, unsafe path surface and litter.	Clerk to report to Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department.
Overgrown hedge - 282 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.

Dangerous parking/driving in the vicinity of the railway level crossings on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	It was noted that there is Network Rail CCTV monitoring this exact location.
Discarded cigarette stubs – outside bookmakers on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Department.
Litter discarded by Blythe Bridge High School students during their lunch break. Several areas were highlighted.	Write to Blythe Bridge High School.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 It was noted that the bank balance as at 30th November 2011 was:

Community Direct Account	110886.90
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9.2 December 2011 accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402137	Town and Country Services	860.00	172.00	1032.00
402138	Herron Group	515.00	103.00	618.00
402139	J. G. Fenn Limited	30.54	6.11	36.65
402140	SMDC	45.18		45.18
402141	Christine J. Snape	890.55		890.55
402142	HM Revenue & Customs	766.72		766.72
402143	Christine J. Snape	103.76	7.00	110.76
402144	Autocross Plastics	2140.00	428.00	2568.00
DD	British Telecom	108.90	21.78	130.68
DD	Eon	40.00		40.00
Total		5500.65	737.89	6238.54

RESOLVED:

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

13. COMMITTEE MEETINGS:

It was agreed to convene Committee Meetings - Cemetery, Environment and Finance for Tuesday 3rd January 2012 commencing at 7.30pm to enable 2012/2013 precepts to be determined.

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman