

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21st NOVEMBER 2011 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
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,
Councillor B. Yates.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Press Officer (1)
Members of the public (4).

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she has received a letter from Peter Harrison thanking all Councillors for remembering Sylvia Harrison at the last Council meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor F. J. Hopley.

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.
Planning Application 00990/OUT	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Applicant known.
SCC Highways Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery – personal friend.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

- 3.1.1 Dangerous parking/congestion outside The William Amory Primary School, particularly when parents are collecting their children at the end of the school day was again raised by a resident.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Parking Enforcement Officers and Police Officers have already been advised of this concern and the school have sent letters out to parents.

- 3.1.2 Planning application 01024/FUL – 50 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – replacement domestic garage.

A resident requested that when a decision is determined, which he understands will be under delegated powers in December, that the Parish Council consider suggesting that a condition be set, should the application be approved, to ensure that the garage is not used for any other ancillary purposes other than those outlined on the planning application. He drew attention to what he considered to be a wrong statement on the application form where it states that there will be no falling distance from existing trees, which in his opinion was incorrect. He also added that the period for consultation for planning applications of 21 days is insufficient.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Council would be discussing the planning application under agenda item 9.1 and that Council has already voiced concern to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding the 21day planning consultation period.

3.2 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report:

Boundary Changes.

This is a good proposal and he urged Council to respond. (Council confirmed that they have already responded supporting the proposals).

Parliamentary Proposals.

If the number of residents in Staffordshire Moorlands drops below 72000 it will not be a constituency and could therefore not be entitled to its own MP. It is imperative that Staffordshire Moorlands maintains its own identity.

Questions put to County Councillor W. Day and his responses.

Q. Is there any update on the removal of the designated parking bays opposite The Late Shop entrance/exit as discussed at the Highway meeting held on 19th October 2001?

A. There has been no feedback so far from the meeting.

- Q. Is there any progress with drain cleaning?
A. Pressure is being put on County Council Officer James Bailey. There are problems throughout the area and it has been agreed for weekend drain cleaning to be carried out.
- Q. There are still potholes on Cheadle Road requiring attention.
A. Let me know exact location of them and I will speak to the Highway Officer.
- Q. What is happening to the flooding issue adjacent to Chandri Cottage?
A. Let me have the report reference number and I will take the matter up with the Highway Officer. (Reported by clerk on 17.02.10 – reference N1050828. Followed up at later date and told work was scheduled to be carried out as soon as possible).

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

4.1 Meeting held on 19th October 2011 with County Councillor W. Day and Staffordshire County Council Officer Neil Porter to discuss Highway improvements in Forsbrook Parish.

Notes from meeting distributed to all members of Council with agenda.
Agreed to send copy of notes to Neil Porter and Inspector Lee Crowther.

4.2 Meeting held on 4th November 2011 to debate High Speed Trains (Phase HS2 - London to Birmingham and HS3 – Birmingham to Manchester) and implications for North Staffordshire. Attended by Councillor F. J. Hopley.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she had been asked by Councillor F. J. Hopley to update Councillors, in his absence, on the above. Staffordshire County Council is opposing the scheme because of the impact on North Staffordshire. Stoke-on-Trent Council is optimistic and is putting a case forward for an intermediate stop (Phase HS3) in North Staffordshire. Press have referred to a stop in Blythe Bridge.

County Councillor W. Day said that in his opinion HS2 and HS3 phases will happen but as the line track will need to be the width of a motorway the current track through Blythe Bridge is completely inadequate.

4.3 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent National Health Service

Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that he had recently represented Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association at a meeting on the above. Social Care and Health Services are to be amalgamated and the briefing was on how these services will be delivered. There was no opportunity for questions/answers.

**5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:
Council Meeting of 17th October 2011.**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Minutes dated 17th October 2011 – Page 83 – agenda item 11.2 – Parking on Yellow Lines.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she has spoken to the Parking Enforcement Officer regarding the above and would ask for an update when she was at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council offices on 22nd November 2011.

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:

Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – Chairmanship Skills Training Courses on Tuesday 17th January 2012 at 7.00-9.00pm in the Oak Room County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford. ST16 2LH.

and

Tuesday 24th January 2012 at 7.00-9.00pm in Rooms 9/10, Peel Building, St. Chads Place, Stafford. ST16 2LR.

Cost for first delegate £20.00 £15.00 for the second and £10 for subsequent delegates from the same affiliated Council.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network – Weekly News.
- NALC – Direct Information Service – Issue No. 771.
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins.
- Staffordshire Link – Volume 3 – 2011.
- LCR Online.
- Staffordshire Police – Newsletter.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2011.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – Newsletter/Christmas Gifts.
- Came & Company – Autumn Newsletter.
- Community Council of Staffordshire – Autumn 2011 Newsletter.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – E-New November 2011.
- Staffordshire Police Newsletter (copy distributed to members).

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Community focus for ice busters.

Further information regarding the above was noted. County Councillor Day asked for a copy of the correspondence.

- 8.2 Community Council of Staffordshire – subject: Best Kept Village Competition 2012.

Details of the above were received and noted.

- 8.3 Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall – subject: Annual General Meeting.

The Village Hall Chairman's annual report and accounts for year ending 31st May 2011 were received and noted. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that it was a very good report, which details all that the committee has achieved for the year.

- 8.4 Land Registry – subject: Land ownership.

It was noted that the land search undertaken by the above for the land adjacent to The Butchers Arms in Forsbrook and William Amory Primary School in Blythe Bridge has concluded that the land is unregistered.

The area adjacent to the Butchers Arms, Forsbrook has always been maintained by the landlord but as this is now in such an overgrown state and the present landlord does not want to take responsibility for it Council **agreed** that necessary regular maintenance work be undertaken by Town and Country Services.

With regard to the small area of land adjacent to The William Amory Primary School entrance on Uttoxeter Road it was **agreed** to consider requesting the Land Registry for details on how to obtain a possessionary title.

- 8.5 Owl Online Watch – subject: non-emergency Police telephone number.

It was noted that from 8th November 2011 the new telephone number for the above is 101. Calls will cost 15 pence per call irrespective of the length of the call. In an emergency the public should continue to call 999. The local Police Officers contact numbers remain the same.

It was also noted that Mr. Peter Elkin of Staffordshire Moorlands Neighbourhood Watch is retiring from his voluntary post as Secretary and anyone who is interested in this position should contact them.

- 8.6 St. John Ambulance – subject: Community Transport Minibus.

It was noted that Bob Lee is willing to attend a Council meeting to brief members on the above pilot scheme aimed at helping to counter Social Exclusion in a number of rural areas in Staffordshire. **Agreed** to invite him to the February Council meeting.

- 8.7 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Public voice and confidence in Health and Social Care Services.

It was noted that the consultation on the above finishes on 12th December 2011. The survey can be accessed on <http://www.staffordshire.go.uk/healthandsocialcareconsultation> or emailing

comments to healthandsocialcareconsultation@staffordshire.gov.uk or posting to Health and Social Care Consultation, Policy and Performance, Wedgwood Building, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2DH.

- 8.8 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Local Transport Plan for Staffordshire (LTP3).

It was noted that copies of the above strategies can be downloaded from: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/ltp. Responses to the documents to be received no later than Friday 16th December 2011. Email responses to: transport.planning@Staffordshire.gov.uk or by contacting Annabel Chell on 01785 276626.

- 8.9 Staffordshire Police – subject: Citizen’s Panel.

It was noted that Staffordshire Police are keen to increase panel membership of the above. Further information from: 01785 232461.

- 8.10 Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – subject: Weekly Updates.

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

- 8.11 The following general correspondence was noted and appropriate action agreed.

General:

British Red Cross
 Cheadle and District Animal Welfare
 Cheadle Citizens Advice Bureau
 Community Council of Staffordshire
 The Donna Louise Trust
 CPRE
 Douglas Macmillan Hospice
 Marie Curie Cancer Care
 Mencap
 Moorlands Home Link
 Savana
 Staffordshire Wildlife Trust
 St. John Ambulance
 Victim Support
 Vitalise
 Pauline Clarke (B.B. Luncheon Club)
 National Westminster Bank

Staffordshire County Council

Email Exchanges:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
 Councillor P. Jones
 Staffordshire County Council
 Staffordshire County Council (Rights of Way Dept).

Subject:

Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
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 Donation thank you.
 Donation thank you.
 Details of business deposit accounts.
 Watchdog alerts

Subject:

War memorial grant.
 Parking concern.
 Communities Mean Business funding.
 Footpath through St. Peters Churchyard.

Rev. David Bickersteth	Footpath through St. Peters Churchyard.
DTL Leisure	Quotation for play equipment.
Dragon Downhill	Quotation for play equipment.
Werrington Parish Council	Information on deterrent camera.
Press	Remembrance Sunday Parade/Service.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway defect reports: Blocked drain; parked vehicles on grass verge; damaged bollard; damaged electricity pole.
Network Rail	Concern regarding warning lights on level crossing barrier not working.
Staffordshire Police	Anti social behaviour.
Staffordshire County Council	Car park improvements at Spar.
Longton Central Hall Marching Band	Thank you for support with Remembrance Parade.
Sergeant Nigel Spooner	Thank you for support with Remembrance Parade.

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:

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton briefed members with information that she had observed from the following planning applications and accompanying documents as detailed in *italics*.

001024/FUL - 50 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – replacement domestic garage.

The replacement garage is much larger than the original garage both in area and height and is closer to the boundary. A workshop area has also been added.

RESOLVED:

- **To ask the Planning Officer to consider the scale and design of the replacement and the effect this may have on the privacy of adjacent neighbours and if approved for a condition to be set to ensure that in future the garage cannot be used for any other purpose other than those outlined unless a further planning application is submitted and approved.**

It was also agreed to question what one resident has highlighted as an incorrect statement on the planning application, which states that there will be no falling distance from existing trees when in his opinion there would be.

001024/FUL – Land fronting Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – proposed erection of dwelling and demolition of existing structures.

The history of this site is that they did have outline planning permission, which lapsed. A further application was submitted at a later date, which was then refused because the site is within a Flood Zone (Flood Zone 3a with an annual probability of flooding greater than 1%). Council has recently sent in concerns regarding a planning application opposite to this site and need to be consistent with flooding and highway issues. Accompanying the planning application is a document prepared by RAB Consultants which gives details about flood mitigation measures such as recommended finished floor levels, safe access and exit and sustainable drainage solutions. They also state that the Environment Agency records indicate that the majority of the site would flood in the 1% a.p. plus climate change scenario but that due to the proposed positioning of the development in the North East Corner of the site, access and exit to the site will remain dry in this scenario. The applicant has provided three letters of support from June 2006.

RESOLVED:

- **To ask the Planning Officer to consider highway safety issues and whether the flood mitigation measures being proposed are adequate.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00758/FUL – 30 Barlstone Avenue, Blythe Bridge – extension to living room, addition of bay window with gable roof and side windows (amendment to application 00851/FUL).

00721/ADV – Spar, 13 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – 2 internally illuminated fascia signs; 1 internally illuminated projecting sign and 2 commodity boards.

00708/FUL – Spar, 13 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – installation of an automated teller machine and bollards.

00821/FUL – 47 Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusals were noted:

00655/FUL – Trent Villa, 192 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey side extension with new roof over existing sun lounge to rear of property.

Reasons: “Policy B13 of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) ‘Design Principles for Development in the Staffordshire Moorlands’ and national planning policy PPS1 ‘Delivering Sustainable Development’ have been taken into consideration during the determination of the above planning application. It is noted that the application site lies within the Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Development Boundary. Within areas such as these there is often support in principle for domestic extensions; however this is subject to consideration of matters such as design, impact upon the street scene and neighbour amenity. Planning policy requires that all developments should be of a good quality design taking into account factors such as the scale, character, mass and design of their surroundings and also states that extensions should be subordinate in size compared to the existing building. Additions should respect the size/proportions of the dwelling and have a clear secondary appearance of which the current proposal does not. The proposed extension is unacceptable by reason of its awkward siting,

design and scale in relation to the host dwelling. The combination of its overall scale, confused ridge lines, over wide rear gable width and roof design do nothing to enhance the appearance of the property which is crucial for this visually prominent roadside location.”

00850/FUL – Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – erection of 2 dwellings.

Reasons: The application site lies within the Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Development Boundary and although garden areas are now classed as Greenfield sites this does not automatically preclude residential development upon this type of land subject to other material planning considerations being satisfied. The objection to the application lies with overall design of the two proposed dwellings including their scale, bulk, design and overall height. Taken together each of these matters contributes to a development which is considered to be excessive in scale for the size of the application site adversely affecting the established open character of the site and street scene in general. The design of each of the dwellings is unacceptable, their heights, large expanses of blank wall and relationship between the main roofs and those serving the garages are unacceptable. Whilst it is acknowledged that the proposed dwellings do replicate some of the features of the existing dwelling this in itself is not considered to be a reason to accept the development. The application fails to take the opportunity for providing a well designed development within this visually conspicuous location and is considered to be contrary to the provisions of policy B13 of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, D2 of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan and Planning Policy Statement 1 ‘Delivering Sustainable Development’ and Planning Policy Statement 3 ‘Housing’.

00868/FUL – land adjacent Thornley, Boundary Road, Boundary – retention of agricultural/horticultural access drive and parking/loading area.

Reasons: By reason of its length, overall size, domestic and ornate appearance the driveway/parking and turning areas appear as a significant and harmful domestic encroachment into the Green Belt and Special landscape Area of which the site forms a part. Whilst there is no dispute that there was previously an agricultural access to the application site, there is now no justification as to why such an ornate development should be approved. It is recognised that the applicant is presenting a case for a new agricultural/residential driveway, parking/turning areas and areas of hardstanding on the basis of agricultural need and highway safety. The application fails to demonstrate that there is sufficient agricultural need for the development in this particular location, nor are there any justifiable highway safety reasons for allowing the development. The application is considered to be contrary to policies N7, N8, N9, B13 and E4 of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, policies D5A and NC2 of the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan and national planning policy in the form of P.P.G.2 ‘Green Belts’.

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 other than to say how very well attended the Remembrance Parade was this year. She thanked everyone who had helped to make the day successful.

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 report:

Railway Posters.

Forsbrook Primary School has provided excellent posters for displaying at Blythe Bridge Railway Station (displayed from 22nd November 2011). It was **agreed** to present a small confectionary gift to each child who contributed.

Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

Town and Country Services has now erected the sign and planting as agreed by Council will be undertaken in the next few weeks.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Complaints regarding anti social behaviour and litter. (Large intimidating youth groups, damage to shop windows and cars, playing football on the Library and Doctor's Surgery car parks).	Clerk to report concerns to Police. Agreed to invite Inspector Clare Francis to a Council meeting to discuss all concerns. Residents/Council to continue to report incidents on the new 101 Police telephone number. Litter issues to be reported to SMDC on 0345 605 3014.
Retirement Village.	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is focusing on the ageing population and the provision of a Retirement Village in Blythe Bridge/Forsbrook was brought up at the recent public consultation organised by SMCVS.
Faulty street light adjacent to Lloyds Newsagents.	Residents to be encouraged to report faulty street lights, quoting the reference number on the column to SCC Highway Defects Department: 0300 111 8000.

**12.
FINANCE:**

12.1

Dilhorne Road – parking on grass verge and pavement.	Provide police with car registration numbers.
Speed Cameras.	Noted that speed cameras were in the area week commencing 14 th November 2011.
Blythe Bridge Police Station – public access.	Local officers do work from the Police Station and the police stance is that officers are better able to cope with crime if they are in a vehicle.
Public toilets – Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – groups congregating which can be intimidating.	Public toilets are the responsibility of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Forsbrook Parish Council fought long and hard for these facilities. Situation to be monitored.
Blocked drain outside No. 11 Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.	Report to SCC Highway Defects Department.
Tesco roundabout – cars for sale.	Report again to SCC Highway Defects Department as the cars are parked on land in their ownership.
Dog fouling.	SMDC respond when problem areas are reported but the problem can re-occur within hours. Details of irresponsible dog owners need to be reported to 0345 605 3014
Litter around the School and footpath behind The Smithfield Hotel.	Situation to be monitored.
Parking obstructions on the Cameron Estate, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Issue has been taken up with the Cameron Management Office.
‘Slow’ road marking signs.	Ask County Councillor W. Day what the criteria is.

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

Community Direct Account	113063.33
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9.2 November 2011 accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402131	Severn Trent Water Limited	105.31		105.31

402132	Town and Country Services	1139.00	227.80	1366.80
402133	SPCA	20.00		20.00
402134	Wicksteed Leisure Limited	34.92	6.99	41.91
402135	Christine J. Snape	890.55		890.55
402136	Mr. C. J. Brian	508.00		508.00
DD	Eon	40.00		40.00
Total		2737.78	234.79	2972.57

RESOLVED:

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

13. NEWSLETTER 2012.

Members of Council approved the newsletter.

Before the meeting concluded some Councillors expressed disappointment that the newly elected District Councillor for the ward of Forsbrook Abigail Wilkinson has not attended any Parish Council meetings.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that attendance of Parish Council meetings by a Ward Councillor was not mandatory.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

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Clerk to the Council

Chairman