

# FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16th APRIL 2012 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 F. J. Hopley,  
Councillor P. Jones,  
Councillor A. J. Mould  
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,  
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,  
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

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

At the end of the meeting a one minute's silence was held in memory of Stan Salt who has recently passed away and who was a long standing member of Forsbrook Parish Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss J. P. Morris 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.
Planning Issues	Councillor F. J. Hopley Note: Councillor F. J. Hopley left Council Chambers whilst planning related issues were being discussed.	Personal – member of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Committee.
Foxfield Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer.
SCC Highway Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend.

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

**3. OPEN SESSION.**

3.1 Residents Issues.

Rainbows.

A bric a brac sale has been organised for 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to raise funds for the above worthy cause and Councillors were invited to donate items for the sale.

3.2 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report:

- a) Staffordshire County Council will be providing two grit bins in Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook.
- b) Cheadle Road is scheduled for resurfacing in July 2012. Whether this will involve complete road closure or allow for one way traffic is not yet determined.
- c) The work on the fencing in Lavender Avenue has now been completed.

In answer to questions raised by Councillors County Councillor W. Day responded as follows:

As the Moorlands Partnership funding application for renovation work to the Cenotaph was not successful, Forsbrook Parish Council can apply for funding from the Staffordshire Local Community Fund.

The extensive road works outside Britannia Building Society, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge are investigations into why the road is sinking and to carry out any necessary repairs.

Will speak with SCC Officer Neil Porter regarding progress on the plans for improvements to the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction and whether any minutes from SCC meetings on this issue can be made available to Forsbrook Parish Council. **Update since the Council meeting – suggested that any improvements to the junction be carried out at the same time as the resurfacing of Cheadle Road.**

Will chase up road repair work for Beverley Crescent and Hillside Avenue. **Update since the Council meeting - spoken to Highway Officer Rob Steele with a view to getting the pot hole repair work carried out as soon as possible.**

**Standing orders were reinstated.**

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

Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association Executive Committee Meeting.

Councillor J. W. Burgess said that he attended the above meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and the main topic of discussion was wind turbines. Because these meetings coincide with many Parish Council meetings Executive Committee members have suggested changing the day of the meetings to the last Thursday of the month and the results of the vote are awaited.

5. **TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:**

**Council Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012.**

**RESOLVED:**

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

6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

Minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – page 133 – agenda item 8.1 – subject: Moorlands Together Spring/Summer Neat and Tidy Events.

It was agreed to hold the above event on 11<sup>th</sup> June 2012 and to advertise this in the local press. It was noted that it is not possible for the Community Payback Team to undertake any gardening work at Forsbrook Parish Cemetery because of lack of welfare facilities.

Minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – page 131 – agenda item 3.1 – subject: removal of unauthorised items from burial plots.

Councillor F. J. Hopley asked if the decision recorded under the above agenda item could be revisited as he has received a telephone call from the grandmother of a person who has recently been interred in Forsbrook Parish cemetery because the removal of unauthorised items has caused the family considerable upset.

Council **agreed** that the current cemetery regulations, which are signed by all grantees before any interment takes place, must remain in force. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reiterated that only flowers in appropriate vases could be placed on burial plots. It was also **agreed** that the decision with regard to any cemetery regulation concerns be put in writing to the clerk also be added to the foot of the regulations which are sent to all grantees and also listed on the Council web site.

Minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – page 137 – agenda item 11.2 – subject: Litter – embankment on Uttoxeter Road from Tater Lane to Stuart Avenue.

An Officer at the District Council is awaiting a response from Rob Steele, SCC Highway Officer as to the best way forward with regard to the litter along this embankment.

Minutes dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2012 – page 137 – agenda item 11.2 - Cigarette Stubs discarded outside the Duke of Wellington Public House.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has written to the Licensee and will monitor the situation. If there is no improvement a Litter Control Notice can be served. It was noted that there appears to be an improvement and the present landlady has been seen on several occasions sweeping up cigarette stubs from the front of the building.

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:

- SPCA – General Power of Competence/Code of Conduct Seminar – Wednesday 25th April 2012 at 7.00pm-9.00pm at Rooms 9/10 Peel Building, St. Chads Place, Stafford. ST16 2LR. Cost £10.00. Booking by telephone or email.
- Staffordshire Moorlands Community and Voluntary Services – Celebration event on 1st May 2012 at Stowe by Chartley Village Hall – 10.00am-3.00pm with free lunch provided to promote the Communities Mean Business projects.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- NALC – Direct Information Service – Issue No. 780 and 781.
- Staffordshire 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector Network E-Bulletins.
- LCR Online.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust E News.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – Events.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Magazine – Spring 2012.
- Rural Services Network Online.
- Came & Company – Newsletter and insurance issues with regard to special events.
- Rail User Group for North Staffordshire – Spring 2012 newsletter.
- Parish Online – April Newsletter.
- CPRE Annual Report 2012.

## 8. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

8.1 Stafford Borough Council – subject: Stafford Borough Local Development Framework Draft Supplementary Planning Documents – Re-use of Rural Buildings, Urban Design, Shopfronts and Advertisements.

It was noted that the above documents are currently out for consultation during March to May 2012. Comments can be submitted by using the e-consultation system at <http://staffordbc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal> by 12 noon on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012.

8.2 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy Public Examination.

It was noted that an Examination Hearing session will be held at the Staffordshire County Council Offices, No 1 Staffordshire Place, Stafford. ST16 2LP and will commence at 10.00am on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2012 until 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012. There is also an opportunity for a round-up session on May 16<sup>th</sup>. The Inspector has prepared a Guidance Note for the hearing together with his issues and questions for examination and soundness definition.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton responded to two queries with regard to waste disposal which were not related to the above:

- a) Staffordshire Moorlands District Council will not collect black bin bags left out with the refuse bins.

- b) Letter is being sent by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to all residents regarding the revised refuse collection days.

8.3 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Blythe Bridge Railway Station.

It was noted that Staffordshire County Council has awarded a certificate to Blythe Bridge Railway Adoption Team for being nominated for the Volunteer Staffordshire Award 2012.

8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Schools Torch Relay.

Information on the above was received and noted. Further information available from:

Joanne Leake, Marketing Assistant, Staffordshire County Council – Office: 01785 277131, Mobile: 07896 907979, email: [Joanne.leake@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Joanne.leake@staffordshire.gov.uk).

8.5 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates/NALC Briefings/Newsletter.

The above documents were received and noted.

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

**General:**

Foxfield Railway

**Subject:**

Music Events – copy of letter distributed to members of Council.

Councillor A. J. Mould reported that at the recent 'HippyHaze' festival there was no music after 11.00pm as all guests were provided with personal headphones.

**Agreed: To request telephone contact details so that residents can be redirected should complaints regarding noise levels be received by the Parish Council.**

SMDC

Postal Addresses.

**Agreed: To fully support the endeavours for the adoption of a Staffordshire Moorlands post town.**

SMDC

Moorlands Partnership Grant. It was noted that the funding application for renovation work on the cenotaph was unsuccessful.

Staffordshire County Council

Diamond Jubilee Update – Steam powered narrow boat journey to London, stopping at Etruria, Stone and Fradley on 20, 21 and 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2012.

More info:

[www.staffordshire.gov.uk/diamondjubilee](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/diamondjubilee).

Staffordshire County Council

Community Watchdog Scheme – Minutes of meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2012.

**Email Exchanges:**

Owl Online Watch

Details of incidents in the area.

Staffordshire County Council

Highway Defect Reports:

Damage to bus shelter;

Builder's rubble – Meadow Close, Forsbrook.

Staffordshire County Council

CMB update.

SMDC

Deep Pan Man – advertising board.

SMDC

On Line reports:

Cigarette stubs – Duke of Wellington.

David Ramsbotham	Details of on line petition re wind turbines: <a href="http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22958">http://epetitions.direct.gov.uk/petitions/22958</a> .
Faye Lambert, Rail Community Officer	Press release.
Police	Parked car causing an obstruction.
James Beardmore, Knights Solicitors	Purchase of scrubland.

**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:

00271/CL\_EXG – Field Farm, The Common, Dilhorne – certificate of lawfulness – Use of land as domestic curtilage.

00290/PNOT\_1 – land to the south side of Delphouse Road, Boundary – portal framed building.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she had studied the planning documents in respect of 00271/CL\_EXG and briefed members on her findings:

The application for a certificate of lawfulness to use land as domestic curtilage is a resubmission following the withdrawal of a previous application. The application demonstrates that the use of the land edged red on the plans has been used as a domestic garden for Fields Farm in excess of ten years. Included with the application are photographs and supporting letters, several of which state that for thirty years the land has been maintained as a garden and used for family parties, weddings and barbeques. The applicant has stated that:

- the area surrounding the house has always been laid out and used as a garden and that trees of mixed species, including fruit trees have been planted in it;
- the garden has been used in association with the residential use of the property as a visual amenity and continuously used by family and friends for recreational purposes;
- that Field Farm was purchased in 1980 and contained a farmhouse surrounded by garden and that her family has lived in the property since that date.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that if the application is approved that a condition be set that the area in question remains as a garden to the property and used for no other purpose.

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

**00271/CL\_EXG – to register no concerns in principle over the proposals providing the planning officer is satisfied that the granting of a Certificate of Lawfulness is appropriate in this green belt location and if approved that a condition be applied to ensure that the land remains as a garden only and prohibits any building thereon.**

**00290/PNOT\_1 – to register no concerns providing the scale, colour, design and usage are suitable in this green belt location.**

### 9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00048/FUL – Hillcrest, Boundary Road, Boundary – demolition of bungalow and garage and erection of replacement bungalow and double garage. (Ten conditions have been set against this approval).

00206/FUL – 23 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge – rear and side single storey extension.

01123/FUL – 2 Woodlands Lane, Blythe Bridge – garage adjoining extended detached bungalow.

### 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 suggested that the next Cemetery Committee meeting be held at the Cemetery to give members the opportunity to address any maintenance issues. She also said that the water pressure to one of the taps seemed high but the clerk explained that if the pressure to this tap was reduced, there would be no pressure to the other tap.

### 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:

#### Home Link

Home Link is fund raising for four new mini buses and as these are used to provide transport for Blythe Bridge Luncheon Club proposed donating £100. **Agreed.**

She said she would relay the offer of the donation of a painting by Councillor N. A. Stanier to raise funds and would provide contact details for Claire Washington from Tesco who support local community organisations.

#### BMX Signage

The BMX signage, as template, was approved by members.

#### Dog Fouling Campaign

The above initiative is scheduled for the end of April and Councillors will be provided with the campaign leaflets for distribution.

## Scrubland

Transfer deeds to purchase the scrubland have all been signed by the Chairman and Clerk but contracts have not yet finally been exchanged as the Council's solicitor is clarifying a clause regarding shared maintenance costs of the access road. Forsbrook Parish Council already has right of access with no maintenance obligations.

Work on the scrubland is progressing with the permission of Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall Committee. The area has been cut and seeded, tree work undertaken and gravel path laid. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust is due on site in April and the play equipment/exercise equipment will be installed week commencing 16<sup>th</sup> April 2012. The bmx track will be installed when the weather is suitable as it can only be constructed in a dry period.

### 11.2 Environment Issues

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
Request for additional dog fouling bin on Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge.	To be considered by Environment Committee.
Mobile Cafe on the A50.	Check with SMDC if they have a licence.
Tesco roundabout – parked cars for sale.	Noted in the press that Fulford Parish Council and County Councillor Ian Parry are now trying to address the situation after many years of complaints made by Forsbrook Parish Council to Staffordshire County Council.
Parked vehicles causing an obstruction on: Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook, Uttoxeter Road (opposite the junction with The Avenue), Blythe Bridge, outside Blythe Bridge Post Office and on the road junction to The Library/Police Offices.	Report to police local officers.
'Dog Poo' bags supplied by SMDC – can these be purchased by individuals?	Requests can be made directly to SMDC on 0345 605 3014.
Speeding – Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook.	Report to local officers with a view to speed monitoring.
Dog fouling – Blythe Bridge recreation ground and Mount Road and Bridgwood Road.	Dog Fouling Campaign planned. SMDC will clean up fouling on pavements. Incidents to be reported to 0345 605 3014.
Litter between the hedge and the fence in front of The William Amory School on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	This issue is on the agenda for the Building and Grounds Committee meeting.
Blocked drain on the junction of Uttoxeter Road with the A50 – adjacent to 408 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to SCC Highway Defects.



**12. FINANCE**

12.1 It was noted that the bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012 was:

Community Direct Account	<b>88459.90</b>
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12.2 April 2012 accounts.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
402169	SMDC	320.00	64.00	384.00
402170	Mr. D. W. Shaw	75.00		75.00
402171	Tree Heritage	900.00	180.00	1080.00
402172	SMDC	448.00	89.60	537.60
402173	SPCA	598.98		598.98
402174	Community Council of Staffs.	22.00		22.00
402175	NALC	15.50		15.50
402176	NALC	105.00		105.00
402177	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	39.00		39.00
402178	Christine J. Snape	894.55		894.55
402179	Town and Country Services	1022.00	204.40	1226.40
DD	Eon	65.00		65.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>4505.03</b>	<b>538.00</b>	<b>5043.03</b>

➤ **RESOLVED:**

**To approve payment of April 2012 accounts.**

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

**Clerk to the Council**

**Chairman**