

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor C. R. Hopley,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Members of the public (5),
Press (1).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor F. J. Hopley, Councillor A. E. Wilson and Councillor B. Yates.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
SCC Rights of Way Issues Planning application 00734/OUT – land fronting Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – erection of dwelling and demolition of existing structure.	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department. Applicant is distant relative.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.
SCC Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Residents Issues.

3.1.1 Café Yes! – Community Pop-Up Café.

The opening day on 15th September at Blythe Bridge Methodist Hall was very successful and exceeded expectations with around 120 people attending. The Late Shop (Co-operative Store) raised £305 in a raffle, Tesco gave a free trolley shop and B & Q donated a bird table for the raffle. During the day £280 was collected by way of donations with very little outlay. More people volunteered to join the existing team of 8 but more volunteers would be welcome. In future it is hoped to have live music and poetry reading in the afternoons. Two local papers are doing articles on the official opening event. The next 'Café Yes' will be held on 29th September 2012 and a schedule of future dates was left with the Council.

Councillor John Burgess volunteered his services.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she hoped the next event will be as successful.

3.1.2 Parking in Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read an email a resident has forwarded to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department, which has been copied to local ward Councillors.

"Re: Parking Hazard in Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge.

I would like to bring to your attention to the increasing problems with on road parking that is posing a danger to passing traffic and pedestrians. This section of road, at the junction of Caverswall Road with Uttoxeter Road in Blythe Bridge is a busy thoroughfare which is now limited on most days (including Saturdays) to one lane because of the line of parking cars now using this road. This is clearly illustrated in the photo provided. Today, 5 cars are parked along the road. Most of the people are using Blythe Bridge train station, and in order to avoid paying car parking fees on the car park provided leave their cars for several hours per day on Caverswall Road, from before 7 am till often late at night. As a GP I travel to work early and return late so I am very aware of the time these people leave their cars on the road.

This has been going on for several months now, and we have reported this to the police on 3 occasions due to cars actually parking on the grass verge. During term time, this road is also used by parents picking up children from Blythe High School. When the barriers are down at the level crossing, adjacent to the junction, the line of parked cars causes a grid lock which does not clear and poses a threat to children walking home trying to cross this busy junction and railway crossing.

It is only a matter of time before someone is hurt. This area clearly needs to have double yellow lines on both sides of the road to stop the car parking abuse that is going on and prevent the grid lock that is now occurring. At the very least this needs doing to stop someone being injured.

I look forward to hearing what action you plan to take regarding this matter.”

She reported that she had forwarded the email to the Police, County Councillor W. Day and Staffordshire County Council officer David Greatbatch and understood that the Police have been dealing with this for some time and will continue to monitor the situation and address the problems of vehicles that are causing an obstruction.

Agreed for the Council to forward the email to Police, County Councillor W. Day and Staffordshire County Council officer David Greatbatch reiterating the resident's concerns and asking them to consider what enforceable solutions can be implemented.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she along with Councillor P. Jones had attended a Youth Support Group event to plant a Diamond Jubilee Tree, which she said was very enjoyable. She thanked members of the Youth Support Group and Village Hall Committee.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF:

Council Meeting of 20th August 2012.

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Minutes dated 20th August 2012 – Page 59 – agenda item 8.12.

The new Council website is now up and running. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked the clerk.

Minutes dated 20th August 2012 – Page 62 – agenda item 11.1.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the Street Soccer sessions are going very well and numbers are increasing.

Minutes dated 20th August 2012 – Page 63 – agenda item 11.1. Big Lottery - Reaching Communities Outline Proposal.

It was noted that the outline proposal for the Reaching Communities programme has been unsuccessful.

Minutes dated 20th August 2012 – Page 63 – agenda item 11.2.

The hedges around the William Amory Primary School have now been cut.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Dates of following 'outside' meetings were noted:

- Community Council of Staffordshire – Annual General Meeting to be held on 24th September 2012 at 7.30pm at Abbots Bromley Village Hall, Bagot Street, Abbots Bromley, WS15 3DB. (Light refreshments will be served from 7.00pm).
- Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – Annual General Meeting to be held on 17th October 2012 at 2.00pm at Evans Park Conference Room, Stafford Football Club, Riverway, Stafford.
- Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – to be held on 20th September 2012 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorland House, Leek.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – Photography Course for Beginners – Course Fee £50 at Westport Lake Visitor Centre, Westport Lake Road, Tunstall, ST6 4RZ on 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th October and 3rd November.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – An Audience with Chris Packham on Tuesday 16th October 2012 at Best Western Moat House Hotel commencing at 7.30pm.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust E News August 2012.
- Rural Services Network Online.
- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 791 and 792.
- LCR Online – August Issue.
- LCR – Autumn 2012 Issue.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – September Issue.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Street Lighting – Energy Conservation Initiative.

The following ‘Briefing Note’ clarifying the details behind the above initiative was noted.
“STREET LIGHTING OPERATIONAL CHANGES

The Plan

In April this year Staffordshire County Council approved changes to the way its street lights would be operated following a complete review of operations associated with the delivery of the Street Lighting PFI (Private Finance Initiative) contract. The changes will mean that the majority of new street lights will be fitted with equipment which will reduce (dim) light output levels from late evening to early morning. Approximately 28,000 street lights will be renewed and subsequently fitted with dimming equipment between September 2012 and May 2028. In addition and where appropriate we also intend to retrofit dimming equipment into existing street lights which are fitted with high wattage lamps. The retrofit programme will see approximately 15,000 street lights fitted with dimming equipment over a three year period. It is envisaged that the installation works for the dimming project will commence in October 2012.

In conjunction with the above dimming strategy the County Council has also approved the introduction of part night switched street lights when requested by a Parish Council. For confirmation the County Council will not be introducing part night switched street lights; however under the localism agenda the County Council will permit Parish Councils to submit requests for the introduction of part night street lights when supported by the local community.

The Process

Dimming (Forward Programme) – Dimming equipment will be fitted to new equipment either as a consequence of a new highway related development e.g. new residential estate, or when the existing street lights have reached the end of their serviceable life and are replaced by the renewal mechanism contained within the County's street lighting PFI contract. This then ensures that dimming technology is introduced only when a street lighting system has been updated to accords with current design standards.

Dimming (Retrofit Programme) – Dimming equipment will be installed into existing street lights which are fitted with high wattage lamps on what we term to be 'Traffic Routes'. Higher wattage lamps are generally used on roads where traffic volumes are much higher e.g. A roads, and which require a higher level of illumination to cater for peak traffic periods. Following a County wide assessment of vehicle flow rates it was determined that traffic volumes drop dramatically after 6.30pm and remain low until 7.30am in the morning. The introduction of dimming technologies therefore enables the street lighting authority to dim down lighting to a more appropriate level in line with the reduced vehicle flow rates.

Part Night Switching – Under the remit of the localism agenda the Parish Council can request the introduction of part night switched street lights provided the local community support the initiative. There are no restrictions as to how part night street lights can be implemented; it can be a whole street, every other street light or individual street lights. The County Council would check all requests to ensure that highway safety standards are maintained.

The Regimes

The following dimming/part night switching regimes will be applied on a County wide basis:

Dimming

Traffic Routes – street lights dimmed down from 100% brightness to 50% brightness between the hours of 20.00 hrs and 06.00 hrs.

Other Routes (including residential streets) – These street types will have a two stage dim process with street lights dimmed down from 100% brightness to 75% brightness between the hours of 20.00 hrs and 00.00 hrs and from 75% brightness to 50% brightness from 00.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs.

Part Night Switch Off

The part night switching off of street lights shall be configured so that street lights switch off at 00.00 hrs and switch back on at 05.30 hrs.

Dimming Restrictions

The following exclusions will be restricted to a street light dimming regime whereby street lights are dimmed down from 100% brightness to 75% brightness between the hours of 00.00 hrs to 06.00 hrs:

- Roads with traffic calming measures, humps and speed tables;
- Within the Vicinity of a Traffic Signal;
- Adjacent to central carriageway islands;
- Bus stops

The following location types will not be subject to dimming:

- City and Town Centre locations;
- Pedestrian subways;
- Areas covered by permanent Local Authority/Police CCTV cameras;
- Areas adjacent to 24 hour operational emergency services;
- Areas adjacent to Pedestrian commuter locations; Railway Stations, Bus Stations, Taxi ranks.

Part Night Restrictions

Each request for the introduction of part night street lights will be vetted by the County's street lighting section to ensure that highway safety standards are maintained at the appropriate level. Similar restrictions to that for the implementation of dimming will be applied during the vetting process."

Agreed - To ask Staffordshire County Council for the results of the Consultation on the above initiative.

8.2 Community Council of Staffordshire – subject: Bulk Oil Buying Scheme.

Details of the above new scheme were noted with more information being available on www.staffs.org.uk, telephone number 01785 242525 or by email at communitycouncil@staffs.org.uk.

8.3 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Removal/exchange of 95 dog bins across the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Further clarification, as detailed below, from Councillor A. S. Forrester to Councillor Elkin on the above intentions has been copied to all Parish Council.

*"I am writing in response to the letter dated 13 June 2012 **Re: The removal/exchange of 95 dog bins across the Staffordshire Moorlands.***

You have put forward a number of issues that I believe require further clarification. I also attended the meeting dated 23rd May 2012 in which dog bins were discussed. Joy Redfern, Street Scene manager clearly pointed out that litter bins, have and already do, contain dog dirt. Labelling the bins is a way of educating the public to make them aware that they do not have to put dog waste in a dog bin.

This will increase the amount of provision available for dog owners to deposit their dog dirt. I therefore, cannot agree that, "people will not utilise the general purpose bins". A consultation process will take place with Parishes regarding where new bins can be sited. The dog bins to be removed are the ones that are already adjacent to existing litter bins.

Public Health is also an issue you have concern over. The Environmental Health Manager has stated, "from a public health and individual risk aspect the risk is coming into contact with the dog faeces. The container that you choose to contain the faeces in ideally should not have any parts that have to be touched in order to place the articles in the bin e.g. if there is a lid that needs to be opened by hand in order to deposit the waste in it there is an increased risk of coming into contact with faeces, particularly if customers have not properly bagged faeces prior to disposing of it.

There are several very common diseases that can be transmitted to dogs and people through faeces. These include toxocariasis (roundworms), giardia, salmonella and Ecoli. All of these diseases are very serious and common and every effort should be made to avoid contact with potentially infected faeces. Assuming that people are advised (possibly via information/signs on the bins) that the general litter receptacle can be used for putting dog faeces in then anyone who chooses to rummage in the bin has made an informed decision to do so".

To reassure you further the 2010 Keep Britain Tidy campaign focused on raising awareness about using any bin to dispose of dog faeces. The campaign slogan was "bag that poo... any rubbish bin will do!"

The reason for removing the dog bins will result in a saving of £5,300 a year and will not reduce the provision of receptacles available to the public to dispose of this type of waste. The benefit is that more litter bins will be installed which will decrease the litter issue for many areas.

In these current times of austerity we need to look at all avenues to ensure that services can still be provided to the same standard and where possible improve the services. On this issue, we will see an increase in pavement sweeping between villages due to the proposals also discussed during the meeting of 23rd May 2012.

I will be sending a copy of my response to all Parish Councils for their information. If you wish to discuss any other issue please do not hesitate in contacting me. Joy Redfern will be contacting each parish in due course.”

Members of Council felt that the above intentions were a retrograde step.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she has been given assurance that no dog fouling bins will be removed from our area without prior consultation with the Parish Council and that she has advised Staffordshire Moorlands District Council that if they are the Parish Council will be seeking compensation.

8.4 Audit Commission – subject: Completion of the Annual Audit

It was noted that the Audit Commission has completed the audit of the accounts for period ending 31st March 2012 and has raised no issues that need to be addressed.

8.5 Came & Company – subject: Renewal of Insurance Policy.

It was noted that the premium renewal from 1st October 2012 to 30th September 2013 is £2150.10.

Agreed to renew the insurance policy with Came & Company.

8.6 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Temporary Road Traffic Order – A0521 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge in the vicinity of the Level Crossing.

It was noted that the above order comes into effect on Sunday 7th October 2012 between the hours of 06.00 and 14.00 and prohibits any vehicle from proceeding within a distance of approximately five metres either side of the level crossings. It is anticipated that the works will be completed on the same day.

8.7 Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – subject: Weekly Updates/NALC Briefings on various issues/ Newsletter July Issue. (A copy of the latter was distributed to all members).

The above documents were received and noted.

Annual General Meeting of Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she and Councillor Miss S. Farr would be attending the AGM on 3rd November 2012.

Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association Executive Committee.

Councillor J. W. Burgess said that he would like to continue as a member of the Executive Committee.

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

General:	Subject:
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Planning application 00603/FUL – acknowledgement of Council’s concerns.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Planning application 00604/FUL – acknowledgement of Council’s concerns.
Boundary Commission for England	Revised proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies in England. More information available on: www.independent.gov.uk/boundarycommissionsforengland
Email Exchanges:	Subject:
Wardle Transport	Thanks for the Forsbrook bus service during the extensive road works.
Royal Mail	Request for mail box in Bridgwood Road, Blythe Bridge.
Qstar	Details of new deterrent flashcam.
Police	Anti social behaviour.
Daryl Wright (Ladies football team manager).	Reporting anti social behaviour on recreation ground during matches and training.
SPCA	SPCA – AGM on 3 rd November 2012.
Staffordshire County Council	Bennetts now run Council Bus Service 249.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway defect issues: Damaged bus shelter adjacent to Travis Perkins; Overgrown hedge adjacent to Butchers Arms; Blocked drains – Caverswall Road; Road surface Newclose Avenue/Meadow Close.

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

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00726/FUL – Meadowsley, 25 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey side extension.

00734/OUT – land fronting Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – erection of dwelling and demolition of existing structure.

RESOLVED:

- **To respond as follows:**
 - 00726/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**
 - 00734/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the planning officer is satisfied that the reasons for the previous planning refusal have been addressed and the flood risk assessment covers all possible risks.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

00581/FUL – 2 Dove Road, Forsbrook – two storey side extension to provide additional living space and bedroom.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted:

00604/FUL – Duke of Wellington, Blythe Bridge – Installation of ATM.

Reasons: “1. The proposed development will result in an increase in the likelihood of highway danger to road users owing to vehicles stopping on the public highway at a busy junction contrary to the interests of highway safety and also the efficient use of the highway. The proposal is therefore contrary to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2012. Saved Policies D1, D2 and T13 of the Adopted Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan and Saved Policies B13 and T14 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan. 2. The proposed installation of the ATM and its associated works due to its siting, scale and design is considered to be an inappropriate alteration that would be detrimental to the character and appearance of the building itself, particularly given the site’s prominent and busy junction location and also the visual amenity of the area generally, contrary to the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework 2012, Saved Policies D1 and D2 of the Adopted Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan and Saved Policies B13 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan.”

9.4 Planning matters.

Planning Application 00325/FUL – The Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that Mr. John McAdam has appealed against the refusal of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to allow planning permission for the erection of two detached dwellings. Representations need to be made before the 28th September in writing (three copies) quoting reference APP/B3438/A/12/2180205/NWF to the Planning Inspectorate, Room 3/26b, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no issues to report.

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.

Anti Social Behaviour.

There have been several instances of anti social behaviour since the last Council meeting. The police have been informed and will be paying attention to these 'hot spot' areas.

New play equipment/bmx track.

The replacement safety surfacing under the newly installed team swing will be installed week commencing 25th September 2012. Instead of reinstating the rubber matting, which could continue to be vandalised, a wet pour safety surface will be laid. It is being installed by DT Leisure at the same time as erecting the bmx track and because of this there will be a cost saving. The actual cost of the wet pour safety surface is £1,530.00. The timescale for the above work is dependent on the weather conditions.

Blythe Bridge Railway Station.

Youth are congregating on the Railway Station, late evenings and weekends and causing a nuisance by shouting, playing loud music and doing 'wheelies' on their motor cycles.

It was **agreed** to email the Rail Community Officer Faye Lambert asking if the British Transport Police can pay the area some attention.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Lack of interest in Parish Council affairs by District Councillor Miss A. Wilkinson.	Noted.
Bus Shelter adjacent to The William Amory Primary School in need of painting.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
Condition of parking area in front of the shops in the centre of Blythe Bridge	Agreed to write to businesses. Advise Police of any vehicles obstructing the footway and highway as and when it occurs.
Vandalism to bus Shelter adjacent to Travis Perkins.	Already reported to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defect Department.
Missing 30mph sign in the vicinity of Blithe View.	Ask County Councillor W. Day if the criteria has changed and what the possibilities are of reinstating the sign.
Scrap Metal Collectors.	If they hold a licence they are entitled to attract attention by verbally letting residents know they are in the area.
Anti social behaviour at Blythe Bridge Railway Station.	Already dealt with under agenda item 11.1.
Windmill at Meir Heath.	It was noted that funding is required to continue with the work of the Windmill Preservation Society.

Youth Support Group Talent Show.	It was noted that the final of the Talent Show is to be held on 28 th September 2012.
Cheadle Road Resurfacing Team deserve a thank you for all the flack they have had to endure.	The clerk has already asked County Councillor W. Day and Staffordshire County Council Officer Rob Steele to pass on the Council's thanks.
Overgrown hedges – Cheadle Road and Uttoxeter Road.	Already reported to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Road surface repairs throughout the Parish.	It was noted that some road defects have already been repaired and others identified for repair with white road markings.
Fly Tipping – Tater Lane, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.
Damaged level crossing sign in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st August 2012 was:

Community Direct Account	99867.11
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12.2 September 2012 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402212	Town & Country Services	1204.00	240.80	1444.80
402213	Audit Commission	400.00	80.00	480.00
402214	Premier 1 (U.K.) Limited	437.50	87.50	525.00
402215	Broker Network Limited	2150.10		2150.10
402216	Mr. D. W. Shaw	60.00		60.00
402217	Christine J. Snape	894.55		894.55
402218	HM Revenue & Customs	753.03		753.03
DD	Eon	33.00		33.00
DD	British Telecom	46.80	9.37	56.17
Total		5978.98	417.67	6396.65

RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of September 2012 accounts.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman