

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2012 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 Miss J. P. Morris,
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 (3),
Press Officers (2).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor F. J. Hopley, Councillor P. Jones 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.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Residents Issues.

Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – road surface condition and blocked drains.

County Councillor W. Day said he would get the Staffordshire County Council Reactive Inspector to undertake a site visit.

3.2 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report:

Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook.

Staffordshire County Council has carried out a site visit and identified the need for grit bins at this location, but has ceased ordering any new stock in this financial year and is looking for a new supplier. There are two used grit bins at the Ladderedge Depot and these are being assessed to see if they are fit for re-siting.

(Note: Two grit bins have now been installed at Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook).

Footway – adjacent to Forsbrook Wine Shop, Chapel Street, Forsbrook.

Staffordshire County Council has agreed that the recently installed drain at the above location is a hazard and they are presently trying to find a different safer type of gully cover.

Potholes.

The Reactive Inspector has marked out many drains in Forsbrook Parish for repair but in many cases the time scale for carrying out this work is not meeting the target.

Councillors reported that potholes have been repaired in Hillside Avenue, Dilhorne Road, Meadow Close and Newclose Avenue.

Staffordshire County Council proposals to sub-contract out some school services.

The above proposals have been called in because a full consultation was not carried out. If the proposals are approved it will mean that Staffordshire County Council will only be 49% shareholders in providing some services. This could affect jobs, which is a concern with some Councillors and also some schools. The proposals will mean that 400 employees will be transferred over to the new company.

Overgrown hedge adjacent to the Butchers Arms and 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

In response to a question raised by Councillor A. E. Wilson, County Councillor W. Day advised that Staffordshire County Council have written to Punch Taverns the owners of the Butchers Arms requesting that they attend to the overgrown hedge and Staffordshire County Council Highway team will deal with the overgrown hedge adjacent to 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton and Councillor A. J. Mould attended the Parish Assembly meeting on 6th December 2012 and the minutes from the meeting will be forwarded to the Parish Council in due course.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF:

Council Meeting of 19th November 2012.

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Minutes dated 19th November 2012 – Page 87 – agenda item 3.1. Foxfield Light Railway Society Limited.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read letter received from Matt Burton the Licensing Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

“I thank you for your letter dated 20th November which we received on 26th November 2012. I apologise for the delay in responding but I have been on annual leave.

In answer to your question relating to why the conditions proposed by Environmental Health for the recent licence application do not apply to TEN's it is because legally they cannot. Unless the premises already had specific conditions pertaining to regulated entertainment on their premises licence they could not be added to a TEN.

We are aware of, and have recorded on file, the complaints and issues surrounding the event that took place in October. Environmental Health and Staffordshire Police Licensing also have these complaints documented. Only these two authorities have the power to object to a TEN and having spoken to them separately it is my understanding that they will object should another TEN be submitted in relation to a proposed event at Foxfield Railway.

If you wish to discuss the matter further please contact the Licensing Department on the above listed telephone number.”

- 6.2 Minutes dated 19th November 2012 – Page 89 – agenda item 7.1 – Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Civil Enforcement Officers.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read email received from Carole Machin from the Parking Services Department at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

“Thank you for your letter requesting regular patrols at Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge from the Civil Enforcement Officers (CEO's).

We regularly send our officers out to both Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge but unfortunately such is the demand from all the schools across the district it may not always be at the times you need, we will try to get our Officers there in the near future at around 3pm for you. I cannot guarantee any Penalty Charge Notices will be served as the drivers generally move on when they see the CEO's but they will have a deterrent effect.”

- 6.3 Minutes dated 19th November 2012 – Page 94 – agenda item 11.2 – Clothes Bank and Pet Shop, Forsbrook.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read email received from the Planning Enforcement Department at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

“I refer to your recent complaint regarding the above matter. I have now had the opportunity to carry out a preliminary investigation. At this stage it appears that your concerns warrant further investigation and I have made your complaint into a Planning Enforcement File. The new reference number for this file is 12/00071/BOC. You should quote this number in all future correspondence.

The file has now been allocated and passed to Julie Howard who is the Planning Enforcement Officer who will continue to progress the case.

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Unfortunately, as the specifics of each case can vary greatly, it is difficult to give any firm time scale as to when this matter may be resolved. The ongoing investigation could involve careful negotiation and a series of site visits to ensure that the Planning Authority is taking the most appropriate course of action. However, the case officer dealing with your complaint will endeavour to update you and keep you informed of progress.

If, in the meantime you have any further information regarding your complaint I would advise you to contact Miss Howard on 01538 395400 Ex: 4130 or email julie.howard@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk.”

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton referred to the clerk's report and specifically the problem with rubbish to the rear of the Deep Pan Man and the fact that two rats had been seen. She reported that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Officer Claire Shaw will be undertaking a site visit and sending out a duty of care letter to the business owner.

- 7.2 Meeting Dates.

There were no meeting dates to note.

- 7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online.
- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 797 and 798.
- LCR Online.
- Local Council Review – Winter Issue.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – E News.
- Parish Online Newsletter – December Edition.
- Staffordshire Link Newsletter – November/December 2012 Issue.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8.1 Wicksted Leisure Limited – subject: Play equipment inspection.

Members received a copy of the above inspection report and noted that only minor issues (painting and the replacement of one wooden slat) required attention. The necessary work has been included in the maintenance programme.

- 8.2 Staffordshire Police – subject: Speedwatch Volunteers.

It was noted that Staffordshire Moorlands Local Policing Team (LPT) are in the process of recruiting volunteers to a Community Speedwatch campaign and anyone interested should contact PCSO Amada Dale on telephone number 101.

- 8.3 Owl Online Watch – subject: Crime Incidents.

Details of recent crime incidents in Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge were received and noted.

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- 8.4 E.on UK Energy Services Limited – subject: Annual Maintenance and Energy Charges for Highway lighting 2012/2013.

It was noted that all the Parish owned streetlights are in ‘good’ or ‘as new’ condition.

- 8.5 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Community Focus for Ice Busters.

Information on Ice Busters – Winter Footway Treatments was received and noted.

- 8.6 Came & Company – subject: Increased Frequency in Public Liability Claims.

Members discussed advice received from the Council’s Insurance Company regarding the above. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that it would be ‘best practice’ for weekly inspections to take place and to be recorded. The following Councillors volunteered to help the Chairman in carrying out the weekly inspections:

Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham.

Specific details to be agreed in the New Year.

- 8.7 Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – subject: Weekly Updates/NALC Briefings on various issues.

The above documents were received and noted.

It was noted that Membership fees will not be increased for financial year 2013/14.

No questions were raised.

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

General:

NHS North Staffordshire.

Email Exchanges:

Rural Services Network

Staffordshire County Council

Diane Malley

Ray Bagnall, Blythe Bridge &
Forsbrook Village Hall

Subject:

‘Choose Well Poster’. (Note: poster displayed on notice boards).

Subject:

Call for Evidence – what future for the Leader programme? (Note: Questionnaire completed on line).

CMB funding – Forsbrook Parish Contract runs only up to the end of December 2012.

Offer of accounting services when HMRC returns are to be ‘Real Time’ compliant.

Thanks for allowing storage of containers on Village Hall car park whilst BMX track was being installed.

County Councillor W. Day

Request for update on promised grit bins for Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook. (Agenda item 3.2 refers).

County Councillor W. Day

Incident references for highway defects that have not been dealt with.

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Daryl Wright, Manager
of Ladies Football Team

Staffordshire Police

SMCVS

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Part payment of football fees.

Recent incidents.

Funding opportunities update.

Recent roadwork compensation information.

Update on reported highway defects.

Query re stock displayed on footway – Chapel Street, Forsbrook. (Agenda item 6.3 refers).

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Parking Enforcement Officers. (Agenda item 6.2 refers).

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Rubbish – rear of the Deep Pan Man. (Agenda item 7.1 refers)

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Dog Poop bags.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Dispensations for Councillors when setting the Parish Council precept. (Note: This has been included as agenda item 12.3).

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:

00868/FUL – Stone House Farm, 406 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – conversion of detached swimming pool into bungalow.

It was noted that there will be no increase in the size of the footprint – the only difference being the installation of additional windows and roof skylights.

RESOLVED:

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

To raise no concerns providing the proposals did not have an adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00603/FUL – Duke of Wellington, 305 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension, installation of plant equipment and alterations to elevations including new entrance.

00975/FUL – Stanley Croft, 47 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – amendment to windows.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted.

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00827/FUL – Farm Cottage, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – dropped kerb.

Reasons: “(1) The proposed development fails to make adequate provision for the turning of vehicles within the site curtilage resulting in an increase in the likelihood of highway danger due to drivers having to manoeuvre into the main A521 Cheadle Road in a reverse gear and is therefore contrary to Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan saved policies B13 and T14 and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan policy T13. (2) The applicant has failed to demonstrate pedestrian visibility splays of 1.5m x 1.5 m either side of the proposed access and is therefore contrary to Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan saved policies B13 and T14 and the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Structure Plan policy T13. “

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 issues to report.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier reported that she has planted up the bulbs from the flower containers into pots and would replant them along the new driveway in the Cemetery.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) reported that the BMX track has now been installed and is proving very popular. She also passed on a comment received from a Checkley Parish Councillor that the recreation ground was a credit to the Parish Council.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Footpath 5b discarded motorbike	Noted: The motorbike has now been removed.
Sums Chinese Take Away, Blythe Bridge – cigarette ash being discarded outside premises.	Report to SMDC Environment Services.
Blocked drain – adjacent to Bake Shop, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to SCC Highway Defects.

A50 Underpass, Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – evidence of drug use.	Report to local Police Officers.
School Lollipop Lady (Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge) continually receiving abuse from impatient road users.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would raise this with the School.

Parking obstructions – Springfield Drive, Beverley Crescent and Hillside Avenue.	Report to local Police Officers.
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12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 30th November 2012 was:

Community Direct Account	91461.64
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12.2 December 2012 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401752	Broker Network Ltd.	47.62		47.62
401753	SMDC	384.00	76.80	460.80
401754	E-On UK	614.41	122.88	737.29
401755	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.	71.00	14.20	85.20
401756	Quality Office Supplies Limited	46.74	9.35	56.09
401757	Christine J. Snape	894.55		894.55
401758	HM Revenue & Customs	741.03		741.03
401759	Town and Country Services	312.50	62.50	375.00
DD	Eon	23.00		23.00
DD	British Telecom	78.80	15.77	94.57
Total		3213.65	301.50	3515.15

RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of December 2012 accounts.

12.3 Dispensation to Parish Council Members.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant a dispensation up until the next ordinary election to all Parish Councillors who live within the Parish to enable them to participate in any discussion or vote on any matter concerning the setting of the Council's budget and annual precept.

12.4 Setting of Precept for year 2012/2014.

Committee meeting dates could not be arranged to enable the 2013/2014 precept to be set until Council has received budgetary information from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council following the Local Government Finance Settlement Report which is due in December and which will include revised values for Grant applicable to Parishes.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman