

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST MAY 2012 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor A. J. Mould
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor J. W. Burgess, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor F. J. Hopley, Councillor Mrs. 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.
SCC Highway Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend.

3. TO ELECT: Chairman, Vice Chairman and Councillor to oversee finances.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton handed over to Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham whilst the election of a new Chairman took place.

Chairman.

Councillor P. Jones proposed re-election of present Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton. Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham seconded the proposal. There were no other nominations and Councillor Mrs. G. Burton was duly re-elected. The Chairman signed the 'Acceptance of Office'.

Vice Chairman.

Councillor P. Jones proposed re-election of present Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton seconded the proposal. There were no other nominations and Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham was duly re-elected.

Councillor to Oversee Finances.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed re-election of Councillor P. Jones. Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham seconded the proposal. There were no other nominations and Councillor P. Jones was duly re-elected.

Standing Orders were suspended.

4. OPEN SESSION.

4.1 Guest Speaker – Mr. Chris Brian, Community First Responder.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton introduced Chris Brian and thanked him for attending the meeting to provide background information on the invaluable service First Responders provide.

Chris Brian thanked Forsbrook Parish Council for their recent £100.00 donation towards the cost of purchasing a new community first responder vehicle. Community first responders are volunteers who respond to emergencies on behalf of the Ambulance Service. On average eighty to one hundred calls are made monthly to the local first responder team and to run these local services costs £300.00 a month so donations are very much appreciated. He said that West Midlands Ambulance and the British Heart Foundation are running 'Heart Start' Courses for any groups of up to 15. The course last for two hours and teaches CPR, bleeding and choking medical procedures. It is hoped to deliver this course, which is suitable for anyone from ten years and over to 60000 people throughout the country. A certificate of attendance will be awarded to everyone who attends. It is also hoped to site more defibrillators in rural areas, which can be funded by the British Heart Foundation if the area meets the criteria or part or wholly funded by Councils or people within a community. The cost of a defibrillator is £1500. The defibrillator is enclosed in a vandal proof box fixed to an outside wall and can also be sited in unused telephone kiosks which are then painted yellow. It requires an electricity supply, as the device has to be kept above freezing. To access the defibrillator you telephone 999 and quote the number on the box when a code to open the box will be given. The defibrillator has clear and easy to use instructions and once used will be restocked and the code to open changed.

Many Councillors expressed an interest in attending a course and suggested an ideal location for siting a defibrillator would be outside Blythe Bridge Library.

4.2 Residents Issues.

Mrs. June Bassett advised Council that there are going to be changes on how the Homelink services funded by Staffordshire County Council are provided. It appears that in future individuals will need to apply for Care Plan funding instead of it being given directly to Homelink as is the present case. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested Council wait for more information on how this new system will work.

4.3 County Council Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that in the absence of County Councillor Day he has sent the following report.

“Spoken to Staffordshire County Council Officer Neil Porter regarding the plans for improvements to the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction and there is no progress to date. Reminded the Officer that Cheadle Road is being re-surfaced at some considerable cost in July and have suggested that work to introduce a filter for vehicles turning left from Cheadle Road into Uttoxeter Road needs to be done at the same time. The Officer is going to look into this. There also appears to be no minutes from any County Council meetings where proposals for improvements at the above junction have been discussed.”

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed, that in view of the above report, we contact County Councillor Day and request an urgent meeting with Neil Porter to get some definite answers regarding the several highway issues we have been discussing for years – improvements to the junction, filter for vehicles turning left from Cheadle Road on to Uttoxeter Road, the removal of the two parking bays opposite the Late Shop entrance and the introduction of double yellow lines on Uttoxeter Road.
AGREED.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

5. TO ELECT MEMBERS FOR THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEES: Cemetery: Environment: Finance: Newsletter: Remembrance.

Members advised the clerk on which Committees they wished to serve.

6. TO NOMINATE REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE FOLLOWING OUTSIDE BODIES:

Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly (and Voting member): Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall Committee.

6.1 Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Voting member), Councillor Miss S. Farr and Councillor A. J. Mould again wished to represent Council at the Parish Assembly.

6.2 Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall Committee.

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier agreed to continue as a Parish Council representative on the above committee.

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

There were no reports from outside meetings.

8. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 16th April 2012.

RESOLVED:

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

9. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Minutes dated 16th April 2012 – page 8 – agenda item 11.2 – subject: Operation of a Mobile Café.

It was noted that the above activities do not need to be licensed by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

10. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

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

Emergency Outdoor First Aid Course being run by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.
16 hour ITC Emergency Outdoor First Aid Course – 17th and 18th July – 9am-6pm at The Wolseley Centre (the Gatehouse conference Room), Wolseley Bridge, Stafford, ST17 0WT. Cost £110 per person.

10.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- NALC – Direct Information Service – Issue No. 782 and 783.
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins.
- LCR Online.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust E News.
- Rural Services Network Online.
- Staffordshire Police – Newsletter (copy distributed to all members).
- Clerks & Councils Direct.
- Moorlands – Volume 1 – Issue 9.

11. CORRESPONDENCE:

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

Details of the above initiative were discussed at length.

RESOLVED:

- **To respond registering opposition to street lights being dimmed to a lower output level from late evening to early morning because of community safety, road safety and monitoring of CCTV concerns. To advise that when the streetlights were upgraded recently the Parish Council received numerous complaints because residents felt the light level was poor and inadequate. To also advise that Forsbrook Parish Council will in no way commit to any financial responsibility with regard to any changes and will not accept the County Council's letter as initial notification to provide the option of part night street lights within our Parish as being a Parish decision supported by the local community.**

11.2 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Staffordshire Local Community Fund.

It was noted that Blythe Bridge Railway Station Volunteer Adoption Group has been successful in their bid for funding to provide three flower planters at the railway station. It was also noted that in accepting the grant it is necessary to pro-actively create publicity and acknowledge the contribution. Councillor Mrs. N. Stanier said that the Rail Community Officer Faye Lambert had provided summer bedding plants for the containers, which will be planted up this week. She also said that Mr. Robert Hall has phoned to say how pleased he is with the planting of the shrubs he has donated in memory of his wife and would like to place a small memorial at the station. He has also expressed a wish to supply more shrubs.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that 50% £450.00 of the cost towards the cenotaph restoration and cleaning work has also been approved from Staffordshire Local Community Fund and it was **agreed** for the work to now proceed.

Councillors asked for their thanks to County Councillor W. Day for supporting the above two grants to be recorded.

11.3 Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook Historical Society – subject: Support.

Letter of thanks for the support and assistance received from Forsbrook Parish Council was noted.

11.4 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates/NALC Briefings on various issues.

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

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

General:

Audit Commission

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Emails:

Owl Online Watch
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire County Council

Subject:

Consultation on appointment of external auditor for 2012/13 and future years. To note that Grant Thornton has been appointed to audit the annual returns of all small bodies in Staffordshire. From the scale of fees submitted there appears to be no increase in fees.

War memorial survey – to complete survey adding that the District Council has not been supportive in the Parish Councils recent Enhancement Grant funding bid for renovation and maintenance costs for the cenotaph.

Details of incidents in the area.

Scam warnings.

Obstruction on Footpath 3a.

Highway Defect Reports:

Pot Holes – Chapel Street, Greenwood Road, Bridgwood Road, Beverley Crescent and Hillside Avenue, Forsbrook; Blocked drains on the junction of Uttoxeter Road with A50 – adjacent to 408 Uttoxeter Road,

	Blythe Bridge; Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook and adjacent to 11 Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge; Collapsed drain outside 25 Beverley Crescent, Forsbrook; Sunken grids Trent Road, Forsbrook; Damaged kerb junction with Trent Road/Churnet Road, Forsbrook; Damaged drain entrance to Village Hall.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Deep Pan Man – advertising board – requesting update.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Litter on Uttoxeter Road between Tater Lane and Stuart Avenue – work is being programmed to clear overgrowth to allow litter collection to take place.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Police	Dog Fouling Campaign notices and leaflets. Parked cars causing an obstruction – Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook, Uttoxeter Road (opposite the junction with The Avenue), outside Blythe Bridge Post Office and on the road junction to The Library/Police Offices. Speeding Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook. Thank you for contribution in Staffordshire Moorlands Magazine – May issue now available.
Brian Johnson	Support in their application for CMB funding.
Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Insurance cover for new play equipment and conditions for insuring the bmx track.
Came and Company	Purchase of scrubland – requesting update. Providing update on transfer of scrubland. Information on donation of shrubs from a Mr. Robert Hall.
James Beardmore, Knights Solicitors Staffordshire County Council Faye Lambert, Rail Community Officer	

12. PLANNING.

12.1 Planning Applications:

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton provided background information on some of the planning applications detailed below (shown in italics).

00320/FUL – 28 Hillside Avenue, Forsbrook – erection of concrete garage.

00342/ADV – Roebuck Inn, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – removal of existing signage and installation of replacement signage.

00354/FUL – 47 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – two-storey side extension.

00350/FUL – The Ark, Commonside, Boundary – single storey extension and internal alterations including demolition of existing extension.

00325/FUL – The Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – erection of 2 detached dwellings.

00355/FUL – 11 New Close Avenue, Forsbrook – proposed garage at rear.

00407/FUL – 11 Cedar Avenue, Blythe Bridge – proposed demolition of existing garage and rear conservatory and construction of new side and rear single storey extension.

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

00320/FUL – to register no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and the privacy of neighbours is not compromised.

00342/ADV – to register no concerns regarding the proposals providing the planning officer is satisfied that the replacement signage is in keeping in this rural location and will not distract motorists on this busy road.

00354/FUL – to register no concerns providing the planning officer is satisfied that the previous reasons for refusal have been addressed and that the scale and design are in keeping with the area and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

00350/FUL

This application is a resubmission. The revised plans do show that they have made some adjustment to the side elevation with a new eaves height.

To register no concerns providing the planning officer is satisfied that the previous reasons for refusal have been addressed, that the scale and design are in keeping in this rural/green belt location and that the privacy of adjacent neighbours is not compromised.

00325/FUL

This application is a resubmission. The previous application for the erection of two dwellings was refused in November 2011. Forsbrook Parish Council did register concern on many issues. Accompanying the planning application is a Design and Access Statement which states that ‘Consultation has taken place with the Planning Officer following the earlier rejections and comments have been duly noted. The application delivers a scheme where the orientation, design and scale of development offer the maximum degree of openness to the site that can be achieved, whilst offering a high level of accommodation. Whilst the proposal sits alongside Furlongs, it will be slightly lower in height and the proposed building width is less. All existing trees and replacement mature trees shall provide a certain degree of screening to the proposals and the applicant intends to fully re-instate the stone wall fronting Cheadle Road, complete with copings and associated pillars.’

House Type ‘B’ has an integral garage and still appears to be close to the boundary and House Type ‘A’ has a detached double garage. Parking is provided for the whole of the site for six cars, with shared access/egress and room to manoeuvre the cars on site.

A supporting statement dated March 2012 states “It can be seen that the current proposal has taken full and proper account of previous concerns relating to the redevelopment of this site with the result that the submitted scheme now meets all reasonable expectations for high quality in design and development”

The supporting statement outlines the design and layout requirements which need to be fulfilled in order to bring forward acceptable development proposals which are listed in the documentation.

To register no concerns providing the planning officer is satisfied that all the reasons for refusing the previous applications have been addressed, that the scale and design are now in keeping in this rural location and that the privacy of adjacent neighbours is not compromised. To also request that all established trees are protected and that a planning condition be set to prevent any further development on this site to protect the open aspect.

00355/FUL – to register no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping in this rural location, that the privacy of adjacent neighbours is not compromised and that the workshop above the garage is for residential and not commercial use.

00407/FUL – to register no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping with the surrounding area and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of neighbours.

12.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00142/FUL – 224 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – first floor side extension to form bedroom and en-suite including rear balcony.

00173/FUL – 192 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – two-storey side extension with new roof over existing sun lounge to rear of property.

00203/FUL – The Bungalow at The Limes, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – detached garage.

00115/FUL – Hollyvilla, 209 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – two-storey rear extension.

00290/PNOT_1 – land to the south side of Delphouse Road, Boundary – building to dry house bailed hay.

12.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted:

00177/OUT – land known as Westview, Quabbs Lane, Forsbrook – erection of dormer bungalow.

Reasons: “This site lies outside of a settlement boundary in open countryside which is designated as Green Belt and Special Landscape Area. The erection of a dwelling house represents inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The National Planning Policy Framework confirmed that inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. The case put forward by the applicant is considered to be weak. The case is that the existing storage use is well established. However, there is no planning permission for this use. Even if it could be demonstrated that the storage use was established (through a Certificate of Lawful Development) it is not considered that this would amount to very special circumstances, justifying a new dwelling in the Green Belt. It is considered that the erection of a permanent dwelling house is not only harmful by definition but that together with the provision of a residential curtilage and all the trappings which come therewith, would have a very damaging impact on the openness and visual amenity of the Green Belt and an adverse urbanising impact on the Special Landscape Area. The National Planning Policy Framework confirms that the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to keep land permanently open and that the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence. It is for these reasons that the conclusion in this case is that the harm by reason of inappropriateness and other harm identified above is not clearly outweighed by other considerations. As such the proposal conflicts with Policies N2, N7 and N8 of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan and national advice in the National Planning Policy Framework.”

12.4 Planning matters.

No planning issues were raised.

13. CEMETERY:

13.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no matters to bring to the attention of Council.

13.2 Cemetery Issues.

13.2.1 The clerk reported that she has received a memorial application from the grantee of a burial plot where family members were continually leaving unauthorised items. As the memorial application has been signed agreeing to the cemetery regulations it was agreed to approve the memorial.

13.2.2 Councillors Mrs. N. A. Stanier said that the bulbs, which were being removed from the large village planters because they looked very untidy after flowering will be replanted at the cemetery.

14. ENVIRONMENT:

14.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) gave the following report.

Dog-Fouling Campaign.

The above campaign is now taking place in our most problematic areas. The informative cards have all been delivered to residents in these areas by the clerk and Councillors and I would like to thank all those who helped. Dog fouling signs have been erected together with a larger banner on the Recreation ground. Enforcement Officers will step up patrols in the area and if necessary fixed penalty notices will be issued – two fixed penalty notices were issued in the first week of the campaign. With regard to the education side of the campaign a talk on ‘Pet Responsibility’ was delivered by an SMDC Officer to children in one of the local schools.

Litter along the embankment from Tater Lane towards Stuart Avenue.

A SMDC Officer has been liaising with Staffordshire County Council and the area is to be cleared of the brambles and self-seeded trees. When this has been done the area can be accessed safely and the litter and other rubbish removed. This is a positive step forward following years of trying to get the area tidied up. Community Pay Back team are not able to help with this work due to the lack of welfare facilities but SMDC Street Scene team have offered to assist. I will keep you updated on this as it may be that to get this work done quickly we need community support to assist the Street Scene team.

New Play Equipment.

All the new play and exercise equipment has been insured at an additional cost of £25.00 for period April to September 2012. The insurance renewal is due on 1st October 2012. The bmx track insurance cover will be added when it has been installed.

Scrubland.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton asked the clerk to provide an update.

The clerk reported that the transfer of the scrubland should have been completed by 31st March to meet the criteria for the funding of the £5000 cost for purchase. The legal hold up has been due to the PCT wanting a Deed of Covenant signed to share access maintenance costs. The Parish Council already hold a Deed of Grant for right of access with no such clause. The funding providers have allowed a deferral until 31st May 2012 and the clerk and Chairman will be meeting the solicitor on 23rd May 2012 to try and resolve this issue and meet the funding deadline.

14.2 Flower Planters.

Quotes for the watering of the flower planters in Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge, which varied very little were discussed. It was agreed to accept the quotation of £1750 plus VAT for 25 visits, including soluble plant food and maintenance for the 2012 season.

14.3 Community Action Day.

It was noted that the above initiative is confirmed for 11th June 2012, meeting at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall at 10.00am. SMDC Street Scene team will be helping. Councillor P. Jones reported that he completed a Daily Mail Clean Up Campaign application and was successful in being accepted and awarded clean up tools.

Agreed for event to be advertised in local press.

14.4 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Discarded cigarette stubs and betting slips outside Bookmakers, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge	Report to SMDC Environment Department.
Parking obstructions: Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge; Junction of Beverley Crescent/Chapel Street; Pavement adjacent to Spar Car Park.	Report to local police officers.
Parking obstruction – Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.	Councillor Alan Wilson has spoken to the offender which seems to have solved the problem.
Vandalism to plants and youth congregating at Blythe Bridge Railway Station.	Incidents already reported to the Rail Community Officer – Faye Lambert.
Thank you from Mrs. Bunny Woolley for her 90 th birthday bouquet.	Noted.
Underage drinking – Hungry Horse, Meir Park.	Security staff made aware.
Students from Blythe Bridge High School sitting in the doorways to the public toilets in Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Blythe Bridge High School.

Blocked drain – junction of Uttoxeter Road/A50.	Already reported to SCC Highway defects.
Cars for sale on SMDC land – car parked opposite Henry Rice’s garage is no longer there.	If incident reoccurs advise SMDC who will send someone out to take registration number and ask the owner to move it. Failure to do so will result in notice being left on the car with the final action being the towing away of the vehicle.

15. FINANCE:

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

Community Direct Account	106946.97
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15.2 May 2012 Accounts

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402180	Town & Country Services	1396.00	279.20	1675.20
402181	NALC	10.00		10.00
402182	Heath House Farm	126.18	25.24	151.42
402183	Moorlands Home Link	100.00		100.00
402184	Quality Office Supplies	33.94	6.79	40.73
402185	DT Leisure (UK) Limited	22.34	4.47	26.81
402186	DT Leisure (UK) Limited	5373.00	1074.60	6447.60
402187	Broker Network (Came & Co.)	25.00		25.00
402188	Christine J. Snape	894.55		894.55
DD	Severn Trent Water	16.86		16.86
DD	Severn Trent Water	29.82		29.82
DD	Eon (Monthly direct debit reduced from £65.00 per month)	33.00		33.00
Total		8060.69	1390.30	9450.99

➤ **RESOLVED:**

To approve payment of May 2012 accounts.

The meeting concluded at 9.30 pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman