

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH JULY 2013 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 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,
Residents (3),
Press (1)
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor J. W. Burgess, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor F. J. Hopley 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.
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 Parking of vehicles for sale on grassed area adjacent to the Tesco roundabout and adjacent to the land that has just been fenced off by Staffordshire County Council.

The land in question falls within Fulford Parish Council and comes within the remit of Stafford Borough Enforcement Officers who will no doubt continue to deal with this issue. The Police are hesitant to get involved when the vehicles are on private land.

Heath House Farm – new signage.

The clerk was asked to check with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Enforcement to see if the signs comply with planning legislation.

3.2 County Council Report.

Prior to the report from County Councillor W. Day, Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton updated members on the recent site meeting she attended with the clerk, County Councillor W. Day and Staffordshire County Council Officers Rob Steele and Chris Mitchell on 27th June 2013.

Issues that were discussed:

- 1) Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – parking and condition of the road.
- 2) The Coppice, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – school-parking damaging the grass verge.
- 3) Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge (Catchems Corner) – barriers now installed which could result in vehicles for sale being parked on the highway and adjacent grassed areas.
- 4) Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook – drains not working efficiently because they are continually blocked.
- 5) Bridgwood Road/The Avenue – potholes.
- 6) East Bank Ride/Brookgate – footway and road surface conditions.
- 7) Footway to the rear of Duke of Wellington – pothole.

Update from Staffordshire County Council on some outstanding highway issues and issues discussed during the meeting.

- 1) The grassed areas adjacent to the footway on Caverswall Road, near to the junction with Uttoxeter Road is highway owned and a search is being carried out to see if there are any utilities below and if by removing a strip of the grassed area could help the situation by providing parking spaces for a few cars. It was noted that the parking situation at this location has improved considerably now that the housing development on The Smithfield Hotel site is nearing completion. However, there could still be a problem with parking by rail commuters now that that Network Rail have introduced parking fees. County Councillor W. Day suggested monitoring the situation.
- 2) Traffic regulation orders for Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge are being reviewed in 2013/2014.

Staffordshire County Council Highway Officers do not feel that yellow box markings at the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction will achieve anything and are investigating other solutions to keep traffic flowing.

- 3) Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – work has already been carried out on the drainage system and additional work together with road/pavement surface repairs has been escalated to the Structural maintenance programme for the next financial year but there is no guarantee that the work will be carried out within next year's maintenance programme.
- 4) Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook – the blocked drains are a maintenance issue, which will be improved through gully cleaning and jetting of the connections to the main drain system.

County Councillor W. Day reported that Jill Edwards from Shoetime has made enquiries regarding the ownership of the land adjacent to her premises. He said that Staffordshire County Council does not own the car park and are also not responsible for the drain on this land, although they have the right to discharge water into it.

In response to a question raised by a Councillor, County Councillor W. Day said that he would ask the highway team to reposition the grit bin at the end of Crossfield Avenue to the original position.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

4.1 Parish Assembly Meeting – 27th June 2013.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton and Councillor A. J. Mould attended the above meeting. Minutes from the meeting will be sent to the Parish Council in due course.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 17th June 2013.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve and sign the minutes.**

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

6.1 Minutes dated 17th June 2013 – Page 27 – Agenda Item 6.3 subject: Newcastle Borough Council award of an additional £1.4m for exceeding their 50% recycling target.

Andrew Stokes the Finance Director of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has reported that householders have helped Newcastle Borough Council to recycle more than half their rubbish (54%) for the first time earning them a £1.4million bonus - £1 million in rewards from Staffordshire County Council and a further £400,000 for selling recycled rubbish to companies to be made into new products. This £1.4million additional income therefore, relates to a combination of additional recycling income and recycling credits.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council also received additional income when they introduced their system in 2007/8. If Staffordshire Moorlands District Council compare the income levels obtained via sale of the recycled materials and recycling credit income to the base position in 2006/7 they can demonstrate that they have achieved over £2.8 million extra income over the last five financial years.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Meeting Dates.

Community Training Skills (informal) Conference – Thursday 18th July 2013 am at Stafford Beacon Conference Centre, Unit 22, Staffs Technology Park, Anson Court, Stafford. ST18 0GB. Cost: Free.

NALC – Putting Communities First Conference – 19th September 2013 at Mercure Bristol, Holland House Hotel, Bristol.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online (Note: Newsletters available on: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/news>).
- LCR Online
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – E-news July 2013.
- Clerks & Councils Direct.
- Communities, Councils and Clerks – July 2013 Issue (Copy distributed to each member).
- Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership - NHS Trust Member News – June Issue.
- Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter – June 2013 Issue.
- Parish Online News.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Premises Licence Application – Heath House Farm.

Details of the above Premises Licence Application by Heath House Farm were noted - live music, recorded music, provision of late night refreshment, making music and supply of alcohol. The days and times applied for: Monday to Sunday 10.00 to 24.00 hours for live music, recorded music, making music and late night refreshment and 10.00 to 23.30 hours for the supply of alcohol. The closing date for representations was 11th July, so the clerk has sent a letter to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Licensing Officer as copy distributed to members.

It was noted that the application is scheduled to go before Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Licensing Sub-Committee on Friday 2nd August 2013.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she would alter her meeting schedule to enable her to make representation at the meeting.

- 8.2 Stoke-on-Trent City Council/Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council - subject: Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule Consultant.

Documents and explanatory information available at: www.stoke.gov.uk/ldf - consultation period 24th June to 5th August 2013.

- 8.3 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Localism Act 2011 Part 112 Subsections 7B & 7C. Notice of Consultation on main modifications to revised core strategy.

It was noted that representations on the proposed modifications need to be made by 5th August 2013. Documents available at Blythe Bridge Library. Further information or advice regarding the consultation from the Forward Plans team on 01538 395570 or forward.plans@staffs.moorlands.gov.uk

- 8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Community Watchdog Scheme – District Forums.

It was noted that membership of the scheme has reached the 1400 mark and in October 2013 will see the Scheme’s 12th birthday. Charlotte Murphy is the new County Watchdog Liaison Officer and can be contacted on 01785 277835.

- 8.5 Owl Online Watch – subject: Crime Incidents/Alerts.

Details of the above were noted.

- 8.6 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

Details of the latest Scams/Warnings were noted.

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

The above documents were received and noted.

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

General:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire County Council

Email Exchanges:

Harry Stebbing Workshop

Leek Town Community Development Manager
Ian Jackson, Staffordshire County Council

Subject:

Heath House Farm Licence Application –
Note: Application will go before the
Licensing Sub Committee on 2nd August
2013. Representations can be made.
Egerton Centre booking for Defib Course.

Subject:

Request for quote for Jubilee Gardens
signage

Soccer sessions at Blythe Bridge.
Official Launch invitation.

Ray Bagnall	Official Launch invitation.
Martin Evans, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Official Launch invitation.
Rev. David Bickersteth	Official Launch invitation.
Forsbrook Primary School	Official Launch invitation.
William Amory Primary School	Official Launch invitation.
Blythe Bridge High School	Official Launch invitation/band.
Forsbrook Primary School	Heart Defibrillator Course.
William Amory Primary School	Heart Defibrillator Course.
Blythe Bridge High School	Heart Defibrillator Course.
Staffordshire County Council (Rob Steele)	Update from site meeting.
Staffordshire County Council (Chris Mitchell)	Update from site meeting.
W. Day	Maintenance of grassed area adjacent to Travis Perkins.
Faye Lambert, Community Rail Officer	Volunteer Day at Blythe Bridge Railway Station.
Police	Heart Defibrillator Course/Official Launch Day.

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:

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton briefed members on issues included in the documents, which accompanied some of the planning applications, details of which are shown in italics.

00550/FUL – 201 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – rear single storey extension and conservatory (to form independent accommodation for elderly relative).

The site falls within a possible flood Zone 3 according to the Environment Agency flooding map. The extension is to have a finished floor level that is the same as within the existing property and is to be formed incorporating appropriate flood proofing features relevant to this type of extension, giving consideration to the technical, feasible and economic factors.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping, that there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours and all measures have been taken to reduce any flooding impact.**

00569/FUL – 133 Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – proposed second storey side extension above the existing garage and WC to form two additional bedrooms.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**

00671/FUL – 58 Blythe Mount Park, Blythe Bridge – single storey side extension to form store shower room/wc and dayroom.

The drive will be reduced by the extension and the frontage will be adapted to accommodate two vehicles. The planning application also states that two trees are to be removed, these being minor trees less than 100m trunk or multiple trunk of no value.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping, that there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is satisfied that the trees to be removed are not worthy of retaining.**

The clerk was requested to speak with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Tree Preservation Officer Steve Massey referring to the above planning proposals and to also ask him to ensure that any trees on Moorlands Housing land adjacent to The Furlongs are not removed unless they are considered dangerous.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted.

00337/FUL - 1 Dolespring Close, Forsbrook – two-storey side extension forming new study/play room with bedroom and ensuite above. Single storey rear extension forming new sunroom and replacement roof to front elevation.
00419/FUL – 94 Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusals were noted:

9.3.1 00330/CL_PRO Certificate of Lawfulness – 120 Chapel Street, Forsbrook – kitchen/family room extension.

Reasons:

“The proposed development would not constitute Permitted Development under Schedule 1, Part 1, Class A of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (Amendment) (No.2) (England) order 2008 as the rear extension would project beyond a wall forming a side elevation of the original dwelling house and would have a width greater than half of the width of the original dwelling house.”

9.3.2 00426/FUL – Sunnyside, The Common, Dilhorne – proposed detached 3-car garage.

Reasons:

“The proposed garage by virtue of its height and substantial nature and encroachment on to open countryside beyond the residential curtilage, and represents a form of domestication that is harmful to the open-ness of the greenbelt and attractive rural character of the special landscape area. The garage and the extension of the land associated with the dwelling constitute inappropriate development within the greenbelt and no very special

circumstances have been advanced to warrant the granting of planning permission in such circumstances.

The parking and turning of vehicles combined with the imposing nature of the garage will impact on the open rural landscape and is contrary to the provisions of saved policies N2, N7, N8, N9, H13(C) and B13 of the Adopted Staffordshire Local Plan and Policies DC1, DC3, R1, SS1 and SS6c of the Staffordshire Moorlands Core Strategy – Revised Submission Document and the guidance contained within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Informatives

PRO-ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT WITH APPLICANT/AGENT:-

The Authority's Officers have assessed the proposal against Development Plan policies and any other material considerations and have requested amendments which could overcome any concerns and which would ensure that the development follows guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework, but the applicant/agent was unwilling to agree to such amendments.

The Authority is willing to provide pre-application advice in respect of any future application for a revised development.”

- 9.3.3 00329/FUL – Storage Building, Land adjacent to 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – change of use and conversion of existing storage building into a 2 bed roomed dwelling.

Reasons:

(1) “In accordance with Saved Policy B21 of the Adopted Local Plan, no robust evidence has been put forward to demonstrate that an alternative commercial use of the premises is either available or unacceptable. Similarly, the proposal does not meet with Revised Core Strategy Policy R2 ‘Rural Housing’ which requires a demonstration that an agricultural or commercial use is not viable or suitable. In such cases, there will be a requirement for a marketing exercise to be carried out by a suitably qualified professional or other evidence that the building would be unsuitable for commercial use’. In these respects, the proposal would be contrary to Saved Policy B21 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan; Policies R1 and R2 of the Core Strategy (Revised Submission Document) and advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

(2) Insufficient information has been submitted regarding the proposed access driveway to the proposed dwelling, which would not block or reduce access to the residential property to the west, which is served via a dedicated access strip in order to assess adequately the impact of the proposed development having regard to matters of highway safety. In these respects, the proposal would be contrary to Saved Policies B13 and T14 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan; Policies DC1 and T1 of the Core Strategy (Revised Submission Document) and advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

(3) The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), para 49 states that housing applications should be considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. It is recognised that the Council currently cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing land.

However, for the reasoning given above and in this particular case, the adverse impacts of a grant of planning permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh these benefits when assessed against the other policies in the Framework as a whole. “

9.4 Planning matters.

No planning matters were raised.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said that she had no matters 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.

Jubilee Gardens Sign.

Designs and styles for two signs were circulated to members –

Option 1 - A 1100mm x 440mm painted panel, mounted onto 2 x 1000mm x 100mm x 100mm English oak posts and 600mm x 100mm x 100mm stove enamelled heavy-duty steel sockets. The panel made from material guaranteed for 50 years against deterioration, with applied vinyl lettering and border (colour of choice)

Guideline Price (according to artwork) £685.00.

Option 2 – A 1100mm x 440mm cast aluminium panel, mounted onto 2 x 1000mm x 100mm x 100mm English oak posts and 600mmx 100mm x 100mm stove enamelled heavy duty steel sockets. The aluminium sign is cast directly from the artist’s pattern in high quality alloy, which is rust free and capable of rendering fine detail. The sign is treated with etch primer, white undercoat and topcoat of high quality coloured sign writer’s enamel. The process produces a sign, which will not corrode and has a long lasting paint finish.

Guideline Price (according to artwork) £1486.00.

Councillors decided on the more expensive sign as illustration and sizes detailed on green background with gold lettering.

Dog Fouling Poster Competition.

Members decided on the winning dog fouling posters from The William Amory and Forsbrook Primary School. A first, second and third award for each school was agreed with a prize of £20, £10 and £5 respectively. Each winner to also receive an award certificate.

First World War 100 years – 4th August 2014.

Blythe Bridge Historical Society would like Forsbrook Parish Council to join them in organising a diary/activities to remember the First World War. The Chairman and clerk have been invited to a meeting with members of the Historical Society on 24th July and will report back to Council.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Motor Bikes causing a nuisance.	Telephone Police Public Service desk when disturbance is happening.
Glass on BMX Track	Clerk to carry out inspection.
Condition of footway adjacent to the new housing development on The Smithfield Hotel site. Also the closure of the footway necessitating pedestrians having to walk on the road.	Monitor if there are any more footway closures as it seems that the majority of utilities work has now been carried out and to also ensure that the footway is left in a reasonable condition.
Bus stop adjacent to the housing development on The Smithfield Hotel site.	Ensure that this bus stop is retained at this exact location.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 30th June 2013 was:

Community Direct Account	122065.98
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12.2 July 2013 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401797	Town & Country Services	1204.00	240.80	1444.80
401798	Heath House Farm	297.00	59.40	356.40
401799	Premier 1 (U.K.) Ltd	437.50	87.50	525.00
401800	Christine J. Snape	913.35		913.35
402251	SMDC	294.40	58.88	353.28
DD	EON	23.00		23.00
Total		3169.25	446.58	3615.83

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of July 2013 accounts.**

12.3 Income and Expenditure Accounts for 3-month period ending 30.06.13.

A copy of the above financial information was distributed to members with the agenda. No questions were raised.

The meeting concluded at 8.35pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman