

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH NOVEMBER 2013 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: PCSO Adam Charlesworth and PCSO John Staples,
County Councillor W. Day,
Residents (2),
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from 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.
Planning Issues	Councillor F. J. Hopley	Personal – Member of the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Committee.
SCC Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Police Update/Questions.

PCSO Adam Charlesworth introduced PCSO John Staples who joined the Blythe Bridge team a month ago and said that we were very lucky to get him because of his nine years of experience as a Police Special Officer.

PCSO John Staples said that he started in 2004 working from Hanley and Burslem rising through the ranks to Sergeant and then Inspector based at Longton Police Station.

PCSO Adam Charlesworth said that anti social behaviour has dropped by 68% and there was no increase in crime figures for theft/shoplifting and criminal damage. Investigations regarding criminal damage in April 2013 are still ongoing.

Councillors raised several issues. (Responses from the officers shown in italics).

- (1) Taxi continually parked in Green Lane, Blythe Bridge early mornings.
- (2) Vehicles obstructing safe pedestrian access on footways.
- (3) Vehicle parked on the pavement in Beverley Crescent, Forsbrook.
Call 101 immediately if you witness anyone acting suspiciously or need an officer to attend to a situation as it is happening, as local officers may not always be on duty.
With regard to vehicles parked on the pavement, if the footway is wide enough for pedestrians to walk and the vehicle is not causing an obstruction the police will not take any action.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked PCSO Adam Charlesworth and PCSO John Staples for attending the meeting and for all their work in the area. She said that it was obvious on the recent Neat and Tidy event that there was little litter and dog fouling in the area and also little evidence of drinking/anti social behaviour which is down to positive policing by local officers.

3.2 Residents Issues.

The Duke of Wellington – Tesco Convenience Store.

Parking by contractors is causing traffic congestion and highway safety issues.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the store was due to open in December when contractors would be off site, but the situation with regard to highway safety needs to be monitored.

3.3 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report/update:

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – uneven footpath on the junction with Barlstone Avenue.

A site inspection will be undertaken.

Untaxed vehicle, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

Clerk to report to DVLA.

Car parked on grass verge, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

County Council Officers and the Police have spoken to the vehicle owner. Staffordshire County Council has cut back trees to improve visibility for the driver when exiting his drive. Officers from Staffordshire County Council will speak with the vehicle owner again.

Sunken BT manhole cover, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Staffordshire County Council will report this again.

Condition of footway adjacent to the old Smithfield Hotel site.

A site inspection will be arranged to ensure that the developers have left the footway in an acceptable condition.

Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge.

A meeting has taken place with Highway Officers and the following work agreed: Existing gullies will be made bigger and two new ones installed which will help in dealing with storm water but there will continue to be water excess when the River Blythe is up to capacity. Some road surface work will be carried out to remove a dip in the road. It is hoped that this work will be carried out very quickly. The Tree Preservation Officer has been requested to inspect suspect trees.

Bollards adjacent to Spar, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

A site visit will be undertaken to ascertain if the installation of bollards will improve pedestrian safety and deter motorists from parking on the footway.

Councillors raised the following concerns. *County Councillor W. Day's response shown in italics.*

Improvements to the junction are urgently required.

Staffordshire County Council has dismissed the implementation of a 'yellow no waiting box' but they have not come forward with any suggestions for easing congestion and improving highway safety. The recent improvements with regard to the widening of Cheadle Road to allow traffic to turn left on exiting initially improved the situation considerably but parents are now parking in this area to drop off children.

County Councillor W. Day said that he would find out what the current position was. He reminded members that the Joint Parking Board were looking at Council's request for yellow lines on one side of Uttoxeter Road from Elmwood Drive to Grindley Lane including the removal of the existing parking bays.

Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge (between the entrance to Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall and The Black Cock – sunken grid.

Clerk to report to Staffordshire County Council's Highway Defects Department in the normal way.

Speeding Issues – Centre of Forsbrook.

Mobile speed detector vehicles regularly monitor this location and speed indicator signs (SIDS) operate on a rota basis with other Towns/Parishes.

There is no chance of getting permanent SIDS.

Speed Limit on the A50 and Slip Roads.

The speed limit comes under the remit of the Highways Agency.

Eastbank Ride/ Brookgate, Forsbrook – footway surface.

Any required patching work to be reported in the normal way to Staffordshire County Council Highways.

Co-operative Store, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – blocked drains.

As the drains are on private land the concern should be raised with the landowner.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

Firework Display at Forsbrook Primary School on 4th November 2013.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham reported that the Firework Display was excellent and it is the intention of the school to hold a similar event next year. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the District Council had supported the event by keeping the public toilets open until 9.00pm.

Remembrance Parade on 10th November 2013.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham thanked everyone who had helped at the Remembrance Parade and said that there was an excellent turn out.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 21st October 2013.

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Meetings.

The following meeting dates were noted:

Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – 12th December 2013 7.00pm for 7.30pm start in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Leek.

Dates of 2014 meetings – 20th March and 26th June 2014 – 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Leek.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online (Note: Newsletters available on: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/news>).
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – E-news July 2013.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2013 Issue.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Outside, Active & Healthy Newsletter – Autumn/Winter 2013/14.
- Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – Gazette Inaugural Edition. (Copy distributed to members with agenda).
- Parish Online Newsletter.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Polling District Review – Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013.

It was noted that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is undertaking a statutory review of the polling districts within each ward. The review requires them to look at the provision of polling stations within each polling district to ensure that these are suitable and that they are the most convenient location for voters. The two polling stations within Forsbrook Parish are The William Amory Primary School, Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Methodist Chapel, Forsbrook.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that The William Amory Primary School do get complaints when the school is closed for voting. She said that in the past consideration has been given to alternative polling station – Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall, which was considered too far out and the Egerton Centre but there were issues with regard to insufficient parking and disable access, although the latter has now been addressed.

Agreed

That there was no alternative for the Forsbrook Polling Station but to again suggest consideration be given to Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall and The Egerton Centre.

- 8.2 Came and Company – subject: Storm Damage.

Recommendations from Came and Company on issues relating to the above were received and noted.

- 8.3 Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall – subject: AGM.

Copy of the accounts for year ended 31st May 2013 together with the Chairman's Report were received and noted.

- 8.4 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Public Consultation on the 2013 Refresh of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (2007-2020).

It was noted that after fully adopting the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent in 2007, ahead of the 2020 deadline, and with increased financial and legislative pressures, the Councils in Staffordshire are refreshing the strategy to provide new direction for the remaining 7 years of the schedule.

The public consultation is being hosted online at www.staffordhsire.go.uk/consultation.

The online survey is open from Monday 21st October 2013 to Friday 13th December 2013. Hard copies of the documents and consultation questions are available only upon request to Nicola Kemp (Waste Collection Manager) by email at Nichola.kemp@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk or by calling 01538 395794.

- 8.5 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Parish Assembly Meetings.

The following documents were received and noted:

- Minutes of meeting held on 19th September 2013;
- Attendance list;
- Year Representation Update;
- Drainage and Highway Report;
- Key Contact list.

- 8.6 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Dog Control Orders.

It was noted that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council is proposing to amend the 2011 Dog Control Orders under Section 55 (1) of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. The Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations 2006 requires the District Council to consult with a number of specified bodies, including local Parish, District and Town Councils before it can make an order. Any representations regarding the proposed Order may be sent to the Council in writing by 31st December 2013 and addressed to: Victoria Ellis, Community Projects Officer, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek, ST13 6HQ or victoria.ellis@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk.

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

Details of the above were noted.

- 8.8 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

Details of the latest Scams/Warnings in the area were noted.

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

The above documents were noted.

- 8.10 To receive and note general correspondence and to agree action as required.

General:

There was no additional correspondence to note.

Email Exchanges:

William Amory Primary School

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Councillor Robert Pritchard

Faye Lambert (Community Rail Officer)

Playdale Playgrounds Limited

Lucy Woodward

Forsbrook Primary School

Staffordshire County Council

Subject:

Subject:

Photograph of dog fouling poster winners.

Moorlands Together Neat and Tidy Event – 04.11.13.

Watchman (Freedom of the Parish).

Blythe Bridge Station/AcoRP Publication.

Order for repairs to team swing and zip wire.

Overgrown hedge at cemetery.

Firework Display.

Highway Defect Reports:

Flooding – Caverswall Road and Caverswall Old Road, Blythe Bridge;

Footway surface – Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge;

Untaxed vehicle – Cheadle Road, Forsbrook;

Missing Forsbrook Sign – Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

Update requests for:

Parked vehicle damaging grass verge – Cheadle Road, Forsbrook;

BT sunken manhole cover – Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge;

Footway repairs adjacent to the housing development on the Smithfield Hotel site;

Redundant highway signage – Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

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.

01046/REM_1 – Duke of Wellington, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – minor changes:

- In terms of the ramp shown in the existing variation of condition 14 application, the section at the top of the ramp by the lift would now be internal within the extension permitted under application 12/01350 dated 25th January 2013. The back section of the ramp would be within the original footprint of the extension but would not sit externally. The external view from Cheadle Road would remain unchanged as the side elevation and the corner will remain bricked so will appear in line with the extension approved;
- The approved condenser equipment has been moved from its position on the roof to a new plant and bin store compound between the car parking spaces and the ramp. There will be no changes to the width of the area or to the number of parking spaces. The condenser equipment will be less visible in this position;
- The small set of stairs adjacent to the ramp and the bin store have been replaced with a cage storage area covered by an external canopy;
- The rear boundary wall (abutting the ramp) would now be a fence on a concrete upstand;
- A new timber door would be added to the bottom of the ramp; and
- The main escape stair has been removed as the means of escape is now through the access ramp.

SMDC Planning Officer Robin Forrester and Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Stephen Peck have informally agreed the proposed changes.

In the documents from CgMs it states “The delivery vehicle will continue to service the store from the position shown in the approved servicing management plan submitted with the application. As agreed with Stephen Peck at the County Council only the two spaces situated between the unloading position and the ramp will be blocked off during deliveries.”

However from the plans it can be seen that a parking space on the right as you enter from Uttoxeter Road is now intended to be used as a “bin store/empty cages.” With regard to this application we now have a confusing situation because of the number of amendments. We have amendments to amendments and had all these proposals have been submitted with the original application, the Planning Officer would need to have considered this development in a different way and possibly reached a different conclusion. It is obvious that there is insufficient room on site for the delivery vehicle to manoeuvre irrespective of how many amendments Tesco put forward. These delivery vehicles will exacerbate the traffic congestion at the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction.

It was **agreed** to send the following letter to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department.

“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council have studied the above amendments, which have been informally agreed by Robin Forrester and accept that we are out of the 21 day time period for submitting comments.

However, members feel they must comment on several issues with regard to the development that is taking place at the Duke of Wellington.

- 1) *There have been numerous amendments to the original planning application – some amendments to amendments and it is felt that had the original planning application been submitted with all of the proposals as they stand at the moment the Planning Officer and Staffordshire County Council Highways may have viewed the application in a very different way and possibly reached a different planning decision.*
- 2) *Staffordshire County Council Officer Stephen Peck has agreed to allow two parking spaces to be unavailable during deliveries. These amended plans now show that a further parking space on the main car park will be permanently removed to allow for a bin store/empty cases. The question arises as to where customers and staff will park?*
- 3) *The Parish Council has already raised concerns regarding the logistics of delivery vehicles entering the site from Uttoxeter Road and trying to exit on to Cheadle Road across a bus lane and immediately adjacent to a bus stop. It is obvious from the planning amendments required by Tesco that they are also aware that there is insufficient room on site for the delivery vehicles to safely manoeuvre. The outcome will be that traffic congestion will be exacerbated on these two very busy roads at a junction identified by Staffordshire County Council as being in need of improvement.*

We would ask that you please record our concerns, as we are sure that there will be repercussions with regard to traffic safety and congestion in the future.”

01086/FUL – 50 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – amendments to previously approved application reference 11/01024/FUL. Replacement domestic garage (classic car collection).

The amendments for a replacement domestic garage – the size of which is almost as large as the footprint for the house is for a classic car collection. The property is on a private road in a residential area.

RESOLVED:

- **To register concern regarding the size and use of the proposed garage in this residential location.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

There were no planning approvals to note.

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 said that she had no matters to report.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

Councillor J. W. Burgess said that he had received an enquiry regarding identifying the burial plot of a relative. The clerk said she would be able to provide details from the burial register, which was also available on the Council web site.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

Neat and Tidy Event.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked everyone who helped with this very successful event, which residents very much appreciated. She suggested writing to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Officer Vicki Ellis thanking her for liaising with all the agencies and to ask her to also pass on our thanks to them. **Agreed.**

It was noted that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment team had also disposed of four mattresses, which had been dumped on a footpath.

New Play Equipment/Picnic Tables.

The Aerotilt, Gravity Bowl and Picnic Tables and Benches have all been installed and the Fun Ball and Surfboard are due to be installed week commencing 18th November 2013.

Play Inspection.

Wicksteed Leisure will be carrying out the Play Inspection on Tuesday 19th November 2013.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Overgrown hedge – adjacent to The William Amory Primary School.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that this has been cut but would ask the school to ensure that the hedge is not causing a problem for people waiting at the bus stop.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st October 2013 was:

Community Direct Account	112377.49
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12.2 November 2013 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402301	Town & Country Services	140.00	28.00	168.00
402302	SMDC	307.20	61.44	368.64
402303	NALC	54.99	1.00	55.99
402304	Christine J. Snape	1021.40		1021.40
402305	Town & Country Services	465.00	93.00	558.00
402306	Quality Office Suppliers	65.02	13.01	78.03
DD	Severn Trent Water	43.48		43.48
DD	Severn Trent Water	27.33		27.33
DD	Eon.	50.00		50.00
Total		2174.42	196.45	2370.87

RESOLVED:

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

12.3 Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that two local charities be supported with donations – Blythe Bridge Scouts Group and Blythe Bridge Guides.

Agreed to donate £50.00 to both these very worthy causes.

13. NEWSLETTER:

The draft newsletter was approved.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman