

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2014 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 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: Residents (8),
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor Miss J. P. Morris and Councillor B. Yates.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
Staffordshire County Council – William Amory Primary School.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton.	Personal – Chairman of Governors at the William Amory Primary School.
Staffordshire County Council - Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.
Staffordshire County Council – William Amory Primary School. Staffordshire County Council – Rights of Way Issues.	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Governor at the William Amory Primary School. Personal – Daughter employed by Staffordshire County Council in the Rights of Way Department.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Residents Issues.

3.1.1 Availability of free dog scoop bags.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that she has spoken to both the Environment and Street Scene departments at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and has been told that free dog scoop bags are available from Lloyds Newsagents, Co-op Late Shop and Library in Blythe Bridge and Spar Supermarket in Forsbrook.

3.1.2 New litterbin installed in Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – tilting.

The clerk was requested to report this to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Street Scene Department.

3.1.3 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – private road serving house numbers 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 104, 106. Request for access protection line marking.

The clerk was asked to email Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Rob Steele to see if this was possible.

3.1.4 Noise from the concrete section of the A50.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the Parish Council has communicated with the Highway Agency and for reference purposes the response received in July 2014 is detailed below:

“There are no A50 locations where an existing rigid concrete road surface has been replaced with a flexible bituminous surface. DEFRA road noise maps categorise strategic areas of higher traffic noise in accordance with the Environmental Noise (England) Regulation 2006. These areas are then considered for quieter “like” for “like” surfacing techniques when resurfacing work is identified. There are currently no plans to replace the existing road surfaces in the Blythe Bridge area which currently meet road maintenance condition standards.”

With regard to the fencing – a public meeting with the Highway Agency, Connect A50 Limited, Scott Wilson and Sir William Cash was held on 14th December 2009 and the notes from the meeting together with noise monitoring results can be made available to interested members and residents.

3.1.5 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – Staffordshire County Council Highway Issues.

Gulley emptying has been programmed.
Resurfacing work is being considered in the future resurfacing programme.

3.1.6 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – Parking near to the junction with Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Police to again be asked to monitor the situation to ensure that no highway obstruction is being caused.

Raise the issue with the Rail Community Officer Faye Lambert, as the cars that are perceived to be causing an obstruction are mainly railway commuters who do not wish to pay parking charges to leave their vehicles on the railway car park.

3.2 County Council Report.

In the absence of County Councillor W. Day there was no report.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

4. INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING ‘OUTSIDE’ MEETINGS.

4.1 Site meeting on 18th October 2014 with Staffordshire County Council Officers Rob Steele and Chris Mitchell, the Chairman and clerk.

The highway issues discussed and the action agreed are detailed below:

Caverswall Road, Caverswall Old Road and Cheadle Road – gulley emptying has been programmed.

Caverswall Road, Forsbrook - Forsbrook Parish Council has approved a 30mile speed sign and this work will now be carried out.

Cheadle Road, Forsbrook - 30mile gateway sign will be refreshed.

Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook - Investigating whether a 30mile speed road sign meets current legislation.

Cheadle Road, Forsbrook - Parking on the footway adjacent to The Butchers Arms. Staffordshire County Council will not install bollards. Waiting restrictions are applied to the highway and motorists can be issued with a fixed penalty notice whether parked adjacent to the yellow lines on the highway or the footway. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Officers are responsible for issuing fixed penalty notices. Police are responsible for dealing with reported incidents of vehicles causing an obstruction.

Caverswall Road, Eastbank Ride and Brookgate – These areas will be considered in the future resurfacing programme.

Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – Work to fill in the potholes will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – damaged weir has been reported.

Staffordshire County Council consider the installation of bollards on the junction with Crossfield Avenue impractical.

A50 Road Closure and management of traffic on to the A521 – Staffordshire County Council advise that as Uttoxeter Road is designated as an 'A' road it is considered suitable for taking the extra traffic when the A50 is closed.

Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – The footway is being considered for a slurry seal.

- 4.2 CCG Meeting held on 5th November 2014 – Provision of hearing aids.

Councillor F. J. Hopley reported that he had attended the above meeting and no decision has yet been made regarding who should be provided with free hearing aids as discussions are still taking place regarding the new criteria.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 20th October, 2014.

RESOLVED:

- To approve and sign the minutes.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Minutes dated 20th October 2014 – page 86 – agenda item 8.1 – subject: Use of the Egerton Centre by Blythe Bridge High School.

Gail Edwards, District Commissioning Lead Officer has advised that Blythe Bridge High School has not paid any rental to Staffordshire County Council for the use of the Egerton Centre. Contribution towards maintenance and cleaning costs is still being investigated.

The proposals for changes to the libraries throughout Staffordshire will be going to cabinet in February 2015 after which Gail Edwards will attend a Parish Council meeting.

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 date was noted:

Network Rail – Wednesday 26th November 2014 between 17.00 and 19.00 hours at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall – Risk solutions for the level crossings in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

- 7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online (Note: Newsletters available on: <http://www.rsonline.org.uk/news>).
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – E-News.
- Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly Newsletter – Issue 6.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2014 Issue.
- Staffordshire Archives and Heritage Newsletter – September 2014.
- SPCA Gazette (Copy distributed to members).

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – subject: 2014 Review.

It was noted that a review is being undertaken regarding the meetings of the Parish Assembly. Surveys to be completed and returned to ruth.reeves@staffsmoorlands.gov.uk by Friday 28th November 2014.

8.2 Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall – subject: Annual General Meeting.

A copy of the Chairman's report and accounts for period 01.06.13 to 31.05.14 were received and noted.

8.3 SPCA – subject: Filming of Meetings.

Prior to the meeting Councillors had received information and guidance on the above. It was noted that it is a legal duty to follow the new provisions and to update Standing Orders accordingly. For reference purposes the information received from SPCA is detailed below:

"Following the implementation on 6th August of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014, which amend section 100A of the 1972 Local Government Act, one or two councils have expressed some concern about their impact and asked about the extent of the new responsibilities arising from the Regulations.

To coincide with the Regulations becoming law, the DCLG published a guide for the press and public on attending and reporting meetings of local government, entitled "Open and accountable local government", a copy of which was originally circulated with the SPCA Bulletin dated 7th August.

The content of pages 6 to 8 of the Guide makes clear the responsibility of local councils to ensure that they make appropriate arrangements to allow members of the public to film and record public meetings. This document enables one to assess the practical implications of the Regulations from the point of view of a member of the public, and to consider both how best to accommodate the new rights conferred upon members of the public and ensure that a council complies with the new rules.

As a reminder of what is now required of local councils, here follow a number of pertinent points from the Guide:-

...councils and other local government bodies are required to allow any member of the public to take photographs, film and audio-record the proceedings, and report on all public meetings. While no prior permission is required to carry out this activity, it is advisable that any person wishing to film or audio-record a public meeting let their local government staff know so that all necessary arrangements can be made for the public meeting. This is important because the rules require local government bodies only to provide reasonable facilities for any member of the public to report on meetings.

... we would encourage people to contact staff in advance if they want to film or record, equally, we would discourage any system which "vetted" journalists or restricted reporting to "approved" journalists. Councils should support freedom of the press within the law and not seek to restrict those who may write critical comments.

... the new rules allow for reporting of meetings via social media of any kind.

The national rules do not prevent councillors from tweeting and blogging at meetings, so they should be able to do so provided it is not disruptive and does not detract from the proper conduct of the meeting. Whilst councillors are expected to comply with their body's code of conduct, this should not prevent councillors from tweeting or blogging when appropriate.

Councils or local government bodies are required to provide "reasonable facilities" to facilitate reporting. This should include space to view and hear the meeting, seats, and ideally a desk. Councils and local government bodies should use their common sense to determine the range of reasonable facilities they can actively provide to support the free press in all its forms.

The law of the land applies – including the law of defamation and the law on public order offences (see the Crown Prosecution Service guidance on social media). Freedom of speech within the law should also be exercised with personal and social responsibility – showing respect and tolerance towards the views of others.

The council or local government body should consider adopting a policy on the filming of members of the public, and ensure that they protect children, the vulnerable and other members of the public who actively object to being filmed, without undermining the broader transparency of the meeting.

The new rules do not permit oral commentary to be provided during a meeting as this would be disruptive to the good order of the meeting.

Generally, people attending public meetings must be readily able to film, audio-record, take photographs or use social media. Councils and other local government bodies must take steps to ensure this is the case. However, those undertaking these activities must not act in a disruptive manner, which could result in being excluded from the meeting...

...“disruptive behavior” could be any action or activity which disrupts the conduct of meetings or impedes other members of the public being able to see, hear or film etc the proceedings. Examples can include:

■ moving to areas outside the areas designated for the public without the consent of the Chairman,

■ excessive noise in recording or setting up or re-siting equipment during the debate/discussion,

■ intrusive lighting and use of flash photography; and

■ asking for people to repeat statements for the purposes of recording.

It is a legal duty for the local government body to follow the new provisions. If a local government body’s existing Standing Orders are not fully in line with the new legislation, in the short-term, we recommend they simply waive the relevant provisions of those old Standing Orders which could be taken to inhibit the new reporting rules, and then take steps to update formally its Standing Orders.”

The clerk was requested to review the Standing Orders in accordance with the recommendations.

8.4 Owl Online Watch – subject: Crime Incidents/Alerts.

Details of the above were noted.

8.5 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

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

8.6 Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – subject: Weekly Updates.

The above documents were noted.

8.7 The following general correspondence was noted and any action agreed.

General:

Mrs. S. M. Edwards and Mr. R. G. Melville

Sir William Cash, MP.

Staffordshire County Council

British Red Cross

Cheadle and District Animal Welfare Society

CPRE

Kidz2Kidz

Marie Curie Cancer Care

Mencap

Samaritans

Staffordshire Wildlife

Subject:

Comments re Site Allocation proposals and in particular site reference BB044.

Acknowledgement of Council’s letter.

Libraries consultation update.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

Thank you letter for donation.

St. John Ambulance
Victim Support
Cheadle CAB
Douglas Macmillan Hospice
City of Stoke-on-Trent and Newcastle Under
Lyme Borough Council

Thank you letter for donation.
Thank you letter for donation.
Thank you letter for donation.
Thank you letter for donation.
Statement of Community Involvement – Public
Consultation 10th November to 19th December
2014. More information available on
www.newcastle-staffs.gov.uk/SCI or
www.stoke.gov.uk/ldf.

Email Exchanges:

Robert Bridgett
Jacquie Leach
Alan Cotton

Sarah Champ
Faye Lambert, Community Rail Officer

John Kaye
Trevor Bowen
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council (Rob Steele)

Staffordshire County Council

Subject:

Cemetery information.
Planning reference SMDC/2014/0576 (Cresswell).
Police visibility as raised at October Council
meeting.
Site Allocation proposals – public consultation.
Forsbrook Primary School – new artwork project
and Community Rail day at Derby station.
Removal of dog bins and free scoop bags.
Parkway – flooding issues.
Site Allocation proposals – information regarding
the sale of the police houses/land.
21 Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge – confirmed
permitted development.
Proposed prohibition of waiting on Uttoxeter Road
and Cheadle Road – official support.
Confirmation of 30mile speed signs in Caverswall
Road, Blythe Bridge.
Highway Defects:
Damaged Weir, Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier thanked Council on behalf of her granddaughter Becky Johnson for the letter of appreciation from Forsbrook Parish Council for her volunteer work at Blythe Bridge Railway Station and the fund raising day she organised at Derby Station. (Minutes dated 20th October, 2014 – Page 91 – agenda item 11.2. refers).

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 relevant information contained in some of the planning application documents (*as listed under each planning application and shown in italics*).

SMD/2014/0638 – Red Brick Café, 1 Wesley Street, Blythe Bridge – change of use from A1 (retail) to A3 (restaurants and cafes) with separate living accommodation on the first floor with stair case access within the rear yard.

This application relates to a large traditional end terrace property, previously forming a furniture retail premises (A1) with display areas and showroom facilities on both the ground and first floor. The existing property will be converted into a dedicated contemporary cafeteria on the ground floor with separate living accommodation on the first floor. (A3) Access to the first floor living accommodation will be provided via a new staircase located within the rear yard. On site parking spaces for one car will remain unchanged. Proposed employees will be 2 full time. Opening times will be Monday to Saturday 8.30am to 5.00pm with Sunday and Bank Holiday closing."

RESOLVED:

> **To raise the following concerns:**

- **Highway safety issues as no designated car parking has been allocated and Wesley Street is a private unmade road.**

SMD/2014/0708 – 457 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – erection of dwelling (resubmission).

Planning Statement from Planning Consultant reads:

“The application represents a re-submission following the withdrawal of application SMD/2013/1168 which had given rise to concerns about the overall design, scale and layout of the proposed development.

This revised submission incorporates a 1-½ storey dwelling, that stands to a maximum height of 5-8 metres and occupies a footprint of 149.9 square metres. It comprises of a kitchen/dining room, lounge/snug, summer room, bedroom (ensuite) and integral garage at ground floor, with two further bedrooms (both ensuite) at first floor. Existing car parking spaces are three and the total proposed is for five cars.

The application site constitutes part of the domestic curtilage of 457 Uttoxeter Road and lies within a wholly residential area.

The revisions to the proposed development following the withdrawal of the previous application have served to reduce its overall bulk, scale and massing and achieves a development that is less cramped within the site.

The overall scale, character, density and design of the proposed dwelling is in keeping with the varied character of the surrounding area.

The proposed development will not have an adverse impact on the amenity of neighbouring occupiers.

The application incorporates an appropriate means of access for both the proposed dwelling and number 457 Uttoxeter Road, along with appropriate parking and manoeuvring space. The proposal will therefore not have an adverse impact on highway safety in the locality. The application proposes the creation of a new vehicular access for both the proposed dwelling and number 457. They will each have their own independent vehicular access but will share the same section of dropped kerb and visibility splays. The access currently serving number 457 is to be closed off.

Pre-application discussions in this regard have been entered into with the Local Highway Authority who have confirmed that such an arrangement would be acceptable provided the existing boundary wall is reduced to no higher than 600mm. Given that this wall blocks visibility on egress from the existing site access it is considered that the resultant proposal will derive benefits to highway safety.”

RESOLVED:

- > **To ask the planning officer to consider whether:**
 - **The scale and design are now appropriate.**
 - **That there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**
 - **That the site is not considered to be over developed.**
 - **That the open aspect/green belt to the rear of the proposed property is protected and not further encroached upon.**
 - **That all the reasons for the withdrawal of the original planning application have been addressed.**

SMD/2014/0732 – The Coach House, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED:

- > **To ask the planning officer to consider whether:**
 - **The scale and design are appropriate.**
 - **There is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**
 - **That the site is not considered to be over developed.**

SMD/2014/0563 – Sunnyside, The Common, Dilhorne – removal of existing stores and containers and creation of new stables and ménage.

RESOLVED:

- > **To raise the following concerns:**
 - **Size and siting of the proposals at this location.**
 - **Highway safety because the site lies adjacent to an extremely busy crossroads and motorists exiting on to Cheadle Road from The Common will find it even more difficult.**
 - **The site lies in green belt.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approval was noted:

SMD/2014/0518 – 246 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – change of use from A1 (shop) to A4 (drinking establishment).

9.4 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted:

SMD/2014/0523 – Land at Calverhay Farm, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – outline planning permission for erection of four dwelling houses with details of layout and access.

Reasons:

“1. The proposed residential development does not fall under the criteria of development that can be exceptionally allowed in the Green Belt listed under paragraph 89 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and therefore the proposal is deemed to be inappropriate development in the Green Belt which by definition, in paragraph 87, is harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances. The Council considers that no very special circumstances have been adequately demonstrated in the application that could be considered to outweigh the harm to the Green Belt or outweigh the operation of Green Belt policy. Furthermore, the site is located in an area defined as being in an “Other Rural Area” in the Council’s Core Strategy (adopted March 2014) and policies SS6c and R2 of the Core Strategy do not allow new housing in such areas unless it is affordable or local needs housing.”

9.5 Planning matters.

No planning related issues were raised.

10. CEMETERY.

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no cemetery issues to report but thanked everyone who had helped with the very successful Remembrance Parade. She explained that the flag could not be lowered at 11.00am because the flagpole had been vandalised.

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:

Council owned Street Lights.

Following a recent inspect by E.ON all the above were considered in good or as new condition.

Play Equipment Inspection by Wicksteed Leisure Limited.

The above is scheduled to take place on 20th November 2014 at 9.00pm.

Changing Room Showers.

These have now been upgraded.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Residents in Green Lane, Blythe Bridge putting out their refuse bins late necessitating SMDC Environmental Services sending out additional collection vehicles.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would speak with Environmental Services to ascertain how often this is happening.
The William Amory Care and Fun Club – vehicles entering and exiting the car park on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge without considering the safety of pedestrians.	Councillor F. J. Hopley said that as he was a member of the Care and Fun Club committee he would speak with the Manageress.
The William Amory Primary School – overgrown hedge between the playing fields in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge and Green Lane.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that contractors were presently on site cutting the hedges and would ascertain what work was programmed and still outstanding.
Co-op Late Shop, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – blocked drains.	It was noted that the clerk has written to Head Office and the Co-op Late Shop on several occasions and received no response. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would have a word with the Manageress.
Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – BT manhole cover.	It was noted that maintenance work has been carried out.
Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – damage kerbstones adjacent to Lloyds Newsagents.	It was felt that vehicles continually parking on the pavement could possibly have caused the damage. Clerk to report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.
Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – overgrown hedge.	Clerk to again report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.
Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall – reinstatement of gates.	It was noted that work has now been completed and signage will be erected to inform people that the gates will be locked at night and opened in the morning.
Coral Bookmakers, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – discarded cigarette stubs.	It was noted that the frontage to the shop is private property so Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Officers cannot take any action.
Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – opposite The Avenue – vehicle parked on the footway completely blocking pedestrian access.	Report again to local Police Officers.
Forsbrook Primary School – firework display.	The clerk was requested to send a letter of thanks for the excellent firework display.

12. FINANCE.

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st October 2014 was:

Co-operative Bank plc	33786.95
Unity Trust Bank	100098.66
Total	133885.61

12.2 November 2014 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402406	Town & Country Services	797.00	159.40	956.40
402407	Cheadle & Tean times Ltd	45.00	9.00	54.00
402408	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	384.00	76.80	460.80
402409	E.ON	710.58	142.12	852.70
402410	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	307.20	61.44	368.64
402411	Astan Renewable Limited	2590.00	518.00	3108.00
402412	Christine J Snape	1027.00		1027.00
DD	Eon	66.00		66.00
DD	Severn Trent Water	26.79		26.79
DD	Severn Trent Water	89.63		89.63
Total				

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of November 2014 accounts.**

13. CLERK VACANCY.

It was noted that an advert has been placed in the Cheadle and Tean Times and circulated to all SPCA Parish Council members. It was agreed to place a further advert in The Sentinel on Wednesday 19th November 2014.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that the interview panel consist of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Councillor who oversees finances. Councillor F. J. Hopley felt that all Councillors should be invited to sit in on interviews as they all had to work with the clerk.

After a vote the proposal was carried 8-2 for the interview panel to consist of Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton, Vice Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham and Councillor P. Jones.

The meeting concluded at 8.40 pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman