

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20TH JANUARY 2014 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
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: PCSO Jonathan Staples,
Anthony Capostagno, Team Leader, Moorlands Youth and
Community Services,
County Councillor W. Day,
Residents (13),
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss S. Farr, 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.
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 Guest Speakers

3.1.1 Anthony Capostagno, Team Leader, Moorlands Youth and Community Services,

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton welcomed Anthony Capostagno who she said has attended the meeting to answer any questions Council has regarding Blythe Bridge Youth Services. She outlined Staffordshire County Council's proposals to move away from "*providing out of school activities for all young people and instead focusing their investment on vulnerable young people who really need their help.*" Staffordshire County Council is looking at "*new ways of working, joint working with partners and recognising that other organisations may be better placed to do the things that used to be delivered by the County Council.*" She said that if the proposals go ahead, Staffordshire County Council estimate that there will be a saving of £2.8m in 2014/15 rising to £4.5m annually by 2020/21 and that they propose to allocate £50000 to Staffordshire Moorlands to provide and run youth facilities throughout the area. Groups would need to apply for an amount from the £50000 budget to run local youth facilities.

She said that Staffordshire County Council has questionnaires for young people, parents, carers, organisation and other interested residents and individuals, to enable them to have their say and the consultation runs from 8th January to 26th February 2014. The consultation papers also include a report on 'frequently asked questions'. The clerk has copied the questionnaire for members of Council and attendees and if people want to support our local youth services on page 7, question 14 they should tick the box 'strongly disagree'.

Anthony introduced himself and said that in his role as youth leader he covered Blythe Bridge. He stressed the importance of taking part in the consultation and said that Blythe Bridge is the busiest Youth Club in Staffordshire Moorlands operating two nights a week and the Thursday session held on 16th January 2014 attracted a record number of 115 attendees which illustrated that staff are doing something right. A recent D. J. course resulted in the youth club doing their own disco at Christmas. There is also sessions that engage the youth in positive activities such as sports, IT, health including drug awareness, social activities and training guidance towards their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. The Youth workers at Blythe Bridge are a really strong team who manage large groups. He said that because young people are very concerned at the prospect of losing the present facilities they are filling in the questionnaire and parents whose children take advantage of the youth facilities are being sent a letter asking them to complete the questionnaire.

County Councillor W. Day said that it was very important for people to take part in the consultation and to find out what will happen if the proposals go ahead.

Questionnaires were distributed to Council members and residents attending the meeting and it was **AGREED** to issue the following press release to make people aware of Staffordshire County Council proposals.

“BLYTHE BRIDGE YOUTH PROVISION

Staffordshire County Council proposes to move away from providing out of school activities for all young people throughout the County. Blythe Bridge has two weekly evening sessions with over 100 youth attending each session and one daily lunchtime session which are held at the Egerton Centre in Blythe Bridge. The sessions engage young people in positive activities such as sports, IT, health, social activities and provide educational opportunities. There are also additional sessions during the day and evening to support young people with training and guidance towards their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Members of Forsbrook Parish Council are very concerned regarding these proposals and would encourage all interested parties to complete the consultation survey which can be found on www.staffordshire.gov.uk by following the ‘Achieving Excellence for Young People’ link on the home page.”

3.1.2 PCSO Jonathan Staples.

PCSO Jonathan Staples reported that anti social behaviour in 2013 was down on 2012 – 21% compared to 26% but officers were concerned about the impact Staffordshire County Council’s proposals to move away from providing out of school activities would have on the area.

He said that there has been a spate of car crime, which the police believe is being carried out by opportunists and that there has also been problems with Tesco Express selling bread and eggs to youth but the police have spoken to staff and similar problems from this outlet should not reoccur. There has also been no drink related issues reported from this outlet.

PCSO Jonathan Staples answered questions raised by Councillors and residents.

Butchers Arms Public House, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

Police have spoken to the licensee of The Butchers Arms regarding parking problems and he has said that he is looking at extending the car park for customers.

Cycle Event – Vehicles parking inconsiderately on grass verges and footways in the vicinity of Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall.

If the police can be provided with the date of the event they will monitor the situation and if vehicles are causing an obstruction, action will be taken. Councillor Miss J. P. Morris said she believed the event was taking place in May but would let officers know of the exact date.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked the guest speakers.

3.2 Residents Issues.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton responded to questions raised by residents.

3.2.1 December 2013 Newsletter/ Dog related issues.

The recent newsletter allocated a complete page on dog fouling because the Parish Council receive more complaints on this issue than any other. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Officers deal with both dog fouling and litter when they are in the area.

The problem with dog fouling in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge and Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge will be brought to the attention of the Environment Officers.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council no longer install dog fouling bins and is advising residents that they can dispose of dog faeces in litterbins. Members of Forsbrook Parish Council agree that this is not ideal. The clerk will approach Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to see if a litterbin can be installed near to Blythe Bridge Medical Centre to replace the missing dog-fouling bin purchased by Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall.

Dogs are not allowed in the fenced in children's play area. The recreation ground is for sports and play but the Parish Council does not object to dogs being walked in the area, providing dog owners are responsible and remove any dog faeces. The main priority is the safety of children and the general public.

Parking obstruction on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge exacerbated since the opening of Tesco Express.

The Joint Parking Board is discussing double yellow lines along one side of Uttoxeter Road together with the removal of the parking bays. County Councillor W. Day and Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton are both members of this committee.

Tater Lane, Blythe Bridge – rubbish.

The clerk will ask Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to carry out a clear up of the area.

3.3 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave an update on various issues:

Overgrown hedge – Millbrook Gardens.

Arrangements will be made for a site visit to be undertaken with any necessary work carried out as soon as possible.

Brookgate and Eastbank Ride, Forsbrook.

Potholes have repeatedly been filled and will continue to be repaired to make safe until an engineer can assess the area. At the moment the waiting list for the assessments is running at two to three months and the repair programme at over five years.

Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – Damaged bus stop sign.

The bus stop sign has now been re-instated.

Footway adjacent to Tesco Express.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton handed County Councillor W. Day photographs showing how delivery vehicles are eroding the footway adjacent to the Tesco car park/turning area. She said that when vehicles are leaving the car park via the Cheadle Road egress they are driving onto the unmade footway that goes from Cheadle Road to Wesley Street. The delivery vehicles have already hit one of the bollards and also damaged a kerb stone. A delivery driver has also expressed concern regarding the lack of space for his 40-foot vehicle to turn and exit onto Cheadle Road.

County Councillor W. Day agreed to carry out a site visit.

Standing Orders were reinstated.**4. INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING ‘OUTSIDE’ MEETINGS.**

There were no reports under this agenda item.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 16th December 2013.**RESOLVED:**

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.Minutes dated 16th December 2013 – Page 97 – Agenda Item 11.2.2 – subject: Christmas Tree Lights.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she has spoken with a Councillor from Checkley Parish Council about the Christmas trees and lights, which are erected in Tean and gave the following report:

Initially all businesses were contacted to see if they wished to have a Christmas tree on their premises. They had to agree to ensure that electricity was made available to operate the lights and for the brackets and wiring to be installed on their property. The businesses also needed to agree to a yearly assessment and to have the wiring and equipment PAT tested. Checkley Parish Council covers the annual cost of erecting and supplying the trees and lights and covered the cost for an electrician to initially fit the brackets, outside electricity sockets and electrical connections inside each of the premises. Who actually pays for the cost of the electricity used still needs to be clarified. Every year there is a budget set by the Parish Council from their precept to cover the above. It should also be noted that adequate public liability insurance cover would be needed.

The wards of Forsbrook and the Boundary would need to be included with any proposals to provide Christmas trees/lights.

Forsbrook Parish Council already allocate a budget from the precept each year to maintain the changing rooms; cemetery; large Christmas tree in the centre of Blythe Bridge; three tier flower containers in the centre of Blythe Bridge, single tier flower containers in the centre of Forsbrook and additional flower containers throughout the Parish including Blythe Bridge Railway Station, which residents very much appreciate. She said that it is a very nice idea to have Christmas lights throughout the Parish but members need to consider the initial cost and annual running costs and in the present financial climate it would be difficult to justify increasing the precept for this purpose. Some local businesses erect Christmas trees and lights and do wonderful shop window displays which they personally fund year on year.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton therefore proposed that Forsbrook Parish Council continues with the present arrangements of supplying a Christmas tree and lights in the centre of Blythe Bridge and if the financial situation improves in the future, to look at it again.
AGREED

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham said that she may know of a business in Forsbrook who would be prepared to erect a Christmas tree.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Meetings.

There were no meeting dates to note.

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 – November 2013 E-News.
- Clerks & Councils Direct.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Community Council of Staffordshire – subject: Best Kept Village Competition 2014.

Details of the above competition were received and noted.

8.2 Came & Company – subject: Recommendations for protecting property during adverse weather conditions.

Advice from the Parish Council insurers was noted.

8.3 Cheadle and Districts Round Table – subject: Recommendations for donations to worthy causes.

Councillor P. Jones suggested 'Headway' as a worthy charitable cause and said he would let the clerk have full contact details to forward to Cheadle and Districts Round Table.

- 8.4 Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Staffordshire – subject: Crime and Policing in the area.

It was noted that if anyone has any questions, comments or issues about crime and policing in the area they should contact the Police and Crime Commissioner, Weston Road, Stafford, Staffordshire, ST18 OYY or call Matthews Ellis on 01785 232385 or email: pcc@staffordshire.pcc.pnn.gov.uk.

- 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 in the area were noted.

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

The above documents were noted.

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

General:	Subject:
Community Council of Staffordshire	Staffordshire Diary of Village Festivals and Events 2014.
Email Exchanges:	Subject:
Brampton Garden Services	Expression of interest in carrying out ground maintenance work in the Parish.
SMDC	'Notification of Interest' forms. (Note: Every Councillor should have completed one following their election).
SMDC	Thank you for the work of the Street Cleansing Team during 2013.
SMDC	Dog Fouling.
SMDC	Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – damaged litterbin base.
SMDC	Parish Assembly minutes of meeting held on 12 th December 2013, attendance list and documents from SCC who are now consulting on Achieving Excellence for Young People.
Lucy Woodward	Thank you for cutting back overgrown hedge at the cemetery.
Staffordshire Police	Parking at Butchers Arms, Forsbrook and Tesco Express, Blythe Bridge.
Blythe Bridge Historical Society	Contact details for Barry Parish - Governor of The Marsh Primary School in the 1980's.
County Councillor W. Day	County Council issues raised at the December Parish Council meeting.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway Defect Reports: Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – between Millbrook Gardens and the entrance to Blythe Bridge Police Station – overgrown hedge. Brookgate, Forsbrook – potholes. Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – bus stop sign damaged.

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.

SMD/2013/1154 – The Coppice, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – removal of conifer hedge – variation of Condition 3 on planning application 00959/FUL.

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns to the above proposals.**

SMD/2013/1168 – 457 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – proposed new dwelling.

“The Design and Access Statement tells us that the proposal is for one new dwelling in the grounds of 457 Uttoxeter Road with the new dwelling being sited adjacent to the existing dwelling. There is a new vehicle access proposed to serve 457 Uttoxeter Road with the existing access point to be utilised by the proposed new dwelling. The property will be a three bedroomed dwelling on the current footprint of the existing outbuildings.”

RESOLVED:

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping in this green belt location, that there is no adverse effect on adjacent neighbours and that there is no encroachment onto the green belt for domestic purposes.**

SMD/2013/1166 – 1 Springfield Drive, Forsbrook – single storey extension to semi-detached house for garage and shower room.

“There are two small ornamental trees as shown on the plans marked T1 and T2 which the applicant proposes to remove. The trees are not protected”.

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.**

SMD/2013/1199 – 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – reserved matters re approved planning application 12/00847/OUT – two detached properties with regard to appearance, landscaping and scale.

“There is already outline planning permission for 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook and the full application before Council this evening shows the design/scale of the two detached two storey dwellings – house type A and house type B, each having four bedrooms. Both properties have a shared driveway off Cheadle Road, the existing driveway to the original property being off Draycott Old Road.”

RESOLVED:

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

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

SMD/2013/1108 – 6 New Close Avenue, Forsbrook – two-storey extension to side.
SMD/2013/0909 – 50 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – amendments to previously approved application reference 11/01024/FUL for the replacement of a domestic garage for classic car collection.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

Licensing Act 2003.

Premises Licence Application – Blythe Booze Limited, 246 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – Sale of Alcohol for consumption off the premises from 08.00 to 22.30 on Monday to Sunday.

Opening hours to the public to be from 07.00 to 22.30 on Monday to Sunday.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised members that there are four reasons against which Council and residents can raise concerns:

Prevention of Crime and Disorder; Public Safety; Prevention of Public Nuisance and Protection of Children from Harm.

It was **agreed** for the clerk to forward the following letter:

“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council have discussed the above proposals and would like you to consider the following concerns.

Prevention of Crime and Disorder

The above address, which proposes to sell alcohol for consumption off the premises, is in an Alcohol Free Zone. This legislation, supported by the Police, was introduced to limit crime and disorder in the area and necessary to limit and deter large groups who were or had been drinking and intimidating and harassing residents. There was also a high level of drink-fuelled disorder including cases of damage to vehicles and property. Because of this legislation and the responsible outlets in the area that sell alcohol and who work with the community and police we would not like this situation to change.

Public Safety

This alcohol outlet would be situated in the centre of Blythe Bridge on a very busy crossroads where recorded traffic data predicts that congestion will get worse. Whilst the premises in question has a small forecourt for possibly one or maybe two cars, there is no suitable larger allocated area for customers or delivery vehicles to park and it would be ill advised to condone the reversing of vehicles from the small

forecourt on to a busy 'A' road adjacent to a four way junction and a signal controlled pedestrian crossing. Pedestrians and motorists will be at risk of injury and accidents.

Prevention of Public Nuisance

Anti social behaviour in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook is presently low. However, there is the fear that an additional outlet selling alcohol could again lead to an increase, which would have an adverse effect on the positive work local police officers have done and continue to do.

Protection of Children from Harm

Blythe Bridge has one high school, two primary schools and a sixth form college. If a licence is granted it would provide an additional outlet where youth could purchase alcohol and would invariably encourage them to congregate in and around the area.

We would ask that you support the Council and refuse this application, as the granting of a licence would have a negative and detrimental impact on the local community."

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

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

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Tesco Express – advertising signs obstructing footway.	Situation to be monitored and Staffordshire County Council highway defects department to be notified if this continues to be a problem.
Tesco Express – delivery vehicles parking dangerously on Uttoxeter Road whilst waiting for permission to enter site.	Continue to monitor the situation and advise County Councillor W. Day if problems persist.
East Bank Ride and Brookgate – potholes.	Already reported to Staffordshire County Council highway defects department.
Open space adjacent to the Butchers Arms – rubbish in brook.	Environment Agency periodically clear the brook and remove the rubbish.

Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge – sunken grid adjacent to 12 Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire County Council highway defects department.
Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – pavement repair adjacent to The William Amory Primary School.	Advise Staffordshire County Council highway defects department that the work carried out is below standard.
Christmas collection of waste – leaflet misleading.	Noted.
Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge Problems with dog fouling	Advise SMDC Environment Officers.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

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

Community Direct Account	112301.73
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12.2 January 2014 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402316	Town & Country Services	555.00	111.00	666.00
402317	SMDC	307.20	61.44	368.64
402318	Leaflets Ltd.	698.00		698.00
402319	Heath House Farm	198.00	39.60	237.60
402320	Wicksteed Leisure Ltd.	65.74	13.15	78.89
402321	Second Forsbrook Guides	50.00		50.00
402322	Christine J. Snape	1021.40		1021.40
DD	Eon	(9.56)	9.56	
DD	Eon.	50.00		50.00
Total		2935.78	234.75	3170.53

RESOLVED:

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

- 12.3 The following income and expenditure accounts for 9 months to 31st December 2013 and budget proposals for year 2014/2015 were distributed to members with the agenda.

No questions were raised and the budget **AGREED**.

EXPENDITURE	Precept 2013/2014	Opening Balance	Period to 31.12.13 (9 months)	Precept 2014/15
CEMETERY				
Ground maintenance including grave levelling	5000	255.00	3475.00	5000.00
Rates	250		50.06	250.00
Contingency	750			750.00
Sub Total	6000	255.00	3525.06	6000.00
ENVIRONMENT				
Ground Maintenance	7500		6541.00	7500.00
Play equipment inspections/repairs	250		2221.63	250.00
Changing Rooms	1000		436.49	1000.00
Electricity for street lights on unadopted roads	750		648.95	750.00
Street cleansing	3500	307.20	2982.40	3500.00
Container plants and watering	2250		2047.00	2250.00
New Play Equipment			9026.20	
Contingency	750		1892.00	750.00
Sub Total	16000	307.20	25795.67	16000.00
GENERAL				
Cemetery	6000	255.00	3525.06	6000.00
Environment	16000	307.20	25795.67	16000.00
Insurance	2500		2089.74	2500.00
Audit	600		410.50	500.00
Newsletter	750		479.40	600.00
Memberships Periodicals	1000		633.00	750.00
Elections (funded from contingency)	1000			
Stationery/Petty Cash/Telephone	1000		851.62	1000.00
Donations	2000		2016.50	2200.00
Chair's Contingency	250		348.40	250.00
Chair's Allowance	250			250.00
Staff Costs	14000		11634.23	15500.00
Training/Expenses	100			100.00
Advertising	100			100.00
V.H. Hire	300	164.25	164.25	300.00
Collaret Engraving	25			25.00
TOTAL	45875	164.25	47948.37	46075.00
INCOME				
CEMETERY:				
Burials:			4555.00	
Memorials:			960.00	
Cemetery rates refund				
ENVIRONMENT				
Recreation Fees:			300.00	
Wayleave:			5.85	
Changing Room Electricity Refund:				
GENERAL:				
Precept:			46000.00	46000.00
Interest:			194.38	
VAT Reimbursement			9283.79	
Telephone call reimbursement			44.82	
Private purchases for Councillors - Smartwaters			108.00	
CMB Funding			5984.86	
TOTAL			67436.70	

The meeting concluded at 9.00pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman