

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19th FEBRUARY 2015 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs G Burton (Chairman)
Councillor J W Cornwall
Councillor Mrs C Hopley
Councillor Miss J P Morris
Councillor A J Mould
Councillor P J Jones
Councillor Mrs P Shufflebotham
Councillor Mrs N A Stanier
Councillor A E Wilson
Councillor B Yates

IN ATTENDANCE: Residents (27)
Mrs D Plant Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor F Hopley, Councillor S Farr, Councillor J Burgess and Mrs Gail Edwards Staffordshire County Council.

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 Traffic through the village

A member of the public asked why Forsbrook had not got a pedestrian crossing, Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton explained that this issue was a long standing concern and numerous discussions had taken place with Staffordshire County Council over the past 10 years. It was explained that Chris Mitchell and Rob Steele were the leads on this issue at Staffordshire County Council and any queries should be addressed to them.

3.1.2 Allotments

The question was raised if Forsbrook had any allotments. Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton explained that there were not any in the parish but was aware Caverswall had some but was unsure of the criteria for applications.

3.1.3 Faulty grid

The grid on the highway on the junction with Uttoxeter Road and Cheadle road is blocked and not taking the amount of water required, this is resulting in flooding in times of heavy rain. The Clerk will contact Staffordshire County Council Highways department to advise of this issue.

3.1.4 Dog Fouling on the recreation ground

It was reported that there is a lot of dog fouling on the football pitch, and recently horses have been seen on the recreation ground. It was also reported that people drive to the recreation ground and let their dogs out of the car to mess and then load them back in. Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton advised that the Parish Council had now been awarded a grant for CCTV cameras on the changing rooms so this may help towards this issue. The clerk is to place the order with Big Brother to progress this matter, and to report the increase in dog fouling to SMDC.

3.1.5 Football changing rooms

The changing rooms have been left in a dirty and unclean state recently. Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton will arrange for a meeting with representatives of both football teams to address the issues raised.

3.1.6 Web Site

The web site is not displaying the meeting minutes and agenda. Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton explained this was because the new clerk had only been in post 2 weeks and this will be addressed in the near future.

3.1.7 Co-operative Bank Closure in Blythe Bridge

Could the Parish Council raise the issue of the bank closure and how it will effect the local community, especially for the elderly and those who do not have access to a vehicle. The clerk to write to The Cooperative Bank to express these views.

3.1.8 Travellers Sites

There were a large number of residents attending the meeting to voice concerns regarding the recent press report in The Leek Post and Times identifying three sites in the parish for Travellers sites.

Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton explained that the information had come from The Local Development Framework working group and this information was in its very early stages.

Residents main concerns were:-

1. Why had Calverhay Farm recently had planning refused for housing stating greenbelt land and now was one of the sites earmarked for a traveller's site.

The extra traffic on the roads was going to compound the problem we have.

Extra noise pollution

Devaluation of properties around the sites

How will Schools cope with extra pupils?

Has Staffordshire Moorlands District Council approached the landowners to discuss these proposals?

Councillor P Shufflebotham asked if SMDC can compulsory purchase land and could we ask the Police for a snap shop of crime now so that if the situation alters we know how the parish has been affected. She also went on to ask who the members of the Local Development Framework working group were and if they had voted on any of the issues yet.

The Quabbs Lane site is next to a cemetery.

What is the criteria for the allocation of sites and what steps will be taken if the transient sites are made into permanent sites outside of regulations.

Chris Stevenson addressed the meeting and explained that he had set a web site up blythegreenbelt.co.uk and had some flyers for anyone issued. He had researched the issue and explained that these proposals fell within option 1 of the criteria which was New Development with residential area.

Councillor T Mould asked why this area had been chosen and only added to the contempt that the parish is treated with, why had Endon not been chosen. He also asked who would be responsible for the rubbish clear up that is inevitably left.

Do the travellers pay a fee to use the site

One member of the public added that she had experience of a near by static site and the police were not able to enter the sites and it had become like a "ghetto"

What is the time scale for the decisions?

Can we invite SMDC to talk to the parish regarding the plans?

Further discussions by Councillors at 8.2

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.**

Councillor P Shufflebotham reported that together with the Clerk, she had attended The Police and Crime Commissioner – Matthew Ellis meeting at SMDC and explained that he had spoken regarding the improvements that he had made to policing in Staffordshire in his term. She added that she had mentioned to him that The Parish Council had recently contacted him to ask about the land in front of the police station and if this could be made available for a school drop off point.

Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton asked the clerk to contact Matthew Ellis to ask if the land in question is going to be for sale. She went on to add that if the site were to be developed a mixed use site to include housing/bungalow for the elderly may be better as this would go some way towards the housing allocation for the parish.

5. **DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of January 16th 2015**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton read a letter from The Care and Fun Club.

The letter explained that The Care and Fun Club had taken steps to minimise the dangers of traffic entering and exiting the premises and went on to explain that it was part of a larger problem with the volume of traffic in the area between 8.15am – 9.10am and 2.45pm - 3.45pm

Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton went on to say she would speak to the Care club and Head teacher to discuss the issue, as the main issue was the speed in which they enter the premises not the volume.

- 6.1.2 Letter from Bill Cash MP / Safer Roads Partnership regarding traffic congestion.

Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton read out a letter from Melaine Langsdown ,Staffordshire Police.

Councillors noted the content. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Bill Cash MP

- 6.1.3 Letter from Bill Cash MP / Staffordshire County Council regarding traffic congestion.

Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton read out the letter from John Tradewell, Staffordshire County Council.

Councillors noted the content. Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton asked the clerk to see if the Traffic Regulations Orders including the removal of the parking space opposite the Co-op Late Shop have been advertised in the press yet.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to Bill Cash MP

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

- 8.1 Wild Animal Centre email – events management company

Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton asked that this was kept on file for future reference

- 8.2. Email regarding the article in the post and times about the travellers sites

Councillors discussed the 3 proposed Travellers Sites listed in the Leek Post and Times

1. Fenced off land north of Quabbs Lane off the Forsbrook to Cheadle Road near Forsbrook.
2. A farm building / land west of 75 Uttoxeter Road Blythe Bridge
3. Land at 459 Uttoxeter Road Blythe Bridge north of the bypass.

and agreed with the concerns raised by the residents attending the meeting.

It was resolved :-

1. To support the residents and the concerns raised.

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2.

To write to SMDC to clarify the present position regarding the 3 sites definitely being put forward for a Travellers Site (s), and when it will be going for consultation.

3. If they have been put forward, why have they been chosen, what is the criteria.

4. Have the land owners agreed to sell their land for a Travellers Site.

5. To write to Mr Dai Larner and Mr Robert Weaver from SMDC and invite them to the next Parish Council Meeting on the 16th March 2015, to discuss the concerns raised.

6. To write to Sir William Cash MP outlining the present position and requesting his support

7. To inform residents about the www.blythebridgegreenbelt.co.uk website

8.3. Email from Spinal.co.uk (charity) asking if we can display a poster on the notice board

The Parish Council do not put posters advertising events in the notice board. They are included on the Parish Council Agenda for information.

8.4. Email from Bill Cash about the Local Planning and Housing Bill to be added to the Parish Council Agenda for 16th March 2015 meeting.

8.5. Email from SMDC about Anti Social Behaviour , Crime and Policing Act 2014 – Councillors noted the contents.

8.6. SPCA – Welcoming the new clerk and asking about the training course

8.7. Arch – Thank you for your donation and support

8.8. SMDC – Changes to the electoral register

8.9. Leaflets from North Staffordshire Community Rail Partnership (already distributed in the library)

8.10. The Co-op Bank Statement

8.11. email from Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly Newsletter

8.12. SPCA Bulletins

8.12. Email to SCC ref damage to bus shelter

8.14. Email asking about the future staffing of Blythe Bridge library

It was agreed to wait until Wednesday 18th February after Staffordshire County Council Select committee meeting to assess the details of this decision.

8.15. SCC Community Paths initiative

The clerk explained that she had knowledge of this item and would like to apply for funding of £500 towards the bill for strimming and keeping tidy local footpaths. It was agreed that the clerk should do this.

8.16. Libraries update from Staffordshire County Council – Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton read out the letter from County Councillor Michael Lawrence and the content was noted.

Note: All correspondence/documents were available to view on the evening of the Council Meeting or by prior arrangement with the clerk.

9. **PLANNING.**

SMDC2015/0044 Heath House Farm – Certificate of Lawfulness for a proposed pump/storage room.

It was agreed that the clerk would contact Staffordshire Moorlands District Council asking the following questions

4. Under what permitted development regulations this would be relevant
5. What is the pump for
6. Could we have more information on the scheme?

9.2 SMDC2015/0038 91 Stallington Road Blythe Bridge – Two Storey Side Extension and rendering existing dwelling

Resolved to

To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping, and the privacy of neighbouring properties is not compromised.

9.3 Planning Approvals:
SMDC/2014/0638 – 1 Wesley Street Blythe Bridge change of use from A1 retail to A3 restaurant and café.

10. CEMETERY.

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee reported there had been 4 funerals since the last meeting.

10.2 Cemetery Issues – there were no issues reported

11. ENVIRONMENT.

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton (chairman of the environment committee reported that the Bus Shelter adjacent to Travis Perkins on Uttoxeter Road had been badly damaged. It was agreed to report the damage to Staffordshire County Council.

The CCTV equipment has been ordered, as agreed, from Big Brother, with Councillor T Mould and the Clerk Mrs Dawn Plant authorised to monitor it. The previous Clerk's name to be removed (Mrs C Snape)

11.2 Flowers planted at Blythe Mount Park by Bob Ellis who requests the Parish Council pay for an extra Brown Bin for the leaf litter.

The request to pay for an extra Brown Bin was discussed at length. It was resolved To advise Mr Ellis to contact County Councillor Mr B Day regarding the request as County Councillor Day was originally involved in the project.

11.4 – Environmental issues

Issue	Action
	Ask Hazel Walker SMDC if it required permission.
Trains from Stoke to Uttoxeter are stopping across the railway station level crossing and preventing the gates from opening causing tail backs	Ask Faye Lambert from Network Rail to clarify the legislation around this.
Grid in front of the level crossing is breaking up and causing damage to the tarmac Uttoxeter Road Stallington Lane – Manhole cover next to the railway line level crossing is loose Lorries using the wood yard are getting larger and churning the verge up at junction of crossfield avenue	Report to SCC highways

Councillor T Mould advised he would investigate the overgrowing hedges on the road adjacent to Foxfield.

12. FINANCE.

12.1 Bank balance.

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

Co-operative Bank plc	23127.14
Unity Trust Bank	100155.43
Total	121992.96

12.2 February 2015 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402424	Town and Country		79.00	474.00
402427	Clerk Salary			763.00
402426	Curry and Bevan		51.60	309.00

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of February 2015 accounts.**

Councillor Mrs P Shufflebotham requested to stand down as a signatory for Parish Council Cheques, having declared a personal interest.

Resolved – to agree to Cllr Shufflebotham’s request.

13. STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL STANDING ORDERS.

To adopt the above amended documents.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman