

# FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17 AUGUST AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL. 7.30 PM

Members Present:- Councillor F Hopley (Chairman)  
Councillor A Mould  
Councillor B Yates  
Councillor R Mancey  
Councillor K Giblin  
Councillor A Wilson  
Councillor J Morris  
Councillor I Herdman  
Councillor J Cornwall  
Councillor P Shufflebotham

In Attendance Dawn Plant – Clerk  
Residents – 16

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### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor P Jones and Councillor C Hopley

### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
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.
Blythe Bridge Village Hall Committee	Councillor Ms J Morris	Part of the management committee.
Blythe Bridge Village Hall Committee	Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley	Part of the management committee.

### 3. OPEN SESSION

#### 3.1 Residents Issues

- The wall at the library continues to become damaged, could the clerk investigate who owns the wall
- Mr R Bagnall from Blythe Bridge Village Hall committee stated that he was unhappy regarding the recent request for a donation towards the replacement chairs at the Village Hall which had been refused. He went on to state that he did not feel that it was fair that the Parish Council had donated money to a charity in Werrington but could not help its own Village Hall.

He went on to say that the issue of the land purchased from The Village Hall which is now Jubilee Gardens was purchased by the Parish Council at a price of £5K which the charities commission had advised the Village Hall committee on.

The clerk apologised that the email had not been received by Mr Bagnall advising him of the Councils decision to not allow a donation.

- A number of residents were in attendance to express their objections regarding the housing consultation by SMDC. Comments were as follows:-
- How can it be a consultation when the full list of sites are not being consulted on
- Concerns over the infrastructure of the village and its ability to contend with extra pressure
- The plans to move the Green Belt boundary are part of a wider issue which will allow infill planning applications in the future.
- At a recent SMDC consultation event an officer was asked if the figure of 150 houses included applications already permitted, the officer could not answer this question. A discussion continued and Councillor A Mould added that the previous clerk had worked out that with the precious applications the figure should be 124 houses required.
- Chair Councillor Mr F Hopley explained that the Parish Council has contacted Mrs R Wooddisse from SMDC who is the Regeneration Manager and asked her questions on how SMDC have planned for upgrades to the infrastructure of the Parish, to date no reply has arrived. Should a reply not arrive we will take it to Simon Baker who is the Chief Executive at SMDC.
- Has the Traveller site consultation moved forward – there were concerns that whilst people concentrated their efforts on the Housing Consultation the Traveller site Consultation may carry on without people realising. Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley stated that nothing had been mentioned to the Parish Council with regard to this.
- Were there any updates on a planned new road from Cheadle Road to Dilhorne Road. Parish Councillors did not have any recollection of this being mentioned, however the Clerk will check the January minutes and report back.
- Slow signs of Cheadle road were desperately needed, the amount of large Lorries coming along the road and not realising it was Village are on the increase. Clerk to contact SCC and ask for the signs and a site visit.
- John Colombi from Solstice Renewables was present and talked to the meeting about the planning application at Fields Farm Draycott in the Moors. He explained that the energy generated from a Solar Farm was

clean and renewable and minimally invasive compared to other methods. The site would generate 50 megawatts of power which would be fed into the grid and go to local areas first, unlike pylons where 10 per cent of energy is lost in transit.

Councillor P Shufflebotham asked how Forsbrook Parish would benefit he explained that there would be community money available and they would be able to facilitate the splitting of the money for Parishes.

Councillor J Cornwall expressed concerns regarding the welfare of Sheep who would also be sharing the land with the panels, M Colombi stated that the farmers and landowners he had been working with had all experienced lower mortality rates of lambs when they shared their grazing land with the panels.

Councillor Mould asked how quickly the carbon needed to produce the panels was "paid back" Mr Colombi answered 6 months.

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley stated that he thought it would blight the landscape.

### **3.2 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

In the absence of Councillor W Day nothing to report

### **4. INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING OUTSIDE MEETING**

Nothing to report

### **5. APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES FROM 20 JULY 2015**

**RESOLVED TO APPROVE**

### **6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

#### **6.1 Weight restrictions on Stallington Road**

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley asked the Clerk to contact SCC and ask for a site meeting regarding this issue.

### **7. CLERKS REPORT RECEIVED**

### **8. CORRESPONDANCE**

8.1 Email from a member of the public regarding Tree Preservation Orders. Noted – The Clerk added that she had also forwarded this onto the tree officer at SMDC.

8.2 Email from Checkley Parish Council / Caverswall regarding the SMDC Housing Consultation

It was agreed that The Clerk would contact the other Parish Clerks and discuss how to move forward.

8.3 Email from Voices for Villages

Noted

8.4 Letter from Sir William Cash MP asking for our opinions on The SMDC Housing Consultation

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Sir William expressing our objections

**9. PLANNING.**

9.1 Planning Applications: NONE

9.2 Planning matters.  
Solstice Park application – discussed in open session

9.3 Planning Refusals / Approvals

SMD/2015/0023 Erection of a single storey rear kitchen / garden room with pitched roof  
– 13 Springfield Drive, Forsbrook Approval

SMD/2015/0297 Change of use from Café to Chiropodist with the creation of an additional commercial unit at ground floor level – Hairdressers. Approval

**10. CEMETERY**

10.1 Councillor P Shufflebotham, Chairman of the cemetery committee reported that a grid had been repaired at the cemetery.

She went on to state that a cemetery and environment meeting was due to be held and asked the clerk to suggest some suitable dates and liaise with other Councillors. The meeting can be held at the changing rooms.

**11. ENVIRONMENT**

11.1 Environment Report

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley circulated a recent press cutting where a rugby player had become serious ill by playing on a surface with dog excrement on.

He went on to say that this is becoming a real issue on the recreation ground and we need to look towards funding for fencing in of the pitch. He also added that a spate dog walking area may be the answer.

Councillor Cornwall reported that the bus shelter has been damaged for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this year – Clerk has already reported this.

He also reported the grids throughout the Parish are full to capacity and need clearing before the bad weather – The Clerk has previously reported this but will do so again.

Councillor P Shufflebotham asked if the Clerk could report to the relevant authority that the brook in Forsbrook opposite The Roebuck is overgrown, and the grid is silted up.

## 11.2 Environment Issues

### Damage to the play equipment

The Clerk reported that there had been damage to the matting under the basket swing, to the climbing frame, to the elliptical trainer and football pitch. Wicksteed had been contacted and we await their visit to assess the cost versus insurance claim.

A discussion commenced regarding the CCTV equipment on the recreation ground, it was agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk would ask Big Brother who installed the CCTV on the changing rooms to perform an assessment of the area and to provide a quotation for solutions.

Councillor Giblin asked that when we have the Environment meeting at the changing rooms could the Lengthsman be present to discuss the pitch and maintenance, and also the showers and toilets were still leaking.

Councillor Mould asked the Clerk to speak to the contractors who had repaired the showers last time to see if they are still under guarantee.

## 12. FINANCE

12.1 To receive bank balances as at 31 July 2015

12.2 To approve accounts of July / August 2015

Cheques issued were:-

Clerk Salary and allowance	£1015
Lengthsman	£1540
Plant Watering	£525 x 2
Stef Giblin – Web Site development	£750
Total Pest Control (Moles at Cemetery)	£75.00
Quality Office Supplies	£43.68

**The meeting ended at 9.15pm**