

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 11th MAY 2015 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

Chairman for the meeting and Chairman of Forsbrook Parish Council Councillor Mrs. Gill Burton introduced the clerk, members of Forsbrook Parish Council, Councillor Mrs. Pat Shufflebotham, Vice Chairman, Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor F J Hopley, Councillor Miss J. P. Morris, Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor J. W. Cornwall, Councillor A. J. Mould, She welcomed members of the public (3).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor B. Yates, Councillor P Jones and Councillor A Wilson.

2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 19 MAY 2014.

The above minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton gave the following annual report.

“Once again I am pleased to report that for the sixth consecutive year, Forsbrook Parish Council has not imposed any increase in the Parish Precept for year 2015/2016. There has been a small increase in the Recreation, Burial and Memorial Fees, this sees the first increase since 2007. These increases in fees have been essential due to the rising cost of running these facilities.

At each Annual Parish Meeting I give a brief update on Highway Issues. On the 6th June 2014 the Parish Council considered and approved the proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders for Uttoxeter Road and Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge. A recent update from Staffordshire County Council Highways Department states that the proposed changes to Traffic Regulation Orders will be advertised in the press as part of the Public Consultation process.

Also to date, Staffordshire County Council have not put forward any schemes to improve safety and congestion at the Uttoxeter Road / Stallington Road / Cheadle Road junction, after promising to look at schemes for this very busy junction.

Pavement maintenance in the parish in an ongoing issue which was reported to Staffordshire County Council in August. The clerk has again contact SCC to request an update.

Together with Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Historical Society, the Parish Council attended the First World War Dedication service held on 2.8.14 at Forsbrook Cemetery. Two Oak trees were planted and 2 plaques were laid commemorating the Great War and World War 2. This was followed by a book launch “Lest we forget” at Blythe Bridge Library. The book contained the history of the names researched by Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Historical Society taken from the Parish War Memorials. This resulted in additional names being added to the War Memorial in Blythe Bridge by Forsbrook Parish Council. There was a church service held at St Peters Church on 3rd August.

A programme of improvements at the Football changing rooms on the Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground, took place during August and September, at a cost of £2590 to the Parish Council. Dog Control orders came into force on 3rd June 2014, which included the exclusion of dogs in the Children's fenced in Play Area on Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground and also in Forsbrook Cemetery, with signs put up at both locations.

During 2014 it was announced that Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook had been suggested as having a number of sites which would be suitable for Housing and for Traveller Sites. This is an ongoing process with SMDC and the formal Public Consultation Process begins in June 2015.

As a result of a successful funding bid by Forsbrook Parish Council to The Police and Crime Commissioners People Power Fund, Forsbrook Parish Council were awarded £500 to install CCTV cameras on the Changing Rooms, situated on Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground, due to incidents of Anti-Social Behaviour.

Following on from SCC Library consultation, Blythe Bridge Library has been categorized as County Council Managed / Community Delivered. Local community groups will have to prepare and present a business case to Staffordshire County Council should they wish to be involved in running the Library. The information is anticipated in June.

And finally due to an act of vandalism, a new flag pole is about to be ordered and installed ready in time for the Remembrance Day Service”

4. OPEN FORUM.

Residents and Councillors raised the following concerns and the agreed action is detailed in italics.

1. Mrs Bratt asked what the Parish Council was doing in relation to:-
Traffic, the Travellers Sites, and Housing developments.

Councillor Chairman Mrs G Burton explained that the Parish Council were waiting for the public consultation period to open in June and have already expressed that they are in no way supporting the plans for Travellers sites in the Parish. The Parish Council had written to Mr Dai Lerner at SMDC inviting him to a Parish Council meeting to discuss Councillors and residents' concerns regarding the proposed Travellers sites. Mr Lerner has agreed to attend when Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has decided on which sites should be subject to consultation. The Parish Council has also written to Sir Williams Cash who has written to SMDC supporting the Parish.

The recent “roll over” on the A50 had again caused traffic chaos through Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook. Chairman Councillor Mrs Gill Burton reported on a site meeting held on 18.10.14, where both she and the Clerk met with Staffordshire County Council Officers Rob Steele and Chris Mitchell. The A50 road closure and management of the traffic on to the A521 were discussed. Staffordshire County Council advised that as Uttoxeter Road is designated as an A road, it is considered suitable for taking the extra traffic, to keep it flowing, when the A50 is closed. Councillor Mrs G Burton asked if residents could contact SCC and The Highways Agency to lodge complaints and also asked the Clerk to do the same.

1 Councillor Miss Morris asked how we could have a continuous flow of traffic through Blythe Bridge when there are so many cars parked on Uttoxeter Road.

Councillor Mr F Hopley had recently had a meeting with The Highways Agency regarding the camber on the A50 roundabout and they currently looking into the issue. He went onto to say that the recent plans announced for more houses in Cheadle were only going to add to the traffic issues in the Parish.

Councillor Mr F Hopley explained that he was part of the community group set up to oppose the traveller site allocation and stated that each of the three landowners concerned did not want a traveller site and in fact Mr Elkin at Calverhay Farm had resubmitted his planning permission for a small housing development, Councillor Hopley had spoken to planners at SMDC and asked that the decision on this matter be called in and not decided via a delegated decision

Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton explained that The Parish Council has commented on the planning application and given their full support

Councillor Chairman Mrs G Burton thanked all for attending and the meeting closed at 7.25pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman