

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH APRIL 2010 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor Mrs. P. A. Shufflebotham,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor W. Day,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker and Councillor J. W. Burgess.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

SCC Right of Way Issues	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department.
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3. COUNTY COUNCIL AREA SURVEY/COUNTY COUNCILLOR UPDATE.

County Councillor W. Day said that members were already aware that County Councillor Mike Maryon would not agree to attend a meeting but that County Officers should be able to help with any highway issues. He provided members with details regarding the position on highway repairs and the criteria for the siting of grit bins.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested that perhaps the Parish Council could safely store grit at the Cemetery to refill grit bins in an emergency situation if this was the type of work our Lengthsman would be prepared to undertake.

The clerk reported that she had not yet received additional copies of the Area Survey for distribution to members. She also said that she had not received a copy of the County Council Divisional Plan.

It was **agreed** that it was necessary to study the Area Survey as this would help in prioritising County Council work, which members felt was necessary in the Parish. County Councillor W. Day would then need to prioritise any work identified by Parish Councils in his ward. It was noted that the Divisional Plan can be added to or changed at any time.

County Councillor W. Day agreed to:

- Provide the Parish Council with 13 copies of the Area Survey and Divisional Plan.
- Ask Maryanne Raftery to attend a meeting to discuss the above two documents together with the draft Parish Plan.
- Speak with Colin Nash regarding progress on the Safer Routes to School proposals.
- Ascertain the current position with regard to the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction.
- Confirm if the Pedestrian crossing in Forsbrook has been given a high priority in the Divisional Plan
- Chase up the repairs to the pothole adjacent to Britannia Building Society, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge, which has been reported to ‘Clarence’ on several occasions.

4. VALUATION OF THE SCRUBLAND BEHIND THE VILLAGE HALL/NEW MEDICAL CENTRE.

It was noted that the valuation of the scrubland behind the Village Hall was £5000 and it was **agreed** that the total financial commitment including solicitor’s fees, tree work, landscaping and on going maintenance would need to be considered before a final decision to purchase can be made.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she has spoken to Andy Boys from Staffordshire Moorlands Community Voluntary Services with regard to a Communities Mean Business Grant (referred to as Leader money). He has agreed to undertake a site visit to discuss the project. Any project has to be above £3000 with no higher limit. Ideally they like 25% match funding. As an estimate it was felt that it would cost approximately £10000 to purchase the land including solicitors fees and initial landscaping work. On top of this there would, of course be ongoing maintenance. Projects considered for funding need to have community involvement. It was suggested that pupils from local schools could be invited to take part by planting bulbs.

RECOMMENDED:

- **To invite Andy Boys to a site meeting to discuss funding opportunities.**

5. ENVIRONMENT ISSUES.

5.1.1 Environment Day – 29th May 2010.

The clerk reported that Blythe Bridge Railway Station was going to be nominated as an ‘Environment’ railway station by Faye Lambert, Rail Community Officer which would mean that it could attract additional funding for improvement work. The Rotary Club has also expressed an interest in planting a tree in the Parish to mark Environment day. As there are spaces on the entrance to the station where two trees have died it was felt that this would be an ideal site for the Rotary Club to plant a tree.

RECOMMENDED:

- **For the Rotary Club to plant the tree(s) at the railway station.**

5.1.2 Community Pride Work.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that the format of the community pride work in Parishes has now changed and that Parish and Town Councils have to write to the District Council requesting a community pride day in their Town or Parish with a list of what needs to be done and also who is prepared to help. The aim is to encourage as many Councillors and people in the community to take part. She said that the last community pride day in Forsbrook was in November 2009 when the weather was poor but all agencies took part including the community payback team who collected litter and planted bulbs on Elmwood Drive.

5.1.3 Footpath 12 linking The Avenue to Mount Road.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she has been approached by a resident who lives adjacent to the above footpath because of concern regarding anti social behaviour. The clerk advised that she had today been contacted by the County Council Rights of Way Officer who has advised that a Gating Order has been approved for the above and permanently locked gates will be installed on this section of the footpath during the next few months.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton added that gates were also being installed to the rear of Church Terrace after consultation with all residents, which the District Council will be paying for and with all residents being issued with keys. She said that she would speak with Ian McLackland in the Community Safety Department to see if all the residents in Bridgwood Road and Mount Road were consulted with regard to the gating order on footpath 12.

5.1.4 Caverswall Road – pothole.

Councillor A. E. Wilson reported a bad pothole on Blythe Bridge Road. The clerk agreed to report this although it was not in Forsbrook Parish.

5.1.5 Felling of trees on Foxfield Railway land.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would speak with Caverswall District Parish Councillor Paul Roberts to see if he had undertaken a site inspection of the tree work being carried out. Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham advised that Michael Shufflebotham had voiced his concerns to representatives of Foxfield Railway when they were distributing publicity leaflet in the area.

5.1.6 Land adjacent to Travis Perkins.

Councillor A. J. Mould asked who owned the triangular piece of land adjacent to Travis Perkins. Members felt that this was under the ownership of Travis Perkins and it was **agreed** to write to head office asking them to tidy the land.

5.1.7 Smithfield Hotel, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Councillor Miss Sue Farr reported more fly tipping at the above site. It was agreed that the condition of this site with regard to fly tipping, rubbish, litter and graffiti was unacceptable.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised that there was legislation available under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 215 which gives local planning authorities the power, in certain circumstances, to take steps requiring land to be cleaned up when its condition adversely affects the amenity of the area.

RECOMMENDED:

- **To ask Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department to serve a 215 notice on the owner.**

5.1.8 Land adjacent to the Tesco roundabout on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Councillor A. J. Mould again reported that vehicles advertised for sale were being parked on the above land.

The clerk explained that this was a difficult issue to resolve. Trading Standards are responsible for dealing with individuals who appear to be operating a business, Staffordshire County Council own the land and the Police can deal with vehicles that are seen to be causing criminal damage. In the past details of the vehicles – registration numbers, make of vehicles, for sale contact numbers, dates and times have been provided to Trading Standards with some success.

5.1.9 Dog Warden.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council would not be employing a dog warden so our arrangement with regard to additional coverage has ceased. She said that two general enforcement officers would work for the Community Department undertaking dog related issues.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman