

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH MARCH 2010 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor S. P. Fox,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor B. Yates,
Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Members of the public (1),
Press (1).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Mrs. S. A. Harrison and Councillor P. Jones.

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. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

No issues were raised by residents.

3.2 Report from County Councillor W. Day.

County Councillor Day could not stay for the Council meeting but left a copy of the Area Survey with the clerk. It was **agreed** to ask Staffordshire County Council to provide additional copies for Parish Councillors so that the survey can be discussed at an Environment Committee Meeting.

4. INFORMATION AND REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ATTENDING 'OUTSIDE' MEETINGS'.

Chairman Councillors Mrs. G. Burton reported that at the Parish Assembly meeting which she attended along with Councillor S. Farr, Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Maryanne Raftery reported that they were undertaking a review of gritting and filling of grit bins in Summer. Any views, which Parish Councils wish to make will be considered by Staffordshire County Council.

5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 15th February 2010.

RESOLVED:

- To approve and sign the minutes as a correct record.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Minutes Page 281 – Agenda item 4.2 – installation of barriers at Blythe Bridge High School. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that Council had not received a reply to their letter regarding the above but had met County Councillor Ian Parry who had expressed a wish to attend a Parish Council meeting. It was **agreed** to invite him to the April Council meeting.

Minutes Page 286 – Agenda item 9.13 – felling of mature trees at Foxfield Railway. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she had spoken to Councillor Paul Roberts regarding the above who has promised to investigate and report back.

Minutes Page 287 – Agenda Item 10.1 - 00985/CL_EXG – 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – certificate of lawfulness – existing use.

The clerk confirmed that no reply to Council's comments regarding the above application had been received from the Planning Department. It was **agreed** to write to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's Chief Executive Simon Baker advising that Council is still awaiting a reply.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.1 The clerk's report was received and noted.

7.2 Outside meetings.

The following meetings were noted:

- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Parish-Online meeting – Thursday 18th March 2010 – time to be confirmed but anticipated around lunch time.
- Community Council of Staffordshire – 'Working together for a Sustainable Future' forum to be held at Stafford Borough Council Civic Suite on 16th April 2010 commencing at 9.30am.

7.3 The following circulation material was made available to members:

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues No. 728 and 729.
- Staffordshire County Council – Bus and Rail timetable.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – March 2010 Issue.
- Rural Services Network Parish Newsletter – March 2010 Issue.
- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Staffordshire Branch Annual Report.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2010/2011.

It was noted that the deadline for bids to improve the local rights of way network is 30th April 2010.

8.2 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: ‘My Moorlands’ Community Magazine.

It was noted that the above magazine is delivered to 44071 households and businesses in Staffordshire Moorlands and that articles of interest for inclusion would be welcome. Any other comments on the magazine would also be welcome.

8.3 Stafford Borough Council – subject: Local Development Framework – Delivering the Plan for Stafford Borough – Draft Core Policies.

It was noted that any comments on the above should be submitted before 12 noon on Friday 9th April 2010.

8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Potholes.

To receive the following letter from Mike Maryon, Cabinet Member for Highways.
“I am writing to update you on the current situation with regards pothole repairs throughout the county. Immediately following the recent bad weather, the highways department have identified approximately 1200 new potholes, in addition to the existing road defects. This is around 5 to 6 times the normal number. To ensure the roads are safe enough to drive on, temporary fixes are being used. These will be in place until a permanent fix can be achieved at a later date. I have received complaints from parish councils and members of the general public about the quality of our pothole repairs. There are very good health and safety reasons why we need to do temporary fixes. They are not attractive but do the job and stop our roads from being a danger to car users. I am equally frustrated with the current situation but we are dealing with a legacy of under investment in our roads. The quality of our roads, especially in the rural areas, is not good. Whilst we are investing an extra £30million on highways maintenance over three years, doubling the planned highways investment, we still have the same size team repairing the roads so the change will not happen over night. This problem caused by the snow adds a new dimension. I reassure you that we hear your concerns and we are working hard to sort out the problem. In the meantime your continued support is appreciated.”

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested that once we have had a chance to look at the Area Survey that we invite Mike Maryon to a site meeting.

- 8.5 War Memorial Trust – subject: funding for repairs/cleaning to the war memorial.

It was noted that from the photographs provided to the War Memorial Trust they do not deem that the condition of the war memorial would meet the criteria for funding.

- 8.6 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Blythe Bridge Safer Routes to School Scheme.

It was noted that the following work will be undertaken during March/April 2010 and Enterprise PLC will have a supervisor on site during the work:

3 road humps for Ridgway Drive together with double yellow lines extending from the existing at Grindley Lane into Ridgway Drive for a distance of 77 metres and the traffic restriction extension in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge were currently being advertised as part of the consultation.

It was **agreed** to ask County Councillor W. Day for an update on the Safer Routes to School proposals for Blythe Bridge and improvements to the Uttoxeter Road/Stallington Road/Cheadle Road junction which were always a separate scheme to those included in the SRS.

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

<p>From: Staffordshire County Council (Watchdog) Staffordshire County Council East Midlands Trains B.B. & Forsbrook Village Hall</p> <p>W. Cash MP</p>	<p>Subject: Misleading Alarm Scam. Playbuilder funding acknowledgement. Station Adoption continuation. Valuation of Scrubland (Note: Agreed to discuss at Environment Committee Meeting). Representation on any specific matters.</p>
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Email Exchanges

<p>County Councillor W. Day</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>Staffordshire County Council</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p> <p>Staffordshire Moorlands District Council</p> <p>Owl Online Watch Link</p>	<p>Area Survey, LTP Plan, Speed limits, School parking.</p> <p>Mr. and Mrs. Ecclestone – water leak outside their property.</p> <p>Clarence Issues: Potholes; Flooding.</p> <p>Parking issue reports.</p> <p>Online reports: Vandalised litter bin: flytipping on Smithfield Hotel car park.</p> <p>Outstanding environmental issues.</p> <p>Response to Parish Assembly questionnaire.</p> <p>Links to meetings etc.</p> <p>Police incidents in the area.</p>
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North Staffordshire Community Rail
Partnership

Playquest
Qstar
NALC/SPCA

Community Council of Staffordshire
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association

Headley and Company
Qstar

Article for Parish newsletter on improvements at Blythe Bridge Station.
Update on SCC Playbuilder funding.
Repairs to deterrent camera.
Confirmation that nomination for Buckingham Palace Garden Party will be included in the draw.
Response to Parish Plan questionnaire.
Various:
Information on training courses; annual audit; public's rights to inspect accounts; NALC Annual Markets seminar; balance of power between central and local government; consultations on Post Office, British Waterways; conference on rural communities; Strategic Environmental Assessment Scoping Report; emailing of minutes; suggested protocol with regard to inclement weather; business link seminars; protocol with regard to liaison between districts and parishes on the code of conduct matters; Community Wellbeing ideas; questionnaire on the preferred format of SPCA AGM; general update from NALC; Amateur Antiques Expert Competition.
Copies of Local Council Review.
Repairs to deterrent camera.

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Application:

00130/FUL – 5 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – front porch and single storey side extension.

00134/FUL – 2 Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – change of use from non residential to dwelling house with detached garage.

RESOLVED:

- **to raise no concerns to planning application 00130/FUL providing the scale and design are in keeping and the extension does not compromise the privacy of adjacent neighbours.**
- **to raise no concerns to planning application 00134/FUL.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

There were no planning approvals to note.

9.3 Planning Refusal:

There were no planning approvals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

Appeal by Mrs. Sarah Read, 427 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge for existing use of land as residential curtilage.

It was noted that the above inquiry will open on Tuesday 16th March 2010 at 10.00am and is scheduled to last for one day. It will take place at Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek. The appeal is to be determined by a Planning Inspector under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said that there were unauthorised objects on several burial plots, which could pose a health and safety issue to the groundsman. It was **agreed** to view the extent of the problem at the next Cemetery Committee site visit so that letters could be sent to the grantees of the burial plots.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

10.2.1 Mrs. J. Wagg, The Haven, Commonside, Boundary, Cheadle – subject: memorial for ashes in Forsbrook Parish Cemetery.

To receive request from the above to place a memorial in Forsbrook Parish Cemetery for her parents whose ashes have already been scattered in Staffordshire Moorlands. It was noted that details of the criteria have been forwarded to Mrs. Wagg.

RESOLVED:

➤ **To adhere to the criteria for interments in Forsbrook Parish Cemetery and refuse the request of Mrs. Wagg.**

10.2.2 It was noted that Andrew Scott from Town and Country Services has undertaken a survey with regard to the future planting of trees in the Cemetery which it was **agreed** to discuss at the next Cemetery Committee meeting.

10.2.3 The clerk reported that Town and Country Services were levelling and turfing burial plots of recent interments and that repair work was required on the shed.

10.2.4 It was **agreed** to convene a Cemetery Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2010 at 6.00pm at Forsbrook Parish Cemetery.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Councillor Mrs. G. Burton, Chairman of the Environment Committee reported that the land valuation for the scrubland behind the new Medial Centre and Village Hall has been received and suggested discussing this at the next Environment Committee Meeting. She also reported that the litterbin on the footpath from Uttoxeter Road to The Avenue has been damaged. The clerk has requested this be replaced and has also reported the incident to the police.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Clapper Bridge, Well Street, Forsbrook.	The clerk was requested to ask for an update on the repairs.
Litter.	The clerk reported that SMDC had recently undertaken litter collections on Cheadle Road/ Dilhorne Road/Draycott Old Road/Caverswall Old Road and Uttoxeter Road but unfortunately since the clean up there had been some fly tipping on Dilhorne Road.
A50 – litter.	The clerk reported that Connect undertake regular litter collections but said she would view the extent of the problem and if she felt that they were not fulfilling their commitment would raise the issue with them.
Car for sale on County Council land at Catchems Corner.	The clerk said that Trading Standards had dealt with this problem in the past but it was necessary for them to receive details of the vehicles – registration numbers/phone contacts/dates and times.
Telephone kiosk, Forsbrook Square.	The clerk agreed to chase up the repairs.
Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – hole adjacent to Britannia Building Society.	This issue would again be raised with County Councillor Day.

11.3 It was **agreed** to convene a Environment Committee meeting on Wednesday 7th April 2010 at 7.00pm at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall followed by a meeting of the Parish Plan Working Group. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton asked members to give the clerk any feedback on the ideas for the Parish Plan, a copy of which was distributed to all members.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 28th February 2010 was:

Community Direct Account	29965.69
14 Day Account	42706.26
Plus outstanding credits	285.00
Total	72956.95

12.2 March 2010 accounts.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401943	B.B.& Forsbrook Village Hall	140.00	24.50	164.50
401944	E.On	568.66	99.52	668.18
401945	SMDC	47.31		47.31
401946	Christine J. Snape	967.05		967.05
401947	Christine J. Snape	132.75	16.27	149.02
401948	HM Revenue & Customs	856.15		856.15
401949	Town and Country Services	480.00	84.00	564.00
401950	Mrs. G. Burton	250.00		250.00
DD	Eon	38.09	1.91	40.00
DD	British Telecom	139.53	20.93	160.46
Total		3619.54	247.13	3886.67

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of March 2010 accounts.**

12.3 Insurance Quotation from Came & Company (Minutes dated 15th February 2010 – Page 284 agenda item 9.4).

To note that the insurance premium for year 1st June 2010 to 31st May 2011 from the above insurance broker is £2203.08, which can be reduced by 5% giving a premium of £2092.93, should Council wish to enter a three-year binding agreement with Aviva. The cover provided against this policy seems better suited to Parish Councils. The current insurance premium from Allianz is £3078.22, which will obviously increase slightly for year 2010/2011.

RESOLVED:

- **To change insurance providers from Allianz to Came & Company (Aviva Policy) from 1st June 2010 for three years.**

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman