

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH AUGUST 2010 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor S. P. Fox,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor J. W Burgess, Councillor Mrs. S. M. Edwards, Councillor Mrs. S. A. Harrison, Councillor P. Jones, Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Councillor Rev. B. L. Whittaker, Councillor A. E. Wilson, Councillor B. Yates and County Councillor W. Day.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
Planning Refusals: 00089/00985/00057/CL_EXG 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge	Councillor S. P. Fox	Personal – Mr. J. Jackson (Appellant) is a personal friend.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

No issues were raised.

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'.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton congratulated Blythe Bridge Railway Station volunteers and members of Forsbrook Parish Council on receiving the East Midlands Trains best small station award together with £250 for spending at the station She said this was an excellent example of partnerships working together and was a wonderful achievement for everyone involved.

**5. DRAFT MINUTES OF:
Council Meeting of 19th July 2010.**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.1 The clerk's report was received and noted.

7.2 Dates and venues of 'outside' meetings were noted as follows:

- Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association 71st AGM and Conference on 13th November 2010 10.00am-3.30pm in the Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford.

7.3 The following circulation material was made available to members.

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues No. 739 and 740.
- Staffordshire 3rd Section Network (S3SN) E. Bulletins.
- Rural Services Community Newsletters.
- LINK Staffordshire Bulletins.
- Fair Play for Children Newsletter.
- The Wildlife Trust Natural World.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: 71st AGM and Conference – 13th November 2010.

To receive draft agenda for the above together with issues proposed for adoption at the meeting and to note that the SPCA require the following information by 12th October 2010.

Delegates booking form.
Nominations for members/officers of the SPCA.
Resolutions for debate.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton and Councillor Miss S. Farr said they would again like to attend the SPCA AGM on 13th November 2010. Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier and Councillor A. J. Mould said they would let the clerk know if they also wished to attend.

- 8.2 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Strategic Plan.

It was noted that the above plan is available on the County Council website at: <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/yourcouncil/strategicplan>

- 8.3 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Parish Online.

It was noted that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council has now ordered the Parish Online service for Forsbrook Parish Council.

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

General:

From:

Fords of Blythe Bridge Limited
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Subject:

Quotation for repairs to Cemetery Shed.
Electoral Register Annual Canvass (**Note: Posters to be displayed on Council's notice boards**).

Traffic Regulation Order requests. (**Agreed to forward Staffordshire Moorlands District Council a copy of the TRO's requested through Staffordshire County Council**).

Email Exchanges:

Staffordshire County Council

Clarence Issues.
Street Light – Uttoxeter Road Car Park.
Street Light – Bridgwood Road.
Blocked Drains.
Potholes.
Standard of workmanship when repositioning streetlights.
(**Note: SCC has telephoned to confirm that all work is inspected and contractors will be requested to rectify if standards are not met**).

Staffordshire County Council

Overgrown hedge obstructing footway outside 282 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.
Rusty unused signpost.
Flood survey questionnaire. (**Note: To advise that all areas susceptible to flooding will already be logged on the 'Clarence' system**).

Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire County Council

'Licence to Plant' information for residents.
Clapper Bridge repairs. (**Note: This is the first job on the contractors list once the team have dealt with eradicating weed on one of the County's countryside parks**).

Staffordshire County Council	Emerging Joint Waste Core Strategy. (Note: The above is available to view on http://consult.staffordshire.gov.uk/portal/jwcs/ecws/.)
Staffordshire County Council	Setting standards to control where waste sites are located. (Note: Information is available on: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/supportourstandards).
Staffordshire County Council	Watchdog Scams.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Play Day details for Waste and Recycling Services Roadshow.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Enquiry re bird nesting boxes.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Links to meetings.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Service Requests: Litter bin adjacent to Sizzatrix.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	The Smithfield Hotel – unsafe building.
Staffordshire Police	The Smithfield Hotel – unsafe building.
Staffordshire Police	Request for visible police presence at The Smithfield Hotel and Blythe Bridge Railway Station.
Staffordshire Police	Anti social behaviour – Blythe Bridge Railway Station.
Staffordshire Police	Thanking Officers for their help with regard to damage to zip wire seat and for retrieving seat and parts.
Mr. D. J. Brian	Confirming delivery of new football top bar post.
Owl Online Watch	Recent crime statistics.
Co-operative Society	The Late Shop – potholes, broken barrier and litterbin.
QStar	BBC news bulletin on the Flashcam.
NALC	Community Right to Build information.
Judith Kirkland	Complaint re dangerous parking at Blythe Bridge Village Hall on Saturday 14 th August 2010. (Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read the email to members and advised that the clerk has forwarded a copy of Mrs. Kirkland's email to the Village Hall committee's secretary Mrs. Christine Hopley and has also provided Mrs. Kirkland with Mr. Ray Bagnall's telephone number).
Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association	Weekly Updates Charity walk at Shugborough on 27.08.10. Trading Standard Alerts. Venues for electric blanket testing. Affordable Housing and community right to build. Department for Communities and Local Government – Draft Structural Reform Plan.

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00651/FUL – 5 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – single storey side extension and a two-storey rear extension.

00673/FUL – Roadhouse Garage, Uttoxeter Road, Draycott in the Moors – single storey rear extension to commercial garage.

00703/FUL – 100 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey front and side extensions, first floor rear extensions, front/rear dormer windows and raising of the roofline.

RESOLVED:

➤ **To respond to the above planning applications as follows:**

00651/FUL – To raise no concerns providing the scale, mass and design is in keeping with the surrounding area and that the extension has no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

00673/FUL – To raise no concerns providing the proposals are in keeping with the existing building and that the extension has no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

00703/FUL – To register concern that the proposals by way of scale and mass are excessive in this green belt location.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00337/FUL – 1 Egerton Close, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension.

00280/FUL – Bramdean, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – first floor front, side and rear extension.

00311/FUL – Land at Brook Close, Blythe Bridge – proposed communal parking area and associated landscaping.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusals were noted:

00089/CL_EXG, 00985/CL_EXG and 00057/CL_EXG – 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – lawful use or development.

9.4 Planning matters.

9.4.1 Planning Application 00134/FUL – 2 Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that there has been no breach of planning regulations.

9.4.2 Planning Appeals: APP/B3438/X10/2129835, APP/B3438/X10/2129836 and APP/B3438/X10/2129837 – land adjacent to 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – Certificate of Lawfulness for Existing Use.

It was noted that the above planning appeals have been withdrawn and as a consequence all previous arrangements for the appeals have now been cancelled.

9.4.3 The Smithfield Hotel, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that the Council write to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's Enforcement Department requesting an update on the position at The Smithfield Hotel with regard to the condition of the site including obscene graffiti as she felt there should be a concerted effort to get the site tidied up and any building safety issues resolved. **Agreed.**

9.4.4 Land adjacent to 38 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that the Council write to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's Planning Department requesting that a planning officer checks the development that is taking place on the agricultural field adjacent to 38 Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook to ensure that this meets current planning guidelines. **Agreed.**

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee there was no report.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

No cemetery issues were raised.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

'Children Crossing' sign in Caverswall Old Road.

This sign has been erected adjacent to two houses in Caverswall Old Road very near to the Cheadle Road junction (photograph circulated to members to highlight exact location). The houses have very short front gardens so the sign is clearly visible from front living room windows. Residents/visitors cannot park safely outside their own homes, as they cannot open their car doors without coming into contact with the sign. The sign would have been better sited near to the bad bend in Caverswall Old Road where traffic speed is at its worse and where there is no visual impact to residents. Traffic is already travelling at a very slow speed where the sign is currently positioned on approach to the Cheadle Road junction and serves no early warning purpose. It was **agreed** to write to Staffordshire County Council asking for the sign to be resited.

Grit Bins.

Andrew Scott, Town and Country Services has expressed an interest in refilling grit bins in an emergency situation during winter but this will obviously depend on the weather and the state of the roads as he needs to travel from Brown Edge. The estimated cost is £100-£125 for a days work. It was **agreed** to contact Staffordshire County Council regarding funding available to reimburse Andrew and to ascertain what specific storage arrangements are required.

Christmas Tree.

Inspector Neil Sherratt has agreed for the Christmas tree to be sited on police land adjacent to the police station and for it to be connected to their electricity supply, subject to all health and safety issues being met. It was **agreed** to discuss this with Andrew Scott from Town and Country Services and then get back to Inspector Sherratt and Rachel Barnacle with our intentions.

Staffordshire Moorlands Community Awards.

The closing date for nominations for the above awards is 10th September 2010. The categories are:

- a) Adult achiever of the year.
- b) Child/teenager of courage.
- c) Special recognition (inspiring campaigners, members of the armed forces, carers and volunteers).
- d) Fund raiser of the year.
- e) Community/voluntary group of the year.
- f) Carer of the year.
- g) Bright young star (under 21).

Nominees need to telephone or email the reporter whose name is at the end of the category in the Post and Times newspaper. There was one nomination from our area last year so it would be nice to nominate worthy individual(s) this year.

Play Day – 10th August 2010.

The Play Day held on the Recreation ground in Blythe Bridge was very successful thanks to everyone who took part with approximately 500 children/adults attending. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked the clerk for ensuring that everything was in order ready for the play equipment to be moved on site and for the litter collection prior to the start of the event. Blythe Bridge Youth Support Group undertook a litter collection after the event.

Police Presence in Blythe Bridge/Forsbrook.

In addition to the two new PCSO's who have joined PC Neil Lawton, PC Steve Critchlow and PCSO Daniel Peak at Blythe Bridge Police Station two officers from Stone Police Station, who have responsibility for the Fulford Parish boundary of Blythe Bridge will also now be stationed at Blythe Bridge Police Station. This will higher the profile and give additional reassurance for policing in our area.

Community Action Day in Blythe Bridge/Forsbrook.

This event was very successful. The clerk, two residents, community pay back team and District Council staff and officers joined parish Councillors. A positive comment from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council was that “the village is a credit to the dedicated Parish Council members as minimal amounts of litter and graffiti were found and the Action Day resulted in giving the village that extra boost to its cleanness and make it shine for the summer months”.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked everyone who took part.

11.2 Playdale Playgrounds Limited – Annual Play Inspection.

The inspection report, undertaken by Playdale Playgrounds Limited, for the play equipment on Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground was received and it was noted that there are no items that require attention. This inspection did not cover sports equipment.

It was also noted that repairs have been carried out to the Zip Wire free of charge.

11.3 Wicksteed Leisure Limited – Annual Play Inspection.

It was **agreed** that for year 2010 it was not necessary for Wicksteed Leisure to undertake an additional play equipment inspection.
(Refer to item 11.2 of minutes).

11.4 Environment Issues.

No environment issues were raised.

12. NEWSLETTER:

Draft Autumn 2010 newsletter and draft Parish Plan.

It was noted that the printing costs for 2300 copies of the newsletter is £490.00 and 2300 copies of the Parish Plan £705.00.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve the draft newsletter and Parish Plan.**
- **To arrange for the draft newsletter and Parish Plan to be printed at the costs as detailed above.**
- **To arrange delivery of the newsletter and Parish Plan to all households in the Parish in September 2010.**

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank Balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st July 2010 was:

Community Direct Account	28922.38
14 Day Account	57706.26
Total	86628.64

12.2 August 2010 accounts.

The following cheques were submitted for approval.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401981	Town and Country Services	744.00	130.20	874.20
401982	Audit Commission	400.00	70.00	470.00
401983	J. G. Fenn	52.83	9.24	62.07
401984	Taylormade Castings	275.00	48.13	323.13
401985	Christine J. Snape	878.95	0.00	878.95
401986	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	167.50	0.00	167.50
DD	Eon	38.09	1.91	40.00
Total		2556.37	259.48	2815.85

RESOLVED:

➤ **To approve payment of August 2010 accounts.**

12.3 External Auditor's Certificate and Opinion for Accounts for Year ending 31st March 2010.

It was noted that the external auditor has approved the above accounts with the following comments:

“On the basis of our review, in our opinion the information contained in the annual return is in accordance with the Audit Commission's requirements and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met”

It was also noted that in future the accounts could be prepared on a 'Receipts and Payments' basis as they are less than £200000.

The meeting concluded at 8.25pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman