

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 15TH AUGUST 2011 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley,
Councillor F. J. Hopley
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Press Officer (1)
Members of the public (6),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor J. W. Burgess, Councillor P. Jones, Councillor B. Yates and County Councillor W. Day.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
SCC Rights of Way Issues	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department.
Planning	Councillor F. J. Hopley Note: Councillor F. J. Hopley left Council Chambers whilst planning related issues were being discussed.	Member of SMDC Planning Applications Committee.
Foxfield Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal - Volunteer.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

Public footpath 4a.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean said that the overgrown hedge around the school on the above footpath was obstructing pedestrian access.

Agreed to write to Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department to ask them to contact Blythe Bridge High School and residents whose boundaries were adjacent to the footpath.

Planning Application 00521/OUT – land adjacent to 11 Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge.

Mrs. Jean Shenton and Mrs. Susan Durose of 5 and 7 Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge said that they had attended the Planning Applications Committee meeting on 11th August 2011 and were disappointed that members had approved the above application by one vote. To reach this decision two voting procedures had to be carried out, which was confusing. The first decision was 5-5 with the Chairman casting his second vote to refuse the application. Another voting procedure was called because presumably the number of members in attendance on the Planning Applications Committee did not match the number of members who had voted. The second vote approved the application 6-5. Many objections had been sent to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department and objectors felt that the application had been put before the Planning Applications Committee very quickly with not all objectors receiving an acknowledgement of their objections or notice that the application was going before the Planning Applications Committee.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested that residents request a meeting with SMDC Officer Mark Trillo to ask him to address any concerns.

3.2 County Council Report.

In the absence of County Councillor W. Day there was no report, but he had sent a message to say that he was still trying to arrange a meeting between Parish Councillors and Highway Officers.

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

Parish Assembly Meeting of 28th July 2011.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she along with Councillor Miss S. Farr and Councillor A. J. Mould had attended the recent Parish Assembly meeting, the minutes of which will be sent through to Council in due course. There were presentations on Recycling and Sustainable Energy.

Station Adopters Meeting at Derby.

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier said that she along with other Station Adopters for East Midland Train Stations had attended the above meeting and was pleased to report that Blythe Bridge Station was again through to the final of the Best Small Station. The awards ceremony is being held in Derby on 9th September 2011 and she along with her husband will be attending.

**5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:
Council Meeting of 18th July 2011.**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Minutes dated 18th July 2011 – page 41 – agenda item 6.1.
St Peter's Churchyard, Blythe Bridge

It was noted that the above churchyard is cut twice per month and the grass clippings are left where they fall. All clippings on the hard standing are blown 1m back onto the lawn.

- 6.2 Minutes dated 18th July 2011 – page 48 – agenda item 11.2.
Grass verge under the ownership of Moorlands Housing in The Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that Moorlands Housing is aware that a driveway has been constructed by a private resident adjacent to the above grassed verge but permission to drive over has been refused.

- 6.3 Minutes dated 18th July 2011 – page 38 agenda item 3.2.
Grass cutting of verges in the Parish.

County Councillor W. Day has spoken with Mr. Hamp, who recently complained about the standard of workmanship with regard to the County Council cutting of grass verges in the area but has reported that he is now satisfied with the action taken and how quickly it was dealt with by the Parish Council and County Councillor W. Day.

- 6.4 Minutes dated 18th July 2011 - page 47 – agenda item 11.1
Bus Shelter, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – adjacent to The William Amory School.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she was trying to arrange a meeting with Head of Property Services regarding the above bus shelter with regard to what action can be taken to reduce the vandalism and hoped to provide an update at the next Council meeting.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

- 7.1 Agenda enclosures, correspondence outgoing and emails not detailed as separate agenda items were noted.

- 7.2 To receive dates of 'outside' meetings as follows:

There were no meeting dates to note.

- 7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 763 and 764.
- Rural Services Network – Weekly News.
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins
- Staffordshire County Council – Watchdog alerts.
- Staffordshire Link – June/July 2011 Issue.
- LCR Online – Latest News.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Magazine – Summer 2011 Issue.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Newsletter – July 2011.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Code of Conduct Training.

It was noted that copies of the ‘Code of Conduct Pocket Guide’ are available to interested members. Further meetings on this subject are being arranged by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

- 8.2 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Designated Public Places Orders (DPPOs).

A copy of the ‘brief question and answer fact sheet’ on DPPOs that has been prepared by the Licensing Section was distributed to all members with the agenda.

- 8.3 Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – subject: Weekly Updates.

The above documents were received and noted.

- 8.4 The following general correspondence was noted and appropriate action agreed.

General:

Subject:

Brian Snape

Copy of correspondence – Foxfield Railway re noise disturbance over the weekend of 22nd, 23rd and 24th July.

Staffordshire County Council

Watchdog alerts.

Email Exchanges:

Subject:

Owl Online Watch Link
SMDC (Victoria Ellis)

Crime incidents.
Contact details re identifying Community Payback work.

SMDC
Community Rail Partnership Officer
Environment Agency

Links to meetings.
Community Rail Awards Photo Competition.
Riparian rights and responsibilities – The Butchers Arms.

Neighbouring Policing Officers
Rev. B. L. Whittaker

Anti social behaviour and criminal damage reports.
Acknowledgement of work as School Governor for Forsbrook Primary School.

Mr. D. Higson

Contact details for the Tree Preservation Officer – re planning 00215/OUT.

Staffordshire County Council

Highway defect reports:
Pothole – The Avenue near to Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.
Sinking of road adjacent to The Britannia Building Society.

SMCVS

Draft ‘Expressions of Interest’ funding bid.

Central Networks	Dangerous cables hanging from wooden pole adjacent to 1 Mount Road, Blythe Bridge. (Note: New column installed).
Moorlands Together Janet Wright	Community and Business Reassurance Leaflets. ATM advice.

Note: All correspondence/documents are available to view on the evening of the Council Meeting or by prior arrangement with the clerk.

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00592/ADV – Britannia Building Society, 319 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – 1 internally illuminated fascia and 1 internally illuminated double side projecting sign.

RESOLVED:

- **To ask the Planning Officer to consider if the signs would be a distraction to motorists or visually intrusive to nearby residents living above their retail premises in this busy traffic area, which is adjacent to a primary school and next to the entrance to the busy Late Shop.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approval was noted:

00475/FUL – 15 Portland Drive, Forsbrook – single storey side and rear extensions.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted:

00465/FUL – The Ark, Commonside, Boundary – replacement single storey extension and internal alterations.

9.4 Planning matters.

Planning application 00521/OUT – the erection of two semi detached houses in the garden of 11 Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge and the formation of a revised plot boundary to 11 Cypress Grove.

Officer's report is available to interested members.

As referred to previously in the minutes the above application has been approved.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham reported that she visited the Cemetery at the weekend and it appears that youth in vehicles are again congregating on the car park.

Agreed to ask the local police officers to monitor the situation.

10.2 Cenotaph at St. Peters Church, Forsbrook.

Council has received a quotation of £918.00 for masonry cleaning and minor chip repairs to the plinth of the Cenotaph.

Funding of up to 50% of the cost may be available through the District Council Enhancement Scheme but it was noted that a decision on whether or not to award funding will not be made by the Moorlands Partnership Board until their next meeting in November, which will be too late for the work to be carried out before Remembrance Sunday.

RESOLVED:

- **To complete the necessary Moorlands Partnership Board Environmental Enhancement Grants Application Form to ascertain if funding is available.**

10.3 Current Cemetery Development.

Council has received a quotation of £220 from Town and Country Services for weed treating the present cemetery development. It was noted that the cost is slightly higher than weed treating the cemetery field because this will need to be done by hand rather than by tractor.

RESOLVED:

- **To accept the quotation and arrange for the work to be carried out as soon as possible.**

10.4 Cemetery Issues.

No cemetery issues were raised.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) gave the following report:

Foxfield Railway.

There has been several complaints regarding noise levels at an event held at Foxfield Railway over a three day period on 22nd, 23rd and 24th July 2011.

A resident who felt the noise was unacceptable has written to Foxfield Railway and received a reply from the Chairman.

(The reply was read to Council).

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that when she received the complaints on the Saturday night, she contacted the Police who said that a Police Officer would attend. Unfortunately, no one was available in the Environmental Health Department at the District Council but on Monday 25th July she said that she spoke to an Officer in the District Council Licensing Department to ascertain what time the Licence was up to on the Saturday night as a resident heard loud music until 3.15am on the Sunday morning. The Licence for the event was up until 11.30pm. A complaint has also been made regarding bad language from the bands.

The Environmental Health Department has provided an 'out of hours' mobile number – 07976268930 but this will only be available until the end of August when new arrangements are being put in place.

The Police can only deal with Crime and Disorder offences at these type of events, any other issues are dealt with by the District Council.

Should any residents have any concerns they need to contact SMDC Environmental Health Department and the police so that records can be kept.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that as District Councillor she has sent a letter to Foxfield Railway, with copy to the Police and Licensing Department and proposed that Council do the same. **Agreed.**

Clothesbank Shop, Chapel Street, Forsbrook.

During the last week there have been several complaints regarding the two large signs on the front of the above shop and 'A' board being inappropriate in this village location. Residents are also concerned that this type of business could exacerbate highway problems in this already busy traffic area due to an increased number of vehicles taking bags of clothing into the shop and the transit vehicle transferring the clothes to their main depot. The SMDC Planning Enforcement Officer has been contacted and will be undertaking a site visit. The situation needs to be monitored and the police notified if vehicles are causing an obstruction.

Community Action Day.

The clerk has provided SMDC with details for another Community Action Day in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook. Work identified for the Community Payback team is maintenance of shrub beds at Forsbrook Parish Cemetery and garden beds at Blythe Bridge Railway Station.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that Councillors and residents again carry out a litter pick of hot spot areas similar to last year. Arrangements can be made for SMDC to assist with visibility vests, litter pickers, bags and removal of rubbish.

Communities Mean Business Funding.

An 'Expression of Interest' form for the above funding is now being finalised. The extension to the changing rooms does not meet the criteria for funding under this scheme so other avenues need to be explored. A total of £30638 is being applied for to provide additional play equipment consisting of BMX track, pendulum swing and traditional swing, totalling £21738 and the purchase of scrubland from the village hall, urgent work to trees following a risk assessment, solicitors fees (estimated) and landscaping, totalling £8900. The bid for funding is being presented by Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton to the Moorlands Rural Panel on Tuesday 1st November 2011 with the final presentation to LAG members on Thursday 24th November 2011.

Community Rail Awards 2011 Photographic Competition.

The above competition closes on 4th September 2011. There is a photograph of the volunteers for Blythe Bridge in the competition.

Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

Complaints have been received again about misuse of the open space in Crossfield Avenue, which is owned by the Parish Council. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that this be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on 16th August 2011. **Agreed.**

Play Day held on 13th August 2011 on Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the above event went extremely well. Parish Councillors who volunteered to run a bric-a-brac stall raised £50, which will be donated to Blythe Bridge Home Link.

Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley said that 411 raffle tickets had been sold and Councillor F. J. Hopley read a list of the recipients of the winning tickets, details of which he said would be printed in the local press.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Car Boot at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall on 18 th September, 2011 commencing at 10.00am.	Noted.
Saturday 13 th August 2011 – Foxfield Railway field full of tents.	No complaints received from residents but highway safety issues with regard to parking when events take place at Foxfield Railway to be monitored and reported to the relevant authorities.
Flower Planters.	Noted that the containers have been replanted but the issue of watering to be discussed at the Environment Committee meeting on 16 th August 2011.
Pedestrian crossing, Forsbrook.	To encourage residents to stress the need for a pedestrian crossing with County Councillor W. Day.
Councillor F. J. Hopley reported that residents have approached him with regard to the provision of a seat in Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.	The clerk advised that there were several seats already sited in Cheadle Road at Blythe Mount Park, Forsbrook Square, part way up the incline between The Butchers Arms and Dilhorne Road and also on the junction with Dilhorne Road. There are also several seats in Forsbrook Cemetery.
Weed growth from the Smithfield Hotel site on to the footway.	To establish the extent of this and to decide if SCC Highway Defects need to deal with the issue or whether it is a weed treating job for the Parish Council contractor.
Cameron development resident disposing of dog faeces on The Smithfield Hotel site.	Monitor the situation and gather more information so that SMDC Environment officers can be alerted to the problem.

Entrance to Blythe Bridge Library – youth congregating and using unacceptable language.	To monitor if this is a continual problem or was an isolated incident.
Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – between The Butchers Arms and Forsbrook Cemetery – overgrown hedges and footway surface condition.	The clerk advised that both these concerns have been reported to SCC Highway Defects Department on several occasions.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank Balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st July 2011 was:

Community Direct Account	102278.81
Less outstanding debits	(519.00)
Total	101759.81

12.2 August 2011 Accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402087	Town and Country Services	1199.00	239.80	1438.80
402088	SMDC	192.00	38.40	230.40
402089	Getspatial LLP	60.00	12.00	72.00
402090	Audit Commission	400.00	80.00	480.00
402091	Christine J. Snape	890.55		890.55
DD	Eon	40.00		40.00
Total		2781.55	370.20	3151.75

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of August 2011 accounts.**

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman