

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH OCTOBER 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 P. Jones,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Press Officer (1)
Members of the public (4).

During the meeting a one minutes silence was held in memory of Mrs. Sylvia Harrison who had been a long serving member of Forsbrook Parish Council.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor J. W. Burgess, Councillor A. J. Mould, Councillor A. E. Wilson, 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.
SCC Highways Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery – personal friend.
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.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues.

Traffic Issues.

Mr. Ellis again raised concern regarding speeding on the A521 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook and congestion at the Uttoxeter Road/Stallington Road/Cheadle Road crossroads.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Forsbrook Parish Council was working closely with Staffordshire County Council to bring about improvements at the crossroads which included reducing the width of the pavement adjacent to The Duke of Wellington to allow two way traffic to exit Cheadle Road. She also said that the Police were actively carrying out speed monitoring in the area.

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'.

There were no reports under this agenda item.

**5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:
Council Meeting of 19th September 2011.**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Minutes dated 19th September 2011 – Page 68, agenda item 6. Rail Photographic Competition.

It was noted that the Community Action Day Rail photograph came second in the above competition.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Dates of 'outside' meetings as detailed below were noted:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Future development of the towns and villages in Staffordshire Moorlands.

Tuesday 25th October 2011 – 7.00pm to 9.15pm at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge. (This event is for the villages of Blythe Bridge, Forsbrook and Draycott).

Wednesday 2nd November 2011 - 7.00pm to 9.15pm at St. Peter's Primary School, School Lane, Caverswall. (This event is for the village of Boundary, Dilhorne, Caverswall and Cookshill).

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton asked Councillors to reserve their place at this event by contacting Michelle Reynolds on 01538 381356 or michellereynolds@smcvs.co.uk

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 768 and 769.
- Rural Services Network – Weekly News.
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins.
- Staffordshire Link – Volume 3 – September 2011.
- LCR Online.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Autumn/Winter 2011 – Outside, Active and Healthy brochure.
- Campaign To Protect Rural England – How to respond to planning applications: an 8-step guide.
- North Staffordshire CRP Progress Report 2010/2011

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Road Traffic Accidents.

It was noted that a new website (www.crashmap.co.uk) has just been launched which allows members of the public to search for and look up the locations of every road traffic accident reported to the police since 2005 – all free of charge.

8.2 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Dog Control Orders.

It was **agreed** to formally ask SMDC to extend the existing Dog Control Exclusion orders to include Forsbrook Parish Cemetery and the fenced in children's play area on Blythe Bridge recreation ground as discussed a few months ago.

8.3 Boundary Commission for England – subject: 2012 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies in England.

It was noted that The Boundary Commission for England published on 13th September its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituencies in England and are presently consulting on the proposals until 5th December 2011. It was **agreed** to write to The Boundary Commission for England stating that Forsbrook Parish Council is in agreement with being included in Staffordshire Moorlands Parliamentary constituency.

- 8.4 Wicksteed Leisure Limited – subject: Play Inspection.

The recent play inspection report (copy distributed to all members) was noted. No concerns had been raised which required urgent attention and the minor recommendations will be dealt with.

- 8.5 Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council – subject: Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026 Submission Draft (Regulation 27 Publication Document).

It was noted that the above has been approved for consultation purposes. The consultation commenced on 23rd September and will run until 4.30pm on 4th November 2011. Documents can be downloaded from www.staffordshire.gov.uk/wcs.

- 8.6 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates.

The above documents were received and noted. No issues were raised.

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

General:	Subject:
Mrs. Yvonne Old	Thank you for bouquet.
Email Exchanges:	Subject:
Green Brothers Signs Limited	Sign – Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.
Quinn Insurance	Cemetery wall damage claim.
Euroshel Limited	Bus shelter maintenance.
Owl Messaging	Details of burglary.
Staffordshire County Council	Details of how to access Consultation Statement –
	http://consult.staffordshire.gov.uk/portal/jwcs/consultation_statement
Staffordshire County Council	Highway issue – ownership of grassed area Blythe Mount Park/Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.
Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust	Community payback help.
County Councillor W. Day	Meeting with SCC Officers re local highway issues.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Winter footway treatments and involvement of local Councils.
Inspector Lee Crowther	Details of meeting with SCC Officers to discuss local highway issues.
Staffordshire County Council (Andrew Nield)	Requesting update on the future running of the Egerton Centre.
Staffordshire Police	Reports on anti social behaviour in the area.
John and Lorraine Stevenson	Remembrance parade – band confirmation.
Sgt. Nigel Spooner	Requesting police support for Remembrance parade.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Links to meetings.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	CRM Report – litter around the bus shelter opposite Britannia Building Society.

Staffordshire County Council

Blythe Bridge High School
Mark Brian (Forsbrook Football Team)
Network Rail

Highway Defect Report: Overgrown
hedge – Butchers Arms.
Remembrance Parade acceptance.
Cleanliness of changing rooms.
Query re warning lights not working
at level crossings.

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

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00850/FUL – Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – Erection of 2 dwellings.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton briefed members with details that she had observed from the above planning application and accompanying documents as follows:

- 1) The size of the two dwellings, which are large, would be a dominant element within the landscape and the sense of space in and around the dwellings would be reduced resulting in insufficient space about the dwellings.
- 2) The dwellings are very close to the boundary and the front dwelling could affect the privacy of the neighbouring property.
- 3) The proposals are against Government policy with regard to ‘garden grabbing’.
- 4) The proposals constitute backland development.
- 5) The egress/access with the additional number of cars on the busy A521 Cheadle Road could raise highway concerns.
- 6) The proposed large properties would not be masked sufficiently by the gardens, making the properties noticeable from Cheadle Road and this would adversely affect the well-established character and appearance of the streetscene.
- 7) There are two protected Beech trees (T3 and T4) on site. A report from SMDC Tree Preservation Officer Steve Massey states “both have notable structural features that give rise to the potential for major failure. Given the surrounding residential properties and pedestrian route adjacent to The Furlongs, there are significant potential targets within falling range of these two trees. They have exceeded their reliable and useful lifespan and the medium to long-term tree related interests would be better served by removal at this stage and replacement with a number of good quality trees.
Included is also a report from Tree Heritage Consultants, which states “Although these trees do not pose an immediate risk, over the next five to ten years the forks will become weaker and then will become a risk to both the development and the public footpath behind. It may be worth considering the removal of these trees before developing the site, as the cost will be lower and it will allow space for new trees to be planted and become established”.

00868/FUL – Land adjacent to Thornley, Boundary Road, Boundary – retention of agricultural/Horticultural Access Drive and Parking/Loading Area.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton highlighted that this was a retrospective application and accompanying the application were seven letters of support.

She read one of these letters, which was from Mr. Samuel Dale. She said that the land is located within North Staffordshire green belt and special landscape area. The Design and Access Statement states that the design of the access track and materials will be in keeping with the character of the area and will improve highway safety and that the proposed development will not injure the visual amenity or character of the area but actually enhance it and also provide for a sustainable facility in the countryside. The land when purchased was overgrown and the applicant has improved it to a reasonable standard of grassland and has also planted fruit trees.

00821/FUL – 47 Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – single storey rear extension.

RESOLVED:

- **To respond to the above planning applications as follows:**
00850/FUL - a copy of the letter sent to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council with the concerns as agreed by Council is appended below:

“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council have studied the above proposals in detail and would like to register concern on the following grounds:

1. *The size of the two large dwellings would be a dominant element within the landscape and it is considered there is insufficient space about the dwellings.*
2. *Both proposed dwellings are very close to the boundary and the front dwelling could have an adverse effect on the privacy of the neighbouring property.*
3. *The second of the two dwellings is considered to be a backland development.*
4. *Both proposed dwellings go against recent government policy with regard to ‘garden grabbing’.*
5. *There are highway concerns with regard to increased vehicles using the existing egress and access close to a primary school entrance on the very busy Cheadle Road*
6. *The large properties would not be masked sufficiently by their gardens, making the properties very noticeable from Cheadle Road and this would adversely affect the well established character and appearance of the streetscene.*
7. *There are two protected Beech Trees – T3 and T4. In the report from SMDC Tree Preservation Officer Steve Massey it states “both have notable structural features that give rise to the potential for major failure. Given the surrounding residential properties and pedestrian route adjacent to The Furlongs, there are significant potential targets within falling range of these two trees. They have exceeded their reliable and useful lifespan and the medium to long term tree related interests would be better served by removal at this stage and replacement with a number of good quality trees”.*
Accompanying the planning application is also a report from Tree Heritage Limited, which states “T3 and T4 are large mature Beech Trees both of which have become multi-stemmed at approximately 2 metres in height. The forks have formed tight unions with included bark.

Although these trees do not pose an immediate risk, over the next 5 to 10 years the forks will become weaker and will then become a risk to both the development and the public footpath behind. It may be worth considering the removal of these trees before developing the site, as the cost will be lower and it will allow space for new trees to be planted and become established”.

As neither of the above reports raise any immediate danger concerns Forsbrook Parish Council is opposed to felling these two protected trees.”

00868/FUL – to ask the Planning Officer to consider if this proposal is acceptable in green belt/special landscape area and if approved to set a condition that the access drive/parking/loading area is used only for the purpose stated.

00821/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and that the proposals do not compromise the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

There were no planning approvals to note.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

No planning issues were raised.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no matters to bring to the attention of Council.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

10.2.1 Councillor Mrs. N. Stanier reported that the spring bulbs have been planted at the cemetery. (Minutes dated 19th September 2011, page 72 agenda item 10.2 refers).

10.2.2 Repairs to the cemetery wall caused by a road traffic accident have now been carried out to a high standard and the driver’s insurance company have agreed to cover the full costs.

10.3 Remembrance Parade and Service.

It was noted that similar arrangements to last year were in place.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge (Minutes dated 19th September 2011, page 73, agenda item 11.2 refers).

The sign has now been delivered to Town and Country Services ready for installation.

Footpaths.

The footpaths, as designated by Staffordshire County Council are scheduled to be cut over the next few weeks.

Newsletter.

Ideas for the next newsletter were distributed to members and Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested this be included on the November agenda for comments/approval.

Meeting with Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Neil Porter to discuss highway issues.

The meeting has been convened for Wednesday 19th October 2011 at 3.00pm at The Egerton Centre. Inspector Lee Crowther has confirmed that he will be attending.

Train Excursion.

The provisional date for the above is 22nd November 2011. East Midlands Trains will send out official invitations.

Community Payback Support.

Garden work at the cemetery and railway station may be a possibility in March 2012.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Crossfield Avenue – outside No. 11 – blocked drain.	Report to SCC Highway Defects Department.
Throughout the Parish – noticeable amounts of litter.	Continue to report areas of concern to SMDC and keep local police officers informed of areas where alcoholic cans/bottles are being discarded

Parking on yellow lines, particularly at School collecting time.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would again bring this to the attention of SMDC Parking Enforcement Officers.
Parking obstructions caused by parents leaving their cars whilst they collect children from school – Trent Road was again highlighted as a problem area.	Continue to report to local police officers. Provide Sergeant Lee Crowther with a copy of the September meeting minutes to remind him of the action he agreed to take.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 It was noted that the bank balance as at 30th September was:

Community Direct Account	£118760.95
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12.2 Income and Expenditure Account for period 1st April to 30th September 2011 was noted.
(Copy distributed to all members).

12.3 October 2011 accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402098	Green Brothers Signs Limited	285.00	57.00	342.00
401099	Arch (North Staffs) Limited	50.00		50.00
402100	British Red Cross	100.00		100.00
402101	Cheadle Citizens Advice Bureau	100.00		100.00
402102	Cheadle Home Link	100.00		100.00
402103	Cheadle and District Animal Welf.	100.00		100.00
402104	Community Council of Staffs.	50.00		50.00
402105	CPRE	50.00		50.00
402106	Donna Louise Trust	100.00		100.00
402107	Douglas Macmillan Hospice	100.00		100.00
402108	Marie Curie Cancer Care	100.00		100.00
402109	Mencap	100.00		100.00
402110	Royal British Legion	100.00		100.00
402111	Samaritans	100.00		100.00
402112	Savana	100.00		100.00
402113	St. John Ambulance	100.00		100.00
402114	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	50.00		50.00
402115	Victim Support	50.00		50.00
402116	Vitalise	50.00		50.00
402117	Women's Royal Voluntary Service	100.00		100.00
402118	Longton Central Hall Band	150.00		150.00
402119	Royal British Legion	66.50		66.50
402120	Heath House Farm	360.00	72.00	432.00
402121	Wright's Landscapes	2600.00	520.00	3120.00

402122	Land Registry	10.00		10.00
402123	E.On UK	581.64	116.33	697.97
402124	J. G. Fenn Limited	87.45	17.49	104.94
402125	Wicksteed Leisure Limited	82.00	16.40	98.40
402126	Christine J. Snape	890.75		890.75
402127	Severn Trent Water Limited	40.73		40.73
402128	Town and Country Services	854.00	170.80	1024.80
402129	B.B. & Forsbrook Village Hall	123.50		123.50
402130	Christine J. Snape	128.00		128.00
DD	E.On UK	40.00		40.00
Total		7899.57	970.02	8869.59

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman