

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2011 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Inspector Lee Crowther,
County Councillor W. Day,
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Press Officer (1)
Members of the public (4).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor F. J. Hopley and Councillor B. Yates.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
SCC Rights of Way Issues Forsbrook Primary School	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Daughter employed by SCC in the Rights of Way Department. Member of Staff.
SCC Highways Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery – personal friend.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Guest Speaker

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton welcomed Inspector Lee Crowther who has taken over from Inspector Steve Maskrey who has recently been promoted to Chief Inspector at Burton on Trent.

Inspector Lee Crowther (Local Policing Team Commander) provided Council with crime statistics for August 2011 and said that anti social behaviour reports were slightly up - eleven compared to nine in 2010. Other crime statistics were down with four offences of violence (one serious), three offences of criminal damage and three offences of car damage.

Questions were put to Inspector Lee Crowther and his responses are detailed in italics.

On September 5th there was a spate of business windows in Blythe Bridge being smashed and the culprits were caught on CCTV by one of the business owners but the police response was that they could take no action because the culprits were juveniles.

Because they are juveniles does not mean that they are exempt from the law.

Concern over drugs in the area was brought to the attention of Inspector Crowther.

Officers continue to gather intelligence and obviously I cannot divulge details.

Incidents in other parts of the country were highlighted.

I cannot speak for police forces in other areas but all staff receive ongoing training and we do work closely with other forces..

Scrap metal collectors are operating in the area and taking metal illegally.

We work in partnership with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and waste carriers who do not have licences are issued with fixed penalties

Is it financially viable for officers to sign on and off at Leek?

This system is working very well. Officers have not changed from the way they work. Policing has to be flexible. We are centralising the fleet of vehicles so that everyone is used to the maximum.

Traffic and parking around the Uttoxeter Road/Stallington Road/Cheadle Road crossroads is appalling. Between 2.45pm and 3.00pm vehicles are parked in such a manner that it causes congestion and restricts large vehicles from getting through. Parents collecting children park inconsiderately – Trent Road in Forsbrook was mentioned as a problem area.

I will speak with Sergeant Nigel Spooner, Cheadle Division and in the short term deploy local officers to deal with the situation if offences are being committed. The Police deal with obstruction and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council deal with parking on yellow lines.

County Councillor W. Day added that Staffordshire County Council is investigating options to improve the situation at the crossroads and in his Divisional Plan he has listed this as top priority. It was **agreed** that when the date for the Staffordshire County Council highway meeting with Forsbrook Parish Councillors was arranged the input from Inspector Lee Crowther would be beneficial.

Police Call Centre – how are reports dealt with as regards what is considered priority?

New policing is coming into force regarding grading of incidents.

Several reports of anti social behaviour have been noticed by Council or been reported to Council – bus shelter opposite Britannia Building Society, Uttoxeter Road was daubed with graffiti only days after it had been painted, empty alcohol cans have been found under the A50 bridge in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge, on the open space adjacent to The Butchers Arms, Forsbrook and on the recreation ground.

Continue to report all incidents to the local officers.

Speeding on Cheadle Road, Forsbrook continues to be a problem.

Speeding operations have been carried out over the last few months and we will continue to actively detect and deter.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked Inspector Lee Crowther for attending the meeting.

3.2 Residents Issues.

3.2.1 Footpath 4a.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean asked if there was any update on work to the overgrown hedge on footpath 4a. Agenda item 6 provides update on this issue.

3.2.2 Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction.

Mr. Elks again raised the issue of improving the exit from Cheadle Road on to Uttoxeter Road by allowing two-way traffic to exit.

County Councillor W. Day said that the Parish Council raised this ten years ago and work for improvements at the junction have now been prioritised.

3.3 Report from County Councillor W. Day.

Big Society and Localism Bill.

County Councillor W. Day said that the Big Society and Localism Bill will give more powers to Parish Councils to take on additional responsibility, such as grass cutting.

Road maintenance work.

Details of recent road resurfacing maintenance work in Blythe Bridge was distributed – details appended hereunder:

Area	Cost
Elmwood Drive	1151.00
Limewood Close	1607.00
Beechwood Close	1808.00
Poplar Close	1852.00

Elmwood Close	955.00
Laburnam Close	1230.00
Cedar Avenue	1260.00
Cypress Grove	658.00
Chestnut Crescent	1324.00
Pinewood Grove	1314.00
Maple Crescent	1404.00
Ashwood Grove	873.00
Oakdene Close	1427.00
Blythe View	3878.00
Barlstone Avenue	1741.00
Roseacre Lane	2868.00
Springcroft	672.00
Ferndale Close	1048.00
Clematis Avenue	1981.00
Honeysuckle Avenue	1041.00
Lavender Avenue	2214.00
Crossfield Avenue	4584.00
Ivy Close	829.00
Total cost of work above	37719.00

Meeting with Staffordshire County Council Officers and members of Forsbrook Parish Council.

Two date options for the above meeting will be decided within the next few days.

Lavender Avenue Fencing

Staffordshire County Council has accepted responsibility for the above and work should be undertaken shortly.

Pedestrian Crossing

In response to a comment regarding the proposed pedestrian crossing by Travis Perkins, Blythe Bridge being considered dangerous, County Councillor W. Day said that this was part of the Safer Routes to School proposals and some of the schemes are not now moving forward.

Parish Boundary

The Parish boundary in the vicinity of Shoetime and the open grassed area by the Tesco roundabout to be clarified.

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

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier reported that she and her husband Graham had recently attended the East Midlands Awards ceremony and Blythe Bridge has come runner up in the Best Small Station category. She also reported that Blythe Bridge Station was being entered in a National Rail competition and the photograph of the community action day was through to the final 5. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that it was excellent to be recognised, as a tremendous amount of work has gone in to improving the station.

- 5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:**
Council Meeting of 15th August 2011.
Cemetery Committee Meeting of 16th August 2011.
Environment Committee Meeting of 16th August 2011.

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

Minutes dated 15th August 2011 – page 52 agenda item 3.1 – Planning approval for Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge.

Mrs. Jean Shenton and Mrs. Susan Durose have met with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Officer Mark Trillo and are now considering their options.

Minutes dated 15th August 2011 – page 51 agenda item 3.1 – Footpath 4a

It was noted that Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Department has written to Blythe Bridge High School and also residents who border the footpath requesting them to attend to overgrown hedges that are obstructing pedestrian access.

Minutes dated 15th August 2011 – page 57 agenda item 11.1 – Rail Photographic Competition

As mentioned under agenda item 4 the photograph of Blythe Bridge Rail community action day has made it through to the final 5 and Blythe Bridge Station was the runner up in the East Midlands Best Small Stations category.

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 Police Neighbourhood Watch Conference – Saturday 8th October 2011 at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre, Yarnfield Lane – Registration and coffee will commence at 9.30am. A free buffet lunch will be provided. Attendees should confirm by phone on 01785 232938 or by email at joseph.rickard@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk.
- Community Council of Staffordshire – Annual General Meeting on 28th September 2011 at 7.30pm at Stowe-by-Chartley Village Hall, Station Road, Stowe-by-Chartley. Light refreshments will be served from 7.00pm.
- Staffordshire Playing Fields Association Annual General Meeting on 19th October 2011 at 2.00pm at Rugeley Leisure Centre (Dave Boulter Room), Burnthill Lane, Rugeley.
- Community Watchdog District Forum – 10 year celebration – 3rd October 10.00am-12.00pm at St. Edwards Church, Church Street, Leek, ST13 6AB. (Agenda and minutes of last meeting available to members).

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 765, 766 and 767.
- Rural Services Network – Weekly News.
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins
- LCR Autumn Newsletter.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2011 issue.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Newsletters – July and September 2011 including details of training and courses for Autumn/Winter 2011.
- Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – September Newsletter (A copy was distributed to members).

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Temporary Road Traffic Regulation Orders.

It was noted that through vehicular access will not be permitted at the following times to enable work on the level crossings to be undertaken.

A521 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – Sunday 9th October between the hours of 07.00 and 15.00 hours.

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – Sunday 16th October 2011 between the hours of 06.00 and 15.00 hours.

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – Saturday 22nd October 2011 between the hours of 21.00 and 14.00.

8.2 Staffordshire Parish Councils’ Association – subject: AGM on 5th November 2011.

The following documentation for the above meeting was received and noted:

Delegate booking form for the AGM

Nomination for members of the SPCA Executive Committee

Motions for debate

Annual Report and Accounts for year 2010-2011.

8.3 Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Partnership NHS Trust – subject: New Partnership Trust.

Details of the New Partnership Trust, which was officially constituted as an independent NHS organisation on 1st September 2011 were received and noted:

8.4 Karen Bradley MP – subject: The Localism Bill, National Planning Policy Framework Consultation and Celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee with the Woodland Trust.

Details on the above issues were received and noted.

8.5 Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services – subject: US2 Project.

It was noted that Nick Hulley, Project Leader for the US2 Project is willing to attend a Council Meeting to explain how they can help to develop young people’s activities in the area.

- 8.6 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Legal Services.

It was noted that Staffordshire County Council is able to provide legal services to public bodies at competitive hourly rates.

- 8.7 Stafford Borough Council – subject: Local Development Framework – The Plan for Stafford Borough – Draft Publication.

It was noted that the above document is out for consultation during September and October 2011 and concerns the future development approach for Stafford Borough over the next 20 years. Comments can be submitted using e-consultation system at <http://staffordbc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal> by 12.00noon on Friday 21st October 2011. To make sure as many people as possible have a chance to be involved with this important consultation exercise, Council officers will be available to hear views and discuss the document at several locations (dates available to interested members).

- 8.8 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Engaging Communities Staffordshire.

It was noted that in January 2012 ‘Engaging Communities Staffordshire’ will become a legal, fully independent entity, which will help to ensure individuals and communities are at the heart of decisions about what health and social care services are commissioned and how they operate across the county. To be involved or to find out more contact the ECS Development Manager Dave Ellis on 01785 887994 or email dave@engagingcommunitiesstaffordshire.co.uk

- 8.9 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Staffordshire Trading Standards Warning.

Details of the UKASH Loan Scam were received and noted.

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

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

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

The following general correspondence was noted and appropriate action agreed.

General:

Mrs. Betty Hollins
SMDC

Owl Online Watch

Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook V.H.
Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Ass.
Staffordshire County Council

East Midlands Trains
East Midlands Trains

Connect A50 Limited
Boundary Commission for England

Subject:

Thank you for flower bouquet.

Electoral Register Annual Canvass (note: posters displayed on notice boards).

Road collision on Wednesday 7th September Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Increase in hire charges to £13.75 per session.

Minutes of meeting held on 28.07.11.

Local Authority Governor for Forsbrook Primary School. **(Councillor P. Jones was nominated).**

Postponement of special train excursion.

Award certificate for ‘Runner-Up’ in the Best East Midlands Small Stations Competition 2011.

Annual Report.

2012 Review of Parliamentary constituencies explained.

Email Exchanges:
SCC (Rights of Way)

Environment Agency

SCC

SCC

Mr. R. Nutt

SMCVS

SCC

SMDC

SCC

SMDC

Roger Cook, Library Theatre

Subject:

Footpath 12 – letter sent to owners of the hedges that border the footpath.

Grassed area adjacent to The Butchers Arms Car Park – Environment Agency records do not show who owns the land. **(Clerk was requested to undertake a Land Registry search).**

Land adjacent to the bus shelter at the entrance to Travis Perkins – request for SCC to tidy this area.

Land adjacent to The Methodist Chapel and William Amory School, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – SCC does not own this area.

(Clerk was requested to undertake a Land Registry search).

Information re burial plot 594.

Communities Mean Business funding opportunity.

Football pitch line marking.

Links to meetings.

Highway Defect Reports:

Overgrown hedges – Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

CRM Reports:

Flytipping; Litter – Caverswall Old Road.

Touring Plays at a fee of £225 per performance.

(Council to decide whether to host one of the touring plays in 2012 and to discuss the most suitable venue and how tickets would be allocated).

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:

00721/ADV – Spar, 13 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – 2 internally illuminated fascia signs; 1 internally illuminated projecting sign and 2 commodity boards.

00708/FUL – Spar, 13 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – installation of an automated teller machine and bollards.

00709/ADV – Spar, 13 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – installation of an illuminated sign – plans supplied with planning application 00708/FUL.

00758/FUL – 30 Barlstone Avenue, Blythe Bridge – extension to living room, addition of bay window with gable roof and side windows (amendment to application 00851/FUL).

00781/REM – Smithfield Hotel, 229 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – extension of time for implementation of application 00119/FUL – demolition of existing building and erection of 12 3 bed dwellings, parking, access and landscaping.

00655/FUL – Trent Villa, 192 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey side extension with new roof over existing sun lounge to the rear of property.

RESOLVED:

- **To respond to the above planning applications as follows:**
 - 00721/ADV, 00708/FUL and 00709/ADV - to ask the planning officer to consider whether or not the illuminated signs would be a distraction to motorists or visually intrusive to nearby residents.**
 - 00758/FUL - to raise no concerns.**

00655/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping with the property and surrounding area and that the privacy of adjacent neighbours is not compromised.

00781/REM – to raise no concerns.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted.

00521/OUT – land adjacent to 11 Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge – demolition of the existing garage to Cypress Grove, the erection of two semi-detached houses in the garden of 11 Cypress Grove and formation of a revised plot boundary to 11 Cypress Grove.

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

9.3 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

9.4.1 Consultation Period.

It was noted that planning applications validated from 18th August 2011 will have a consultation and publicity period of 21 days, which is in line with statutory requirements.

9.4.2 The Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – erection of two dwellings.

As Council has not yet officially received the above planning application, it was agreed to ask for additional time, over and above that outlined under 9.4.1 to enable Council to discuss the proposals and submit comments.

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 Committee Meeting of 16th August 2011 – minutes page 60.

RESOLVED:

➤ **To approve all the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee.**

10.3 Cemetery Issues.

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier said that she has purchased a sack of spring bulbs and asked for permission to plant them in the new cemetery development. **Agreed.**

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the Woodland Trust were encouraging people to plant trees to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in 2012 and proposed planting a tree in the Cemetery. **Agreed.**

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council owned bus shelter adjacent to The William Amory School. Minutes dated 18th July 2011 - page 47 – agenda item 11.1.

A SMDC contractor is undertaking an inspection to look at possible options and costs to try and reduce continual problems with graffiti and his recommendations should be available within the next few days.

Table Top and Car Boot Sales.

£115.00 has been raised from the tabletop sale and two car boot sales and will be donated to Blythe Bridge Home Link on Wednesday 21st September 2011.

11.2 Environment Committee Meeting of 16th August 2011 minutes pages 61, 62 and 63.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve all the recommendations of the Environment Committee.**

It was noted that the revised cost of the sign for Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge (wording as page 62 of the Environment Committee minutes) is £285net plus VAT and installation costs.

It was **agreed** to order the sign.

11.3 Parish Council owned Bus Shelters.

Quotation for replacement solid coloured panels including labour and full clean for the two Parish owned bus shelters (Cheadle Road opposite Bridgwood Road and Cheadle Road on the junction with Dilhorne Road) of £3935.00 net. was noted. It was **agreed** to arrange for the bus shelters to be refurbished but the clerk was asked to compare the cost against new bus shelters before the order was placed.

11.4 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Flooding - Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge	The clerk advised that this has been reported to SCC Highways Defects on several occasions.
Road surface damage caused by burnt out lorry on the A521 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge	Report to SCC Highways Defects.
Queen's Jubilee 2012	Councillors to consider how best to celebrate this special occasion.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank Balance.

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

Community Direct Account	£99277.32
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12.2 September 2011 accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402092	Town and Country Services	1401.00	280.20	1681.20
402093	Mr. D. A. Shaw	75.00		75.00
402094	Staffordshire Playing Fields Ass.	15.00		15.00
402095	Christine J. Snape	890.55		890.55
402096	Morgan Fire Protection Ltd.	25.48	6.40	31.88
402097	HM Customs & Excise	766.72		766.72
DD	Eon	40.00		40.00
DD	British Telecom	94.56	18.92	113.48
Total		3308.31	305.52	3613.83

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting concluded at 9.15 pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman