

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 19TH NOVEMBER 2012 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor F. J. Hopley,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor W. Day,
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),
Members of the public (3),
Press Officers (2).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor P. Jones and Councillor B. Yates.

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.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.
Planning Issues	Councillor F. J. Hopley Note: Councillor F. J. Hopley left Council Chambers whilst planning related issues were being discussed.	Personal – member of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Committee.
SCC Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Residents Issues.

3.1 Foxfield Railway – Noise over the weekend of 26th, 27th and 28th October.

Two residents from Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge said that the noise from the above Hippy Hippy Shake Festival, which was not advertised on Foxfield's web site, was unacceptable and that it was very frustrating not to be able to contact anyone at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council during the disturbance. They believed the local Police had been overwhelmed with calls. They said that if temporary licences were going to be given, Foxfield have a duty to post events such as this on their web site and to control noise levels.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Licensing Department also has a responsibility and that at the time of the recent submission by Foxfield for a permanent licence she had asked the Licensing Department to keep residents updated with regard to Foxfield's intentions for music festivals held under temporary licences. She said that over the weekend in question she had spoken to the Police, who said that noise disturbance was the responsibility of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Department who in turn said it was the responsibility of the Police. However, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Licensing and Environment Departments have now given assurance that they are looking into this and compiling a case file. She also said that she understood many residents have spoken to the Police and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment department.

It was **agreed** to write to the Police, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Licensing Department and Environment Department, Chairman of Foxfield Railway and Marketing Manager of Foxfield Railway.

3.2 00975/FUL – Stanley Croft, 47 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey side extension (amendments to windows).

Two residents attended the meeting regarding the above planning application and whilst they had no concerns regarding this, which only covered amendments to windows, they still felt that the original extension was too large. They were also disgusted at how they had been treated by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Department when they raised concerns regarding the size of the extension and the adverse effect it would have on their privacy.

3.2 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report.

30mile Speed Sign – Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

A site visit will be undertaken week commencing 19th November with a view to reinstating the above sign.

20mile Speed Restrictions around Local Schools – extension to cover Primary Schools.

No feedback to the above request has been received from Staffordshire County Council.

Unsuitable drainage grids on pavement adjacent to Forsbrook Wine Shop.

These will be inspected during the above site visit.

Pot Holes – Hillside Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

These have been identified as Category 3, which means they should be repaired within 28 days.

The clerk pointed out that potholes marked and identified as Category 3 were not being repaired within the 28-day period.

Shop frontage road repair work.

Councillor F. J. Hopley thanked County Councillor W. Day for allowing the County Council Road Surfacing Team to carry out repair work at the same time as the recent resurfacing work, which was much appreciated by the shop owners.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

4.1 SPCA Executive Committee.

Councillor J. W. Burgess reported that he had attended the above meeting and that their meeting schedule with regard to Executive Committee meetings has now been changed so that they did not coincide with the Parish Council meetings.

4.2 Planning Applications Committee – 8th November 2012.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that on the 8th November 2012 she along with County Councillor W. Day and resident Mrs. K. Salt attended the Planning Applications Committee at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to speak against the Planning Application submitted by Tesco to convert the Duke of Wellington into a convenience store, on the grounds of traffic congestion, danger to school children, road safety dangers in respect of delivery vehicles accessing and egressing the Duke of Wellington, unacceptable levels of noise for nearby residents and the effect this would have on local shops who already serve the residents of Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook well. It was also pointed out that Staffordshire County Council Highways were not being consistent because they had recently refused the installation of an ATM at The Duke of Wellington on the corner of Cheadle Road/Uttoxeter Road on road safety grounds but for some reason did not raise similar highway safety concerns on these proposals. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Officer recommended approval and Staffordshire County Council Highways, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environmental Health and the Police raised no objections. Punch Taverns submitted a letter stating that they were struggling to keep the Public House financially viable. Obviously the decision to approve the application was very disappointing as well as the lack of support from the agencies I have mentioned.

County Councillor W. Day added that members of the Planning Committee had good enough reasons to refuse the planning application as it went against the Local Development Framework but they chose to ignore this and went along with the officer's recommendations. He said that the recent work to improve congestion and safety at the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road junction by reducing the width of the pavement to allow two-way traffic to exit Cheadle Road would be completely undermined by this decision.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF:

Council Meeting of 15th October 2012.

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

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton referred to the email from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding a new Innovation Fund, which is managed by the Beth Johnson Foundation on behalf of Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. She said that the aim of the Innovation Fund is to encourage community groups, Parish Councils and individuals to find new ways of helping people to age well so they do not become dependent. It is not about seeing older people as dependent recipients of social care, it is about new opportunities, new friends and contacts, changing direction in life, having choices to make and people continuing to make a contribution to the community at all stages of their life.

The recently installed exercise equipment for adults on the recreation ground met these aims so Forsbrook Parish Council had been forward thinking.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham referred to the Staffordshire Police newsletter in which local officers advise that the priorities raised by residents are – nuisance motorbikes, anti social behaviour and parking issues but that officers have only responded with regard to the first two. They have not advised what action they are considering with regard to parking issues.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton added that the clerk has written to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Officer Terry Crawford requesting the regular deployment of Parking Enforcement Officers in the Parish.

(Note: Response received on 22nd November 2012 from SMDC Officer Carole Machin advising “*We regularly send our officers out to both Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge but unfortunately such is the demand from all the schools across the district it may not always be at the times you need. We will try to get our Officers there in the near future at around 3.00pm for you. I cannot guarantee any Penalty Charge Notices will be served as the drivers generally move on when they see the CEO's, but they will have a deterrent effect.*”

7.2 The following 'outside' meeting date was noted:

Parish Assembly – Thursday 6th December 2012 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online.
- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 795 and 796.
- LCR Online.
- Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Outside, Active & Health Autumn/Winter Walks and Events.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – October E News.
- Communities, Councils and Clerks October 2012 Newsletter. (Copy distributed to each member).
- Clerks & Councils Direct – November 2012 Issue.
- Staffordshire Police – Newsletter (copy distributed to each member with agenda).
- Parish Online – November Newsletter.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Inspector Clare Riley, Staffordshire Police – subject: Policing update.

Details of the police work and initiatives that have been happening over the last twelve months were noted.

8.2 Staffordshire Police – subject: Campaign against Motorbike Thieves.

Details of the above were noted.

8.3 Owl Messaging – subject: Crime Incidents.

Details of the above were noted.

8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Communities Mean Business Programme.

It was noted that all grant claims due to be paid in this financial year need to be submitted by the first week in March 2012 to ensure all necessary paperwork can be processed in time to meet year end deadlines.

8.5 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Street Lighting – Energy Conservation Initiative.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read letter received from Staffordshire County Council Lighting & ITS Section regarding the Street Lighting – Energy Conservation Initiative:

“The proposed operational changes to the way the County Council delivers its street lighting service are progressing well and we will soon be in a position to commence the delivery of the planned changes of reducing night time light pollution, whilst also making some savings in ‘Carbon’ and energy costs.”

I would like to thank those Parish Council's that have already engaged with the County and have taken this opportunity to support this important energy conservation initiative by adopting the introduction of part night street lights within their own community. For those Parish Council's that have not committed to this initiative, I would like it noted that the offer for the introduction of part night street lights on behalf of the County Council will continue to be available for the foreseeable future should Council's and their communities choose to participate in this scheme.

The rationale for the introduction of part night street lights within Parish boundaries is to encourage the return to a more natural night time environment, which is particularly relevant for those Parish's which serve our rural communities.

The financial savings on behalf of the County Council for the introduction of Part Night street lights is very small due to the switch off time occurring during the period when energy costs are at their cheapest, with savings for a typical residential street light of less than £7 per annum. This is due to the outcome of the County's energy procurement strategy, which continuously achieves significant cost benefits.

The delivery of the operational changes will be carried out by the street lighting service provider, E.on Energy Solutions Ltd, via the long term arrangements of a Private Finance Initiative (PFI) contract. The PFI contractor is required to produce an annual report regarding the delivery of the contract and I have therefore included the latest copy which you may find relevant and informative.

In addition, to gauge the level of interest for the 'Part Night' initiative I would be interested in the Parish's view on this matter and would therefore be obliged if the Parish Council select one of the options on the below tear off slip and return it by post to the above address or alternatively email a response to the above. Your assistance in completing this exercise would be greatly appreciated. However, should you have any additional queries then please do not hesitate to contact either myself or the manager responsible for the delivery of the operational changes, whose contact details can be seen above."

The three questions being:

- a) Seriously consider the introduction of part night street lights.
- b) Possibly consider the introduction of part night street lights, but not at this time.
- c) Not consider the introduction of part night street lights.

Council **agreed** to respond citing the latter (c).

- 8.6 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Bus shelter, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that the bus shelter adjacent to the former Smithfield Hotel Site is to be removed because it is on land that is not owned by either Staffordshire County Council or Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. The bus stop and associated paving and raised kerb will remain in place and a new bus stop sign will be fixed to the lamp column alongside.

- 8.7 Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook Village Hall – subject: AGM.

The Chairman's AGM report for Blythe Bridge & Forsbrook Village Hall and their accounts were received and noted.

- 8.8 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates/NALC Briefings on various issues.

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

8.9 The following general correspondence was noted and appropriate action agreed.

General:

Staffordshire Police Authority

Email Exchanges:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Press Officers

Press Officers

Press Officers

Staffordshire Police – local officers

Sgt. G. Parker

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council

Subject:

Matthew Ellis has been elected as Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire.

Subject:

Parish Assembly Agenda.

Fire Service signposting and Dog Fouling Campaign.

Beth Johnson Innovation Fund.

Press Release – Remembrance Sunday.

Press Release – Tesco.

Remembrance Sunday photograph for printing.

Cemetery problems.

Thank you for Remembrance Sunday support.

Communities Mean Business funding – update on BMX track.

Highway Defect Reports:

Street Light – Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook;

Street Light – M8 Chapel Street, Forsbrook.

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

9. PLANNING.

9.1 Planning Applications:

00975/FUL – Stanley Croft, 47 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – two storey side extension.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton provided a brief history on the above planning application.

Permission was granted for a two-storey side extension on 1st June 2012 against planning application 00354/FUL, which was a re-submission as a previous planning application 00041/FUL was refused. The permission granted on 1st June 2012 stated as one of the conditions: *“Notwithstanding the provisions of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (or any order revoking and re-enacting that Order with or without modification) no additional windows or any other openings shall be installed in any part of the development, without prior written consent from the District Council as Local Planning Authority. Reason: To protect the amenity and living conditions of adjacent residential property from overlooking or perceived overlooking and the visual amenities in the area.”*

She said that the planning application 00975/FUL before Council concerns amendments to windows – a window has been added to the ground floor of the rear elevation, one window has been moved from the rear to the front of the building and a small additional window has been added to the first floor on the side elevation .

01067/FUL – Holly House, 83 Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – kitchen extension and orangery.

RESOLVED:

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

00975/FUL – To raise no concerns providing the amendments to the windows does not compromise the privacy of adjacent neighbours.

01067/FUL – To raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and that there is no adverse effect on neighbouring properties.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

00847/OUT – 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – erection of two detached two storey dwellings.

00854/REM_1 – 11 Cypress Grove, Blythe Bridge – landscaping of site.

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 thanked everyone who had helped with the Remembrance Parade, which again had been very successful with an excellent turnout.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton advised members that the cemetery shed has been broken into twice during October. The Police have been informed and there is also to be additional security, including Smartwater marking. Notices will be displayed to this effect.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) provided an update on dog fouling on footpath 4a. Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Officer has sent a warning letter to the individual seen with the offending dog. Officers have also patrolled the area a number of times and a talk was delivered to Forsbrook Primary School on Pet

Responsibility and Dog Fouling so that the school can play a part as “the eyes and ears” in the community.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Clothes Collection Bank, Forsbrook – Stock being displayed on pavement.	To check with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Department to see if this is permitted.
Bake Shop, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – parked vehicles causing an obstruction – time scale 8.45-10.00am.	It was noted that the Parish Council has already written to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Parking Enforcement Department (reply received and quoted under agenda item 7.1.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st October 2012 was:

Community Direct Account	94601.49
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12.2 November 2012 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402247	Town & Country Services	974.00	194.80	1168.80
402248	SPCA	20.00		20.00
402249	SMDC	640.00	128.00	768.00
402250	Christine J. Snape	894.35		894.35
401751	Christine J. Snape	222.19	14.80	236.99
DD	Eon	23.00		23.00
DD	Severn Trent Water	168.89		168.89
Total		2942.43	337.60	3280.03

RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of November 2012 accounts.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman