

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20th FEBRUARY 2012 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley,
Councillor F. J. Hopley,
Councillor A. J. Mould
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor A. E. Wilson,
Councillor B. Yates.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Bob Lee, St. John Ambulance,
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 J. W. Cornwall, Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Miss J. P. Morris and Councillor P. Jones.

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.
Building Plot – Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook.	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Owner of land known.
Planning	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.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3. OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Guest Speaker – Mr. Bob Lee – subject: Community Transport Minibus.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton welcomed Mr. Bob Lee from St. John Ambulance.

Mr. Lee said that he had worked for the Ambulance Service for 35 years taking early retirement in 2007 and was now fronting the St. John Ambulance project 'Breaking the Barriers for All'.

Following a grant from DEFRA in the summer of 2011 there was the launch of the new Community Transport Scheme run by St. John Ambulance, with the delivery of a specially designed purpose built minibus. This Community Transport Service has been specially developed to help deliver transport for those living in rural communities, from the young to the old, from able bodied to the disabled. The launch follows a Staffordshire County Council report, which concluded that it was estimated that 66% of 'lone pensioners' households did not have access to a car or van. The Community Transport minibus is a 10 seater and designed to allow up to 3 wheelchair users to travel using their own wheelchairs along with more mobile passengers. The service offers the reassurance of uniformed, fully trained, 'emergency medically' qualified St. John Ambulance full time staff, with extra driver training and specialised lifting and handling skills and experience, delivering to rural communities in Staffordshire, access to affordable, flexible, specialised, safe, reassuring transport. The scheme is about improving people's overall well being by helping them to get out and to widen their social life.

The minibus is based in Cheadle and is available 24/7. There is a charge to cover wages. The mileage cost is 60p per mile but the charge is calculated on a five hour period for a range of 50 miles. Further information re booking etc. is available by telephoning 01785 257124 and choosing option '2'. The Office is open Monday to Thursday 9.00am-5.00pm and Friday 9.00am-4.00pm.

St. John Ambulance also provide short term wheelchair hire - £2.00 for a 24 hour period with a £40.00 deposit and a non-emergency transport service to take people to hospital.

St. John Ambulance is funded in two ways – by selling training with any surplus funds being directed to the voluntary sector and by donations.

Information on the services available was left with Councillors.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked Mr. Lee for attending

3.2 Residents Issues.

Litter Bins.

Lack of litter bins was raised.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that for health and safety reasons Staffordshire Moorlands District Council now only install free standing litter bins and there were several sited throughout Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook. If a particular area was highlighted as requiring a litter bin, the Parish Council could ask Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to consider installing one.

3.3 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report in response to issues raised by the Parish Council.

Parking bays adjacent to The William Amory Primary School.

The Parish Council's request for an amendment to the existing Traffic Regulation Order enforcing the restricted parking bays on Uttoxeter Road has been added into the investigation of other parking issues along Uttoxeter Road, which has previously been prioritized by the Staffordshire Moorlands Joint Parking Committee. Provisionally, these investigations have been programmed for 2012/13 but this is subject to review.

Fencing on Lavender Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

Having liaised with the Highways Agency, who is unwilling to take ownership of the fence, the County Council will now take responsibility. The need for action at this location has been prioritized through County Councillor Day's Divisional Highway Programme and it is the intention to make the area safe by removing significant lengths of chain link fencing and associated posts. Areas of the chain link fencing which have significant vegetation growth within it will be left in situ to remain as support for the vegetation and to prevent any damage. A substantial fence is in place at the top of the embankment to prevent access onto the A50 (which is maintained by the Highway Agency) and the County Council has no responsibility or statutory duty to fence off the area.

It was agreed to formally request County Councillor W. Day to liaise with Staffordshire County Council with a view to having all of the chain link fencing removed as it was felt that over time this would only deteriorate further.

Provision of a grit bin adjacent to the Methodist Chapel, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge

In accordance with the County Council's current Winter Maintenance Policy, Uttoxeter Road forms part of the gritting route and therefore, does not meet the criteria for additional grit bins.

Carriageway resurfacing of Cheadle Road, Forsbrook and footway resurfacing on Cheadle Road, Uttoxeter Road and Eastbank Ride.

The County Council undertakes a value management approach to structural maintenance of the highway network. The network is regularly inspected and schemes are put forward for prioritization against other roads in similar condition.

The County Council is aware of the condition of the A521 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook and this is currently programmed for works in 2012/13.

With regard to footways, as much as possible will be addressed within the above carriageway scheme. The A521 Uttoxeter Road has been identified as requiring footway reconstruction between the level crossing and C109 Draycott Road but is not currently prioritized. Eastbank Ride, Brookgate and Parkend have all be identified for carriageway and footway reconstruction and currently sit in the 5-year plus Forward Programme.

All these locations are regularly inspected and the County Council will continue to make the areas 'safe' until funding becomes available to invest in larger scale works.

Drainage issues in Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook.

The County Council is aware of drainage capacity issues in this vicinity and will continue to undertake maintenance to existing gullies in the area to improve the dispersal of ponding water when it occurs.

Sunken road adjacent to Britannia Building Society, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Maintenance work to repair the carriageway at this location has recently been carried out. At some point in the future it may well be necessary to carry out excavations to determine the cause of the problem. This work is likely to be extensive and is not currently a priority.

County Councillor W. Day responded to questions raised by Councillors as follows.

- The allocation of expenditure on the Staffordshire highway road network does not come within his remit. If County Councillor Mike Maryon does not respond to questions, contact should be made with Philip Atkins, Leader of Staffordshire County Council.
- There is no work programmed for implementing any form of speed restrictions in Caverswall Old Road.
- 20mile speed restrictions around schools are being investigated this year.
- Staffordshire County Council do not own any land in Forsbrook to provide additional car parking. (The land opposite The Butchers Arms and vacant building plot in Draycott Old Road are both in private ownership.)
- With regard to heavy good vehicles using the A521 Cheadle Road he felt there was little the County Council could do. Councillors mentioned that a weight restriction would help. As there is no bypass through Forsbrook it was felt that this was not an option.

- With regard to improvements at the Uttoxeter Road/Stallington Road/Cheadle Road junction he was still waiting for feedback from Staffordshire County Council Officer Neil Porter.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

There were no reports from outside meetings.

5. TO APPROVE DRAFT MINUTES OF:

Council Meeting of 16th January 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.

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

- LGA/NALC Joint Localism Conference – Thursday 22nd March 2012 – Birmingham.
- SPCA – Planning Seminar – Wednesday 7th March 2012 at Council Chamber, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford – 7.00pm-9.00pm. Cost £10 per delegate.
- SPCA – VAT Training Course – Thursday 15th March 2012 at the White Room, County Buildings, Martin Street, Stafford – 7.00pm-9.00pm. Cost £20 for the first delegate £15 for the second and £10 for subsequent delegates from the same Council.
- Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – Thursday 8th March 2012 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Leek.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- NALC – Direct Information Service – Issues No. 775, 776 and 777.
- NALC/CPRE – How to shape where you live – “A guide to neighbourhood planning”.
- Staffordshire 3rd Sector Network E-Bulletins.
- LCR Online.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust Newsletter.
- Came & Company – A Parish Councillor’s Guide to Parish Council Insurance.
- PSMA – Public Sector Mapping Agreement – February 2012 newsletter.

- Parish Online – Newsletter.
- CPRE – January 2012 Newsletter.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Ice Clearing by the Parish Council - Risks.

Details on the above initiative together with insurance liabilities were noted.

- 8.2 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Staffordshire Place Offices.

It was noted that conducted public tours of the above new offices can be arranged.

- 8.3 Staffordshire County Council/City of Stoke-on-Trent – subject: Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026 Development Plan Document.

It was noted that in accordance with Regulation 30 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2004 (as amended) Staffordshire County Council and Stoke-on-Trent City Council submitted the above on 20th January 2012. Copies of all documents submitted are available on: www.staffordshire.gov.uk/wcs.

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

The above documents were received and noted.

It was also noted that there are 3 Staffordshire Moorlands vacancies on the Executive Committee.

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

General:

Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council

E.ON UK Energy Solutions Limited

Emails:

Owl Online Watch

Staffordshire Police

NALC (Pageant Master)

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Mr. J. Edwards

Councillor P. Jones

Subject:

Agenda for meeting to be held on 8th March 2012 and minutes of meeting held on 8th December 2011.

Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2012/2013.

Highway Winter Operations – theft of grit.
Proposed increase in energy costs – October 2011 to April 2012.

Details of crime incidents in the area.

Parking – Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook;
Youth congregating – Draycott Old Road and footpath linking Beverley Crescent with Caverswall Old Road.

Jubilee Beacon.

Queen's Jubilee events.

Details of cremated remains plots and memorials.

Overgrown trees at Travis Perkins – contact details provided.

County Councillor W. Day	Issues raised at the January Council meeting.
Staffordshire County Council (Highways)	Report on the following highway issues: Pothole – Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction – another report has been raised; Parking of vehicles on grass verges in Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Times and Echo/Sentinel/Post and Times	Report on dog fouling. Press release re Forsbrook Parish Council precept.
Helen Kent	Newsletter insertion re ATM advice – email from Crimestoppers supposedly a scam.
Sue Kirkland	Complaining about horses on land adjacent to the Butchers Arms.
Martin Evans, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust	Communities Mean Business funding support.
Carol Rodgers, SMCVS	Communities Mean Business funding support.
Ian Jackson, Staffordshire County Council	Communities Mean Business funding support.

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:

00041/FUL – 47 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – two-storey side extension.
00048/FUL – Hillcrest, Boundary Road, Boundary – demolition of bungalow and garage and erection of replacement bungalow and double garage.
01123/FUL – The Woodlands, 2 Woodland Lane, Blythe Bridge – garage adjoining extended detached bungalow.
00091/FUL – 329 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – alteration to level door recess, remove door and window and replace with new window.

RESOLVED: To respond to the above planning applications as follows:

00041/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping and the privacy of neighbours is not compromised.

00048/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the scale and design are in keeping in this green belt location and that the new build is not considered as an overdevelopment of the plot.

01123/FUL – to raise no concerns providing the planning officer is satisfied that this is not an overdevelopment of the plot, particularly in view of the previous extension.

00091/FUL – to raise no concerns.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

01140/FUL – 10 Parkway Forsbrook – two-storey extension to enlarge kitchen and provide additional bedroom.

01119/REM – 48 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – variation of condition 4 of Permission 10/00059/FUL to allow opening on Sunday mornings between 07.00 and 12.00 hours.

01087/FUL – 25 Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook – demolition of existing garage and replacement double garage with pitched roof.

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 St. Peter's Churchyard.

Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier read an extract from the recent St Peter's church magazine regarding the above:

“There is access on foot at all times to both churchyards, but we would ask that they are normally only visited in daylight hours. The church car park can normally be used for those visiting the churchyard around the church. There is also a right of vehicular access along St. Peter's Lane to the churchyard; and space to park just 2 cars where the lane turns at a hedge. Please do not park more cars on the lane; and only park between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset”.

10.2.2 Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier asked if it would be in order to plant wild flower seeds at the cemetery. Town and Country Services to be consulted as to most suitable area.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

Donation – First Responder.

Christopher Brian who is a First Responder has contacted the Parish Council with regard to a donation to the Local First Responders. They are based in Fulford but do cover Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook and they are trying to raise funds to purchase a new vehicle. This is a very worthwhile service.

Agreed to make a donation of £100.00.

Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

A very strange incident has occurred in Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge. Towards the end of January someone has dug up the laurel shrubs from the back of the recently installed sign and replanted them at the front of the sign, which obscures the lettering. At the same time they have also dug up the low growing plants from the front of the sign and replanted them at the back. Following this bizarre act the plants have now been replanted in their original position.

Dog Fouling Campaign.

Now that the recent snow has finally cleared the amount of dog mess on footpaths and pavements in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook is appalling. Irresponsible dog owners are giving all Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook responsible dog owners a bad name. Residents need to name and shame owners who do not pick up after their dogs. Residents can report incidents to the District Council on 0345 605 3013 giving details and descriptions of the dog, its owner, time date and location where the dog fouling has taken place. This will enable the Enforcement Officer to make enquiries.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she would like to propose that we ask Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to undertake a ‘Dog Fouling’ Campaign in our area. This will raise awareness, literature will be delivered to residents and the Enforcement Officer will provide a visible presence. The area suggested for this initial campaign was Uttoxeter Road/The Avenue and Bridgwood Road, including Mount Road and Cheadle Road (including the footpath linking Uttoxeter Road with Elmwood Drive. Councillors volunteered to help with the distribution of literature.

Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall Public Meeting.

Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall committee are calling a meeting on Wednesday 22nd February commencing at 7.30pm to discuss the sale of the scrubland to Forsbrook Parish Council. Residents in attendance will be required to vote. Parish Councillors should not take part in the vote as this could be seen as a ‘conflict of interest’. Residents should be encouraged to attend.

Fitness Equipment.

When obtaining quotes for play equipment/bmx track for the Communities Mean Business funding bid the Parish Council also had quotes for fitness equipment for the older generation – the idea being that when parents/grandparents accompany their children to the play area there is exercise equipment for them to use.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed purchasing two items of fitness equipment for installation at the same time as the play equipment being funded by the Communities Mean Business grant.

It was **agreed** to order from D. T. Leisure (UK) Limited:

1 Health Walker at £3455 plus £84 for grass matting.

1 Ski Stepper at £1750 plus £84 for grass matting.

11.2 Communities Mean Business Funding Bid Success.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said she was very pleased to announce that the Communities Mean Business Funding bid has been successful. She thanked the clerk for all her hard work in putting the application together. It was **agreed** to write to Carol Rogers from SMCVS and Ian Jackson, Communities Mean Business Programme Manager at Staffordshire County Council to thank them for their help and advice during the bidding process.

The total project funding of £30616 will enable the Parish Council to purchase the scrubland, which will be landscaped, to install a gravel path walkway together with picnic tables/benches. Staffordshire Wildlife Trust will be coming on board to install some fencing and to design and plant wildflower areas. Following a tree risk assessment of the site all necessary work on the trees will be carried out. New play equipment – team swing and two bay cradle swing will be installed together with a bmx track, all of which have been identified by the youth of the parish.

Members were requested to formally agree to the Parish Council's financial commitment of 20% of the total funding of £30616 – namely £6123. **Agreed.**

Cheque signatories signed the Rural Payments Agency form. Councillor P. Jones, who was not present at the meeting will also be required to sign the RPA form.

The press officer in attendance was requested to contact Ian Jackson before any news article was printed to ensure that all Community Mean Business supporting agencies are mentioned.

11.3 Queen's Jubilee.

It was **agreed** that in view of the above mentioned large scheme, to concentrate all efforts on delivering this and the official launch/opening day. It was also **agreed** to name the enhanced scrubland '**Jubilee Gardens**'.

11.4 Environment Issues

Issue	Action
Overgrown hedge – footpath linking Uttoxeter Road to Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department.
Work on flood defence – Ashwood Grove, Blythe Bridge.	Monitor to ensure grassed area is reinstated.
Pot hole – Blythe Bridge level crossings.	Report to Network Rail.

Pot holes – Chapel Street, Forsbrook and The Avenue and Trent Road, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department.
Parking on pavements – Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook and Poplar Close, Blythe Bridge.	It was noted that Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook issues have already been reported. Registration number of vehicle causing an obstruction in Poplar Close to be passed to local Officers.
Condition of road surfaces to the forecourts of The Post Office and Blythe Bridge Pharmacy, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge and the adjoining pavement.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defects Department.
Grit Bin – Scarratt Drive, Forsbrook	Request to be logged with Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.

12. FINANCE

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

Community Direct Account	103110.66
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12.2 February 2012 accounts.

The following accounts were submitted for payment:

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402148	Town and Country Services	1145.00	229.00	1374.00
402149	DT Leisure (UK) Limited	6518.66	1303.73	7822.39
402150	Cancelled			
402151	J. G. Fenn Limited	58.07	11.61	69.68
402152	Christine J. Snape	888.55		888.55
402153	S. A. Blackwood	134.16		134.16
DD	E.ON	65.00		65.00
Total		8809.44	1544.34	10353.78

RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of February 2012 accounts.

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman