

## **FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2013 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.**

Chairman for the meeting and Chairman of Forsbrook Parish Council Councillor Mrs. Gill Burton introduced the clerk of Forsbrook Parish Council, welcomed members of the public (3) and introduced Councillor Mrs. Pat Shufflebotham, Vice Chairman of Forsbrook Parish Council, Councillor Mrs. Norah Stanier, Councillor Joe Cornwall, Councillor P. Jones, Councillor Tony Mould and Councillor Alan Wilson.

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss Sue Farr.

#### **2. MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2012.**

The above minutes were accepted as a true and correct record.

#### **3. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT.**

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton gave the following annual report.

*"I am pleased to again report that Forsbrook Parish Council has not imposed any increase in the Parish precept for year 2013/14. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have managed to maintain the precept at the current level. There will also be no increase in the recreation, burial and memorial fees, which were last increased in 2007. Income and Expenditure Accounts for year 2012/2013 are available to you this evening and if you have any queries regarding these accounts please speak with the clerk.*

*Last year I reported at the Annual Parish Meeting that Forsbrook Parish Council had been successful in their funding bid from the Communities Mean Business Leader Programme for England. The final amount awarded was £25230 towards a total project cost of £31538. The project covered the purchase of an area of scrubland, which borders the existing recreation/play area, from Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall. The reclamation of the scrubland has the two-fold effect of improving an area of wasteland and creating an area of natural beauty, which can be appreciated by all ages within the community. The Parish Council worked in partnership with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust to ensure that any work undertaken protects the existing trees and natural habit for wildlife. Work commenced on clearing the scrubland in February 2012. A risk assessment was carried out on the trees and necessary work undertaken. A gravel path has been laid alongside the stream, two bench type seats have been installed and wild flower beds created. Additional play equipment has also been provided by way of a two seater cradle swing for the under 5's and team swing for the 5-16 age range. In December 2012 the project was finally completed with the installation of a BMX track. The additional play equipment and BMX track was identified as a need in the community following consultation for the Parish Plan and verbal conversations with the youth with regard to their aspirations. Forsbrook Parish Council also allocated funding to provide adult exercise equipment so that there is something for every age group. Very positive feedback has been received and there will be an official launch day later in the year.*

*I am also pleased to report that Forsbrook Parish Council has been very fortunate in being provided with an automatic external heart defibrillator by West Midlands Ambulance Services and this will be sited on the external wall of Blythe Bridge Library with full access instructions displayed on the outer cabinet. The defibrillator comes complete with Rescue Coach voice prompt and CPR metronome to pace chest compressions. It will analyse the heart rhythm through the chest pads and if appropriate, will advise shock delivery. If a shock has been delivered, the unit will prompt continuation of CPR with the built-in metronome that sets the correct pace for chest compressions. West Midlands Ambulance Services will be undertaking basic training courses on life support and use of the defibrillator in the area.*

*With regard to Highway issues, after many years of negotiations between Forsbrook Parish Council and Staffordshire County Council, Cheadle Road between the junction with Uttoxeter Road and the junction with Portland Drive has finally been resurfaced. Whilst this work was being undertaken County Councillor W. Day identified funding from his Members Initiative scheme to widen the road on the junction with Uttoxeter Road to allow two-way traffic to exit Cheadle Road. Some residents believe that Tesco has funded these improvements but I can assure you that this is not the case. This improvement has helped with traffic movement at this junction but there continues to be concern over traffic congestion and parking problems in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook, particularly at school times. The Parish Council will continue to liaise with Staffordshire County Council for further improvements and with the local Police Officers with regard to motorists who cause obstruction by parking inconsiderately.*

*Dog fouling is also an issue that is raised by residents. Last year I reported that Forsbrook Parish Council was working on a Dog Fouling Campaign in partnership with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. This initiative was very successful and several irresponsible dog owners were issued with fixed penalty notices. This year we are asking residents to let us know of 'hot spot' areas for dog fouling so that Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environment Officers can plan their visits and issue fixed penalty notices to anyone who fails to clear up after their dog. We are also asking local primary schools pupils to produce art work highlighting their thoughts on dog fouling and Forsbrook Parish Council will award a prize for the best judged poster.*

*During the last few months there has been several interesting planning decisions. The Butchers Arms in Forsbrook is now owned by Joule's Brewery and they are presently renovating this public house into a more premium and well-maintained pub that will offer simple locally sourced wholesome food. Planning permission has been granted to demolish and rebuild part of the building.*

*Outline planning permission has also been granted to erect two detached houses adjacent to the original building at The Beeches, 56 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook. As the house and stables are important features in the street scene and local townscape, as are the mature trees on the southern side of the site, the brick boundary wall and gates, it is recommended that all these features are retained.*

*Work is also underway at The Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Forsbrook. The application to erect two detached dwellings on this site was refused by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council but the applicant appealed against this decision and in February 2013 the Planning Inspectorate granted permission.*

*The Duke of Wellington has now closed as a public house and Tesco have received planning permission to turn it into a small convenience store. There was strong opposition to this amongst residents and I as Chairman of Forsbrook Parish Council attended the Planning Applications Committee to speak against the proposals. Despite the many objections the Planning Applications Committee could not find any valid reasons to refuse the proposals. The façade of the existing building will remain with a single storey extension added.*

*With regard to policing in our area there has recently been a change in the two Police Constables PC Neil Lawton and PC Lorraine Bowman have moved on to other policing areas and PC Mark Warrilow and PC Alex Gould have joined your local PCSO's Daniel Peake and Adam Charlesworth.*

*Finally another reminder that your Parish Council meetings are held the third Monday of every month commencing at 7.30pm at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall. At the beginning of every meeting there is an open forum session where residents can raise any issues of concern. If residents cannot attend the Parish Council meetings and have a concern, they can raise this with one of your Councillors or the clerk. Your elected members carry out their duties on a completely voluntary basis and can play a vital part in representing the interests of the communities they serve. The Parish Council website provides details of all your Councillors contact details as well as other interesting information. Councillors contact details are also listed on the back page of the newsletter and the Spring/Summer 2013 edition is in the process of being printed and delivered to all households within the parish.*

*Finally on a personal note and on behalf of Councillors I would like to thank the clerk and would also like to thank my fellow Councillors for all their support, to me as Chairman of Forsbrook Parish Council, which is very much appreciated”*

#### **4. OPEN FORUM.**

The following concerns were raised by residents and Councillors and the agreed action detailed in italics.

- 1) Blocked drains – location: Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook.  
*Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department. The Chairman added that work to clear the underground drains was necessary to solve this issue. County Councillor W. Day to be reminded that this work is still outstanding.*
- 2) Split tree branch (3<sup>rd</sup> tree from the 30M sign) – Location: Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook.  
*It was noted that this has been reported twice to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department but the tree is actually on private land. Agreed to report again.*
- 3) Speeding – location: Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook. (8.30-9.30am and 2.45-4.00pm weekdays).  
*Report to local police officers.*
- 4) Parking Obstruction – Location: Trent Road, Penk Road and Churnet Road, Forsbrook, Caverswall Road (adjacent to the Uttoxeter Road junction), Blythe Bridge.  
*Report to local police officers.*  
*With regard to the number of vehicles parked in Caverswall Road, in addition to again reporting to the local police officers to request County Councillor W. Day to undertake a site visit to ascertain what measures can be enforced to alleviate the problem.*
- 5) Cars for sale on the grassed area adjacent to Catchems Corner, Blythe Bridge and vehicles causing an obstruction on the access road from Catchems Corner to 1211 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.  
*Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that it is the intention of Staffordshire County Council to install low railings around the open space. Estimated time scale June/July. However, this could exacerbate the problem of vehicles causing an obstruction on the access road. Stafford Borough Council is the enforcement body for dealing with the open space. The access road comes under Staffordshire County Council. Request County Councillor to undertake a site visit to determine the scale of the problem and possible solutions.*  
*Attendees felt that a private clamping company would solve this problem.*
- 6) Removal of parking bays opposite the entrance to the Co-operative Late Shop.  
*Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton explained that the removal of the parking bays is being considered along with the Council’s request to implement waiting restrictions along Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.*
- 7) Anti social behaviour/youth on motor bikes – location: throughout the Parish.  
*Report to local police officers.*

- 8) Sunken grid – location: Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge, adjacent to the junction with Grindley Lane.  
*Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.*
- 9) Damaged paving – location: Underpass of the A50, Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.  
*Report to Connect (Highways Agency).*
- 10) Pothole – location: Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge, adjacent to the level crossings.

*Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.*

It was also **agreed** to invite the two new police constables PC Mark Warrilow and PC Alex Gould to a Parish Council meeting so that Councillors and residents can raise any police concerns with them.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.15pm.

**Clerk to the Council**

**Chairman**