

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2013 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier,
Councillor A. E. Wilson,
Councillor B. Yates.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor W. Day,
Residents (5),
Press (1),
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss J. P. Morris, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor J. W. Burgess and Councillor F. J. Hopley.

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 Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – SCC Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.

3. OPEN SESSION.

Standing Orders were suspended.

3.1 Residents Issues.

Residents attending the meeting raised the following issues.

3.1.1 Parish Council.

Two residents thanked Councillors for their continued hard work and commitment.

3.1.2 Surface water drainage in Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge.

Surface water is constantly flowing down Caverswall Road from the junction with Foxfield Steam Railway and Heath House Farm and this is adding to the number of potholes that are appearing and the eroding the road surface.

County Councillor W. Day agreed to raise this issue with Staffordshire County Council's Reactive Inspector requesting that he carries out a site visit to assess the situation.

3.1.3 Cars parked on the junction of Caverswall Road/Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

The number of cars that are parked on Caverswall Road near to the junction with Uttoxeter Road is considered by residents to be dangerous. Motorists are finding it difficult to exit and enter Caverswall Road because they have to navigate around the parked cars.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that local police officers continue to monitor the situation and will take action against any motorists who park incorrectly or cause an obstruction.

3.2 County Council Report.

County Councillor W. Day gave the following report:

The following **highway expenditure** in Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge was noted:

£550,000 on structural maintenance of Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

This figure does not include the £10000 cost for improving the Cheadle Road/Uttoxeter Road/Stallington Road junction, which was funded by County Councillor W. Day from Staffordshire County Councils member's initiative scheme.

£200,000 approximately on preventative carriageway maintenance (surface dressing) on some footways in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook.

£70,000 on preventative footway maintenance (slurry sealing) on some footways in Forsbrook.

Potholes and Drainage Issues.

At the full meeting of Staffordshire County Council Cabinet members on 14th February 2013 it was proposed by some members that a further £5m from reserves be allocated to the highway budget to repair potholes and improve drainage. This proposal was rejected.

In response to questions raised by members County Councillor W. Day responded as follows:

Re-erection of 30-mile speed sign – Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

Flooding on highway adjacent to Chandri Cottage – blocked drains adding to this problem.

Will request updates on these issues.

Cars for sale on the grassed area adjacent to the Tesco roundabout.

As this land was in Fulford Parish the clerk was requested to email the clerk of Fulford Parish Council asking what measures County Councillor Ian Parry intended taking to eliminate this problem.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

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

There were no reports under this agenda item.

5. DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of 21st January 2013.

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

6.1 Minutes dated 21st January 2013 – Page 108 – agenda item 11.1.

The Parish Council is still liaising with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council regarding a replacement **grit bin** on the Police/Library car park.

6.2 Minutes dated 21st January 2013 – Page 108 – agenda item 11.1.

It was agreed that local newspapers have given good press coverage regarding the **theft of Christmas wreaths** from burial plots in Forsbrook Parish Cemetery.

6.3 Minutes dated 21st January 2013 – Page 109 – agenda item 11.2.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that there was a Joint Parking Board meeting scheduled for March 2013 at which she would raise the issue of the removal of the **parking bays** adjacent to the entrance to The Co-operative Late Shop. She reminded Council that the removal of these parking bays was promised by Staffordshire County Council Officer Colin Nash under the Safer Routes to School Scheme, with the Head Teacher of The William Amory School being advised that this would not be a problem and the parking bays could be removed immediately without the need to wait for any Safer Routes to School schemes to be implemented.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Meeting Dates.

Staffordshire County Council Elections 2nd May 2013.

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council will be holding a Pre-Nomination Evening for anyone thinking of becoming a candidate on Wednesday 13th March 2013 at 6.00pm at Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Stockwell Street, Leek.

Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – Thursday 7th March 2013 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House Leek. (Note: Council has received Agenda and minutes of the December 2012 meeting).

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online (Note: Newsletters available on: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/news>).
- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 801 and 802.
- LCR Online – January 2013.
- Staffordshire Police – Local Area Newsletter (Copy distributed to all members).
- Communities, Councils and Clerks – January 2013 Newsletter (Copy distributed to all members).
- Parish Online Newsletter – February Edition.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2013/2014.

It was noted that the deadline for bids for the above initiative is 1st April 2013.

8.2 Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – subject: Training Courses.

Details of the above training courses were noted.

8.3 Staffordshire Playing Fields Association – subject: Playing Fields Legacy Fund.

Details of grants available under the above scheme were noted.

8.4 Staffordshire County Council – Local Bus Services in the Staffordshire Moorlands Area – Initial Consultation.

It was **agreed** to respond to the above consultation stating that Forsbrook Parish Council would not like the level of any of the present bus services that serve Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook to be reduced and to agree with their findings that the level of service beyond the Duke of Wellington into Forsbrook could be improved.

8.5 Owl Online Watch – subject: Crime Incidents/Alerts.

Details of the above were noted.

8.6 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

Details of the latest Scams/Warnings were noted.

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

The above documents were received and noted.

No questions were raised.

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

General:
Community Council of Staffordshire.

Subject:
Staffordshire Diary of Village Festivals and Events 2013.

Email Exchanges:

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

County Councillor W. Day

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Times and Echo

Faye Lambert (Community Rail Officer)

Press Officers

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Police

Staffordshire County Council

SPCA

The Gingerbread Centre

Subject:

Missing grit bin from entrance to the

Library/Police Station Car Park.

Parking bays opposite The Late Shop entrance – update;

Drains adjacent to Foxfield Steam Railway.

Flooding – Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook.

Casual Vacancy – Note: Requests for an election deadline 19th February 2013.

Advert for Casual Vacancy.

Copy of the East Midlands Trains new Station Adoption booklet.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that there were good photographs and comments on Blythe Bridge station in the booklet.

Press release on stolen cemetery wreaths.

Recycling news item.

Underage drinking witnessed on 21.01.13 outside Britannia Building Society;

Drinking on the Recreation Ground;

Dangerous parking;

Community Speed Watch Information.

Highway Reports:

Faulty Streetlight – C2, Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.

Royal Garden Party – 30th May 2013.

To note that Councillor Neil Blackwood of Audley Rural Parish Council was the successful nominee.

Request for help with fundraising or making a donation.

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:

00023/FUL (Retrospective application in part) - Land adjacent to Thornley, Boundary Road, Boundary – improvement of existing agricultural/horticultural access drive inclusive of parking and turning area.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that this is the second application, which has come before Council, which was refused by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for the following reasons:

“By reason of its length, overall size, domestic and ornate appearance the driveway/parking and turning areas appear as a significant and harmful domestic encroachment into the Green Belt and Special Landscape Area of which the site forms a part. Whilst there is no dispute that there was previously an agricultural access to the application site, there is now no justification as to why such an ornate development should be approved. It is recognised that the applicant is presenting a case for a new agricultural/residential driveway, parking/turning areas and areas of hard standing on the basis of agricultural need and highway safety. The applicant fails to demonstrate that there is sufficient agricultural need for the development in this particular location, nor are there any justifiable highway safety reasons for allowing the development. The application is considered to be contrary to policies N7, N8, N9, B13 and E4 of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan, policies D5A and NC2 of the Staffordshire and Stoke-

The application then went to appeal and was dismissed on 17th September 2012. The Inspector found that *“The engineering operations to form the access drive and parking and loading area comprise of inappropriate development in the Green Belt. The substantial harm that this causes, together with the harm to the character and appearance of the area that I have identified, is not clearly outweighed by the benefits that the proposal would bring in terms of making beneficial use of the land, greater convenience for the appellant and the limited improvements to highway safety, whether assessed separately or jointly. I conclude that very special circumstances to justify the development do not exist. The development is, therefore, contrary to national policy relating to Green Belts, as well as to development plan policies that aim to safeguard the character and appearance of the Green Belt and Special Landscape Area. For the reasons given above, I conclude that the appeal should be dismissed.”*

The application before Council now is in part retrospective – as building work/change started in September 2010 but has not yet been completed.

RESOLVED:

- **To respond to the above planning application stating that members of Forsbrook Parish Council have noted the history of the site and the fact that both Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the Planning Inspectorate have previously refused planning permission for similar proposals and for these reasons Council would not want planning permission granted unless all the previous concerns for the refusals have been fully addressed, particularly as the site lies within Green Belt and Special Landscape area.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approval was noted.

01350/REM_1 - Duke of Wellington, 305 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – Variation of condition 7 on permission 00603/FUL to allow opening between 7.00 and 23.00 hours on any day.

9.3 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.4 Planning matters.

The following planning appeal decisions were noted.

Appeal Reference 2170168 – land adjacent to ‘Thornley’ Daisy Bank, Boundary – improvement of existing agricultural/horticultural access drive inclusive of parking and loading area (retrospective application). **APPEAL DISMISSED.** (Note: Applicant has submitted a further planning application as detailed under agenda item 9.1).

Appeal Reference 2181029 – Land known as West View, Quabbs Lane, Forsbrook - erection of residential dormer bungalow. **APPEAL DISMISSED.**

Appeal Reference 2180205 – The Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge - erection of two detached dwellings. **APPEAL ALLOWED.**

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no issues to report.

10.2 Cemetery Issues.

No cemetery issues were raised.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

Ziggy Zaggy Scheme.

In the recent Police newsletter there is a report on a new road safety campaign, which involves teaching year 6 pupils the importance of safe parking so they can help educate their parents about the hazards they cause when parking inconsiderately. This scheme is presently operating in Caverswall around St. Peter's Primary School and it is the intention of local police officers to introduce this scheme around Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge Primary schools in the near future.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Litter - Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge between Chandri Cottage and the Uttoxeter roundabout.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Street Scene Team.
Chewing gum on footways in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook.	It was noted that SMDC did have a machine for removing chewing gum. Clerk to ascertain if this service is still available.
Staffordshire Moorlands own postcode.	This is still ongoing.
Hedge adjacent to the Butchers Arms.	It was noted that this has now been cut.
Groups of youth in Blythe Bridge on the 16 th February 2013 causing a nuisance and drinking. Groups of youth also noticed in Forsbrook on 15 th February 2013 causing similar problems.	Police are aware that groups are causing a nuisance and under age drinking is taking place. They have stepped up patrols in problem areas.
Bridge over the river Blythe adjacent to Blythe Bridge Railway Station – groups congregating and evidence of drugs.	Report to local Police Officers.
Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge – grit bin empty.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department
Trent Road, Forsbrook – potholes.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.

Alleyway behind the Duke of Wellington – pothole.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department although it was noted that this area does not come under the remit of them and land ownership is not known.
Highway sweeper missed part of Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.
Car park on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – person has been fined for contravening the parking regulations and has taken the matter up with Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley complaining that the lines are not clearly marked.	It was noted that the clerk has advised that the person fined should contact the District Council direct.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st January 2013 was:

Community Direct Account	99891.80
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12.2 February 2013 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401764		905.00	181.00	1086.00
401765		45.00	9.00	54.00
401766		894.35		894.35
DD	Eon	23.00		23.00
Total		1867.35	190.00	2057.35

RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of February 2013 accounts.

12.3 Parish Precept.

It was noted that Forsbrook Parish Council has requested a Precept figure of £46000 for year 2013/2014 and it was **agreed** for Council to work within this budget.

13. CASUAL VACANCY:

It was noted that following the resignation of Miss Sue Farr, there is a vacancy on Forsbrook Parish Council. The Parish Council can appoint any qualified person to fill this vacancy unless a request for an election is made to the Returning Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council before 19th February 2013 by ten persons whose names appear on the current Register of Electors for the Parish. If no election is requested the Parish Council can co-opt a suitable person.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman