

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21ST JANUARY 2013 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor P. Jones,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor B. Yates.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk),

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley, Councillor F. J. Hopley, Councillor A. E. Wilson and County Councillor W. Day.

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.

There were no residents present at the meeting.

3.2 County Council Report.

In the absence of County Councillor W. Day there was no report.

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 17th December 2012.**

RESOLVED:

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

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

There were no matters arising.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

7.2 Meeting Dates.

There were no meeting dates to note.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online.
- NALC – Direct Information Service Issues 799 and 800.
- Highways Agency – Connect Annual Report on A50.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – January 2013 Issue.
- Clerks & Councils Direct – Guide and Year Book.
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust E-News – January 2013.

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

8.1 Staffordshire County Council – subject: The William Amory Primary School – Local Authority Governor.

It was noted that the term of office for Local Authority Governor, Mrs. Margaret Mountford ended on 3rd December 2012. As re-appointment is not an automatic entitlement and in accordance with agreed procedures the Parish Council can submit a nomination to be considered for appointment.

Councillor P. Jones expressed a wish to be nominated and the clerk was requested to complete the necessary nomination form.

- 8.2 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Proposed Speed Restrictions – A521 Forsbrook to Cheadle.

It was noted that formal approval has now been received to impose a 40mph speed limit on the length of road (A521 Cheadle to Forsbrook) Delphouse Road/Cheadle Road – from a point approximately 75 metres west of its junction with Brookhouse Road; to a point approximately 100 metres south-west of its junction with The Common and 50mph speed limit on the length of road (A521 Cheadle – Forsbrook) Cheadle Road – from a point approximately 222 metres east of its junction with Portland Drive; to a point approximately 100 metres south-west of its junction with The Common.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read email received from Staffordshire County Council Engineering Officer Harfan Ghafoor in response to request from Forsbrook Parish Council:

“With regards to your request that the proposed 50mph speed limit restriction, along the A521 between Callow Hill Farm and Portland Drive, should also be 40mph. In this instance this request has been declined because the Speed Limit Review recommendations state that this length of road would be more appropriately restricted at 50mph, mainly due to its rural nature and lack of development.

On the other hand, whilst carrying out my investigations I noticed this particular length of road’s natural topography is undulating, winding and narrow in places. This sort of topography tends to force the majority of prudent drivers to reduce the speed of their vehicle in order to adapt to the surroundings and negotiate any hazards accordingly.”

Councillors **agreed** that this was very disappointing and short sighted in view of the poor visibility when exiting Forsbrook Parish Cemetery and the number of accidents that have occurred at this particular location.

- 8.3 Community Council of Staffordshire – subject: Best Kept Village Competition.

It was noted that entry forms for the above are available to any interested residents who wish to enter the Best Kept Village Competition in 2013.

- 8.4 Came & Company – subject: Insurance.

Revised insurance policy, which includes the newly installed BMX track was received and noted.

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

Details of the above were noted.

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

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

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

General:
Stafford Borough Council

Subject:
The Plan for Stafford Borough – Publication Pre Submission Documents – Information available to download from www.staffordbc.gov.uk/publication.

Email Exchanges:	Subject:
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Recycling Service – requesting help in promoting this service.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	Innovation Fund – press release to be issued shortly.
Staffordshire County Council	Millbrook Gardens Estate - Staffordshire County Council has confirmed that they adopted part of the road to the Millbrook Gardens estate in 2008 but the drive serving a number of dwellings off Millbrook Gardens was never intended to be adopted and remains in private ownership of the management company.
County Councillor W. Day	Footpath to the rear of The Duke of Wellington – pothole; Chapel Street, Forsbrook – potholes.
NHS Staffordshire Commissioning Support Services	New NHS 111 Service. (Note: Information displayed on notice boards).
Rural Services Network	Press Release on ‘Countryside hit hardest as government cuts council funding’.
Came and Company	Exclusive members area. (Log in details can be provided to any Councillor who is interested).
Staffordshire Police	Anti social behaviour problems: Youth congregating in the cemetery car park; Wreaths stolen from cemetery prior to Christmas; Evidence of sexual activity on recreation ground; Parking obstructions – Beverley Crescent, Forsbrook; Evidence of drug abuse under the A50 Bridge in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway Reports: Blocked drain on the corner of Uttoxeter Road/Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge. (It was noted that this drain has now been cleared). Dangerous potholes – Chapel Street, Forsbrook.
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	CRM Reports: Street cleansing request – Uttoxeter Road, Cheadle Road, Draycott Old Road, Dilhorne Road, Caverswall Old Road, Stallington Road and embankment adjacent to Tater Lane.

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:

There were no planning applications to note.

9.2 Planning Approval:

The following planning approval was noted.

00868/FUL – Stone House Farm, 406 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – conversion of detached swimming pool into bungalow.

9.3 Planning Refusal:

The following planning refusal was noted.

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

Reasons: Holly House is located within a part of the Staffordshire Moorlands which is designated as Green Belt and a Special Landscape Area. Within Green Belt and Special Landscape Areas there is often policy support for domestic extensions subject to them being of a modest size and good design which respects the character of the original dwelling and does not result in its loss of identity. Holly House has a distinctive vertical emphasis and has a pleasing and simply designed double fronted façade and rear elevation. Width wise, the side extension is not in proportion to the original house, it is almost equal to its width and adds a conservatory to the front, roadside facing elevation. Whilst the proposed ridgelines are lower than that of the existing house, this in itself does not make the addition truly subordinate, the bulk of the addition must also be considered and the extension should be set back from the existing front wall (currently it is not). Currently there is an acceptable ratio of solid wall to window openings on the existing house (front elevation) and this should be the case with any other extension fronting the road. The ornate conservatory design detracts from the simple character of the original house which should remain as the strong and dominant feature of the building; the proposal introduces large glazed areas, in contrast with the existing house frontage. The rear elevation of the proposed extension is also overly complicated in its design, not relating well to the existing house. Whilst the rear elevation will not be seen from the road, this in itself does not justify poor design. This is an attractive dwelling and any extension should respect its character. The application is contrary to the provisions of 'Saved' policies N2(d), N7, N8, N9, B13 and H13 of the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan together with adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance 'Design Principles for Development in the Staffordshire Moorlands'.

9.4 Planning matters.

Duke of Wellington, 305 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that Tesco has applied under planning reference 01350/REM_1 for a variation of condition 7 on permission 12/00603/FUL to allow opening between 07.00 and 23.00 hours on any day and have provided a 'Rating Industrial Noise affecting mixed Industrial and Residential Areas' Report.

It was also noted that they have applied for a premises licence for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises from 07.00 to 23.00 (Opening Hours) Monday to Sunday.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she had spoken with the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Officer who is dealing with the premises licence because the proposed opening hours for the sale of alcohol differed to those of the Co-operative Late Shop and Spar and as all responses needed to be made by 18th January 2013 which was prior to the Council meeting. The response given by the officer was that the licensing laws have changed since the Late Shop and Spar applied for their licences and Tesco has applied under the new regulations. The advice given by the Officer was that there were no valid reasons to object to the application and anti social behaviour needs to have previously been recorded for the premises in question.

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 but under the Environment report Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton covered recent incidents that had happened at Forsbrook Parish cemetery.

11. ENVIRONMENT:

11.1 Environment Report.

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

Anti Social Behaviour, Parking and Theft.

Several incidents have been reported to the Police since the last Council meeting:
Trees on the recreation ground have been damaged;
Evidence of sexual activity on the recreation ground;
Evidence of drug use under the A50 Bridge in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge;
Parking obstruction near the junctions of Beverley Crescent, Springfield Drive and Chapel Street;
Youth congregating in the cemetery car park;
Christmas wreaths stolen from the Cemetery. A resident has offered £1000 reward to anyone who brings about a conviction to the person(s) who stole a family wreath.

Police have increased patrols in the various locations.

It was **agreed** to issue a press release regarding the stolen wreaths and reward offered.

Missing Grit Bin from the Library/Police Station Car Park.

The clerk has made enquiries and is awaiting a response from SMDC Environment Services who she believes has some information regarding this.

Blythe Bridge Recreation Ground.

A meeting has taken place with the clerk, Andrew Scott from Town and Country Services and myself regarding future maintenance on the recreation ground and Jubilee Gardens. Several issues were discussed and an action plan agreed.

The clerk distributed a budget analysis of the work that Town and Country Services carry out annually together with annual budget estimate both of which may help in deciding the precept amount for 2013/2014.

Heart Start Course

The date of the Heart Start Course is scheduled for Tuesday 26th February 2013 commencing at 7.30pm at Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Hall.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Underage drinking witnessed 7.15pm on 21.01.13 outside Britannia Building Society.	Report to local police officers.
Parking bays opposite Co-operative Late Shop continuing to cause congestion and dangers.	Clerk to ascertain current position with regard to these being removed.
Drains blocked on the Co-operative Late Shop car park.	Clerk to write to the Manager of the Late Shop.
Update on deterrent camera.	Noted.
Grit bins empty.	Clerk to request SCC Highway Department to fill these as a matter of urgency. (Update: Note grit bins were filled on 22.01.13).
Litterbin adjacent to Spar, Forsbrook.	Noted that this has been moved. Clerk to speak with SMDC Environment Services to ascertain reasons.
Vandalism (damage to windows of several premises) in Blythe Bridge.	Noted.
Speed of vehicles – The Avenue/Bridgwood Road.	Noted.
Flooding on the A50.	It was noted that this has been reported to SCC Highway Defects Department on several occasions.
Blythe Bridge Railway Station Camera.	Noted that this is working satisfactorily with many motorists being fined for ignoring the signals.
Drains adjacent to Foxfield Steam Railway sited in the wrong position so any water is bypassing them.	Ask County Councillor W. Day to get SCC Reactive Inspector to carry out a site visit.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

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

Community Direct Account	101533.28
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12.2 January 2013 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
401760	SMDC	282.00	56.40	338.40
401761	Ultrasecure Limited	12.32	2.47	14.79
401762	Christine J. Snape	894.35		894.35
401763	Town & Country Services	590.00	118.00	708.00
DD	Eon	23.00		23.00
Total		1801.67	176.87	1978.54

RESOLVED:

- **To approve payment of January 2013 accounts.**

12.3 Income and Expenditure Accounts.

A copy of the Income and Expenditure Accounts for nine-month period 1st April 2012 to 31st December 2012 had been distributed to all members with the agenda. No questions were raised.

12.4 Community Means Business Funding.

An analysis of the Community Means Business funding and breakdown covering the cost of play equipment, BMX Track and scrubland improvement work had been distributed to all members with the agenda. No questions were raised.

12.5 Precept for year 2013/2014

Details for the formula for calculating Parish/Town Councils precepts for year 2013/2014 have not yet been received from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed that the clerk be given the authority to request a precept that did not impose any increase on the Parish portion of residents Council Tax bills and to report back to Council at the February meeting if there was insufficient time for Council to meet and finalise the budget figures for 2013/2014.

Agreed.

The meeting concluded at 8.45pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman