

## **FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**

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### **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 17TH FEBRUARY 2014 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),  
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,  
Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley,  
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,  
Councillor A. J. Mould,  
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,  
Councillor A. E. Wilson,  
Councillor B. Yates.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Residents (9),  
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

#### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor Miss S. Farr, Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor J. W. Burgess, Councillor P. Jones and Councillor F. J. Hopley

#### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Member declaring interest</b>	<b>Nature of interest</b>
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.

#### **3. OPEN SESSION.**

**Standing Orders were suspended.**

##### **3.1 Residents Issues.**

##### **3.1.1 Foxfield Steam Railway – Events for 2014.**

Mr. Mark Wagstaff, Director at Foxfield Steam Railway said that he had recently taken over the management of the bar, which was now open to members only and informed Council of the itinerary for events in 2014:

Italian nights to be held throughout the year (always well supported).

Potteries Folk Club – held every month.

Play area to be installed on part of the car park area.

Facilities to be open throughout the summer school holidays.

Car Rally – 6<sup>th</sup> April.

Caravan Rally – 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> May. (North Staffs. Caravan Club).

Victorian event 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May.

Family Fun Days – 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> June.

‘Knotty’ Coach/Heritage Trail – to be set up on site – August (date to be confirmed). Heath House Farm to be approached to take car park overspill.

War weekend with re-enactments. – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> August. (Working with Staffordshire University and Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Historical Society).

Halloween Event – 31<sup>st</sup> October.

Christmas period – 15 ft. Christmas tree will be erected.

New Year’s Eve – opening.

Mark provided his mobile contact number of: 07704454671.

Concerns raised by residents were addressed, as recorded below:

### 3.1.2 Football Pitch and Changing Rooms.

Two representatives from Draycott Potters Football Club attended the meeting to ask Council to consider resiting one upright of each of the goal posts to give the goal mouth worn areas time to recover after the football season has finished and to look at the possibility of improving the showers.

**Goal Mouths** – The clerk was instructed to speak with Town and Country Services to see if they could resite two of the upright goal posts and reseed the worn areas. It was agreed that in the past returfing was not practical. Football team members to advise the clerk when all matches for the 2013/14 season have finished and to confirm when they have taken down the goal posts to enable the necessary maintenance work to be carried out.

**Showers** - Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton explained how the showers worked. The pump discharges a regulated flow of water to the four electric heaters to maintain the correct temperature. Too much water pressure through the heaters would discharge cold water.

It was agreed to allow Draycott Potters Football Club to arrange for an experienced contractor to look at the shower system and furnish Council with recommendations and quotation for consideration.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that she would also find out what shower system has been installed at Birchall Playing Fields Changing Rooms and who the contractor was.

### 3.1.3 Caverswall Road, Forsbrook – pot holes and damaged ‘speed’ sign.

Clerk to report above to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department. It was also noted that during recent work by Western Power to the electricity columns in Caverswall Road their vehicles had caused an obstruction by parking inconsiderately on the highway. This has resolved itself as Western Power are now working off road.

### 3.1.4 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – dangerous pothole adjacent to Callowhill Farm.

Already reported to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.

3.1.5 Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – opposite Forsbrook Parish Cemetery – surface water.

Severn Trent Water has already confirmed that there is no water leak on Cheadle Road and their opinion is that it is natural drainage from adjacent fields. Situation to be monitored.

3.1.6 Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – delivery vehicles to Tesco parking dangerously and causing an obstruction.

Clerk to report to local Police Officers and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Planning Enforcement Department as part of the planning approval is that all vehicles offload on the designated area on the car park.

3.1.7 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – Tesco advertising stands sited on the footway.

A resident advised Council that a Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer will be speaking with Tesco regarding the above.

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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014.**

**RESOLVED:**

- **To approve and sign the minutes.**

**6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.**

Minutes dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 – Page 100 – agenda item 3.1.1 – subject: Achieving excellence for young people – consultation.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton proposed sending a letter to Staffordshire County Council stressing that Forsbrook Parish Council do not want Blythe Bridge Youth Services to close and also do not want to lose the experienced youth leaders.

Members **agreed** to send the following letter:

*“Members of Forsbrook Parish Council are strongly opposed to your proposals to move away from providing out of school activities for all young people throughout the County.*

*We are one of the largest parishes in Staffordshire Moorlands and the twice weekly evening youth sessions held at the Egerton Centre, Blythe Bridge are very well attended by over 100 youth. In addition to the evening sessions there is also one daily lunchtime session. These sessions engage young people in positive activities such as sports, IT, health, social activities and provide educational opportunities. There are also additional sessions during the day and evening to support young people with training and guidance towards their bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.*

*The Egerton Centre was purpose built to house the Youth Centre and also the Library and they both share in the maintenance and overhead costs of the building. The rooms are also hired out to other users thus bringing in an income for the County Council as well as being used on a daily basis by Blythe Bridge High School.*

*The youth workers in our area do an excellent job and are much valued and it seems a retrograde step to make them redundant and expect voluntary organisations to apply for funding from the £50000 allocation for Staffordshire Moorlands and to achieve the same positive results.*

*Local police officers have also expressed concern that if the proposals go ahead they will have a detrimental effect on anti social behaviour.*

*Would you please share our concerns with your Cabinet when they convene to discuss these proposals, in the hope that when making a decision they will take into account the strong opposition throughout Staffordshire Moorlands and particularly our concerns as we really do value the youth provision in Blythe Bridge.”*

## **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 email exchanges with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and the continuing problems with regard to litter/garden rubbish in Tater Lane, Forsbrook. She suggested liaising again with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council and Staffordshire County Council regarding the installation of a bollard to stop vehicles accessing the turning circle area and disposing of their litter/garden rubbish.

**AGREED.**

7.2 Meetings.

- Communities Mean Business Leader Celebration Event – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2014 – 10.30am to 2.15pm. Lunch provided.
- Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – Planning Training Course: The Basics.  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 7.00pm-9.00pm at the Trentham Suite, Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2LP. Cost £20.00 for the first delegate, £15.00 for the second and £10.00 for subsequent delegates from the same Council.

7.3 The following circulation material was received and noted:

- Rural Services Network Online (Note: Newsletters available on: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/news>).
- Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – November 2013 E-News.
- Staffordshire's Police & Crime Commissioner's Update.
- Came & Company – Insurance recommendations regarding flooding.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

8.1 Mr. David Shaw, Werrington Young Persons Support Group – subject: Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children in the Staffordshire Moorlands.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton read letter received from the above as follows:

*“You may have read in the press about the new project organised by the Werrington Young Persons Support Group to provide Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children in the Staffordshire Moorlands. Many Councillors have shown interest in what we are doing and some have personally donated and so it was suggested that we contact every Parish Council in the Moorlands for their support.*

*This started off as a nice idea but quickly escalated into a major project which we intend to make an annual event. Sponsored by Co-operative Food and Wrights Pies the fund distributed over £20000 worth of toys donated by Co-op customers and made cash donations to mothers and children who were in particularly desperate need of help over Christmas.*

*Toys were also given to help children with incurable illnesses in the Moorlands to ensure that Santa really did come.*

*Two things became immediately apparent. Firstly that we were only touching the tip of the iceberg and secondly that if destitute mums could not afford to buy Christmas presents for their children they could not afford the basic essentials for themselves and so for the coming Christmas we have had an offer to provide 200 boxed toiletry packs containing Soap, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Deodorant and Cosmetics which will be distributed along with the toys.*

*I am contacting your Council as you are in the Staffordshire Moorlands which is our area of activity for help with our financial aid programme where last year we gave £25 to nearly 80 destitute mums mainly in refuges. This year our target is 200. We are not looking for large one-off donations (although that would be nice!) but smaller amounts which your Council would be able to give each year whilst we make this Moorlands fund sustainable.”*

It was **agreed** to include this worthy cause on the Council’s annual list of donations for £100.00.

- 8.2 Stafford Borough Council – subject: The Plan for Stafford Borough – Main Modifications.

It was noted that further information on the above is available at <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/forwardplanning> or by contacting the Forward Plans team – [forwardplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:forwardplanning@staffordbc.gov.uk) or on 01785 619000. The deadline for representations to the main modifications is 12 noon on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

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

Details of the above were noted.

- 8.4 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

Details of the latest Scams/Warnings in the area were noted.

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

The above documents were noted.

- 8.6 To receive and note general correspondence and to agree action as required.

**General:**

Draycott Potters FC

**Email Exchanges:**

Press

Staffordshire Police

Cheadle and District Round Table

Police and Crime Commissioner

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire County Council (Rights of Way)

Resident

Mr. Jeff Wood, Clerk to Kingsley Parish Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council

Staffordshire County Council

**Subject:**

Issues regarding changing room showers and annual maintenance on goalmouths. (Discussed under open forum).

**Subject:**

Press release re youth services.

Untaxed car on Chapel Street car park.

Recommendation for worthy charity.

Details of charity night – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2014.

Dog fouling – Bogs Lane, Blythe Bridge.

Precept requirement for 2014/2015.

Dog fouling/dangerous fence – Bogs Lane, Blythe Bridge.

Dog fouling/dangerous fence – Bogs Lane, Blythe Bridge.

Observations of Kingsley Parish Council regarding a proposed wind turbine at High View Farm, Kingsley (Planning Ref: SMD/2013/0812).

Litter – Tater Lane, Blythe Bridge.

Litterbin – Jubilee Gardens.

Dog fouling – Stallington Road, Elmwood Drive and Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Street cleansing – Cheadle Road, Dilhorne Road, Caverswall Old Road and Uttoxeter Road.

Highway Defect Reports:

Crossfield Avenue, Blythe Bridge – sunken grid.

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – footway surface repair.

Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – footway surface condition.

**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:

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton briefed members on issues included in the documents, which accompanied some of the planning applications, details of which are shown in italics.

SMD/2013/1155 – 9 Blythe Road, Forsbrook – proposed new detached dwelling on side garden area of existing dwelling house.

*An arboricultural report has been included with the application. The site is part of an existing garden which is subdivided by conifer hedges of fairly low quality. It would be necessary to remove the hedges to build the property. There are three trees along the boundary of the plot – (a) a self set ash tree of poor shape and form; (b) a sycamore, which due to its poor condition is recommended to be removed on the grounds of safety and (c) a leyland cypress which is of no significant value.*

**RESOLVED:**

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design of the new build is in keeping, that there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours and that the planning officer is satisfied that the existing driveway is wide enough to serve two properties.**

SMDC/2014/0016 – land fronting Draycott Old Road, Forsbrook – construction of a detached dwelling.

*The proposal is for a five bedroomed, three storey detached property with a bedroom, dressing room and shower room in the roof space. The applicant has included a comprehensive Flood Risk Assessment as part of the proposed site lies within Flood Zone 3.*

**RESOLVED:**

- **To raise no concerns providing the scale and design of the new build is in keeping, that there is no adverse effect on the privacy of adjacent neighbours and that the planning officer is satisfied that all flood risk issues have been satisfactorily addressed.**

SMDC/2013/1193 – The Furlongs, Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge – amendment to drawing No. 3943.01.11 – Plot A – floor level to be raised to take into consideration condition No.8 surface water drainage.

*The applicant wishes the above condition to be changed so that a connection into the existing surface water drain in Cheadle Road can be made. It is also intended for the floor level for Plot 'A' to be raised to 100.550.*

**RESOLVED:**

- **To raise no concerns.**

## 9.2 Planning Approvals:

There were no planning approvals to note:

## 9.3 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted.

SMD/2013/0873 – 59 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – first floor rear extension over existing ground floor room.

*Reasons:*

1. *Located within the Green Belt the proposed additional first floor rear extension would result in a disproportionate addition contrary to the NPPF and contrary to the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan saved policies N2, N7 and H13 and contrary to the Council's Revised Submission Core Strategy (and modified) policies R1 and R2. Combined with existing extensions the proposal would result in total extensions exceeding 100% of the original floor area which is well in excess of a 30% increase and cannot be regarded as modest as required by saved policy H13. The proposal further conflicts with the NPPF, saved policy H13 and Revised Submission Core Strategy (and modified) policy DC1 in that it will overwhelm the original property and result in the loss of its original identity.*

2. *The large area of flat roof at first floor level and its height exceeding the eaves of the original building amounts to poor design contrary to the requirements and principles of the NPPF and further failing to meet the requirements of Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan saved policy H13 and also B13 and contrary to Revised Submission Core Strategy (as modified) policy DC1.*
3. *The proposal would be unduly dominant and overbearing in respect of the rear principal windows of the attached property at No. 61 and would contravene on at least two significant counts the guideline requirements of the Council's adopted and saved SPG for Space About Dwellings both in respect of the ground floor and first floor principal windows of No. 61 and is thereby contrary to the NPPF and also Revised Submission Core Strategy (as modified) policy DC1.*

#### 9.4 Planning matters.

Licensing Act 2003.

Premises Licence Application – Blythe Booze Limited, 246 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – Sale of Alcohol for consumption off the premises from 08.00 to 22.30 on Monday to Sunday.

It was noted from the letter received from Mr. M. Burton, Licensing Officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council that the applicant has withdrawn the application. The letter also clarifies, for future reference, the criteria on which objections can be raised.

## 10. CEMETERY:

### 10.1 Cemetery Report.

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

### 10.2 Cemetery Interment fees and Memorial fees for year 2014/2015.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- **To impose no increase in the Interment and Memorial fees for 2014/2015 as detailed below:**

	Resident	Non Resident meeting criteria.
New grave for two persons	£160	£480
Reopening for second burial	£120	£360
Plot for cremated remains	£120	£360
Re-opening for cremated remains	£100	£300
New grave for one child up to Two years or for one stillborn child.	£80	£240

The fees include the exclusive rights of burial for eighty years.



## Non resident criteria:

People who were not a resident in the Parish of Forsbrook at the time of their death cannot be buried in Forsbrook Cemetery unless the person had a husband, wife, child or parent buried in Forsbrook Cemetery or who had lived in the Parish for ten years or more.

Memorial fee	£55.00
Memorial additional inscription fee	£30.00

## 10.3 Cemetery Issues.

No cemetery issues were raised.

**11. ENVIRONMENT:**

## 11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman of the Environment Committee) said she had no matters to report.

## 11.2 Recreation fees for year 2014/2015.

**RESOLVED:**

- **To impose no increase in the Recreation fee of £550.00 for year 2014/2015**

## 11.3 Environment Issues.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
Footpath 4a, Footpath linking Uttoxeter Road with Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge, Uttoxeter Road – <b>Dog Fouling.</b>	Report to SMDC Environment Officers.
Co-operative Late Shop - <b>Blocked drains.</b>	Already reported to Manager and also Head Office on several occasions.
Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge -streetlight column adjacent to Holdcroft Mill – <b>electricity connection cover loose.</b>	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Uttoxeter Road and Cheadle Road – <b>vehicles obstructing footway.</b>	To again report to local police officers.
Dilhone Road, Forsbrook - <b>vehicles parking on grass verges.</b>	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Blythe Bridge Road, Forsbrook – <b>embankment collapsing.</b>	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Caverswall Road/Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook – <b>damaged tree branches overhanging the highway.</b>	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.
Elmwood Drive, Blythe Bridge – <b>potholes.</b>	Already reported to Staffordshire County Council Highway Defects Department.

**12. FINANCE:**

## 12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2014 was:

Community Direct Account	109456.02
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## 12.2 February 2014 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

<b>Cheque No.</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Net</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
402323	Town & Country Services	685.00	137.00	822.00
402324	SMDC	384.00	78.80	460.80
402325	Christine J. Snape	1021.60		1021.60
402326	Blythe Bridge Scout Group	50.00		50.00
402327	S. A. Blackwood	180.16		180.16
DD	Eon.	50.00		50.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>2370.76</b>	<b>213.80</b>	<b>2584.56</b>

**RESOLVED:**

- **To approve payment of February 2014 accounts.**

**13. APRIL COUNCIL MEETING.**

It was agreed to bring forward the date of the April Council meeting to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2014 as 21<sup>st</sup> April falls on Easter Monday.

The meeting concluded at 8.30pm.

**Clerk to the Council**

**Chairman**