

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18TH AUGUST 2014 AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mrs. G. Burton (Chairman),
Councillor J. W. Burgess,
Councillor J. W. Cornwall,
Councillor Miss S. Farr,
Councillor Mrs. C. R. Hopley,
Councillor F. J. Hopley,
Councillor A. J. Mould,
Councillor Miss J. P. Morris,
Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham,
Councillor A. E. Wilson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Staffordshire County Council District Commissioning Lead Officer
Gail Edwards,
PCSO Jonathan Staples,
Residents (14),
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier, Councillor P. Jones and Councillor B. Yates.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
Staffordshire County Council – William Amory Primary School – Planning Application SM14/06	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton.	Personal – Chairman of Governors at the William Amory Primary School.
Staffordshire County Council – William Amory Primary School – Planning Application SM14/06.	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Governor at the William Amory Primary School.
Staffordshire County Council – Rights of Way Issues.		Personal – Daughter employed by Staffordshire County Council 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 Police Update.

PCSO Jonathan Staples reported that crime figures are down. The main concern at the moment is the proposed closure of the Youth Club and how this will impact on the community.

Gail Edwards added that Staffordshire County Council is currently in a staff consultation period and no end date has been identified.

The following questions/concerns were raised and PCSO Jonathan Staples response is shown in italics:

Recent speed monitoring in Dilhorne Road, Caverswall Road and Cheadle Road, Forsbrook.

Speed legislation is set by Government and in a 30mile zone no action is necessary if the vehicle is travelling at 34mph. (Formula – speed limit plus 10% plus 1).

Drug related activities.

Councillors and residents highlighted the following areas as being suspicious:
Blythe Bridge Railway Station and Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge.

Areas will be added to the patrol strategy. Any further information please let the police know.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton thanked PCSO Adam Charlesworth and PCSO Jonathan Staples for supporting Forsbrook Parish Council in their funding bid from the Commissioner's People Power Fund for CCTV at Blythe Bridge recreation ground changing rooms and read the letter of support to members:

"We are writing this letter to confirm our support for Forsbrook Parish Council's application for financial assistance from the People's Power Fund.

Forsbrook Parish Council are committed to helping both Staffordshire Police, and our partner agencies, to help reduce anti-social behaviour in the area through the continued investment of facilities for the local community, including reopening the changing rooms, investing in play equipment and a BMX track in the recreation ground. Unfortunately, despite this, there has continued to be issues with anti-social behaviour around the changing rooms at this location, which has included damage being caused, drugs issues and groups gathering causing intimidation to other users of the area. For this reason, I would wholeheartedly support the Parish Council's bid for funding to pay for CCTV in the area, which in turn, will play a massive part in helping to deter and reduce anti-social behaviour in the area whilst also providing reassurance to the community that if incidents were to happen, then this CCTV would give us a line of enquiry to pursue to deal with those persons responsible.

If Forsbrook Parish Council were to be given money from the People's Power Fund it will give our local community the confidence to know that Staffordshire Police remain committed to supporting local councils and groups in way of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour in any way possible and will continue to forge strong links between us. For these reasons, we unreservedly support their application."

3.2 Staffordshire County Council District Commissioning Lead Officer Gail Edwards – Blythe Bridge Library.

Gail provided members and residents with background information:

Staffordshire County Council is presently in a twelve-week consultation phase, which closes on 7th October 2014. Forms and information are available on line and in the library.

The purpose of the proposals is to ensure that the library service is fit for the future. Fewer people are using traditional library services. In Staffordshire Moorlands the reduction is 8.2% against a 12% reduction across the rest of the County.

The proposal is to have:

4 Library Extras – Burton, Lichfield, Newcastle and Tamworth.

15 Library Cores – Biddulph, Burntwood, Cannock, Cheadle, Clayton, Codsall, Eccleshall, Kidsgrove, Leek, Perton, Rugeley, Stafford, Stone, Uttoxeter and Wombourne.

24 Library Locals –

Cannock District: Brereton, Heath Hayes, Hednesford, Norton Canes.

East Staffs District: Barton.

Lichfield District: Shenstone.

Moorlands District: Blythe Bridge, Werrington.

Newcastle District: Audley, Knutton, Loggerheads, Silverdale, Talke.

South Staffs District: Brewood, Cheslyn Hay, Great Wyrley, Kinver, Penkridge.

Stafford District: Baswich, Gnosall, Holmcroft, Rising Brook, Glascote.

Tamworth District: Wilnecote.

In terms of Library Locals Staffordshire County Council is looking at:

Contracting with a local community group/organisation to lead and develop the library offer within that locality, possibly attracting local sponsorship or funding;

Reducing the library offer and relocating other service providers into the library building;

Moving aspects of the library offer into the building of other service providers;

Identifying a new building and moving aspects of the library offer into it along with other service providers;

Providing a mobile library service;

Providing an electronic access point within the community for enquiries to be made for book requests and delivery.

There is a need to look to the future and adapt the library provision. One of the issues in Blythe Bridge is that the library is well used by the school and 60% of all issues are for the age range 5-16 and part of this consultation is to get schools and pupils views.

Events are being held across the County to encourage as many people to take part in the consultation. There is information available on the County Council website regarding usage, age range etc. for each library.

When the consultation period has ended a report will go back to Cabinet. The whole process for changes will go on for the next two years.

Questions from residents and Councillors with Gail Edwards response shown in italics:

Shortage of consultation papers in the Library.

There has been a huge demand and more are being reprinted.

Difficult to find the specific link on Staffordshire County Council's website.

Documents are available in each of the libraries as well as the website.

More publicity should be given with regard to the consultation as some residents are not aware of the proposals for their library and it is obvious that the word is not getting through to most people.

I will speak with Blythe Bridge library staff to see if posters can be displayed, awareness raised and more data made available.

Is it necessary to complete all of the questionnaire?

No – only what is relevant.

If Blythe Bridge becomes a library local what happens to the Egerton Centre?

As well as consultation on the future of library services, there is also a consultation taking place on youth services. There are talks with Blythe Bridge High School with regard to their use of the building, which has to blend in with what interest comes from any community/voluntary group. The school does use the building for their curriculum.

Volunteers would need to know what they are volunteering for.

Once the consultation is completed I will come back to a Council meeting to discuss the proposals further and the level of interest from any community/voluntary groups.

More use should be made of the building and we should not be looking at replacing salaried staff with volunteers.

The consultation is to see what level of interest there is from a community/voluntary group and how the services can be enhanced.

Are the proposals for Blythe Bridge library set in stone because on financial performance it is better than all but one of the proposed core libraries?

Staffordshire County Council is looking at a much wider criteria, not just financial value and I do not feel that this will change.

Blythe Bridge High School do not currently have their own library and use the Egerton Centre on a day to day basis during school term time. Do they pay to use the community building and have the High School been approached about taking over the library building?

I will need to make enquiries and get back to you.

If it is that the school do not pay and the school need to use the library has this been explained to them? If they are classed as a 'sitting tenant' how can we have it as a community library/building?

There will need to be a formal agreement.

Blythe Bridge is a special case because it is integrated with the school.

It is not the only library that is integrated and I will let Council have a list.

It seems that these proposals are all about saving money.

Staffordshire County Council is under considerable pressure and need to look at the budgets in all departments but they do have a duty to provide library services.

If a community/voluntary group come forward where will the money to run the library come from?

This is what part of the consultation is about, but the community/voluntary group will need to look at attracting sponsorship. The consultation is not about walking away and not about closing libraries.

What happens after the consultation process?

A report based on the consultation will go to cabinet and it will be a political decision. I cannot imagine they will radically change any of the proposals. The purpose of the consultation is to get wide views from the community.

From what has been said it seems highly likely that Blythe Bridge High School will take over the whole building.

As already mentioned we are consulting with the High school as they already use the building and also the local primary schools.

It seems that these proposals are driven to save money.

There is a need to change because of a reduction of users for traditional book lending services.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the clerk has sent financial data to Mike Lawrence, Catherine Mann and Gail Edwards and has received the following response from Catherine Mann:

“Thank you for your email which was forwarded to me by Mike Lawrence and also for the commitment you’ve taken to look at the figures. All the comments have been recorded and are being added to the overall consultation knowledge and insight pool.

We were encouraged by the turn-out in Blythe Bridge, the challenge given to the panel and the obvious enthusiasm in the area. Numbers for the event were restricted due to the capacity of the building but no one was turned away. There was space for 50 people and 46 attended – we were able to accommodate everybody on the reserve list and also made a commitment to put on a further event if there was sufficient demand.

As discussed at the meeting, this is not a done deal and the proposals are only proposals, based on the information we have at hand at the moment and the insight we gain from the library sessions and particularly the consultation responses will form an integral part of developing the proposals into final recommendations for Cabinet.

Although the figures you have provided show some important insight, the methodology used, and approved by a cross-party scrutiny panel, used not just financial based criteria, but also information around flexibility to meet changing demands, sustainability, resilience and customer focussed service information. It is important to ensure we consider all of these aspects and make assessments of community impact and the insight and information gained from the consultation before we make the final recommendations.

I have to disagree with your assessment that there were no expressions of interest from volunteers, although there was a vocal opposition to the proposals, when the show of hands took place to measure levels of interest, 6 people raised their hands. We have consistently said that we appreciate the difficulties there may be in getting appropriate volunteers to deliver library locals across the county, however throughout the process we are actively working with individuals, community groups and organisations to ensure that any library local going forward is led and managed by an appropriate group who receive support from Staffordshire County Council to deliver a community focussed service that includes a library service that is part of the Council’s statutory library provision.

We would encourage you to actively promote completing the survey to Blythe Bridge residents and businesses, as this is the most important way to influence the development of these proposals. We look forward to continuing to work with the Parish Council and all other local organisations to ensure that best community solution is found for the library service in Blythe Bridge.”

3.3 Residents Issues.

- 3.3.1 Street Lights – Location: Footpath linking Uttoxeter Road and Elmwood Drive and Uttoxeter Road and The Avenue, Blythe Bridge. Problems with tree overgrowth restricting light.

The clerk was requested to report this to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.

- 3.3.2 Broken glass - Uttoxeter Road and on the Village Hall car park. It was suggested that this may originate from functions being held at the Village Hall.

It was agreed to pass on the concerns to the Village Hall committee.

- 3.3.3 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – blocked drains and sewage. (Minutes dated 21st July, page 44, agenda item 3.2.3 refers).

The clerk was requested to ask County Councillor Day if there was any update and to again ask for the drains to be cleared

- 3.3.4 Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – drain system not coping with heavy rain fall.

Councillor F. J. Hopley reported that he has already requested that the drains be cleared which could help the situation.

- 3.3.5 Overgrown hedge – William Amory School, Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that hedges are usually cut during the summer school holidays.

- 3.3.6 Tree in the brook on the Elmwood Drive Estate.

It was noted that this has already been reported but the clerk was asked to liaise with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to try and ascertain when the necessary work will be carried out.

- 3.3.7 Football and Changing Room facilities.

It was noted that Forsbrook Parish Council's contractor has not marked and burned off the lines on the football pitch for the beginning of the football season because when he turned up to carry out the work he noticed that it had already been done and did not want to incur extra expense for the Parish Council. It transpires that the pitch was marked by football team members, but only with white paint, which was not long lasting and has already washed away.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Council has never officially resolved to cover the cost (last year £100) of the annual marking of the pitch and this would therefore need to be placed on the September agenda for consideration.

She also provided members with a breakdown of the approximate annual running costs for the football pitch and changing room facilities as follows:

Repositioning of goal posts (undertaken at the request of the football team in 2014.)	85.00
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Reseeding of football pitch goal mouths	120.00
Water rates	100.00
Grass cutting of recreation ground (includes the open space by the Butchers Arms) - £115 per cut every two weeks.	1840.00
Grass cutting around changing rooms - £18 per cut every two weeks.	288.00
Cleaning materials	75.00
Electricity - £66 per month (usually adjusted at the end of each year to take into account actual usage)	792.00
Fire extinguisher check (additional costs incurred for repairs/replacements)	40.00
Insurance – Annual premium £2100 (Changing rooms largest financial asset).	500.00
PAT testing – carried out every three years (Last invoice £188.25)	63.00
Total	3903.00

Note: The above figures do not include any ongoing maintenance or spiking the football pitch as and when required at £40 each time.

Income from the current two senior football teams - £550.00 each team - £1100.00.
Fees last increased in 2007.

It was agreed to allow the football teams to arrange for a contractor to mark and burn the lines on to the football pitch and to include the pending quote for servicing the changing room showers on the agenda for discussion at the September meeting.

- 3.3.8 Multi use dog fouling and litter bin request on the corner of Crossfield Avenue/Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge.

It was noted that there was a litter and dog-fouling bin in Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge next to the entrance to the William Amory Primary School but the clerk was asked to pass on the request to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

- 3.3.9 Grit bin request – location Roseacre Avenue/Clematis Avenue junction.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the installation of grit bins has to meet a certain criteria which is:

Gradient greater than 10%

Severe bend

Close proximity to and falling towards heavily trafficked road

Traffic density at peak times

Number of premises for which the road is the only access

A substantial population of either disabled or elderly people.

The clerk was requested to ask Staffordshire County Council Highways Department to carry out a survey to see if the location met the criteria, emphasising the fact that the area is populated by a large number of elderly people.

- 3.3.10 Standard of verge grass cutting in the area compared to that in Grindley Lane.

The clerk advised that Fulford Parish Council contract the grass cutting to a different contractor to the one used by Staffordshire County Council and subsidise the cost from their precept.

3.3.11 Hedge cutting on the junction of Caverswall Road and Caverswall Old Road.

Because visibility is still an issue the clerk was requested to contact Staffordshire County Council Highway Department.

3.3.12 Caverswall Road – road and pavement surface in very poor condition.

County Councillor W. Day is aware of this issue and is currently liaising with the Highway Officer to see what work is planned and when.

3.4 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 21st July 2014.

RESOLVED:

- **To approve and sign the minutes but to include the apologies of Councillor Miss S. Farr.**

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

6.1 Minutes dated 21st July 2014 – Page 45 – agenda item 3.2.4 – A50 Noise Pollution.

The following response from the Route Manager of Balfour Beatty Construction Services was noted:

“Thank you for your HAIL enquiry 17782616, registering your council’s concerns for A50 road noise levels at Blythe Bridge. There are no A50 locations where an existing rigid concrete road surface has been replaced with a flexible bituminous surface. DEFRA road noise maps categorise strategic areas of higher traffic noise in accordance with the Environmental Noise (England) Regulations 2006. These areas are then considered for quieter “like for like” surfacing techniques when resurfacing work is identified. There are currently no plans to replace the existing road surfaces in the Blythe Bridge area which currently meet road maintenance condition standards”.

6.2 Minutes dated 21st July 2014 – Page 45 – agenda item 3.2.6 – Litter and Dog Fouling Fixed Penalties.

The following response from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environmental Enforcement Officer was noted:

Page 66

Staffordshire Moorlands:

Year	Litter	Dog Fouling	Dog foul warning letters
2010/2011	5	2	

2011/2012	23	10
2012/2013	103	30
2013/2014	107	20
2014/2015	58	4

Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge

2010/2011	0	0	1
2011/2012	0	1	3
2012/2013	0	2	2
2013/2014	0	2	
2014/2015	1	0	

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she has spoken with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Community and Safety Manager requesting that the Enforcement Officer patrols problem areas more frequently.

Specific areas highlighted as being a problem were: Uttoxeter Road, Cheadle Road, Recreation ground, footpaths 5a and 5b and footpath linking Uttoxeter Road with Elmwood Drive.

6.3 Minutes dated 21st July 2014 – Page 45 – agenda item 3.2.7 – Missed bin collections.

The following response from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Waste Collection Manager Nicola Kemp was noted:

“Robin has kindly forwarded your email onto me in regards to the response you are waiting for in regards to the strike action and contingency arrangements. I have not received any communication prior to this asking for me to contact Forsbrook Parish Council. If you could advise as to how you tried to contact the recycling team for this information I will investigate what happened to the enquiry and why it was not passed onto myself. Please accept my apologies therefore for the delay in responding.

I can confirm that of Keith Parker, Head of Operational Services has received a letter from Mr Peter Jones (Parish Councillor) regarding the council’s response to the strike action. A response has been posted out this week to Mr Jones.

This Council’s response to the strike action was to undertake a double up collection of waste or recyclables not collected on the 10th July, a fortnight later on the 24th July. The decision to respond to the strike action in this way was supported by the Portfolio Holder for the Environment and the Head of Operational Services after consideration of a number of options, all of which would have resulted in disruption to a greater number of individuals.

I should emphasise that the Council has a statutory obligation to arrange for the collection of waste. The obligation being fulfilled as individual Council's determine and without any requirement to collect waste to any specified frequency. In the event we fulfilled our obligation by making arrangements to collect all waste left for collection on the 24th.

Information was posted on the Council’s website advising of the expected delays to collections from week commencing Monday 7th July. A message was also placed on the councils main phone line which went live from 8am on the 10th July advising of our plans in regards to waste collection services.

Whilst I appreciate that delayed waste or recycling collections causes disruption for residents, all waste or recyclables presented on the 24th July were collected, as a result a waste collection did occur. In the current financial climate this Council does not have sufficient spare resources to undertake normal operations and to catch up outstanding collections caused by industrial action such as this. For information the direct cost of refuse collection and recycling is a little less than £0.80 per week and in this case, as perhaps you

Page 67

would expect much of the 'saving' from the strike on 10 July was absorbed as we used extra staff and vehicles on the 24th July on the doubled up collections.

Further strike action has been announced to occur on Tuesday 14th October. It is envisaged that the councils response to waste collections will be the same, due to the considerations detailed above. As we have been given a greater period of notice in regards to this strike, we will though endeavour to communicate our response as much as possible through media local channels available to us. As is the case with a strike though, the full impact of the action is not fully known until the day itself. I hope this explains the councils position in regards to the recent strike action, should you have any further queries please contact me.”

- 6.4 Minutes dated 21st July – page 46 – agenda item 6.1. subject: HGV’s using Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that she had witnessed a large articulated vehicle delivering to the mineral company on Tuesday around 8.05am and was still monitoring the situation. When vehicle registration numbers are identified they will be passed on to County Councillor W. Day.

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

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

- 7.2 Meetings.

The following meeting dates were noted:

Staffordshire Police – Drop in police surgeries at Blythe Bridge Library:

Saturday 30th August 10am-12pm.
Saturday 20th September 10am-12pm
Monday 22nd September 6pm-7pm
Saturday 11th October 10am-12pm
Monday 13th October 6pm-7pm

Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – Thursday 11th September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Council Chamber, Moorlands House, Leek. (Note: Agenda for the meeting and minutes from the meeting held on 26th June 2014 received).

Staffordshire County Council – Working with Amey Infrastructure – 25th September 2014 10.00am to 1.00pm at the County Buildings in Stafford.

Staffordshire Wildlife Trust – An Audience with John Craven – Wednesday 24th September 2014 at 7.30pm at Staffordshire County Showground. Tickets start at £15.00, VIP tickets £50.00.

- 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 – E-News.
- Staffordshire Moorlands Parish Assembly – Newsletter Issue 3.
- Sentinel articles on: Cenotaph at St. Peters Church and Library Consultation meeting.
- SPCA Gazette – 75th Anniversary Special Edition (copy distributed to Councillors).

Page 68

8. CORRESPONDENCE:

- 8.1 Douglas Macmillan Hospice – subject: Case support for donation towards new beds.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the Douglas Macmillan Hospice is on our annual donation list but proposed that Council donate a further £100 specifically towards new beds.

Agreed.

- 8.2 Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – subject: Disruptive parking outside schools at drop off and pick up times.

It was agreed to respond to the above, detailing the following specific areas of concern:

Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge

Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge

Cheadle Road, Blythe Bridge

Blythe Bridge Railway Station

Staffordshire Moorlands District Council car park (adjacent to Blythe Bridge Library)

Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge

Blythe Mount Park, Blythe Bridge

Caverswall Old Road, Forsbrook

Trent Road, Forsbrook

Churnet Road, Forsbrook

Dove Road, Forsbrook

Penk Road, Forsbrook

Also parking on the Tesco car park and Late shop car park restricts customer access.

It was also agreed to suggest to the Police and Crime Commissioner that additional parking could be made available by extending the District Council car park to the area in front of the unoccupied police houses, land which is currently under the ownership of Staffordshire Police.

- 8.3 Staffordshire Council of Voluntary Youth Services (SCVYS) – subject: Youth Groups.

It was noted that the above charitable company is offering support to anyone interested in setting up a youth group.

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

Details of the above were noted.

- 8.5 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Watchdog Alerts.

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

- 8.6 Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – subject: Weekly Updates.

The above documents were noted.

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

Staffordshire Borough Council	Statement of Community Involvement Public Consultation. Consultation on the Draft Statement of Community involvement runs between Monday 28 th July to Monday 15 th September 2014. Information can be found by visiting: http://staffordbc-consult.objective.co.uk/portal .
Staffordshire County Council	Supporting People Review – To note that Staffordshire County Council is investing £7million in the Supporting People programme this year and continues to work with other organisations to explore alternative sources of funding and support through partners such as VAST, a charity which provides services and support to voluntary and community groups.
Grant Thornton	Audit for year ended 31 st March 2014. To note that “ <i>on the basis of our review in our opinion the information in the annual return is in accordance with proper practices and no matters have come to our attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met</i> ”.
Levison Wood	Thank you card for all the help in making the commemorative weekend a memorable event.
Email Exchanges: Faye Lambert, Community Rail Officer Environment Agency Julie Stanier	Subject: Blythe Bridge Station – maintenance work. Forsbrook water course. Contact details for SMDC Tree Preservation Officer Steve Massey and Your Housing Officer Gavin McAlister.
Staffordshire County Council Planning Department Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Sarah Champ Butchers Arms Football Team SMDC (Nicola Kemp, Waste Collection Manager SMDC (Robin Cummings, Street Scene Team Leader) Staffordshire County Council (Catherine Mann, Libraries and Arts Manger). Your Housing (Gavin McAlister, Community Projects Officer)	Planning application SM.14/06. Proposals re dog fouling bins. Site allocation proposals. Changing room and football pitch facilities. Missed bins collections during strike action and waste collection intentions to cover future strikes. Proposals regarding the removal of dog fouling bins. Response to Council’s email to Gail Edwards re financial calculations regarding the proposed Core libraries and Blythe Bridge library. Maintenance of footpath linking Mount Road with the recreation ground. (Note: Work has now been carried out).
Staffordshire Police	Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge. Vehicle speed; Vehicles causing an obstruction by parking on the footway.
County Councillor W. Day	Issues raised at the July Council meeting – flooding/sewage; road speed markings – Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge.
Staffordshire County Council	Highway Defect Reports: Overgrown hedge adjacent to 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

Note: All correspondence/documents were available to view on the evening of the Council Meeting or by prior arrangement with the clerk.

9.1 Planning Applications:

There were no planning applications to consider.

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

SM.14/06 – Proposed mobile classroom located on playspace adjacent to the existing nursery facility (The Care & Fun Club), to provide additional nursery spaces at William Amory Primary School, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge.

To note condition 3 of the approval:

“The mobile classroom hereby permitted shall be removed from the site no later than 5 years from the date of commencement of the development (as notified in accordance with Condition 2a); the Site shall be restored as a school play ground no later than 1 month after that date and the planning permission shall then expire.”

SMD/2014/0248 – 457 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – certificate of lawfulness of existing use of domestic garden area.

9.4 Planning Refusals:

There were no planning refusals to note.

9.5 Planning matters.

No planning related issues were raised.

10. CEMETERY:

10.1 Cemetery Report.

Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee said she had no issues to report other than to say how nice the cemetery looked for the first world war commemoration service held on 2nd August 2014.

10.2 Burial Plot CR30.

Members discussed the email received regarding the ongoing maintenance adjacent to the above burial plot and the request for Council to again consider the removal of the hedge.

It was **agreed** unanimously not to remove the hedge but the clerk was requested to speak with the contractor Town and Country Services to ensure that the hedge is maintained so that it does not overshadow the burial plot. The clerk did point out that this burial plot is very close to the hedge.

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) read email received from Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Street Scene Team Leader Robin Cummings regarding the removal of dog fouling bins as follows:

“We have now gathered all the information about the dog bin locations and compiled the sheet below highlighting what action needs to be taken for each individual site. They basically fall into two categories

A) Remove dog bin and replace it with a litterbin that has increased capacity

B) Remove dog bin and don't replace it as there is an existing litterbin nearby (usually 3 -5 Meters)

Therefore you can see that all locations will continue to have a means of disposing of both litter and dog waste. If Gill could have a quick look through and give us the ok to proceed we can start to organise the works”

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the bins were emptied on Tuesdays and Fridays with some being at 100% capacity. There are nine dog fouling bins in total which are owned by Forsbrook Parish Council at the following locations:

Blythe Bridge – Uttoxeter Road – junction with the A50.

Blythe Bridge – Elmwood Drive grassed area.

Blythe Bridge – Mount Road – recreation ground.

Blythe Bridge – The Avenue – recreation ground.

Blythe Bridge – Stallington Road – outside the William Amory Primary School.

Blythe Bridge – Uttoxeter Road – adjacent to Travis Perkins.

Blythe Bridge – Uttoxeter Road – grassed area in front of the Library.

Forsbrook – Cheadle Road – grassed area adjacent to The Butchers Arms Public House.

Forsbrook – Trent Road – grassed area.

She proposed asking Staffordshire Moorlands District Council if it was possible to retain the dog fouling bins and for Forsbrook Parish Council to cover the cost of the twice weekly emptying service.

Agreed.

11.2 Environment Issues.

Issue	Action
Footpath 5b – displaying of dog fouling signs.	The clerk said she had a couple of spare signs and could attach these to the newly installed gates.
Dogs in the Children's fenced in play area – owners ignored request to leave the dogs outside.	Monitor the situation and report to SMDC Community and Safety Officer.
Brookgate and Eastbank Ride, Forsbrook – road and pavement surface.	It was noted that work has been pending for several years and the clerk was asked to get an update.
Uttoxeter Road (junction with Grindley Lane), Blythe Bridge – Sunken British Telecom manhole cover.	It was noted that this has been reported to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department on several occasions and they in turn have reported it to British Telecom. The clerk was asked to report it again.

Village Hall – gypsy access	It was noted that members of the Village Hall committee were in talks regarding securing the site.
Cheadle Road, Forsbrook – trees/hedges obstructing footway access.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.

12. FINANCE:

12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 31st July 2014 was:

Co-operative Bank plc	28407.05
Unity Trust Bank	100000.00
Total	128407.05

12.2 August 2014 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402356	Town & Country Services	1129.00	225.80	1354.80
402357	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	307.20	61.44	368.64
402358	Nettlebank Limited	771.20	154.24	925.44
402359	Getmapping plc	70.00	14.00	84.00
402360	Premier 1 (U.K.) Ltd.	437.50	87.50	525.00
402361	Quality Office Supplies	47.04	9.41	56.45
402362	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	307.20	61.44	368.64
402363	Christine J. Snape	1027.20		1027.20
DD	Eon	66.00		66.00
Total		4162.34	613.83	4776.17

RESOLVED:

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

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman