

## FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL

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### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JULY 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 F. J. Hopley,  
Councillor P. Jones,  
Councillor A. J. Mould,  
Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** PCSO Adam Charlesworth,  
Residents (17),  
Mrs. C. J. Snape (Clerk).

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Councillor Mrs. J. P. Morris, Councillor J. W. Burgess, Councillor A. E. Wilson and Councillor B. Yates.

#### 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
Staffordshire County Council - Highway Issues	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend.
Tesco		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 Police Update.

PCSO Adam Charlesworth reported that anti social behaviour was down from 16 to 9 reports compared to the same period last year. Twelve reports of crime were recorded which covers shoplifting, thefts from vehicles, violence against persons - the same number as for the comparison period last year.

Councillors raised several issues as follows and PCSO Adam Charlesworth's response is shown in italics:

Footpath linking The Avenue with Brook Close – youth congregating and used syringes found in gardens.

Drug dealing on the Co-operative Late Shop car park.

*The clerk has already reported the above incidences.*

Green Lane, Blythe Bridge – lead stolen.

*Please report any anti social behaviour or crime incidents at the time they are happening on 101.*

### 3.2 Residents Issues.

#### 3.2.1 Recreation Ground – litter/dog fouling.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that Forsbrook Parish Council has taken the decision not to introduce a bye-law to ban dogs from the recreation ground or to keep them on a lead and hope that dog owners will act responsibly. The reason we continue to emphasise the importance of clearing up after your dog is that dog faeces contains a number of things which can make people ill, best known of which is infection with toxocara canis. The Parish Council also pays for an extra weekly litter collection. The recreation ground and play facilities do attract large numbers of users, which in turn adds to the litter problems.

#### 3.2.2 Town & Parish Council Consultation on Site Options and Development Boundaries (Agenda item 8.1 refers).

Residents raised concerns regarding the proposals to develop land in Caverswall Road for housing.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that there would be a public consultation and details would be on the Parish Council website, notice boards and in local press. Forsbrook Parish Council will be sending a letter regarding the proposals (as outlined under agenda item 8.1). She suggested that if anyone has any concerns or required more information on the proposals to contact Gavin Clarke at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

#### 3.2.3 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – flooding (including sewage)/speeding/vehicles causing an obstruction.

Residents pointed out that any development in Caverswall Road would impact on the flooding issues.

Council agreed to:

- (1) Contact Staffordshire County Council regarding the flooding and sewage problems and to request that the drains be inspected and cleared.
- (2) Contact County Councillor W. Day to see if 30mile speed signs and dragons teeth can be applied to the road surface.
- (3) Contact local police officers requesting them to add Caverswall Road to the speed-monitoring list and to monitor vehicles parking on the footway causing an obstruction.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that the Environment Agency issue a booklet on riparian rights and responsibilities for people living adjacent to a water course. In brief the riparian responsibilities are to maintain the beds and banks of the watercourse and to keep them clear of any matter that could cause an obstruction.

3.2.4 A50 – noise pollution.

Council agreed to contact the Highway Agency with regard to timescale for resurfacing the road with tarmac. Noise barrier fencing was replaced a few years ago, which the Highway Agency said met the criteria and despite many meetings and correspondence refused to consider replacing with a higher fence.

3.2.5 Forsbrook Cemetery – dangerous when exiting.

Staffordshire County Council has advised that the use of mirrors on the highway is not recommended because of distortion of perception of distance and speed of vehicles.

3.2.6 Litter/Dog fouling/Vandalism – fixed penalties.

It was agreed to contact Staffordshire Moorlands District Council with regard to how many fixed penalties have been issued for dog fouling and litter.

With regard to any vandalism/anti social behaviour, this needs to be witnessed and reported to the police at the time it is happening.

3.2.7 Elmwood Drive Estate – missed bin collections due to strike action.

It was agreed to contact Staffordshire Moorlands District Council to see what contingency plans were being considered should refuse collectors go on strike again as it was not acceptable to expect residents to wait one month for their bins to be emptied.

3.3 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 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014.**

**RESOLVED:**

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

## 6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

- 6.1 Annual Parish Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Page 14 – agenda item 4.1.  
 Council Meeting of 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 – Page 21 – agenda item 4.1.3 and Page 27 – agenda item 13.2.  
 Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – Page 32 – agenda item 3.2.  
 Subject: Speeding.

Results from the recent speed monitoring in Caverswall Old Road, Dilhorne Road and Cheadle Road, Forsbrook as detailed below were noted:

### Dilhorne Road – 24.06.14 at 8.00-9.15am.

20-25 mph	25-30mph	30-34 mph	35-40
4	10	13	1

### Dilhorne Road – 23.06.14 at 9.15-10.30am.

20-25 mph	25-30mph	30-34 mph	35-40
12	13	10	2

### Caverswall Old Road - 24.06.14 at 8:00-9:00am.

20-25 mph	25-30mph	30-34 mph	35-40
9	41	12	1

### Cheadle Road - 24.06.14 at 10:30-11:30am

20-25 mph	25-30mph	30-34 mph	35-40
7	72	17	0

Speed monitoring will continue to be carried out on these roads.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that whilst she has been monitoring Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook during the hours of 8.00am and 4.00pm weekdays she had not witnessed any heavy goods vehicles.

- 6.2 Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – Page 38 – Agenda item 11.1.2.  
 Subject: Blythe Bridge Library.

Notes from meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014 were received and noted. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that it was obvious from the figures produced by the clerk that Blythe Bridge Library is one of the most cost effective compared to all but one of the libraries being proposed as a Core library, which Staffordshire County Council will continue to run. (Agenda item 8.3 also refers to Staffordshire County Council Library proposals).

- 6.3 Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – Page 41 – Agenda item 11.2.  
 Subject: Blythe Bridge High School.

To receive the following response from Mrs. Shan Schanda, Headteacher at Blythe Bridge High School.

*“Investigative report in response to correspondence received from Forsbrook Parish Council by Mrs. W. Keeble, Business & Operations Manager.*

*All concerns raised by Forsbrook Parish Council are addressed in the detailed report noted below:*

*Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form would always wish to address any concerns Parish Council members may have, particularly when it may involve our students.*

- *Although we have now received the Forsbrook Parish Council letter, we would have been most appreciative of a phone call into school on the day of the disturbance so that we could have followed it up immediately, this way any claim of anti social behaviour could have been dealt with promptly on the day. Of course, knowing how important our school contribution is to the local community we are very keen to eradicate such behaviour as it could have a negative effect on the vast majority of our students who are extremely well behaved and very supportive of their local community.*
- *The day noted in the letter was Friday, that day the only students from Blythe Bridge High School and Sixth Form walking through the village were our Year 11 students who returned into school for their Science exam.*
- *The previous day, Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June, was our Year 11 students leaving/shirt signing day and students did leave at approximately 12.10pm, with some of them waiting briefly in the village for lifts from their parents or elder siblings. During this period we had senior members of staff in the village, the students were well behaved and members of the local community commented positively about the students and their behaviour on their ‘last day’.*
- *Senior members of staff remained in the village for a considerable amount of time, ensuring that students made their way home, or after a short break for lunch, returned to school for their afternoon exam. There were a very small number of students outside the chip shop eating their lunch, they were moved on, but, were not disruptive to the community.*
- *We remind our students very regularly about the standards expected both in and out of school and our students remember the school ethos.*
- *Correspondence states that on 9<sup>th</sup> June police were chasing three youths in our school uniform around the village, suspected of drug offences. We have no such knowledge of this incident and would appreciate the source of information because the police have not been in contact with the school or our school governors over such an issue.*
- *We always consider parents and residents opinions and ensure we inform and involve parents and guardians if there are concerns about student behaviour. We also take opportunity to engage with community such as regularly attending Remembrance Day Parades and hosting coffee mornings and community based activities during our Curriculum Activity week which we run in July.*
- *We are extremely proud of our students here at school and will always deal with any minority of students who may be reported to us, we are always happy to discuss any matters with our local residents and I feel that our attendance at future Parish Council meetings may help our communication further. If the members are happy for this to happen please could they email the details of the next planned meeting to [w.keeble@blythebridge.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:w.keeble@blythebridge.staffs.sch.uk) “*

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton suggested that if residents or Councillors have any concerns regarding the behaviour of students from any of the local schools during school hours that they phone the school at the time of the occurrence or request, through Council, to invite a representative from the school to a Council meeting.

- 6.3 Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – Page 41 – Agenda item 11.2.  
Subject: A50 road markings.

The following response from the Highway Agency was noted:

*“Thank you for reporting your concerns for the condition of the A50 road markings around Tean roundabout. A machine survey was undertaken earlier this year to assess the quality of the A50 road markings. A programme of road marking renewal is due to follow forthcoming resurfacing works at various locations along the A50. Should the above survey have identified this location for renewal, it is likely that works will be included within the renewal programme.”*

- 6.4 Council Meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> June 2014 – Page 41 – Agenda item 11.2.  
Subject: Litter, dog fouling and overgrown hedge adjacent to the William Amory Primary School.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the overgrown hedge has now been cut and that she has referred the concerns regarding dog fouling and litter to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Enforcement Officer.

## **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 was noted:

Staffordshire Parish Councils Association – New Councillor Training Course – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2014 – 7.00pm-9.00pm at the Trentham Suite, Staffordshire Place One, Tipping Street, Stafford. ST16 2LP. Cost for the first delegate £20.00, £15.00 for the second and £10 for subsequent delegates from the same Council. Prices are doubled for unaffiliated councils.

- 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 2.
  - Clerks & Councils Direct – Issue 94.
  - The Clerk Magazine – Issue 45.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE:**

- 8.1 Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – subject: Town & Parish Council Consultation on Site Options and Development Boundaries – Letters dated 5<sup>th</sup> June (received by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> July) and 20<sup>th</sup> June together with associated documents requesting Council's comments on site options, boundaries identified on the maps and any suggestions for other site allocations and boundary changes which Council feel should be considered.

Council considered all the concerns raised by residents and agreed to forward the following response in accordance with the detailed proposals suggested by Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton.

*“At our Council meeting yesterday evening members discussed in detail the site options and boundaries identified on the maps. As you will appreciate, Councillors are elected to represent all residents in the Parish and for this reason do not wish to comment on specific site options but would like to express their broad views as follows:*

**1. Parish Plan.**

*In September 2010 the Forsbrook Parish Plan was adopted after a comprehensive survey amongst all householders living in the Parish. This plan was endorsed by Staffordshire Moorlands District Council. The response from the survey was very clear in that 89% of residents felt strongly about the protection of the green belt.*

**2. Green Belt.**

*National Planning Policy Framework states:*

*“As with previous Green Belt policy, inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.*

*When considering any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that substantial weight is given to any harm to the Green belt. ‘Very special circumstances’ will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.”*

*Page 96 of your Local Plan also states: “Strict control will continue to be exercised over inappropriate development within the Green Belt as defined by Government policy”.*

**3. Special Landscape Areas.**

*The purpose of Special Landscape Area (SLA) designation is to provide protection for locally significant and attractive landscapes that, although not nationally designated, are of comparable quality to Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and that they should be protected and enhanced, particularly through the planning process.*

**4. Flood Risk**

*As set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere. For these purposes “areas at risk of flooding” means land within Flood Zones 2 and 3; or land within Flood Zone 1 which has critical drainage problems and which has been notified to the local planning authority by the Environment. “Flood risk” means risk from all sources of flooding – including from rivers and the sea, directly from rainfall on the ground surface and rising groundwater, overwhelmed sewers and drainage systems, and from reservoirs, canals and lakes and other artificial sources.*

**5. Planning History.**

*Site options should not be considered for development if they have previously been refused for valid reasons.*

**6. Contaminated Land.**

*Site options on recorded contaminated land should be discounted unless it can be proved that the land is suitable for development.*

**7. Development Boundaries.**

*Members of Council felt very strongly that development boundaries should not be compromised or extended.*

**8. Employment Sites.**

*With regard to employment sites identified on the map, we already have the Premium Employment Site in our area. We accept that we are now told that this does not count against the rural areas residual employment land requirement, because it is considered to be a strategic provision for North Staffordshire rather than being specific to the Staffordshire Moorlands. However, it is in our area and obviously because there has been no movement in over a decade to develop the site, it should demonstrate that there is a lack of demand for additional employment sites in our Parish. Within a few miles there are employment units available at the old Creda site in Grindley Lane, Blythe Bridge and the Blythe Colours site in Cresswell.*

**9. Traffic Concerns.**

*There are already traffic related issues in Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook and it is on record that the Uttoxeter Road/Cheadle Road/Stallington Road junction is operating at over capacity, a situation which it is envisaged will get worse with the junction being unable to efficiently manage the flow of traffic. The 150 homes which we are expected to be able to take together with the large number of homes envisaged for Cheadle will definitely affect our village and exacerbate traffic on all our roads and at the above-mentioned junction. We are advised that a traffic survey is being undertaken. This is already too late. Our residents should not be compromised any further with regard to traffic congestion.*

*A further point Councillors would like raise is that in all the documents Blythe Bridge is referred to as one large village and for this reason has been identified as being able to take 150 of the rural housing allocation. This is not factually correct. Forsbrook Parish is made up of three villages each with their own identity – Blythe Bridge, Forsbrook and part of the Boundary. Your previous local plan states that the “villages lie within the North Staffordshire Green Belt, therefore the opportunities for expansion of the settlements are constrained. Within the villages there is little land remaining, which is considered suitable for development. Forsbrook lies adjacent to a Special Landscape Area. The villages have a Village Development Boundary drawn around the developed area to coincide with the Green Belt and Special Landscape Area boundaries. These designations will prevent further development out into the open countryside whilst allowing suitable infill development in keeping with the village character.”*

*With regard to your request for Council to identify other suitable sites, for the same reasons as referred to above in that we represent all our residents, we do not wish to suggest other sites which could also lead to commercially sensitive issues in that if planning permission is likely, the value of the land will increase substantially. This has proved the case in that one site option that you have identified, which was in the final processes of being sold has now been withdrawn from the market because the property developer who owns the land realises that it is worth far more if there is a chance for multiple development, rather than one residential property for which planning permission has already been approved.*

*We do not want to be seen as being a negative Council as we do accept that progress needs to be made with regard to housing allocation. However, in view of the above broad comments, it may be appropriate to review some of the sites that fall in any of the above categories and remove them from the site options. It could also be that when planning applications are submitted for some of the sites they will not be approved for the valid planning reasons detailed above.*

*We are sure that if your Officers revisited our area they would be able to identify more suitable sites, which would have a better chance of getting through the full planning process.”*



It was noted that there will be a further opportunity at the wider public consultation stages to make formal comments on any proposals, which go forward as potential allocations.

- 8.2 Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Historical Society – subject: Dedication Service at Forsbrook Parish Cemetery and book launch at Blythe Bridge Library on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014, and Church Service at St. Peter’s Church on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014.

Arrangements for the above were noted. Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that a lot of work has gone into organising these events and urged as many Councillors and residents to support them.

- 8.3 Staffordshire County Council – subject: Libraries Consultation.

It was noted that a twelve week consultation will begin on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The initial consultation is exploratory in nature, the primary goal is to understand how people feel about the proposals and whether they consider them the right way to deliver a modern and sustainable library service. Promotional material is available to download on [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/connectedlibraries) and on request from [connectedlibraries@staffordshire.gov.uk](mailto:connectedlibraries@staffordshire.gov.uk)

People can also have their say at one of 35 drop in sessions. There is at least one drop in session at every library that is proposed to be a ‘library local’. The session for Blythe Bridge will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July – 7.00-9.00pm. It is essential that people wishing to attend book one of the 50 places available.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that it was very important for residents and users of the library to have their say. Consultation forms are in Blythe Bridge Library as well as online. She also said that Gail Edwards, the District Commissioning Lead for Staffordshire County Council has agreed to attend the August Parish Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 to answers any questions from Councillors and residents.

- 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.

**General:**

Staffordshire Borough Council

**Subject:**

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (As amended) The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012 – Regulation 26. Plan for Stafford Borough – Adoption. Regulation 25 – Notice of Publication of the Inspector’s Report on the Plan for Stafford Borough submission (with main modifications). More information can be found on: [www.staffordbc.gov.uk/theplanforstaffordborough](http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk/theplanforstaffordborough).

**Email Exchanges:****Subject:**

Levison Wood - Copy of email to  
Staffordshire County Council  
Sarah Champ

Blythe Bridge Library.  
SMDC Site allocations – Draycott Old Road,  
Forsbrook.

Marion Wade

SMDC Site allocations – Draycott Old Road,  
Forsbrook – together with copy of her letter to  
SMDC.

Mark(Draycott in the Moors website)SMDC Site allocations.  
Staffordshire Police

Speeding vehicles – Dilhorne Road, Forsbrook.

Drug offences – Co-op Late Shop car park.

Drug related issues – footpath linking The Avenue  
with Mount Road.

Gavin McAlister, Your Housing

Footpath overgrowth – Mount Road to Recreation  
Ground. (Note: Mr. McAlister is trying to arrange  
another partnership event similar to last year with  
community involvement).

Environment Agency

Flood gate to the rear of Henry Rice's garage –  
blocked with debris. (Note: the necessary clearing  
work has been carried out).

Faye Lambert, Community Rail  
Officer

Blythe Bridge Railway Station.

To note that the Station car park is being resurfaced  
and remarked. Work is expected to commence on  
11<sup>th</sup> August and will last for eleven days. EMT  
hopes to arrange a station challenge at the station on  
4<sup>th</sup> September (date TBC) when staff and managers  
will work at the station, helping to do any necessary  
tidying up. This will be good publicity for the station  
improvements. Councillors and station volunteers  
are invited to get involved in judging and shouting  
encouragement. Tenders are also being sought for  
the cleaning of the platform 1 wall – back to bare  
brick and repointing.

Mr. & Mrs. Joynson

Dog fouling and litter.

To note that the above have raised issues regarding  
the amount of litter on the recreation ground and have  
raised concerns as to why this is never highlighted as  
much as dog fouling. (The clerk has replied).

Staffordshire County Council  
Staffordshire County Council  
(Rights of Way)  
Staffordshire County Council

Standard of grass cutting on verges.

Overgrowth on footpaths.

Highway Defect Reports:

Blocked drains: Caverswall Road, Caverswall Old  
Road and Cheadle Road.

**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:

SMD/2014/0342 – land adjoining 459 Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – proposed change of  
use and conversion of existing storage building into a two-bedroom dwelling.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton said that this is the second application for a change of use and conversion of the existing storage building, the first being refused on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2013 for the following reasons:

- (1) *“In accordance with Saved Policy B21 of the Adopted Local Plan, no robust evidence has been put forward to demonstrate that an alternative commercial use of the premises is either available or unacceptable. Similarly, the proposal does not meet with Revised Core Strategy Policy R2 ‘Rural Housing’ which requires a demonstration that an agricultural or commercial use is not viable or suitable. In such cases, there will be a requirement for a marketing exercise to be carried out by a suitably qualified professional or other evidence that the building would be unsuitable for commercial use’. In these respects, the proposal would be contrary to Saved Policy B21 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan; Policies R1 and R2 of the Core Strategy (Revised Submission Document) and advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).*
- (2) *Insufficient information has been submitted regarding the proposed access driveway to the proposed dwelling, which would not block or reduce access to the residential property to the west, which is served via a dedicated access strip in order to assess adequately the impact of the proposed development having regard to matters of highway safety. In these respects, the proposal would be contrary to Saved Policies B13 and T14 of the Adopted Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan; Policies DC1 and T1 of the Core Strategy (Revised Submission Document) and advice contained within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).*
- (3) *The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), para 49 states that housing applications should be considered in the context of the presumption in favour of sustainable development. It is recognised that the Council currently cannot demonstrate a five-year supply of deliverable housing land. However, for the reasoning given above and in this particular case, the adverse impacts of a grant of planning permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh these benefits when assessed against the other policies in the Framework as a whole. “*

She continued by saying that additional information has now been submitted with this second application with regard to alternative commercial use and access driveway.

**RESOLVED:**

- **To raise no concerns providing all previous concerns for refusal have been fully addressed.**

9.2 Planning Approvals:

The following planning approvals were noted:

SMD/2014/0026 - 12 Blythe Mount Park, Blythe Bridge – proposed 2-storey extension to front of existing detached residence and single storey orangery to rear.

DET/2014/0016 – Woodlands Farm, Woodlands Lane, Blythe Bridge – steel frame agricultural building.

9.4 Planning Refusals:

The following planning refusal was noted:

SMD/2014/0256 – 1 Springfield Drive, Forsbrook – erection of detached garage.

*Reasons: The application site is located within the Blythe Bridge and Forsbrook Village Development Boundary. Within such areas domestic outbuildings can often be supported subject to all other material planning consideration being satisfied. Domestic garages should be of a good design, be subordinate and modest in size for their purpose as ancillary domestic outbuildings. Good design is particularly important for developments within visually prominent locations such as this in order to avoid harm to the street scene. By reason of its large footprint, overall bulk and proposed location the garage would be an overlarge and disproportionate addition to this visually prominent site not relating well to the existing house or its surroundings. For these reasons the proposal is contrary to adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance: Design Principles for Development in the Staffordshire Moorlands, policy DC1 of the adopted Core Strategy (March 2014) and the National Planning Policy Framework including Chapter 7: Required Good Design.*

#### 9.4 Planning matters.

No planning related issues were raised.

### 10. CEMETERY:

#### 10.1 Cemetery Report.

In the absence of Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham, Chairman of the Cemetery Committee there was no report.

#### 10.2 Cemetery Issues.

Councillor J. W. Cornwall said that a grantee has approached him with regard to leaves around her husband's grave. He also said that there were a lot of empty water containers left around graves.

### 11. ENVIRONMENT:

#### 11.1 Environment Report.

Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton reported that the team swing has been vandalised. The clerk has received a quotation for a replacement seat rubber impact extrusion including delivery and installation in the amount of £737.48 net.

Members **agreed** for the necessary repair work to be carried out when the children return to school after the summer break.

She went on to thank all the volunteers who help with the maintenance of the flowerbeds at Blythe Bridge Station and congratulated Councillor Norah Stanier, her husband Graham and Austin Hannaby on receiving their seven-year volunteer award.

#### 11.2 Environment Issues.

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
Plants uprooted from the flowerbeds at Blythe Bridge Station.	Replanted by Councillor J. W. Cornwall.
Use syringes found at Blythe Bridge Station.	Report to local Police Officers.

Overgrown hedge on footway on Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge adjacent to Tater Lane obstructing pedestrian access.	Report to Staffordshire County Council Highways Defect Department.
Footpath 5b and footpath to the rear of the Deep Pan Man and Tesco – vermin.	Report to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council Environmental Health. <b>(Note: Poison cannot be put down on public footways/highways but an inspection is being undertaken with the intention of laying poison in the underground sewers. Businesses are required to carry out their own pest control. SMDC offer a free pest control service to residents.)</b>
Diseased tree – footpath from The Avenue to Mount Road.	Chairman Councillor Mrs. G. Burton provided Councillor Mrs. N. A. Stanier with contact details for the tree preservation officer at Staffordshire Moorlands District Council – Steve Massey and also Gavin McAlister at Your Housing.
Litterbin – Jubilee Gardens.	It was noted that a litterbin has been installed.

## 12. FINANCE:

### 12.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balance as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 was:

Co-operative Bank plc	28993.29
Unity Trust Bank	100000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>128993.29</b>

### 12.2 July 2014 accounts.

The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque No.	Supplier	Net	VAT	Gross
402352	Premier 1 (U.K.) Ltd.	437.50	87.50	525.00
402353	SMDC	307.20	61.44	368.64
402354	Town & Country Services	1486.00	297.20	1783.20
402355	Christine J. Snape	1027.20		1027.20
DD	Eon	66.00		66.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>3323.90</b>	<b>446.14</b>	<b>3770.04</b>

## RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of July 2014 accounts.

## 12.3 Income and Expenditure Accounts for three-month period ending 30.06.14.

Council noted financial information as detailed hereunder.

<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	Precept 2014/15	Opening Balance	Period to 30.06.14 (3 mths)
<b>CEMETERY</b>			
Ground maintenance including grave leveling	5000	586.00	1446.00
Rates	250		15.63
Contingency	750		
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>6000</b>		<b>1461.63</b>
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Ground Maintenance	7500	55.00	1825.00
Play equipment inspections/repairs	250		
Changing Rooms	1000		218.17
Electricity for street lights on unadopted roads	750		
Street cleansing	3500	307.20	614.40
Container plants and watering	2250		455.00
New Play Equipment			
Contingency	750		
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>16000</b>		<b>3112.57</b>
<b>GENERAL</b>			
Cemetery	6000		1461.63
Environment	16000		3112.57
Insurance	2500		
Audit	500		108.00
Newsletter	600		
Memberships and Periodicals	750		621.00
Elections (funded from contingency)			
Stationery/Petty Cash/Telephone	1000		152.46
Donations	2200		
Chair's Contingency	250		
Chair's Allowance	250		
Staff Costs	15500		3869.01
Training/Expenses	100		
Advertising	100		
V.H. Hire	300		
Collaret Engraving	25		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>46075</b>		<b>9324.67</b>
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>CEMETERY:</b>			
Burials:			640.00
Memorials:			195.00
Cemetery rates refund			
<b>ENVIRONMENT</b>			
Recreation Fees:			
Wayleave:			5.85
<b>GENERAL:</b>			
Precept:			22956.28
Interest:			41.00
Telephone call reimbursement			13.88
SCC Lengthsman's reimbursement			
SMDC Lengthsman's reimbursement			
VAT Reimbursement			6544.61

**TOTAL**

**30396.62**

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The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

Clerk to the Council

Chairman