

FORSBROOK PARISH COUNCIL**MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 JULY AT BLYTHE BRIDGE AND FORSBROOK VILLAGE HALL.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor F Hopley (Chair)
 Councillor Mrs P Shufflebotham (Vice Chairman)
 Councillor J W Cornwall
 Councillor Mrs C Hopley
 Councillor P Jones
 Councillor Miss J P Morris
 Councillor A J Mould
 Councillor Mrs N Stanier
 Councillor I Herdman
 Councillor B Yates

IN ATTENDANCE:

Residents (28)
 Mrs D Plant Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from County Councillor W. Day, Councillor A E Wilson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

Item	Member declaring interest	Nature of interest
Staffordshire County Council - Highway Issues Tesco	Councillor P. Jones	Personal – Staffordshire County Council Highway Officer Mary Anne Raftery personal friend. Personal – employee of Tesco.
Foxfield Steam Railway	Councillor A. J. Mould	Personal – volunteer at Foxfield Railway.
Staffordshire County Council – William Amory Primary School. Staffordshire County Council – Rights of Way Issues.	Councillor Mrs. P. Shufflebotham	Personal – Governor at the William Amory Primary School. Personal – Daughter employed by Staffordshire County Council in the Rights of Way Department.
Blythe Bridge Village Hall Committee	Councillor Mrs C Hopley	Part of the management committee.
Blythe Bridge Village Hall Committee	Councillor Ms J Morris	Part of the management committee.

Blythe Bridge Village Hall Committee	Chairman Hopley	Councillor Mr F	Part of the management committee.
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3 OPEN SESSION.

3.1 Residents Issues

At the rear of the room the Parish Council had set up a display with information regarding the recent proposals for the Housing Consultation for Forsbrook Parish.

A number of the public submitted comments via this mechanism and these were:-

Poor visibility onto main Cheadle Road
 Road Unsuitable for current level of traffic
 Flooding
 Insufficient School Places
 Increased risk of flooding into ditch on East Bank Ride and Willow Way
 Flood Plain
 Green Belt
 Access
 Volume of traffic causing congestion
 Impacts on the natural environment, trees, wildlife
 Poor access to the area
 4 previous applications have been refused due to the poor site lines at the junction of Cheadle Road.
 Chapel Street is un adopted highway at the top and then turns into a public right of way.
 Loss of habitat have bat surveys been performed.
 Changing use of greenbelt land
 Infill of the greenbelt
 Infrastructure not in place
 Flooding at the junction of Uttoxeter Road
 Speeding traffic
 We are a rural village not urban fringe
 Lack of Doctors places
 How about improving the road system first before starting to build extra houses, this is what happens in Spain
 Surface water will increase and where will this go
 The planning policy at SMDC states that Green Belt should be protected until 2026 and the planning application for 2 bungalows on Chapel Street contravenes this.
 Why would there not be any elected members available at the SMDC consultation events. It seems like Blythe and Forsbrook are a dumping ground, SMDC earmark everything for our area and no one in other Parishes are bothered they are relieved that it is not in their area.
 Who owns the land which the housing is earmarked for and will SMDC compulsory purchase the land.
 What is happening with the Travellers Consultation?
 When the A50 is closed it is chaos on the roads.
 All the development in Cheadle is also having an impact on the traffic in Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge

SMDC have contravened the National Planning Policy guidelines which state that established greenbelt should be protected and only under extreme circumstances be considered.

SMDC have been contacted by the under secretary and told they need to relook at their planning policy.

A member of the public had visited Blythe Bridge Library and no information was on display at that time and the member of staff was not amenable to helping find the information from the "back room"

In addition to this a letter was handed from Mrs Hewitt which I have attached to the minutes.

The Parish Councillors responded with comments:-

Councillor Mrs P Shufflebotham Can we ask SMDC why the consultation meetings have been scheduled when the majority of people who have children are on holiday.

Councillor Mr P Jones asked why only a selection of the Parish has received the advisory leaflet through their doors and who had been paid to deliver them as it had clearly not been done.

Councillor C Hopley added that the leaflet had been delivered within a selection of junk mail.

Councillor Mould stated that he felt that Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge were the dumping ground for these schemes.

Chairman Councillor Mr Frank Hopley informed the meeting that a traffic survey had been carried out in December last year during the quietest period on our roads and another is scheduled but we are not aware when at the moment.

District Councillor Mr K Flunder asked any member of the public who has concerns or objections to speak to him.

Tom from Iron Soldier Fitness attended the meeting asking for permission to continue to host fitness classes on Blythe Bridge Recreation ground. The Councillors agreed that this was OK and he was asked to provide a copy of his Public Liability Insurance Documentation.

3.2 County Councillors report.

In the absence of County Councillor Day there was nothing to report.

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

Nothing to report

5. TO APPROVE THE DRAFT MINUTES OF: Council Meeting of April 20th 2015

RESOLVED – TO AMEND ONE PAGE 138 – COUNCILLOR ALAN WILSON WAS NOT ELECTED THE CHAIRMAN ON THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE.

6. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES.

7.3 MINUTES DATED APRIL 20 2015 – WEB SITE

RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY TO ACCEPT THE QUOTATION FROM STEPH GIBLIN TO REDSIGN AND HOST THE FORSBROOK PARISH WEB SITE

7. CLERK'S REPORT.

7.2 RESOLVED – UNANIMOUSLY TO INCREASE THE CLERKS SALARY IN LINE WITH THE PREVIOUS CLERK FOLLOWING HER SATISFACTORY 3 MONTH PROBATION

8. CORRESPONDENCE.

The following correspondence were presented to the Parish Council by Chairman Councillor Frank Hopley and comments were noted as detailed below.

8.1 Correspondence from Tom Morris regarding a Temporary Traffic Order by Staffordshire County Council.

8.2 The Clerk, Councillors Herdman, C Hopley and Chairman Councillor F Hopley had attended the recent Code of Conduct Training at SMDC and the slides from the training were available to read.

8.3 Sunshine Gym Brochure

8.3 Fawns play equipment brochure

8.5 Police figures for the Parish.
Councillor Tony Mould thought that the reason the figures were low was that people did not report the issues.

8.6 Email from SMDC regarding vacant seats on Forsbrook Parish Council

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley stated that we now have three vacancies for Parish Councillors.

Kath Giblin and Ruth Mancey were present at the meeting and expressed an interest in becoming Parish Councillors.

Councillor T Mould proposed Ruth Mancey as a Parish Councillor and Councillor Shufflebotham seconded the notion.

Councillor T Mould proposed Kath Giblin as a Parish Councillor and Vice Chairman Ms J Morris seconded the notation.

Councillors Ms Mancey and Mrs Giblin joined the table for participation.

There is one remaining open seat to fill.

Councillor Mould ask if a letter of thanks and a bouquet of flowers be sent to Councillor's

8.7 Email from Matthew Ellis regarding neighbourhood watch.

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley expressed concerns that this was a way of making the public responsible for the Polices job.

Councillor T Jones stated that we all pay part of the Council Tax towards the Police and asked why there was less police and more office staff.

Councillor B Yates said that he travelled widely across the country and is opinion was that he though people and communities found the neighbourhood watch schemes useful and a helpful addition to the Police and that we should support the scheme.

8.8 Email from Mike Lawrence regarding Staffordshire County Council Mobile Library Van.

Forsbrook and Blythe Bridge do not have a visit from this service so comments were made.

8.9 Email ref Staffs Moorlands Voluntary and Community Sector Asembly

8.10 A50 RTA Modification – information regarding the repairs to be carried out on the A50.

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley thanked Councillor Cornwall for submitting this information and urged all Councillors to bring to the meeting anything of note they see in the press.

8.11 Email from K Giblin regarding the Football Pitch

The pitch had now been remarked, however the showers need attention and the referee's toilet is broken.

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley addressed the meeting and stated that the pitch needs attention and it was his intention to look at funding streams with the clerk to bring the pitch up to standard and to look at possibly fencing the pitch in.

Councillor T Mould stated that he thought dogs should not be allowed on the recreation but the problem was that there was no one to enforce the dog control orders.

8.12 / 8.13 Letters from Councillors Stanier and Farr

The resignation letters of Councillors Stanier and Farr were received and the Council expressed their sincere thanks for all their efforts over the years. This was also extended to former Chairman Councillor Mrs G Burton. The Council asked the Clerk to write a letter of thanks to all three former members and to arrange for a bouquet of flowers to be sent to them

Moving on from this Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley stated that we now have three vacancies for Parish Councillors.

8.14 Email from Chris Mitchell regarding weight restrictions on Stallington Lane

Chairman Councillor Mr F Hopley had requested this information as he has concerns regarding large lorries using this road.

Chris Mitchell from SCC Highways team had researched the matter and could find no evidence that there had been a weight restriction on this road in the past.

It was requested that this items is put on August Agenda for further discussion.

8.15 Please see open session

8.16 Village Hall grant request

An email from Mr Bagnall had been received asking the Parish Council for a contribution towards purchasing chairs for the village hall.

Councillor T Mould stated that he objected to this request, the Village Hall sold the land which is now Jubilee Gardens for five thousand pounds when they has no use for it, they could have let the Parish have it for a peppercorn amount. They even charge the Parish Council to use the meeting room. I do not agree to The Parish Council giving money to the Village Hall Committee.

A vote was taken.

Abstain because of an interest – Councillors C Hopley, J Morris and Chairman Councillor F Hopley.

Votes against Councillors Shufflebotham, Yates, Mould, Cornwall.

Resolved not to agree to grant request.

8.17 Defibrillator

The defibrillator on the Library building needs replacing, it was agreed to raise a cheque for signature at the next meeting. Cost £676

8.18 Staffordshire County Council winter maintenance scheme

A letter from James Bailey at SCC had been received asking for The Parish Councils input in to the revised Winter Maintenance Scheme. This was not about naming specific routes. Councillor Herdman and The Clerk will liaise and complete the form.

8.19 See 8.8

8.20 Station Adoption Meeting

A letter had been received from Network Rail inviting members of the Parish Council to a buffet lunch.

Councillor Ms J Morris will organise numbers and contact Network Rail.

8.21 Thank you for the donation Friends of Staffs and Stoke on Trent Archives.

12 PLANNING.

12.1 Planning Applications:

SMD/2015/0338 Former Kennels Chapel Street, Forsbrook – Demolition of Kennel Buildings and erection of 2 detached bungalows.

Several members of the public were present to express their objections to this under the open session.

Their objections were:-

The development will affect the flood plain and this in turn will raise water levels in Willow Way and East Bank Ride.

The trees that are currently growing in the area are Alders which flourish in wet boggy conditions.

The highway is adopted and also a public footpath, the track is only a single car width.

RESOLVED – The clerk will email SMDC planning objecting on the above grounds.

SMD/2015/0023 – 13 Springfield Drive – Forsbrook – Erection of a single storey rear kitchen/garden room extension with pitched roof to replace existing conservatory

RESOLVED – To ask that the scale and design are in keeping with the street scene and the privacy of adjacent neighbouring properties is not compromised.

SMD/2015/0412 – 56 Cheadle Road. Forsbrook – Detached Garage.

RESOLVED – To ask that the scale and design are in keeping with the street scene and the privacy of adjacent neighbouring properties is not compromised.

SMD/2015/0428 – Land adjoining 459 Uttoxeter Road, Variation of planning approval to replace roof light with additional dormer window

RESOLVED – To ask that the the privacy of adjacent neighbouring properties is not compromised.

12.3 Planning Approvals:

SMD/2015/0153 – 9 Dove Road – Two Storey Side |Extension
SMDC/2015/0266 – 60 Portland drive – Two Storey Side extension with pitched roof

12.4 Planning refusals

SMD/2015/0214 – 91 Caverswall Road, Blythe Bridge – Demolition of existing cottage and erection of new dormer bungalow.

13. CEMETERY.

Chairman of the Cemetery Committee Councillor Mrs P Shufflebotham asked the Councillors opinion on planting a wild flower border up at the cemetery.

Resolved – That the clerk will ask the Lengthsman to carry out the work.

Chairman of the Cemetery Committee Councillor Mrs P Shufflebotham explained that a member of the public had asked for the a rhododendron bush to be cut back which the Lengthsman had done, and wondered if the Councillors would support the purchasing of an extra bench to be sited in the space.

Resolved – That the clerk orders a bench

14. ENVIRONMENT.

14.1 Environment Issues.

Councillor Mould reported – That the public footpath leading from Brook Close to the fields was overgrown, and also the footpath on Well Street.

Resolved – Clerk will ask The Lengthman to cut the footpaths as required.

Councillor Yates reported that on Friday and Saturday evenings between 9 – 10pm there seemed to be incidents of people racing in cars from the direction of Cheadle.

Resolved – Clerk will email the Adam Charlesworth PCSO

Councillor Giblin - reported that the large white van from Forsbrook Wine Cellar was parking in such a way that it was causing a dangerous situation for traffic.

Resolved – Clerk will email the Adam Charlesworth PCSO

Councillor Morris – reported that the waste land next to the library needs cutting – we are not sure who owns this but the clerk will try and find out.

Last week the refuse lorry was unable to pick the bins up from Millbrook Gardens because of the inconsiderate parking of residents

Councillor Herdman – Asked if there was any update on the land drainage on Caverswall Road, and the nettles on the pavement next to Rogers Brock Vets were very overgrown.

Resolved – Clerk will email SCC Highways

Councillor Cornwall – Reported that all the grids in the village are blocked, The Clerk reported that this has previously been reported to SCC.

Councillor Shufflebotham – asked if drop down bollards could be put on to the play area adjacent to The Butchers Arms to stop cars parking on it.

The Clerk had recently reported to SMDC regarding trees being pruned on Cheadle Road which may have TPO attached to them

15. FINANCE.

15.1 Bank balance.

It was noted that the bank balances are

Co-operative Bank plc – 30 April 2015	
Unity Trust Bank – 31 April 2015	100211.00

15.2 The following cheques were presented for payment.

Cheque Number	To Whom Paid	Particulars	Net	Vat	Total
402469	D Plant	Clerk Telephone Bill			52.98
402470	SMDC	Litter Pick	384	76.80	460.80

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402471	Town and Country	Lengthsman	1239	247.80	1486.80
402472	D Plant	Salary	1015.52		1015.52
DD	Eon	Electric			134
402473	SMDC	Election Contribution	50		50

RESOLVED:

- To approve payment of July 2015 accounts.

The meeting concluded at 9.55pm

Clerk to the Council

Chairman