MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 18th May 2023

Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Allen Gibert
Cllr Jean Whitham
Cllr Teri Elder
Cllr Paul White
Cllr Jane White

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO and two Members of Public in attendance

Meeting started at 1800hrs

1. **Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council and introduce the meeting.**

Fulford Parish Council Chairman opened the meeting and explained that the Annual Parish meeting is held every year and is aimed to bring all residents and groups within the Parish together to meet and reflect on the year that has past and share their plans for the year to come to be able to support each other.

2. **Apologies** for Absence.

Cllr Andrew Lovatt, Cllr Gareth Brunt and Cllr Carol Baskin.

3. **Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council has had a good year and is back on track and gave thanks to the Clerk for her hard work.

4. **Open Forum – Opportunity for local groups and residents to present**

Mr Oxby the **Fulford Village Hall** representative updated the meeting on the progress of the Village Hall for the first full year since covid. Mr Oxby reminded the meeting that the village hall was only closed for the first three months as preschool opened for key workers.

For many years the financial statement has been between £23-25,000 the odd year has gone over £25,000. This year the total income £23,435 and expenditure £20,000.

Work has been carried out on lighting, heating, updated wi-fi, re decorating and new curtains using the Awards for all grant and SBC covid grant. Ongoing issues with the new heating system which will hopefully be completed before winter.

There are lots of activities that run from Fulford village hall during day and night all can be seen on the website and in the Parish magazine.

Low point of the year was an outside booking for New Years Eve now leaving the Committee reluctant to take outside bookings but must be careful not to discriminate. Extremely thankful for the volunteers helping to clear up.

Worrying times ahead as the current heating contract of 15p a unit is due to end in September. Currently approx. £6,000 a year on electricity could possibly double. The cost of cleaning materials has gone from £900 a year to £2000.

The Chairman thanked Mr Oxby and all of the village hall committee and volunteers for doing such a great job in keeping a fantastic asset running and running well.

Mr Godrey spoke on behalf of **Fulford Village Group** having recently returned from Buckingham Palace garden party for being recognised for his community efforts.
Mr Godfrey thanked the Parish Council for their continued support.

Cllr Jane White spoke on behalf of the **Community First Responders** reminding the meeting they are volunteers and are not funded by any organisation and must fund raise for everything they require. The First responders currently have £10,000 in the bank having just purchased a new defibrillator. They are currently saving for a replacement vehicle as the current one is 13 years old. There are currently only three active responders in the area and would love if anyone would like to volunteer and join them.

Cllr Gareth Brunt and Cllr Carol Baskin arrived 1825hrs

The Community first responders are due to hold their AGM soon and are always looking for new trustees to help fund raise.

The call outs that they receive vary on the demands of the Ambulance Service, on average 2-6 calls in a shift and they can be required to cover Longton and Meir.

On behalf of Fulford Parish Council the Chairman thanked the first responders for all their hard work and advised them to apply for a grant from Fulford Parish Council and Blythe Bridge Rotary Club.

Cllr Allen Gilbert spoke on behalf of the **Speed Watch Volunteers** informing the meeting that they had caught 3-400 speeding through the Parish in the last 3 months alone. It is not the best working conditions regularly being sworn at and even spat at. Moving forward we hope to have the Community Speed watch signs and SIDs.

The Chairman of Fulford Parish Council thanked the volunteers for all their hard work.

5. **Public Question Time – questions are invited from residents.**

There were no questions.

6. **Final Comments from Chair and Close.**

The chair thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting Closed at 1850hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**