MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 14th December 2023

Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Jean Whitham
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Teri Elder
Cllr P White
Cllr J White
Cllr G Brunt
Cllr K Deeth
Cllr C Marlow
Cllr C Baskin

SBC Cllr Alec Sandiford
SBC Cllr Mike Dodson

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO)

Meeting started at 1915hrs

136/23 **Public Participation**.
No members of public were in attendance.

137/23 **Apologies** for Absence.
Apologises were received for Cllr Gilbert.

138/23 **Declarations of interest and dispensation** (from agenda).
Cllr T Elder declared that she will not vote with regards to Bamboo agenda item.

139/23 To consider **minutes** for accuracy and approve minutes.
Full Council approved the minutes of:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9th November 2023.

140/23 To receive a **Report** from the Police
Did not attend.

141/23 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Cllr A Sandiford informed the meeting that he has recently managed to get 6 new litter bins installed around the Parish. Along with working with Fulford Primary School with a litter problem that they are experiencing outside of their school.

There is also a possibility that Homes Plus may hand over the allotments off Adamthwaite Drive.

Cllr A Sandiford newsletter has recently been distributed with generates lots of case work supporting residents with issues they are experiencing.

Cllr A Sandiford also helped Fulford Ward and Blythe Bridge Ward to erect and decorate their Christmas trees.

Cllr P White and Cllr J White arrived late to the meeting at 1925hrs.

Cllr M Dodson informed the Parish Council that he had attended the SBC fees and charges review and most fees went up by 6% however the brown bin fee went up by 17%. SBC finances are committed 78 million pounds and normal expenditure of 13.5 million pounds. The change in interest rate a complete year interest at an average of 5.2 % means a complete year's interest of 4 million pounds but one 1 million pounds was budgeted. Therefore, Cllr M Dodson and Cllr A Sandiford requested a freeze in rising fees and charges, unfortunately, this was out voted.

Cllr M Dodson explained that he is the Chair of the Audit and Accounts Committee and that it is very difficult as the Committee rules are not lined up with what happens in the commercial world. It is hard to give a budget despite not knowing what the income from the Government is going to be.

b) County Councillor

Did not attend.

142/23 To receive **Reports** from Council Committee's/Working Groups and accept any **recommendations** made.

Public Consultation Working Group
To meet Thursday 11th January at 1800hrs.

Solar Farm Working Group
To meet Thursday 11th January at 1830hrs.

143/23 **Clerks Report**
The Clerk's report was distributed to all members. The following key points were raised:

- Christmas Trees to be taken down by Ward Councillors. Ward Councillors to inform the Clerk as soon as possible if they require assistance.

- Wardens' monthly jobs lists were shared.
- Issues with the SID on Hilderstone Road reported to the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council approved SID locations for Blythe Bridge.
- The Parish Council agreed to repeat Civic Amenity for 2024.
- It was agreed to continue the Curry's warranty on the Clerks Laptop.
- It was agreed for the Clerk to email reference Auction advertisement on Windmill Hill.
- Village Hall Lease Questions from Solicitor for the January agenda.
- Agreed £25 Budget for each Warden.
- Cllr J White provided Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall update.

Meir Heath and Rough Close are financially in good shape.
Bookings for 2024 are looking good.
The heating and lighting have been upgraded. Currently looking into changing the floor in the small meeting room.
Meetings for 2024 will be the first Monday of every other month starting 7th February.
The Village Hall Committee removed the old Defib Box as their contribution.
Request to keep toilet radiators on.
DE Caversmill donated 2 Panto tickets to Fulford Parish Council.

- Cllr P Wilkinson provided an update of Fulford Village Hall.

Everything in order and looking to recruit a new booking agent.

144/23 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) Fulford Parish Council approved Oct/Nov payments list.
b) Fulford Parish Council approved November 23 Bank Reconciliation.
c) Fulford Parish Council set the 2024/25 Budget to remain the same which is a 0.9% decrease.
d) Fulford Parish Council approved the 2023/24 Budget Virement

145/23 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
No comments.

146/23 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
The Chairman had nothing to report.

147/23 Fulford Parish Council reviewed and approved the following **Polices**:

a) Equality Policy next review December 2025
b) Health and Safety Policy next review December 2025
c) Lone Working Policy next review December 2025

148/23 **Health and Safety**
Nothing to report.

149/23 Fulford Parish Council reviewed and approved **the submission for the Foundation Council Award including the Fulford Parish Council 2024 Action Plan.**

Confidential Items to be discussed at the end of the meeting if Public and Press are present.

150/23 To consider the **Bamboo Project** Request.
Fulford Parish Council would like the following questions answered before making a decision:

1. Will the group put the land back how it was once the project is ended?

2. What will the bamboo be used for?
3. Please confirm if a planning application is required for change of use?

The Parish Council decided to make a decision at the February meeting to allow the residents of Fulford to attend the Parish Council meeting and share their views.

Comfort break 2030-2035hrs

151/23 **Car Scheme** deferred until more information is received from the County Council.

152/23 Fulford Parish Council approved the purchase of Elan City Speed Indicator Display (SID)

153/23 Items for **next Agendas.**
Bee meter Squared
Parking at Leadendale
Streetlights

154/23 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 11th January 2024 at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2055hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**