



## MINUTES

### Fulford Parish Council Full Council Meeting

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

**Present:**

Cllr Martin Oxby  
Cllr Angela Noblett  
Cllr Carol Baskin  
Cllr Gareth Brunt  
Cllr Anthony Meredith  
Cllr Peter Wilkinson  
Cllr Karen Deeth  
Cllr Allen Gibert

SBC Cllr Michael Dodson

**In attendance:**

Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO and four Members of Public in attendance)

**Meeting started at 1915hrs**

The Chair opened the meeting with one minute silence in memory of Cllr Jenifer Johnson.

**248/23 Public Participation.**

The Chair of Fulford Church Council addressed Fulford Parish Council requesting financial support with the grass cutting at Fulford Church Yard. Explaining that like everyone the Church is under great expense, having recently paid £1,000 to repair a broken-down boiler. No financial support is received from Lichfield Diocese and Fulford Church must pay the Diocese £6000 a year on top of any other maintenance required for the Church. The Church Yard is open to anyone in Fulford even for residents that had moved away. Ashes can be requested to be interned in the Church Yard. At Christmas 150 wreaths were laid, regular enquiries from abroad searching for ancestors and of the home to the Parish War Memorial. It is Diocese Land, but they will not contribute but Fulford Church Council will contribute but unfortunately cannot commit to an amount at this time as fund raising will have to be arranged. The Church Council appreciates all the Parish Council has done in the past and requests future financial support to cut the grass in Fulford Church Yard.

The Chair informed the Church Council that the matter is to be discussed under confidential at the end of the meeting.

Another member of public addressed the Parish Council reminding them that they last attended a Fulford Parish Council meeting 18 months ago and at the time she had one child that could go to school on the bus and one child that could not. The member of public informed the Parish Council that since then she went to the Ombudsman who supported and funded her as incorrect decisions were made. At the age of 16 children in Fulford Parish are no longer allowed to travel on a school despite being willing to pay. The member of public asked how a working family can get their child to higher education when the council provide links but nothing to Fulford as there are no public buses. Apparently, the County Council have commented that they cannot afford to pay for better buses to allow over 16s to pay to travel. The member of public concluded with the two solutions number one the County Council must take on a contractor on the right route with the standard of bus required or apply for derogation as other Councils have to allow them to be exempt from the legislation. The consultation closed yesterday for the draft policy, but it seems that the situation has not changed unless you are a teenage mum, low-income family or in local care.

The Chair informed the member of public that the Clerk will contact the County Councillor again on behalf of the residents of Fulford.

249/23 **Apologies** for Absence.

Cllr Andrew Lovatt, Cllr Jane White and Cllr Paul White.

250/23 **Declarations of interest and dispensation** (from agenda).

None.

251/23 To consider **minutes** for accuracy and approve minutes.

Full Council approved the minutes of:

- a) Full Council Meeting Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023.
- b) Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall Working Group Meeting Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023

252/23 To receive a **Report** from the Police

The PCSOs did not attend.

253/23 To receive **Report** from:

- a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Cllr M Dodson updated the Parish Council that the Election is up and coming so most efforts at SBC are directed there and the all of the committees are running down for year end.

Reported regular cases of fly tipping tyres over the Bank Holiday. Cllr Oxby added thanks to Street Scene on their prompt action.

- b) County Councillor did not attend.

254/23 To receive **Reports** from Council Committee's/Working Groups and accept any **recommendations** made.

- a) Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall Working Group.

Fulford Parish Council agreed for the Solicitors to conduct further Land Registry Searches.

Cllr Noblett informed the Parish Council that as their representative on the Meir Heath and Village Hall Committee she attended their meeting last night. Where a separate meeting was agreed to discuss the charging of electricity from the VH Committee to the Parish Council. Also, that the next Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee Meeting is Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 1900hrs.

### 255/23 Clerks Report

The Clerk's report was distributed to all members. The following key points were raised:

-The Internal Auditor confirmed that the Parish Council can go forward with online payments providing the payments list has been approved and a signatory is present and signs off each payment as they are made.

-The Parish Council agreed the sale of the old laptop for £60.

-The new Fulford Parish Attendant has started and their jobs list for Apr was shared.

- Grindley Park Play surfacing upgrade was discussed and awaiting a further meeting before payment will be made.

- Grindley Park Lights – Cllr Oxby updated the Parish Council that Mr Shaw confirmed that the lights came into the main fuse box of the main hall, the Clerk will further investigate. Cllr Gilbert will research the deterrent camera.

-Rooted Christmas Tree meeting was cancelled a second time by Highways. Cllr Oxby added that Fulford Ward would like the £60 agreed for each Ward to have a Christmas Tree but they do not wish to have a Christmas Tree and would like to purchase an apple tree and a berry tree to be planted for the Kings Coronation. The Parish Council agreed but reiterated that there will not be any additional funds given for a Christmas tree for the Fulford Ward.

-New contractor has started the cutting the Highways grass verges.

-Newsletter articles required for the end of May.

-Greyhound confirmed that the Defib is allowed to remain on their wall. They also raised concerns about the bus shelters safety which doesn't belong to the Parish.

-Fulford Parish Council agreed for Green Accord to pay £25 per cut and £250 a year for Dale View Court Grass cutting.

256/23 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

- a) March Accounts/Payments.
- b) March Bank Reconciliation.
- c) Approved 2022/23 VAT Claim.
- d) Approved Annual Governance Statement.
- e) Approved Annual Accounting Statement.
- e) Appointment of Topliss Associates for Internal Audit 2023/24.
- e) Approved the revised Budget following year end.

257/23 To consider **Planning Applications** received.

No comments.

258/23 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.

- a) Kings Coronation – The Wards are to arrange distribution of the mugs to the schools and take photographs for the newsletter.
- b) The Chair thanked Cllr Martin Oxby on his last meeting for his 20 years' service as a Parish Councillor.

259/23 Fulford Parish Council reviewed and approved the following **policies**:

- a) Financial Regulations.
- b) Grants Policy.
- c) Standing Orders

260/23 **Health and Safety**

- a) Defibrillators – Fulford Parish Council approved the purchase of all required replacement batteries for the Defibrillators for the Parish and that the Parish attendant will fit all in the month of May giving all the boxes a clean and oil.

Cllr Noblett reported a hole on Grindley Park and that the attendant had been notified and supplied with turf to fill it.

Cllr Gilbert informed the Parish Council that he had been informed from the Highways that some of the re dressing is due to commence at the Windmill.

Cllr Wilkinson informed the Parish Council that a tree had fell and highways had been informed as the other trees also required safety checking.

261/23 **Coffee Morning Update** – Cllr Elder

- a) Working Group volunteers Cllr Noblett, Cllr Deeth and Cllr Elder and a meeting is to be arranged asap.

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

262/23 **Fulford Church Yard** Grass cutting.

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| Fulford Parish Council continue to cut the grass at Fulford Church Year on the agreement that the PCC make a reasonable contribution and the agreement is to be reviewed annually. |
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| <b>Proposed: Cllr C Baskin</b> |
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| <b>Seconded: Cllr K Deeth</b> |
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| <b>For: 8</b> |
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| <b>Against: 0</b> |
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| <b>Abstentions: 0</b> |
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263/23 **Grindley Park** resurfacing previously discussed.

264/23 Items for **next Agendas**.

Remembrance.

265/23 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 1800hrs

Annual Meeting of the Council Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 1915hrs

At Fulford Village Hall.

**Meeting Closed at 2100hrs**

Signed

Date

Position

