MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 10th April 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Teri Elder
Cllr C Marlow
Cllr Alec Sandiford (Co-opted)
Cllr N Hall (Co-opted)

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)

The meeting started at 1915hrs

215/25 **Public Participation**.
There were no members of the public in attendance.

216/25 **Apologies**
Apologies were received for Cllrs J White, P White, P Wilkinson, K Deeth, and SBC Cllr M Dodson.

217/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
None received.

218/25 **Register of interest**
Members were reminded to update their registers of interest.

219/25 The following **minutes** were approved:
a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 13th March 2025.

220/25 To consider candidates for **Co-option** and make a decision

Co Option of Nicola Hall onto Fulford Parish Council for Fulford Ward.

Proposed: Cllr A Noblett	**Seconded: Cllr J Crossley**

For: 9	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 0**

Co Option of Alec Sandiford onto Fulford Parish Council for Blythe Bridge Ward.

Proposed: Cllr Crossley	**Seconded: Cllr C Baskin**

For: 8	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 1**

221/25 To receive a **report** from the police:
Unable to attend.

222/25 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Cllr A Sandiford updated the Parish Council on the following:

- Resolving various ongoing Enforcement issues in the Parish.
- Working on several ongoing Retrospective planning applications in the Parish.
- Homes Plus has merged again, so trying to establish connections with key personalities again to enable work in the Parish to be completed.
- After 4 weeks of being off the road awaiting repair, the only road sweeper that SBC has now carried out the road sweeping in Meir Heath.

b) County Councillor

Was not in attendance

223/25 **Clerk's Report** was distributed, and time was allowed for questions.
The main areas were:

- It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held at Fulford Village Hall on Thursday 8th May at 1800hrs, and refreshments will be provided. Followed by the Annual Meeting of the Council at 1915hrs.
- Warden's job lists were approved.
- Continuing to support Stallington residents, a Police Clinic was held on 31st March and another group meeting on Tuesday 15th April if any Councillors would like to attend.
- The PC agreed to increase the budget for the work to be carried out at Blythe Bridge Allotments.

- It was agreed to purchase the following pieces of equipment to enable the Wardens to clean up the Parish: Petrol jet wash, strimmer, drill and a belt sander.
- It was also agreed to replace the final three bins in Grindley Park and reimburse the Warden for Hepatitis injections.
- Internal Audit will take place Tuesday 15th April.

224/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

a) March 2025 Bank Reconciliation.
b) March 25/April 25 Payments Lists.
c) 2024-25 Virements.
d) 2025-26 Budget Update.
e) 2024-25 VAT Return.
f) 2024-25 Receipt List.

225/25 **Planning Applications**
Fulford Parish Council discussed the following applications and has no comments:
25/40396/HOU and 25/40434/TWT.

Fulford Parish Council delegated authority to the Clerk to submit Fulford Parish Council objections for:
24/3965/FUL
APP/Y3425/C/25/3361612

226/25 **Chairman Report**
The Chairman was not in attendance.

227/25 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

a) **Survey**

Fulford Parish Council approved the Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey questions to go into the next Parish magazine with pre-paid postage and a QR code for an electronic version to be available.

b) **Next Meeting**

Wednesday 30th April at 1300hrs at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall.

c) **Fulford Business meeting.**

Fulford Parish Council agreed to contact all Businesses that are registered in Fulford Parish and invite them to a neighbourhood plan meeting. Cllr Elder and Cllr Hill agreed to support the Clerk with this.

228/25 **Health and Safety**
Cllr A Noblett informed the meeting:

- Bins have been pushed over in Grindley Park, and wanted to thank the residents for tidying up the mess.
- Also, rabbits are digging holes that could cause trip hazards.
  The warden will address both issues.

The Clerk reported that nitric oxide canisters had been found in the park, which has been reported to the police and a statement released on Facebook.

229//25 **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall agreements**
Fulford Parish Council agreed to meet as a working group as soon as possible to review the solicitors' draft agreements.

230/25 **Parish Newsletter**
The content of the newsletter was agreed.

231/25 **Proposal to change the Parish Council's name**
Cllr J Crossley informed the Parish Council that the first stage of the Neighbourhood Plan survey returns proved that our residents either don't realise they live in Fulford Parish or they don't feel included. Cllr Crossley has researched that S75 of the Local Government Act 1972 does allow a Parish Council to change its name, and it has been done in the past in a bid for fairness in a warded Parish like Fulford.

After a discussion, Fulford Parish Council decided to ask the residents their opinion by adding an extra question in the Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey and to re-evaluate once the Parish Council has the returns.

232/25 **Councillor Updates**
Cllr Brunt informed the Parish Council that several complaints are being received with regard to mountain bike tracks being dug on the common across the actual footpaths. The Parish Council agreed to facilitate a meeting between the residents and Stafford Borough Council and support where required. An advert will be included in the Parish magazine.

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

233/25 **Grindley Lane Footpath Clearance**
Cllr Marlow requested approval from the Parish Council to work on the footpath clearance on Saturday, 12th and Sunday, 13th April, with a group of volunteers. The Clerk has shared the risk assessment and equipment list required before the meeting. The Parish Council approved Cllr Marlow to go ahead and the Parish to provide all the equipment required and refreshments for the volunteers.

234/25 **Tree Survey Quotations**
The Parish Council reviewed the quotations and decided to go forward with Rob Keyzor Tree Surgeons and Arboricultural Consultants.

235/25 **VE Day Afternoon Tea and Invitation List**
Fulford Parish Council agreed to personally invite residents who have contributed to the community over the years to afternoon tea to commemorate VE Day. The Clerk also requested Councillors to help set up, serve and pack away.

236/25 **Items for the Next Agenda**
Christmas.
Warden fee increase

237/25 To **confirm Date, Time and Location** of the next meeting
Thursday 8th May 2025 Fulford Village Hall
Annual Parish Meeting 1800hrs
Annual Meeting of the Council 1915hrs.
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Meeting Closed at 2040 hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**