MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 13th February 2025
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Paul White (arrived 1922hrs)
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Karen Deeth

PCSO M Rodgers

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk)
Two Members of the public.

The meeting started at 1915hrs

169/25 **Public Participation**.
The Chair of Hilderstone Road Speed Campaign informed the meeting that a group of residents are campaigning to have the speed limit from the Black Lake towards the Windmill reduced to 40mph because there should always be a buffer zone but there is currently nothing as it goes from 30-60mph. There are footpaths, a school, a riding school, a football ground entrance, a cricket pitch entrance and the dangerous junction for Moddershall Oaks and Stallington.

After some discussion, the Parish Council took a vote, and the majority vote was to support the residents with their campaign.

170/25 **Apologies**
Apologies were received for Cllrs T Elder, C Marlow, J White and SBC Cllrs M Dodson and A Sandiford.

171/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
None received.

172/25 **Register of interest**
Members were reminded to update their registers of interest.

173/25 The following **minutes** were approved:
a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9th January 2025.

174/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police
The Police informed the meeting of the following:
- Nobody attended this evening's drop in to the Police Clinic.
- On 26th January two suspects were reportedly trying front door handles in Stallington at 0245hrs in the morning.
- Current scam a caller pretending to be from the police informing you to withdraw cash and someone will come round to collect it.
- A new Mobile Police Unit is available to book soon.

Cllr Wilkinson informed the meeting that Nottingham Knockers were in Fulford this week.

Cllr Brunt informed the meeting that knockers had been around Rough Close offering guttering cleaning etc.

The Clerk requested an advert written by the Police that the Parish Council can share informing residents of the importance of making reports because without any reports no resources can be assigned to the Parish.

175/25 To receive **Report** from:
a) Stafford Borough Councillors
Not in attendance

b) County Councillor
Was not in attendance

176/25 **Clerks Report** was distributed and time allowed for questions.
The main areas were:
a) The Clerk is on **annual leave** from 18th -21st February 2025.
b) **Resident Correspondence** has mainly already been shared issues were
Parking over pavements in Fulford
Speed concerns in Stallington
The road condition of Windmill Hill
Wild Flowers in Grindley Park
Bench/Plaque request
Missing Bus Stop
c) **Training Courses** to be funded by Neighbourhood Plan Grant.
d) Fulford Parish Council agreed to continue with **Grass Cutting** on behalf of SCC.

The draft of the updated Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall agreement has been received from the Solicitors and shared with the VH Committee and will require a PC Working Group meeting to discuss.

The Speed Indicator for outside SpringCroft Primary School is due to be erected next week.

177/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

a) January 2025 Bank Reconciliation.
b) Jan 25/Feb 25 Payments Lists.
c) Noted Budget Review.
d) Asset Register

178/25 **Planning Applications**
Fulford Parish Council discussed the following applications and has no comments:
24/39935/LSCPP.

179/25 **Chairman Report**
The Chairman was not in attendance.

180/25 **Defibrillator Checks**
Cllr P White raised that he did not think it was right that the Clerk and Wardens are paid to check the Defibrillators when the Community First Responders are willing to do it for free.

The Clerk informed the meeting that in the three years in the post, it has been this way as the Clerk and Wardens are paid to maintain all Parish Council assets. The Clerk believes it to be the best way because the Parish Council is the guardian of the Defibrillators which was set up before the Clerk was in post. This means if the ambulance service gives a code to a Defibrillator out to a caller they then take that Defibrillator off the circuit as not live in case it has been used, the Ambulance Service then send the Guardian (the Clerk) an email to notify that the defibrillator may have been used. The Clerk explained for the last three years the Clerk would either check the Defibrillator or if the Wardens were already out she would request they check then normally the Defibrillator is not offline for longer than 24 hours. The Clerk informed the meeting of her concerns if, the First Responders would have to become the 'middlemen' and knowing both responders (Cllr J White and ex Clr A Gilbert) work full time and are not sure how often their emails are checked the Defibrillators could be offline for a lot longer.

The Clerk went on to inform the meeting that a warden also checks all the defibrillators monthly and paperwork supports this, there is no reason why the First Responders cannot also carry out additional checks the Clerk said the more checks each month the better.

A discussion was then held and Cllr K Deeth expressed that she was uncomfortable as this agenda item seemed personal and was not acceptable, a few Councillors agreed, and the Chair stopped any further discussion and went on to a vote. The Parish Council voted for the system of Defibrillator checks to remain the same and for the Community First Responders to carry out additional checks whenever they had time.

181/25 **VE Day Thursday 8th Mary 2025 80 Years**.
Fulford Parish Council agreed to go ahead with booking St Francis Church 11-1500hrs to provide afternoon tea and entertainment for up to 50 residents over the age of 80 (Cllr Elder to make the booking). The Clerk is to go ahead with the decoration order providing the sizes are correct and bring further quotes food and entertainment quotes to the March Meeting. Councillors are asked to invite residents aged 80 and above especially residents that have done a lot for the Parish.

182/25 **Neighbourhood Plan**
The Clerk informed the meeting that the information informing the residents what a Neighbourhood Plan is and requesting volunteers to join the steering group went live today.

Councillor volunteers are now required to place ballot boxes and three-question surveys in key locations around the Parish so that the Parish Council can start consultation with the residents. The Clerk will ensure that an electronic version also goes live.

Once the survey has run for two weeks another Working Group meeting is required to collect the data returned and discuss with the Planning Consultant the best next steps.

183/25 **Travellers Site**
The Clerk requested to the Parish Council that Standing Orders be suspended to allow a member of the public to speak to give an update about the current situation. Fulford Parish Council approved, and the member of the public informed the meeting that the Enforcement Notice has been issued and that the landowner has until 5th March to appeal.

An appeal/retrospective planning application is expected which then goes to the Planning Inspectorate.

The Clerk informed the meeting that a quote had been obtained for a Planning Consultant to act on behalf of the Parish Council and support the residents but was too late for the agenda and will have to be added to the March Agenda. The member of the public was concerned that the March Meeting would be too late. Cllr Noblett suggested that the Parish Council set a budget now which was agreed.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

184/25 **Health and Safety**
No reports.

185/25 **Container/Storage**
To be deferred until the new Village Hall agreements have been finalised.

186/25 **Christmas Events**
It was agreed that Cllr Wilkinson will speak with Blythe Bridge Rotary Club with regards to if the Santa Sleigh can visit both Village Halls. Additional Christmas events will be discussed after the VE Day Celebrations.

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

187/25 **SID Conversion**
Fulford Parish Council approved the quotation to have the second-hand battery-operated Speed Indicator Display converted to a solar-operated Speed Indicator display. Clerk to action.

188/25 **Neighbourhood Plan Costs**
The Clerk shared what stationary purchases had been made to get the project this far and the Parish Council agreed to delegate authority for the Clerk to use the Neighbourhood Grant funds to progress the project when required.
Cllr P White left the meeting.

189/25 **Staffing – LCC Proposal for Mediation Service**
The Local Council Consultancy Mediation Proposal was discussed.

Cllr P White returned to the meeting.

Fulford Parish Council approved the quotation for a mediation service providing Cllr J White would agree to engage.

190/25 **Cabinet quote for Remembrance Wreaths**
Fulford Parish Council approved the quote to have cabinets made for Remembrance Wreaths protection and display in the Parish Office. Clerk to action.

Cllr P White **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall** meeting update**:**

- VH Committee had received a draft lease and licence from Solicitors and required time to read through them.
- Will brief the Council after meeting with the VH Committee.
- Insurance renewed.
- Utility company changed.
- Increased Broadband system.
- Replace cooker, fridge, small water heater.
- Doorway damage repair.
- Financially stable
- Next meeting 9th April 2025.
- The Clerk added that a working group meeting is also required for the PC to review the draft documents together.
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Cllr Wilkinson **Fulford Village Hall** meeting update:

- A new floor in the main hall is required.
- Fire checks have been completed and as a result new stage curtains are required.
- Struggling with storage space.
- Issues with refuse bins.

Cllr Noblett informed the Council the Chair Cllr J White invited her to **DE Caversmill Oscar Night.** Cllr Noblett wanted to share with the Parish Council the large number of people attending the function and that she feels the Parish Council Grant money goes to very good use and that the PC should continue to support such a good organisation in Fulford Parish to allow such good opportunities to all age groups and abilities.

191/25 **Items for the Next Agenda**
VE Day
Neighbourhood Plan
Street Lights
Co Options

192/25 To **confirm Date, Time and Location** of the next meeting
Thursday 13th March 2025 Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall.
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Meeting Closed at 2040 hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**