MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Annual Meeting of the Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 8th May 2025
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Gareth Brunt
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Connor Marlow
Cllr Alec Sandiford
Cllr Angela Noblett

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO) and County Cllr Sean Bagguely
PCSO (arrive 1930hrs)

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

AMC001/25 **Public Participation**.
There were no members of the public in attendance.

AMC002/25 **ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN.**

Cllr Gareth Brunt

Proposed: Cllr A Lovatt	**Seconded: Cllr C Baskin**

For: 10	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 0**

It had been previously agreed by the full council that the Chairman and Vice Chairman positions would rotate through the Wards each year. Next year will be the Fulford Ward Chairship and the Meir Heath Ward Vice Chairship.

AMC003/25 **ELECTION OF THE VICE CHAIRMAN.**

Cllr Anthony Meredith

Proposed: Cllr A Lovatt	**Seconded: Cllr P Wilkinson**

For: 10	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 0**

AMC004/25 **Acceptance** of Office
The newly appointed Chairman and Vice Chairman signed their acceptance into office.

AMC005/25 **Apologies** for Absence.
Cllr Jane White and Cllr Teri Elder.

AMC006/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation** (from agenda).
None.

AMC007/25 **Register of interest and dispensation.**
All Parish Councillors were reminded to keep their disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 up to date.

AMC008/25 Full Council **approved the minutes** of:
a) Full Council Meeting Thursday 10th April 2025.

AMC009/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police
The PCSO informed the meeting about recent activity in Barlaston, where two suspicious males have been seen regularly in the early hours. Also, in Barlaston, a vehicle theft, the vehicle has since been recovered, and motorbikes with no helmets wearing balaclavas are regularly riding dangerously through the Parish.

The PCSO also informed the meeting that there has been a burglary in Fulford Parish for which an arrest has been made and items are trying to be recovered.

PCSO left the meeting at 19:30hrs

AMC010/25 To receive **Report** from:
a) Stafford Borough Councillors
Cllr Alec Sandiford informed the meeting of the following that he has been working on:
- The Enforcement Deadline for the Stallington Travellers site was 7th May should receive the result in 6-7 weeks.
- The Wood Enforcement Deadline was also the 7th of May.
- High Gorsty Farm is submitting a planning application.
- Elections slowed work down at the Borough.

- Scheduled the sweeper more regularly in the Parish, as seen in Meir Heath, it makes a difference.
- Rough sleepers in the Parish but keep moving over the Boundary, so been in contact with SBC and Stoke homeless teams, but they cannot be forced to accept help.
- Meeting with Homes Plus to reference several ongoing issues, including West View.

b) County Councillor did not attend.

Cllr Sean Bagguley introduced himself as the newly elected County Councillor after being signed in that day and thanked the Parish Council for letting him attend the Parish Council meeting. Cllr Bagguley stressed that regardless of right or left politics, we all want what is best for our families, the community, and our Country. Cllr Bagguley informed the meeting that the plan is to firstly audit the County Council and look into where the money is going and areas of spend that do not benefit residents, then stop those spends.

AMC011/25 **Clerks Report**

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

- Shared the Wardens' job lists for the month ahead.
- It was agreed to transfer £50,000 into the CCLA Deposit Account.
- It was agreed to spend the VAT reclaim on replacing 10-year-old Defibrillators.

AMC012/25 Review **delegation** arrangements

Fulford Parish Council reviewed and approved delegation arrangements as per the updated Financial Regulations.

AMC013/25 Review **Terms of Reference**

Fulford Parish Council delegated reviewing the Terms of Reference to each Committee as the first committee agenda item.

AMC014/25 Existing and new **Committees and Working Groups**.

a) **Planning Committee**
Cllr K Deeth, Cllr A Noblett, Cllr S Green, Cllr A Lovatt and Cllr Marlow.
b) **Staffing Committee**
Cllr C Baskin, Cllr G Brunt, Cllr A Sandiford and Cllr Wilkinson.
c) **Governance Committee**
Cllr J Crossley, Cllr P Wilkinson and Cllr C Baskin.
d) **Financial and General-Purpose Committee**
Cllr A Noblett and Cllr K Deeth.
e) **Highways Working Group**
All are welcome to attend.
f) **Grindley Park Working Group**
All are welcome to attend.
g) **Complaints Committee**
Cllr C Baskin, Cllr C Marlow and Cllr K Deeth.
h) Cllr P Wilkinson to remain the Parish Council representative for **Fulford Village Hall,** and Cllr K Deeth and Cllr C Marlow as Parish Council representatives for **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall.**

AMC015/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) April 25 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation.
b) April/ May 25 Payments list (see attached).
c) Approved Bank Signatories
Cllr C Baskin, Cllr A Meredith, Cllr P White, Cllr Brunt and Cllr Noblett
d) Approved to continue with online payments.
e) Approved Annual Governance Statement.
f) Approved Annual Accounting Statement.
g) Noted internal audit report
h) Approved Kim Squires Services for Internal Audit 2025/26.

AMC016/25 To note the continuation of the General Power of Competence.

AMC017/25 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
25/40288/FUL No comments.
25/40343/FUL No comments.

AMC018/25 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Cllr Gareth Brunt thanked the Councillors for voting him as chairman and went on to assure the meeting that he will attend every meeting and hopes that Fulford Parish Council continues to raise their profile over the next twelve months.

AMC019/25 Reviewed and approved **Fulford Parish Council's Policies**:
a) Standing Orders.
b) Financial Regulations.

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

AMC020/25 Fulford Parish Council approved a £1 per hour pay increase for the contracted Parish Council Wardens.

AMC021/25 Fulford Parish Council agreed to approve the Newsletter over email once the draft is complete, and Fulford Parish Council approved the Neighbourhood Plan Household Survey to be printed in colour and free postage, as well as Cllr A Sandiford creating an online version with a QR Code.

AMC022/25 Fulford Parish Council approved Cllr C Marlow to create a **Community Improvement Group.**

AMC023/25 Fulford Parish Council approved the quotation for **Thank You Cards**.

AMC024/25 Fulford Parish Council approved a quotation to complete the footpath clearance on **Grindley Lane** and a second annual quotation to maintain the footpath**. Fulford Parish Council notes that this work should be carried out by Staffordshire County Council.**

AMC025/25 Fulford Parish Council approved a quotation to **remove the fallen tree at Tudor Hollow. Fulford Parish Council notes that this is the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council.**

AMC026/25 Fulford Parish Council objected to contributing towards replacing the gate at **Hilderstone Allotments** because they are an association.

AMC027/25 Items for **next Agendas.**
Christmas Events

AMC028/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 12th June 2025 at 1915hrs at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2040hrs

Signed	Date	Position