MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 8th May 2025
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr C Marlow
Cllr Alec Sandiford
Cllr Karen Deeth (arrived at 1810hrs)
Cllr Peter Wilkinson (arrived at 1820hrs)

SCC Cllr Sean Bagguley

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk) and 2 Members of the Public.

The meeting started at 18:00 hours.

1. **Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council and introduction to the meeting**.
Cllr Brunt opened the meeting and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received for Cllrs J White and T Elder.

3. **Chairman's Annual Report**
Cllr Brunt apologised for not being better prepared as he was unaware, he would be required to chair this evening's meetings. Cllr Brunt went on to cover what the Parish Council has done over the last twelve months:

- Started and subsidised the Community Bus to Stone once a month.
- Installed a Speed Indicator Display outside Spring Croft Primary School.
- Adopted another allotment in Blythe Bridge.
- Started a Neighbourhood Plan.
- Parish Magazine.
- Fulford Summer Fayre.
- Blythe Bridge Ward Litter Pick thanks to Cllr Marlow.

- Grindley Lane Footpath Clearance thanks to Cllr Marlow. (Staffordshire County Council responsibility).
- Work regarding two large planning applications.
- Finally, today VE Day Afternoon Tea for our older residents who have given to the community over their years.

Cllr Crossley gave thanks to the Clerk for her work on the successful VE Day Afternoon Tea. Cllr Deeth gave thanks to Mark (warden) for his help with setting up and packing away the VE Day Afternoon Tea Event.

4. **Open Forum**

Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Chairman
The Chairman made the Parish Council aware of the Village Hall's three projects for the year:

- Replacement/repair of 2 shutters.
- Changing taps to push taps.
- Decorating

The projects will cost in the region of £4-5,000, which the Village Hall will require the Parish Council's support with.

Projects that the Village Hall Committee has achieved this year are:

- Replacing the floor in the smaller room.
- Replacing lighting with LED.
- Replacing radiators.
- Also replacing all kitchen appliances.

The Chairman went on to inform the meeting that bookings are going very well with Children's Birthday Parties and weddings are now booking for the whole weekend.

DE Caversmill
Mr Hill informed the meeting that rehearsals have started for Annie, which will be on stage at The Rep in September. DE Caversmill love being at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall with 60-65 people there rehearsing every Sunday.

Mr Hill informed the meeting that as a theatre company, they do not charge the members because it is part of their mission statement to create opportunities for all. Therefore, everyone volunteers and lots of fundraising has to take place, like murder mystery events etc. Since the cost of living has increased, so has the cost to put on a production. Mr Hill sees DE Caversmill as the grassroots of theatre, having had members go on to the West End and television.

Fulford Village Hall Chairman
Mr Barnard informed the meeting that over the last twelve months, the Village Hall has been managed by a very small committee of volunteers who have ensured that the Village Hall is safe, clean, warm and financially secure.

Activities that run out of Fulford Village Hall are:

- Little Learners for 5 days a week, which feed into the Village Primary School.
- Bowls.
- Re-enactment group.
- Table tennis.
- Art club.
- Knit and natter.
- Bluebells dance.
- Choir.
- Badminton.
- Coffee Morning.
- Yoga.
- Church Harvest Festival.
- Local School PTA.

The Village Hall bills do need to be paid, and to achieve this, the Village Hall facility is available for funerals, elections, training, parties, and recently, many football presentations.

Projects have included:

- New flat roofs for which the VHC thanks FPC for financial support.
- Replacement front door.
- Introduction of Hall Master.
- The heating system can now be turned off and on remotely.
- Volunteer Hall inspectors over the weekend bookings to ensure the hall is in good condition and hirings.
- A 32-page fire inspection has been completed, where 14 recommendations were made, which included an expensive job of replacing the stage curtains, and eventually, some internal fire doors will need to be replaced.
- The Village Hall Website is now fully compliant with all the required policies, now uploaded.
- The Village Hall Committee is in the final throes of completing the Health and Safety review.
- Finally, all accounts have been audited, accepted, and submitted.

Fulford Village Hall thanks Fulford Parish Council for the years of support.

5. **Public Question Time.**
There were no public questions.

6. **Final Comments from the Chair and Close.**
Cllr Brunt thanked everyone for coming and thanked both Village Halls and DE Caversmill for all that they do to make our community a better place.

Meeting Closed at 1845 hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**