MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 12th June 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Connor Marlow
Cllr Alec Sandiford
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Paul White
Cllr Teri Elder

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO) and County Cllr Sean Bagguely
2 members of the public

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

029/25 **Public Participation**.
Two members of the public were in attendance.
The Clerk introduced Mrs White as a co-option applicant for the July meeting. Mrs White informed the Parish Council why she would like to be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Cllr P Wilkinson expressed thanks, on record, to recently resigned Cllr Jane White for her time and dedication to the Parish Council during a particularly challenging period.

030/25 **Apologies** for Absence.
Cllr A Meredith, Cllr S Green and Cllr J Crossley.

031/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation** (from agenda).
None.

032/25 **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.

033/25 Full Council **approved the minutes** of:
a) Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 8th May 2025.

b) Annual Meeting of the Council Thursday 8th May 2025.

034/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police
The PCSO gave their apologies and provided the Clerk with a report with regards to the successful arrest following the recent vehicle crimes in the Parish.

035/25 To receive **Report** from:
a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Cllr Alec Sandiford informed the meeting of the following that he has been working on:
- Springcroft Primary School have taken over plot 2 of the Blythe Bridge Allotments.
- Garages around the allotments will be removed very soon.
- West View – TPO and driveway concerns have received a letter and have been visited.
- Agencies are trying to engage with the homeless person.
- The traveller's application has had a change in planning officer, which has resulted in an extended deadline.
- Stallington Village should start the adoption process in September.
- Forms for the planter permission at Meir Heath have been submitted.

b) County Councillor

Cllr S Bagguely informed the meeting of the following that he has been working on:
- Following the last Parish Council meeting, when he was made aware of the damaged pedestrian guard at Springcroft Primary School is now believed to be repaired. Cllr Deeth informed the meeting that it is not complete and not of the best workmanship. Cllr S Bagguely agreed to further investigate.
- Cllr S Bagguley has met with the Hilderstone speed campaign and gives them his full support.
- An audit is underway at Staffordshire County Council to analyse if any savings can be made and stop any areas of waste of taxpayers' money.
- Now Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

036/25 **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.
- Wreaths are now mounted.
- VJ Day – Purchase flag and bunting.
- Police mobile drop-in Clinic confirmed and Councillor volunteers for each location.
- Space activities update.
- Opted against the Staffs Playing Fields Association.
- Agreed to arrange a meeting with MP.
- Agreed to further investigate an iso container at Cockieshall Lane.

037/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) May 25 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation.
b) April/ May 25 Payments list (see attached).
c) Noted Budget Review
d) CCLA deposit/invest £50,000

038/25 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
25/40288/FUL, 25/40626/NHPD, 25/40556/LDC, 25/40611/HOU and 25/40555/LBC
All no comments.

039/25 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Cllr Gareth Brunt informed the meeting that it looks like parking metres are going to be installed on the Windmill car park.

040/25 **Neighbourhood Plan**
The Clerk informed the meeting that the Parish magazine and Neighbourhood Plan Household surveys have just begun to be delivered in the Parish with the Freepost return envelope to encourage residents to participate.

It was agreed to arrange a Working Group Meeting to plan a social media launch displaying the online version for completion if residents prefer. Also, to agree on drop-in clinics and a meeting with all local businesses.

041/25 **Health and Safety**
Nothing to report.

042/25 **Meir Hetah and Rough Close Village Hall agreements**
The Lease and Licence were shared with all Councillors following the working group meetings' proposed amendments. The Parish Council voted in favour of the working group's proposed amendments to the Lease and Licence.

The Clerk has shared the amended documents with the Village Hall Committee, and Cllr P White will meet with the Village Hall Committee week commencing 16th June to establish if they agree to the amendments and if they have any further amendments.

Cllr P White will feedback to the Parish Council and Clerk week commencing 23rd June so that an extra ordinary meeting can be arranged to finally agree on the amended Lease and Licence to enable the Solicitors to complete the updates and the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee to complete and sign before the solicitor's retirement at the end of July.

043/25 Reviewed and approved **Fulford Parish Council's Policies**:
a) Accessibility Statement.
b) Grants Policy.

044/25 **Councillor Updates/Items**
Cllr Noblett informed the Parish Council of a group called Symmetrical that helps to support young people leaving care as they become adults. Cllr Noblett would like to invite them to attend a Parish Council meeting to inform the Council what they do and invite them to apply for a Parish Council grant.

Cllr Wilkinson informed the Parish Council that he attended the Fulford Village Hall Committee meeting, and they will respond to the Parish Council's requests for SPACE and Christmas. Also that the floor in the main hall needs replacing, and quotations have come in at around £20,000.

Cllr Wilkinson, in addition, has received complaints about rabbit damage on Grindley Park.

Cllr Deeth informed the Parish Council that she attended the Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee meeting, and the key points were:

- The security bond is being increased from £50 to £100.
- Nothing can be done about the Badger sets behind the village hall.
- Overgrown bush on the pavement is a highway issue and has been reported.
- Considering the Parish Council's request for a notice board on the building.
- No accounts shown, but informed currently breaking even.
- PC to pay the Licence fee for at least the last 3 years.
- Cllr P White became an additional MH & RC Village Hall representative.
- Notification of 14 months of electricity owed to the VH Committee. PC requested an official bill for audit purposes before payment can be made.

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

045/25 Fulford Parish Council approved a replacement planter for Rough Close.

046/25 Fulford Parish Council decided to do a two two-hour Christmas gathering with drinks and mince pies, etc, for older residents followed by two hours Santa's grotto at both Village Halls. A budget of £750 for each event was set. Cllr P White to confirm Friday 5th December availability at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall.

047/25 Items for **next Agendas.**

048/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 10th July 2025 at 1915hrs at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2050hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**


Fulford Parish Council
- Fulford - Blythe Bridge- Meir Heath - Rough Close -