MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 10th July 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 Anthony Meredith
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr M Alexander (Co Opted)

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

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

049/25 **Public Participation**.
8 members of the public were in attendance.

A resident, who is the Chair of Trustees from DE Caversmill, opened the meeting by explaining their grant application. The residents explained that the ethos of DE Caversmill is that anybody from any walk of life, aged 7 upwards, can join and be involved at no cost. All that is asked is that members pay their £ 15 insurance. DE Caversmill also try to keep their performance costs down to make it accessible to all, for example, a family ticket to watch DE Caversmill pantomime costs approximately £36. Nobody in the company is paid they are all volunteers.

A second resident from DE Caversmill went on to explain that the grant is to go towards replacement microphones.

The Chair thanked DE Caversmill for attending and explained that their grant application will be discussed under confidential items, and the Clerk will confirm tomorrow the outcome.

A resident then spoke about Fulford Church's grant application to support the flower show event that they are holding from 23rd to 25th August to celebrate 200 years since Fulford Church was rebuilt. The event hopes to involve as many people as possible, including residents of the Parish outside of Fulford village. The Church expressed that it is very much part of the Community and accessible to people of faith and non-faith. The Church has no financial support from Lichfield; therefore has to fundraise all year to keep the Church going.

A resident then spoke about concerns with regards to a planning application is Green Park Fulford. Green Park are larger homes in character and appearance. This planning application has had numerous versions. In 2024, Cllr M Dodson called the planning application into the Planning Committee, and a date has been set for the Planning Committee on Wednesday, 16th July. The residents' concerns are the following:

- Inconsistencies with regard to applications mentioning 7 and 9 Green Park.
- It is stated that it can not be seen from Baulk Lane, which is incorrect.
- What is the definition of minimum disruption from the development, as it appears the applicant plans to carry out the work themselves around their daytime jobs?
- It is stated that no deliveries to the site are allowed during school drop-off and pick-up hours. How will this be ensured, and what are the consequences if it is not adhered to?
- On an email trail, it appeared that the Planning Officer had recommended the application for approval before the public consultation time had ended. Does this just mean the planning process is purely a tick-box exercise rather than meaningful engagement?

The 8 Members of Public then left the meeting with Cllr A Sandiford

050/25 **Apologies** for Absence.
Cllr M Dodson and Cllr T Elder.

051/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation** (from agenda).
None.

052/25 **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.

053/25 To consider candidates for **Co-option** and make a decision

Co Option of Susan White onto Fulford Parish Council for Fulford Ward.

Proposed: Cllr P White	**Seconded: Cllr P Wilkinson**

For: 8	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 3**

Co Option of Matt Alexander onto Fulford Parish Council for Rough Close Ward.

Proposed: Cllr G Brunt	**Seconded: Cllr C Baskin**

For: 7	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 5**

Cllr P Wilkinson left the meeting at 1941hrs

054/25 Full Council **approved the minutes** of:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 12th June 2025.
b) The Council notes the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group notes.

055/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police
There were no apologies received from the PCSOs. The Clerk reminded Councillors about the Police/Councillor/NHP drop-in mobile clinics on Saturday, 12th July.

Cllr A Sandiford and Cllr P Wilkinson returned to the meeting at 1944hrs

035/25 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors
   - Tried to engage with the homeless gentleman, but he was abusive; therefore, Enforcement has cleared his campsite.
   - After 2 years of work, the garages are finally being demolished and replaced with fencing to reinstate people's boundaries and gates to stop anymore ASB.
   - Enforcers are taking the Travellers' site back to Court in September/October.
   - Ongoing Planning issues with Green Park, High Gorsty Farm.
   - The Wood's appeal by the Planning Inspectorate was dismissed.
   - Asked for further information from the conservation reference Stallington Hall's chimney to be demolished.

b) County Councillor

Cllr S Bagguely informed the meeting of the following that he has been working on:

- Met with Hilderstone Speed Campaign and given them his full backing and used County Councillor fund to request a feasibility study to be carried out.
- A resident was in contact reference the rough sleeper so thank you to Alec for engaging.
- Bottom of Grindley Lane is double yellow lines, but they only start halfway up, so parked cars are blocking the left-hand filter lane, so a request to extend the yellow lines has been made.

Cllr P Wilkinson informed Cllr S Bagguley about Spot Acre Crossroads and another recent accident in what is a dangerous location. Cllr S Bagguley agreed to look into it.

Cllr S Bagguley left the meeting at 1950hrs

057/25 **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.
- Machine breakdown caused a delay for grass verges being cut.
- Street light replacement has begun.
- Newsletters and NHP Questionnaires have now all been delivered.
- SPACE Events shared
- Defib Training had 6 residents attend Meir Heath VH and 7 at Fulford VH.
- MP Visit 30th July.
- Agreed to upgrade the BT phone line.

058/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) June 25 Accounts and Bank Reconciliation.
b) June/ Jul 25 Payments list (see attached).

059/25 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
25/40762/TWT and 25/40786/TWT no comments.

24/40555/LBC The Parish Council agreed to comment, raising concerns with regards to the disrepair that the listed building has been allowed to get into.

25/40600/FUL The Parish Council agreed to object because it is an unlawful development on the greenbelt.

25/40719/HOU The Parish Council agreed to object because it is unlawful development that was refused lawful development and has gone on to add more insulation, raising the height of the roof even higher.

060/25 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.

Cllr Gareth Brunt reminded Councillors that the Nolan Principles of Public Service are a set of seven principles that define the expected public sector behaviour. The principles are:

- Selflessness
- Integrity
- Objectivity
- Accountability
- Openness
- Honesty
- Leadership

Cllr G Brunt encouraged Councillors to sign up to the on line training courses provided by Staffordshire Parish Council Association.

061/25 **Neighbourhood Plan**

a) Fulford Parish Council agreed to join the campaign to the Government to reinstate the Neighbourhood Grants.
b) Next Neighbourhood Plan meeting Thursday 7th August at 1400hrs.

062/25 **Health and Safety**

Cllr A Noblett reported a damaged tree in Grindley Park. The Clerk will ensure that the Warden attends.

Cllr G Brunt made the meeting aware of the condition of the roof on the Windmill, and it was agreed that the Clerk will write to Stafford Borough Council raising concerns.

063/25 **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall agreements**

The Clerk informed the meeting that the Lease and Licence have now been sent to the Solicitors to be updated, and the Village Hall Committee have been included in all correspondence to show transparency.

The Parish Council agreed to:

1.1 of the Licence to defer on electricity until the cost of the office electricity can be evidenced by the Village Hall Committee providing the last 12 months' electricity bills.

Permitted Use The Parish Council agreed to keep in and for all other purposes ancillary thereto because this allows parishioners to call in the Parish Office etc.

Insurance The Parish Council agreed to leave insurance arrangements as they stand, where the Village Hall Committee insure the building and the Parish Council insures the contents of the Parish Office because the Parish Council has to insure its assets.

064/25 Reviewed and approved **Fulford Parish Council's Policies**:

a) Complaints Policy and Procedure.
b) Confidential Reporting (Whistle Blowing).

065/25 **Councillor Updates/Items**

Cllr P Wilkinson informed the meeting that the Fulford Village Hall Committee have had a successful lottery grant in the region of £19,000 to cover the costs of replacing the floor.

Cllr K Deeth informed the meeting that all Blythe Bridge Councillors have received an email from a 12-year-old school child requesting help with getting Swan Passage cut because it is overgrown that the child to walk to school. The Parish Council agreed to task the Wardens to cut it back whilst ownership is established.

Cllr G Brunt made the Parish Council aware of wildlife crime taking place at the Common Pond. The residents have been informed to make reports to the police. The Clerk will notify the PCSOs and Cllr A Sandiford will investigate who at SBC would carry out fishing licence inspections.

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

066/25 Fulford Parish Council approved DE Caversmill Grant Application.

067/25 Fulford Parish Council approved St Nicholas Church's Grant Application.

068/25 Fulford Parish Council approved Symmetrical North Staffs Grant Application.

069/25 Fulford Parish Council approved Blythe Bridge Camera Clubs Grant Application.

070/25 Fulford Parish Council agreed to provide financial support to Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall for shutter repair and service.

071/25 Fulford Parish Council approved the quotation for x3 NHP banners encouraging residents to complete the household questionnaires.

072/25 Fulford Parish Council declined the Fulford Volunteers' request for Soup and Santa to be covered by the Parish Councils insurance.
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073/25 Items for **next Agendas.**
Christmas Arrangements

074/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 11th September 2025 at 1915hrs at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2110hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**