MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 11th September 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 Alec Sandiford (FPC & SBC)
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Matt Alexander
Cllr Teri Elder
Cllr Sue White

Cllr Mike Dodson (SBC)

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO) and
1 member of the public

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

075/25 **Public Participation**.
1 member of the public was in attendance.

The Chair read a letter to the meeting at the request of a resident who was unable to attend the meeting. The resident reported issues with the V12 garage parking on the verges and receiving deliveries. The resident also reported road safety issues with regard to signage and speeding on Windmill Hill.

The Chair confirmed that the Parish Council has no powers or authority to act on any of the residents' issues. Cllr Alec Sandiford agreed to make contact with the residents as a District Councillor.

The Clerk read and passed around the meeting a letter of thanks from Symmetrical Charity for the Parish Council's donation to support young people leaving care and moving into their first homes.

076/25 **Apologies** for Absence.
Cllr S Green, Cllr A Meredith, Cllr C Marlow, Cllr P White and SCC Cllr S Bagguley.

077/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation** (from agenda).
None.

078/25 **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.

079/25 Full Council **approved the minutes** of:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 10th July 2025.
b) The Council noted the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group-Action Points Thursday 7th August 2025.
c) The Council notes the Christmas Event Working Group Action Points Thursday 7th August 2025.

The Clerk stated that since the Christmas Working Group, it has been established that there are already quite a lot of Christmas Events going on at Fulford Village Hall, so the Parish Council has offered support as opposed to running another event.

080/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police
No apologies were received from the PCSOs.

Cllr T Elder informed the meeting that the PCSOs are going to arrange a drop-in Clinic at Tea and Toast on Wednesday, 8th October.

The Clerk also informed the meeting that the PCSOs are arranging another drive around the Parish Drop In Clinics with the incident van for January, with the dates to go in the Parish magazine.

081/25 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors – Cllr A Sandiford
    - After 2 years of work, the garages are finally being demolished and replaced with fencing to reinstate people's boundaries and gates to stop any ASB. Unfortunately, this has been delayed, but it should take place soon.
    - Currently dealing with lots of unauthorised developments.
    - Has a growing team of litter pickers around the Parish.
    - Been reporting an increased number of fly tipping around the Parish.
    - There was an attempted traveller site at the BT Exchange; fortunately, it got moved on quickly.
    - Adoption for Stallington by Staffordshire County Council and Stafford Borough Council is nearly complete.

- Stallington Travellers' planning application has been refused, and almost instantly, more hardcore has been delivered to the site; enforcement is aware.

The Clerk, on behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllr Alec Sandiford for all the work he has done to support the Stallington residents with this illegal development on Green Belt Land. The Clerk also informed the meeting that Fulford Village Hall is booked for Monday, 22nd September, if any councillors would like to attend to show the residents their support.

- Will be attending the Lightwood meeting about Stoke-on-Trent's Local Plan as it sits on Fulford's Boundary.

Cllr M Dodson

- Local Government reorganisation is taking a lot of time, and with recent Government appointment changes, it may affect whether they will still go ahead.
- The Autumn Budget will be interesting.
- Solar Farm planning application has been very quiet.

b) County Councillor

Cllr S Bagguely was unable to attend.

082/25 **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.
  The Parish Council agreed to **replace the sleepers** at the Carwash and Rough Close, and **bus shelter replacement**, and a notice board at Moss Gate. The PC also agreed to **High Viz** coats, jackets and vests for the Wardens with Fulford Parish Council on the back so that the residents can see work being carried out by the Parish Council.
- Still awaiting **Grindley Lane footpath** to be cleared.
- One **allotment plot** remaining at Blythe Bridge, then a group meeting is required.
- **Newsletter**, please get articles in by 30th September.
- **SPACE** – unfortunately, no takers for football in Fulford.
  -Staffs Wildlife numbers that attended were 10,6,8,11, and 15.
- Replaced two sets of **Defib pads** over the summer.
- The Parish Council delegated authority to Cllr Noblett and the Clerk to carry out **Play Equipment** ROSPA inspection recommendations.
- The growing size of the Parish Council and the size of Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Halls' **meeting room** was discussed, and it was decided to see how it goes.

083/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

a) July 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) August 25 Bank Reconciliation.
c) Jul 25/August 25 Payments list (see attached).
d) August/Sept 25 Payments list (see attached).
e) Noted Clerks pay award 2025-26
f) Approved re-stated 2024-25 AGAR and noted the External Audit Report.
g) Carried out Budget Review

084/25 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
No comments were made for the following applications 24/38729/OUT, 25/40826/LDCPP, 25/40831/TWT, 25/40898/HOU, 25/40870/FUL.

085/25 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Cllr Gareth Brunt informed the meeting that he had met with the police regarding a safeguarding concern for a resident within the Parish and about animal cruelty concerns on the Common.

086/25 **Neighbourhood Plan**

a) The Clerk reminded the meeting that the survey ends on the 30th of September.
b) Next meeting is Thursday, 18th September at 1330hrs, and Councillors should have the photos required for areas of importance within the Parish.
c) The Clerk reminded the Council that contact is still required to be made with all the Businesses in the Parish.

087/25 **Health and Safety**
No reports.

088/25 **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall agreements**
The Solicitor has retired but agreed to stay on casually until the outstanding Lease and Licences are complete.

The Parish Council still requires copies of the Electricity Bills before an annual amount can be agreed upon or the last 12 months ' bills paid.

089/25 Reviewed and approved **Fulford Parish Council's Policies**:

a) Disciplinary Policy.
b) Grievance Policy

090/25 **Councillor Updates/Items**

Cllr P Wilkinson informed the meeting that the Fulford Village Hall Committee would like a donation of selection boxes for their Christmas event.

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

091/25 Fulford Parish Council approved Emma Louise ARB to carry out all the tree survey-recommended **tree work for the Parish**.

092/25 Fulford Parish Council approved a quotation for a **Housing Needs Assessment**.

Cllr Peter Wilkinson left at 2030hrs

093/25 After some discussion and a tied vote, where the Chair cast the deciding vote Fulford Parish Council approved **8 rooted Christmas Trees** to be sourced by Cllr Lovatt with a budget of £1,000.

094/25 Fulford Parish Council approved the SPCA quotation for Full Council **face to face training.**

095/25 Items for **next Agendas.**
Christmas Arrangements
Tea and Toast

096/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 9th October 2025 at 1915hrs at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2040hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**