MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 13th November 2025
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Alec Sandiford (FPC & SBC)
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Connor Marlow
Cllr Sue White
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Paul White
Cllr Derek Brindley
Cllr Penny Meakin
Cllr Teri Bryce

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO)

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

120/25 **Public Participation**
There were no members of the public in attendance.

121/25 **Apologies.**
Cllr M Alexander, Cllr A Lovatt, SBC Cllr M Dodson and SCC Cllr Bagguley.

122/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
None.

123/25 **Register of interest**
The Chairman reminded all Parish Councillors to update their disclosable pecuniary interests up to date in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.

124/25 To the following **minutes** and action points were approved:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 9th October 2025.
b) Neighbourhood Plan Action Points Thursday 30th October 2025.
c) Christmas Event Working Group Thursday 30th October 2025.

125/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).
Apologies were given and they had nothing to report.

126/25 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors (if available).

Cllr Alec Sandiford informed the meeting of the following:

- **Garages at Blythe Bridge**
  After years of trying to get them demolished, they are now gone and gardens resecured with perimeter fencing etc. Request that the Parish look to install extra security gates at the allotment.
- **Enforcement Issues**
  A lot of time is being spent on Enforcement issues in the Parish because the District Council are struggling to get full-time staff. After all, agencies pay a substantial amount more money.
- **Planning**
  Since the last meeting, lots of time has been spent on Planning Applications in the Parish, including Stallington and now the land off Grange Road, Meir Heath.

b) County Councillor (if available).

Cllr Sean Bagguley was unable to attend.

127/25 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

- The Parish Council approved the monthly job lists for the Wardens, including the purchase of sleepers to replace the rotting beds in Fulford.
- Christmas Newsletters distribution has begun and will be complete by the end of November. A copy is also available on the Parish website, and this has been shared via social media
- The ecologist has attended the Moss Gate Bus Shelter, and there were no more bats, so the Warden has begun the repairs to include bat boxes.
- The Internal Auditor attended Wednesday 22nd October, and there is nothing to report.
- The Parish Council agreed that it is the responsibility of the neighbouring residents to cut back tree branches that are overhanging their properties, with the permission of the Parish Council.
- The Parish Council declined a request to write to a property about removing a flag that a resident feels is offensive. The Parish Council deemed this a Police matter.
- Notice Board for the allotments, Councillors agreed to look for more quotations.
- The Parish Council agreed to carry out an Annual Inspection of Hilderstone Allotments were agreed and a monthly inspection of Blythe Bridge allotments.
- The Parish Council agreed to buy bags of grit as a backup.
- The Parish Council agreed to purchase x2 fobs for Ford's storage.
- The Parish Council deferred the request for an additional Highways report on Stallington.

128/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) October 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) Nov/Dec 25 Payments list (See attached).
c) 2026/27 Budget and Earmarked Funds.

129/25 To consider **Planning Applications** received (See attached).

25/43146/PIP

Cllr Dodson has called the application into the Stafford Borough Council Planning Committee. Fulford Parish Council approved a quotation to appoint a Planning Consultant to object on Fulford Parish Council's behalf. Fulford Parish Council also approved holding a Public Meeting to ensure that all residents are aware of the proposed planning application and no how to submit comments to Stafford Borough Council.

SMD/2022/0267

Fulford Parish Council approved Cllr A Sandiford to speak against the application at Staffordshire Moorlands Planning Committee.

There were no comments for the following planning applications:
25/41310/TWT, 25/41124/FUL and 25/41249/HOU.

130/25 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.

Cllr G Brunt informed the meeting that he and Cllr A Meredith both attended a chairman's course, where Devolution was discussed, and that it is important that we are prepared. It was agreed that Devolution to be a regular item on the agenda going forward, and the transfer of assets to be discussed and decided upon.

131/25 **Neighbourhood Plan.**
a) Survey – The Clerk is still inputting, but the survey is now closed.
b) Next Meeting – Thursday 27th November at 1000hrs.
Green Space homework to be completed for each Councillor, please, for the next meeting.
c) Fulford Businesses meeting.- To be arranged in the New Year.

132/25 **Health and Safety.**

Cllr S Green reported that the raised paving slab at the bottom of the steps is dangerous in the dark and still has not been attended to.
The Clerk will contact Street Scene again and request the Wardens attend.

Cllr K Deeth informed the meeting about another raised slab by Spring Croft Primary School that she has reported to the Highways Agency.

133/25 **Christmas Event**

The Parish Council set a budget of £80-100 per tree for decorations, including lights and refreshments for the decorating for the community.

Ward Councillors to discuss dates and times to decorate and let the Clerk know to advertise it for members of the public to join in.

Friday 5th December 1600-1800hrs at St Francis Church will be a free event for the community to visit Santa and receive a gift, join in singing with the choir and have refreshments served. The Risk Assessment has been shared with Councillors for comments, and the Clerk will remain with Santa as she holds DBS and Chaperone Licence. The Parish Council approved to contribute to the Fulford Choir.
Cllr S White informed the meeting that a resident in Saverely Green has volunteered to make gingerbread men for cost for children to decorate at the event.

134/25 Fulford Parish Council accepted Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall's request for an extra £50 per quarter for electricity as part of the Licence agreement. Both parties have now agreed on the Draft Licence, so the final version is now being created by the solicitors.

135/25 Fulford Parish Council approved the following policies.
a) Financial Risk Assessment.
b) Grievance Policy.
c) Publication Scheme.

136/25 Councillor Updates/Items: to receive any additional updates or items for discussion from Councillors.
Cllr S White raised concerns about the flooding. The Clerk is to make a social media post asking all residents to report floods around the Parish.

Cllr J Crossely asked about female tommies for the Parish. It was agreed to have an agenda item for Remembrance for the December meeting.

Cllr T Bryce informed the meeting about Walk Talk Actions Community Christmas Dinner at St Francis Church on Wednesday 10th December at £7 per person.

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

137/25 Fulford Parish Council approve the quotation to extend the warranties on the Speed Indicator Displays.

138/25 Christmas Tree Decoration Budget already approved.

139/25 Plaque for Verdun Oak – Item removed.

140/25 Blythe Bridge Allotment gates – Deferred until next meeting.

141/25 Items for **next Agenda.**
-Remembrance
-Allotment Gates
-Transfer of Assets
-Devolution

142/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting. Thursday 11th December 2025 at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 20:40hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**