MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 11th December 2025
Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Alec Sandiford (FPC & SBC)
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Sue White
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Derek Brindley
Cllr Penny Meakin
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)

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

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

142/25 **Public Participation**
There were no members of the public in attendance.

143/25 **Apologies.**
Cllr A Noblett, Cllr T Byrce, Cllr C Marlow and Cllr P White.

144/25 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
None.

145/25 **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.

146/25 To the following **minutes** and action points were approved:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 13th November 2025.
b) Neighbourhood Plan Action Points Thursday 26th November 2025.
c) Public Meeting Minutes Tuesday 25th November 2025.

147/25 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).
PCSO Davies informed the meeting that, as a Parish, there has been very little crime; however, quite a bit on the Parish borders.
PCSO Davies left the meeting at 1920hrs

148/25 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors (if available).

Cllr Alec Sandiford informed the meeting of the following:

- Working with the Stoke on Trent Councillor about the Stoke on Trent Land off Grange Road planning application.
- The Wood on Hilderstone Road should hopefully have a decision before Christmas.
- Enforcement is now prioritising cases; now they are back to full strength.
- The Travellers' site is due in court.
- Road Sweepers should be visiting Blythe Bridge and Meir Heath, removing leaves.
- Working on Flooding at Meir Heath, Saverley Green, Blythe Bridge and Fulford Dale.
- V12 parking on the grass verges.
- Dog fouling signs are due to go up in hot spots.
- ASB issues with private tenants.

Cllr Mike Dodson did not attend the meeting.

b) County Councillor (if available).

Cllr Sean Bagguley was unable to attend and gave apologies.

149/25 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

- The Parish Wardens' job lists were approved.
- Grindley Lane footpath works will hopefully commence W/C 15th December.
- Fulford warden will remove all Christmas lights and decorations on 1st January.
- Reminder about full Council training on Wednesday 21st January at Fulford Village Hall at 1800hrs.

Fulford Parish Council approved the Clerk to purchase a Parish Council Hard Drive as an extra backup.

Fulford Parish Council also approved locks and a camera for the Parish Office to ensure data protection, as a key is to be shared with Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee.

150/25 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

a) November 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) Dec/Jan 26 Payments list (See attached).
c) 2026-27 Precept was approved with a majority vote at the standstill position using the 2025-26 precept.

151/25 To consider **Planning Applications** received (See attached).

There were no comments for the following planning applications:
25/34118/TWT, 25/41363/HOU, 25/4140/TWT, 25/41377/HOU, 25/41401/TWT, 25/40898/HOU and 25/41411/ANX.

152/25 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Cllr G Brunt informed the meeting about a valued resident and a valued member of the farming community having difficulty with the Planning Department.

153/25 **Neighbourhood Plan.**
a) Survey – The Clerk is still inputting, but the survey is now closed.
b) Next Meeting – Wednesday 28th January 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.

Fulford Parish Council approved the Housing Needs Assessment for Fulford Parish Council.

154/25 **Health and Safety.**
Nothing reported.
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155/25 **Christmas Event Debrief**
The Parish Council decided that the event should become an annual event that moves around the Parish each year. Ideally, Friday 4th December 2026 at Fulford Village Hall in collaboration with Fulford Village Hall and Fulford Volunteers.

It was agreed that the monies raised for the tombola will be donated to Mission Christmas | Cash for Kids.

It was approved that a donation will be made to Fulford Choir for performing at the Parish Council Christmas Event from the Chairman's Allowance.

156/25 **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall agreements.**
Fulford Parish Council approved the updated Parish Office Licence, and the Chairman, Cllr Gareth Brunt, signed the lease during the meeting and Cllr Karen Deeth agreed to take the signed lease to the Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee meeting next week to be signed by their chairman.

157/25 The following **Policies** were approved and adopted:
a) Information Technology Policy

158/25 2026 **Remembrance** Plans
It was agreed to do the lamppost poppies and Tommies at the notice boards again.

Cllr Janet Crossley will investigate female tommies' prices and bring them to the next Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Cllr Gareth Brunt donated what was the Windmill Preservation Society tommies to Fulford Parish Council.

159/25 **Devolution** updates
Cllr Anthony Meredith shared Stoke on Trent's, Stafford's, Staffordshire Moorlands and Newcastle's proposals.

160/25 **Community Awards**
Cllr Anthony Meredith suggested that annually or biannually, Fulford Parish Council hold an Awards evening with a buffet, recognising and thanking volunteers in the community with official certificates of thanks. The Parish Council agreed to a working group preparing a plan to present to the Full Council for approval.

161/25 **Councillor Updates/Items**:
Cllr Penny Meakin informed the Parish Council about possible plans for 2026 to carry out Fulford's footpath clearance is once a month with volunteers. Details to be confirmed and presented to Full Council for approval in the New Year.

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

162/25 Asset Transfers
Fulford Parish Council are creating a list of possible Stafford Borough Assets that they would be interested in being transferred to Fulford Parish Council.

163/25 Basket Swing.
Fulford Parish Council approved a quotation from Play Bark for a replacement basket swing made from heavy-duty recycled plastic with a 30-year guarantee.

164/25 Blythe Bridge Allotment gates – Deferred until next meeting.

165/25 Allotment Notice Boards
Fulford Parish Council approved the purchase of two notice boards.

166/25 Items for **next Agenda.**
Female Tommie's.
Grindley Lane footpath.
Windmill Hill Enforcement.

167/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting. Thursday 8th January 2026 at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2025hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**