MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 12th February 2026
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Alec Sandiford (FPC & SBC)
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Anthony Meredith (Chair)
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Derek Brindley
Cllr Penny Meakin
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Paul White
Cllr Teri Bryce

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

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

168/26 **Public Participation**
There were no members of the public in attendance.

169/26 **Apologies.**
Cllr A Noblett, Cllr S White, Cllr M Alexander, Cllr C Marlow, Cllr G Brunt and Cllr M Dodson (SBC).

170/26 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
None.

171/26 **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.

172/26 The following **minutes** and action points were approved:
a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 11th December 2025.

173/26 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).

PCSO Davies informed the meeting that, as a Parish, there was an attempted break in Blythe Bridge between Christmas and New Year, with similar ones in Tean and Checkley, but an arrest has been made.
Ridgeway Drive has some ongoing ASB between neighbours.

Homeless people have been referred and moved on.

Cllr P Meakin reported to the PCSO that she has collected 122 wine bottles of the same kind over a half-mile stretch.

PCSO Davies left the meeting at 1920hrs

174/26 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors (if available).

Cllr Alec Sandiford informed the meeting of the following:

- A traffic injunction is underway for the garage.
- New bins are being supplied to the requested areas.
- The Wood planning application has been refused.
- High-Gorsty planning application decision is due next week.
- The traveller's site has been to court and is ongoing.
- Stafford Borough has an updated ASB policy, which will be shared.
- Housing Plus is making the old garage areas into parking bays.
- Dog Fouling is becoming an issue, and signs are being installed.
- Enforcement has been given delegated powers to now act faster.

Cllr Mike Dodson did not attend the meeting.

b) County Councillor (if available).

Cllr Sean Bagguley informed the of the following:

- The Grit Bin request for Birkholme Drive has been included in the April review.
- Highways attended the flooding at Saverely Green on Monday has it improved? The Clerk agreed to find out and provide an update.
- Hilderstone Speed Campaign feasibility study still has not taken place, but Cllr Bagguley has been assured that it will happen before the end of this financial year.
- Trying to source funding to have Grindley Lane double yellow lines to stop the filter lane getting congested with parked cars.
- Meadow Lane pothole should have been completed on 21st January.

Cllr A Sandiford asked about the flooding at Grindley Lane at Springcroft Primary School, as Highways has unblocked one or two drains, but never all of them all. Cllr A Sandiford to provide Cllr Bagguley with the report reference number.

The Clerk asked about the contribution request to Highways for the Grindley Lane footpath clearance work that the Parish Council funded after years of making Highways reports, but no action was taken. Cllr Bagguley will chase a response.

Cllr Bagguley left the meeting at 1935hrs

Cllr Andrew Lovatt arrived at 1935hrs

175/26 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

- The Parish Wardens' job lists were approved.
- Grindley Lane footpath work is now complete.
- Agreed for the refurbished SID to go outside Portland Primary School.
- Replacement basket swing is complete.
- Parish Office now has a ring doorbell, and all cabinets are now lockable, ready to provide the Village Hall with a key once the Licence is signed.
- A united Christmas Event with Fulford was turned down, so it was agreed to request to book Meir Heath and Rough Close Village hall, and if they don't have availability, return to St Francis.
- Agreed for the Warden to look at shelving for the Poppy Wreaths.
- Agreed for May meeting arrangements to be the same as previous years.
- Newsletter was discussed, and ideas for articles agreed on.
- Blythe Bridge Allotments first meeting will be on Wednesday 18th February at 1830hrs in the Parish Office.
- Now using the hard drive to regularly back up Parish Council files as well as the cloud.

176/26 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

a) December 25 Bank Reconciliation.
b) Jan/Feb 26 Payments list (See attached).
c) January 26 Bank Reconciliation.
d) Feb/March Payments List (See attached).
e) 2025-26 Budget Review
f) Asset Register
g) Precept press statement

177/26 To consider **Planning Applications** received (See attached).

There were no comments for the following planning applications:
25/41605/POTH, 26/41674/LDCPP, 26/41709/PAR and 25/41331/FUL.

178/26 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.

Cllr A Meredith has nothing to report.

179/26 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

a) Survey – The Clerk has completed inputting all 100 returns and is looking to use AI to publish the findings in the Parish Newsletter.
b) Next Meeting – Wednesday 25th February at 1000hrs.
Green Space homework to be completed for each Councillor, please, for the next meeting.
c) Fulford Businesses meeting.- To be arranged in May time and all Councillors to complete Business tables that they are aware of in their

Wards, including working from home businesses, and bring their lists to the next NHP meeting for the Clerk to collate.

d) Read draft policies ahead of next meeting.

180/26 **Health and Safety.**

Nothing reported.

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181/26 **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall agreements.**

a) License Update

Cllr P White stood up and handed paperwork out to all Councillors.

Cllr C Baskin asked why, when Cllr Deeth is the Parish Council Representative, and Cllr P White has been asked by the Parish Council to remain out of discussions because of his conflict of interest, does he continue? Cllr P White gave Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee Chairman apologies for being unable to attend.

Cllr D Brindley asked Cllr P White to explain his standing and under what authority he is acting when he changes legal documents, as he doesn't understand because the Parish Council have not asked him to do this. Cllr P White responded that the Village Hall Committee asked him to. Cllr K Deeth pointed out that if that is the case, Cllr P White should have declared an interest at the start of the meeting.

There was some discussion about holding a separate meeting, but Cllr P White wished to discuss the paperwork that he had handed out at the meeting.

Cllr P Meakin asked for clarity on why the Village Hall Committee asked Cllr P White to change a legal document when he is a Parish Councillor. Further discussions went on, and it was unclear whether Cllr P White was now also a member of the Village Hall Committee and a Parish Councillor.

Cllr P White tried to address the paperwork that he had provided, but the Clerk objected and asked to go over the solicitor's latest email addresses, the changes that Cllr P White had made to his legal licence, as the Parish Council had paid for a legal service.

- The Clerk asked Cllr P White if the Village Hall Committee had agreed to pay the solictors further quote for the additional updates that they have now requested. Cllr P White said that the Chairman had emailed to confirm that they would the clerk informed the meeting that she had not received said email and request Cllr P White to forward it.
- Cllr P White agreed on behalf of the Village Hall Committee not to change the **property definition** as recommended by the Solicitor.
- Cllr P White agreed on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to take out the wording **TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHTS** as recommended by the Solicitor.
- Cllr P White agreed on behalf of the Village Hall Committee that the new clause **2.2(B)** that he had added was not required as recommended by the Solicitor.

- Cllr P White agreed on behalf of the Village Hall Committee to remove Cllr P Whites amendment to clause **3(n)** as recommended by the Solicitor.
- **Cllr P White paperwork 4.5** a key agreement to be added into the License, the Parish Council agreed these items pending advice and correct legal terminology from the solicitors to be added to the Licence.
- **Right to give notice** the Parish Council objected to Cllr P Whites'/Village Hall Committees addition in his document 4.6 V of **28 days' notice** and requested that the Solicitor to take the solicitor's advice as he is qualified on timeframes that are legally required.
- **Clause 12.2** Cllr P White/Village Hall committee agreed to follow the solicitor's advice.
- **Schedule** the solicitor advised that Cllr P Whites/Village Hall Committees amendment is not appropriate, the **schedule** is dealing with ADDITIONAL RIGHTS and that is also why the clause 2.1 amendment should not be agreed, the granting of additional rights. The Solicitor states that their wording at A and B to the schedule should remain and does not appear in dispute. Cllr P White/Village Hall Committee insists that they will not sign the Licence unless the wording is changed to ix that Cllr P White has written. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council should not go against the Solicitor's advice.

Cllr P White alluded to the Solicitors acting on behalf of the Parish Council. It was explained that the Solicitors were directed, with the agreement of the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee, to draft a Legal License not in anyone's favour because the Solicitors can not legally do that. A considerable amount of time and money has now been spent on making continuous adjustments that the Village Hall Committee have requested. In December, it was believed to have been complete, and the Parish Council signed the copy, and the bill with the Solicitors was settled. This week, Cllr White, we are informed on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, has brought further amendments forward, but this time against recommendations from the solicitors, which means the Parish Council is unable to sign if the solicitors advise this.

Cllr D Brindley added that it is ridiculous that the Parish Council has done everything to alleviate problems, and it is being pulled apart by unqualified people.

Cllr A Meredith added that it feels as though the Village Hall Committee do not want the Parish Council there.

The Parish Council were in firm agreement that Cllr P White has a conflict of interest and should not be involved in the arrangements for the Licence because he is causing further unnecessary delay and friction.

The next steps were unclear because the Clerk had not received an email from the Village Hall Committee agreeing to pay any further solicitors' bills for their License. It was suggested that perhaps the Chairs and clerks of the Parish Council and Village Hall Committee meet only, and to investigate if the Solicitor would be willing to attend to finally bring the License to an agreement

b) Cllr Anthony Meredith was appointed the new Fulford Village Hall Representative.

182/26 The following **Policies** were approved and adopted:
a) Grant Policy and Application Form

183/26 **Devolution** updates
Public consultation has now gone live, the Clerk confirmed that it is shared on social media and the website.

184/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**:
The Clerk informed the Parish Council and shared the emails received from Stallington residents experiencing great difficulties with management companies. The Parish Council agreed to hire the Village Hall for all the Stallington residents to come together, to allow Cllr Alec Sandiford to inform them of the years of work he has done to get the County and District to adopt the estate.

Cllr J Crossley asked if there had been an update about the Stoke on Trent side of the Grange Rd planning application. Cllr A Sandiford informed the meeting that he has chased this today and would share the response.

Cllr P Meakin informed the meeting that she had received complaints about Hilderstone allotments. The Clerk said she would speak with the associated and Cllr A Lovatt suggested a possible screen to be investigated, like Portuguese laurel.

Cllr D Brindley asked about a few meetings ago, redundant road works signs just being left, but it is still continuing. The Clerk said to inform her where, and she will notify Highways.

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

185/26 **Defibrillator Quotations**
The Clerk informed the meeting that 6 defibrillators were coming up to 10 years old and that manufacturers guidance is to replace them. The Parish Council agreed to quote to replace.

186/26 **Blythe Bridge Allotment Rent**
Fulford Parish Council approved £25 rent for the financial year 2026/27 with a £2.50 increase for 2027/28.

187/26 **Blythe Bridge Allotment gates**
It was agreed that once written permission was received from Housing Plus, to get quotations to be considered to install gates at the end of the driveway before the Blythe Bridge Allotments.

188/26 **Contractor Fee increases for 2026-27**

All increases were approved.

189/26 **Footpath Repair Project**
Cllr P Meakin explained the footpath working group clearance/repair project for Summer 2026, and the Parish Council approved it.

190/26 **Community Awards**
The Parish Council approved for the Community Awards to go ahead with a budget of £1000.

191/26 **Asset Transfer**
Cllr K Deeth asked Cllr Al Sandiford to enquire is SBC would invest in upgrading Fulford Village Park.

192/26 Items for **next Agenda.**

193/25 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting. Thursday 12th March 2026 at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2105hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**