MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 9th April 2026
Springcroft Primary School

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Alec Sandiford (FPC & SBC)
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Derek Brindley
Cllr Penny Meakin
Cllr Andrew Lovatt
Cllr Teri Bryce
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)
Cllr Susan White
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr M Alexander
Cllr P Wilkinson (Co-opted)

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

Meeting started at 19:15hrs

216/26 **Public Participation**
There were no members of public in attendance.

217/26 **Apologies.**
SCC Cllr Sean Bagguley.

218/26 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
Cllr K Deeth declared an interest in that the co-option candidate is a relative and agreed to leave the room when discussions take place and not take part in the vote.

219/26 **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.

220/26

Co Option of Peter Wilkinson onto Fulford Parish Council for Fulford Ward.

Proposed: Cllr T Bryce	**Seconded: Cllr J Crossley**

For: 13	**Against: 0**	**Abstentions: 0**

221/26 The following **minutes** and action points were approved:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting, Thursday 12th March 2026.

222/26 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).

Did not attend.

223/26 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors (if available).

Cllr Alec Sandiford informed the meeting of the following:

- The Wood has been refused planning permission and submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
- High Gorsty Farm has been refused planning permission and submitted an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate.
- Signage has been erected on Grindley Lane and Rough Close with regard to fly tipping.
- Stallington residents' meeting went well, and the formal adoption is underway.

Cllr Mike Dodson did not attend the meeting.

b) County Councillor (if available).

Cllr Sean Bagguley gave his apologies.

224/26 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

- The Parish Wardens' job lists were approved.
- Streetlights upgrade is now complete and paid for.
- Upgraded solar SID does not have a setting for 40mph, so it will have to be installed on Grindley Lane.
- Internal Auditor visit on Wednesday, 15th April 26.
- Community Awards may need a new venue if the Windmill does not reopen.
- X6 Defibs have now been upgraded.

- Allotment meetings are still required.
- Business meeting still needs to be planned.
- Lawnmower service was agreed.
- Staff Wildlife children's summer activities were approved.
- Football coaching summer activities were also approved for two locations in the Parish.
- Footpath Clearance refreshments of drinks and biscuits were also approved.
- Sprincroft Primary School charges and remissions policy was approved.

225/26 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) March 26 Bank Reconciliation.
b) March 26 and April 26 Payments list (See attached).
c) Earmarked Funds for 2026-27 - £20,000 Elections, £30,000 Asset Replacement and £25,000 Devolution.

226/26 To consider **Planning Applications** received (See attached).
There were no comments for the following planning applications:
26/41721/HOU, 25/14538/COU, 26/42038/PAGR and 26/41982/PAR

Fulford Parish Council decided to repeat submission of the same objections for the following applications: 25/40936/FUL and 25/40600/FUL to the Planning Inspectorate.

Fulford Parish Council decided to write a letter of support for 24/38729/OUT to the inspectorate because it is permission for a modest-sized building to replace the static home that has been there with no complaints for over 20 years, and the owners work the land.

227/26 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Cllr G Brunt informed the meeting that the Windmill Public House has closed, and this has caused great concern to residents and rumours have already started. There were quite a number of residents who wished to attend this evening's meeting, but the Chair persuaded them that it is too early yet. After some discussion, the Parish Council agreed to support the residents to come together by hiring a room and coordinating their first meeting and writing to Stone Gate to ask what their future intentions are and also reaching out to the MP for support.

Cllr G Brunt also informed the meeting that he met with two representatives of the Village Hall Committee on 31 March and handed over the keys to the Parish Office. He further reported that, following a request for receipts relating to grant applications for 2025–26, it became apparent that the shutters for which the Village Hall Committee had been awarded a grant did not cost the amount originally quoted. The Committee subsequently spent the £678 surplus on electrical checks, which was considered to be outside the scope of the approved grant. At the meeting, the Village Hall Committee therefore returned the unspent grant funds by issuing a cheque for £678 after being requested to do so.

228/26 **Neighbourhood Plan.**
Fulford Parish Council approved V1.2 to be submitted to Stafford Borough Council for comments. Fulford Parish Council approved the survey results article to go into the next issue of the Parish Newsletter. Councillors submitted lists of local businesses in their Wards to write to invite to a Business networking and Neighbourhood Plan evening Monday 15th June at 1930hrs at Fulford Village Hall. The next meeting is Thursday 16th April at 10am At St Francis Church Meir Heath.

229/26 Fulford Parish Council approved a notion for **Neighbourhood Governance**, ensuring that an influential role for Parish/Town Councils. The Parish Council also approved writing to the Member of Parliament to raise this in Parliament.

230/26 **Health and Safety.**
Cllr Noblett raised questions about liability and if a child had an accident on the play equipment, if the Parish council was covered. The clerk responded that the equipment is inspected annually by an external inspector and monthly inspected by the qualified Warden, and the Parish Council has public liability insurance which includes Grindley Park.

Cllr Noblett also raised concerns about trees on Windmill Hill not looking safe. The Clerk advised that reports should be made on the Staffordshire County Council Highways reporting system.

231/26 **Stallington Residents Meeting.**
The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr Sandiford headed the meeting, Cllr S Bagguley attended along with a representative for Dr Allison Garnder and almost 50 residents. Cllr A Sandiford informed the meeting that Severn Trent has formally adopted, and the Highways are working towards adopting other areas and Stafford Borough Council the green spaces. It was agreed to arrange a meeting again in July for an update. Residents had other concerns about their deeds and the Clerk advised them to start their own lines on enquiry and if they needed assistance with room hire to come together the Parish Council could assist.

232/26 No policies to approve.

233/26 **Devolution** updates
Awaiting the outcome. The clerk reminded Councillors to request agenda items for discussion if they wish to request any transfer of assets in their Wards from Stafford Borough Council to Fulford Parish Council.

234/26 **Newsletter**
The draft of the Spring/Summer newsletter was approved.

235/26 **Swynnerton Arms Community Asset**
Fulford Parish Council approved to submit an application for the Swynnerton Arms Public House to be considered as a Community Asset to Stafford Borough Council for consideration.

236/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**:

a) The Clerk informed the meeting about **Rough Close Common** ongoing issues. After some discussion, it was agreed that the PCSOs, Mr Waller, are aware and will monitor the situation.

b) The Clerk informed the meeting that more complaints have been received about car sales businesses parking vehicles for sale on the **grass verges**.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council is not responsible for bollards because it is not Parish Council land, and all complaints should be directed to Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr A Sandiford informed the meeting that Stafford Borough Council is looking into the regular transporter visits, as it is causing grave danger to other road users.

Cllr P Meakin reminded the meeting about the previous agreement to have 5 dates this summer to work in collaboration with Stone Ramblers to **clear footpaths** 38, 39 and 30, and an application for a grant for £2042 to cover fuel costs etc has also been submitted to Staffordshire County Council.

Cllr T Bryce requested that Fulford Parish Council in collaboration with her charity Walk Talk Action do a walk for **Staffordshire Day** on Friday 1st May 0930-1230hrs. Fulford Parish Council approved and Cllr T Bryce agreed to share further information.

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

237/26 **Newsletter quotations**

Fulford Parish Council approved Panda Press quotation for printing and Leaflets Ltd for distributing the Parish Council newsletter.

237/26 **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall**

Fulford Parish Council approved for the Clerk to request the deeds for Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall.

Fulford Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should write to Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall for a second and final time, requesting the outstanding financial information and policies. The correspondence should also set a clear deadline for response, noting that failure to comply will leave Fulford Parish Council, in its role as custodian trustee, with no alternative but to refer the matter to the Charity Commission.

239/26 **BT Contract**

Fulford Parish Council approved to continue paying the monthly direct debit as a posed to pay the full amount to end the contract, in case there is a requirement for broadband again soon.

240/26 **Neighbourhood Plan Professional Support**

Fulford Parish Council approved the quotation for professional planning support for the Neighbourhood Plan.

241/26 Items for **next Agenda.**
Bollards – Cllr Deeth
Remembrance plaque – Cllr Sandiford

242/26 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 14th May 2026 at a Fulford Village Hall

Meeting Closed at 2050hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**