MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting

Thursday 14th May 2026
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Anthony Meredith
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Gareth Brunt (Chair)
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Alec Sandiford
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Penny Meakin
Cllr Peter Wilkinson (arrived at 1830hrs)
Cllr Teri Bryce

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk) and 2 Members of the Public.

The meeting started at 18:00 hours.

1. **Welcome by the Chair of the Parish Council and introduction to the meeting**.
Cllr Brunt opened the meeting and welcomed and thanked everyone for attending.

2. **Apologies**
Apologies were received for Cllrs S White, D Brindley, P Wilkinson and A Lovatt.

3. **Chairman's Annual Report**

Cllr Brunt began by acknowledging that much of his year as Chair had unfortunately been taxing and time-consuming, in trying to bring the affairs of the Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee into order. He thanked Cllr K Deeth and the Clerk for persevering through what had been very difficult times. The meeting gave a round of applause.

Cllr Brunt went on to thank the two Parish Wardens, Sam and Mark, for always going above and beyond in their roles, stating that no request was ever too much. He

requested that an agenda item be added to consider purchasing a thank-you gift for them.

Cllr Brunt also gave a special thank you to Cllr A Sandiford for his continued commitment to the Parish and for consistently going above and beyond for residents and the wider community. The meeting gave a round of applause.

Cllr Brunt thanked the County Councillor in his absence.

He then thanked individual Councillors for taking on important tasks within the community, including Cllr Meakin for all of her work on the footpaths and Cllr Bryce for her consistent weekly Tea and Toast sessions supporting residents within the Parish.

Cllr Brunt went on to highlight what the Parish Council had achieved over the last 12 months:

- Cleared the Grindley Lane footpath despite it being a County Council responsibility.
- Made a start on clearing Footpaths 38 and 39.
- Progressed the Neighbourhood Plan significantly, improving Parish Council engagement with residents and providing an important layer of protection for the future.
- Organised several litter picks over the last 12 months.
- Held a successful VE Day afternoon tea celebration at St Francis Church.
- Hosted a Christmas Grotto at St Francis Church.
- Installed a new basket swing at Grindley Park.
- Installed a new planter at Rough Close.
- Introduced permanent sustainable Christmas trees in all wards.
- Installed two speed indicator devices.
- Improved the Blythe Bridge allotment site.
- Continued operating the Community Bus service to Stone once a month.
- Delivered another successful year of Tea and Toast sessions thanks to Cllr Bryce.
- Supported Stallington residents regarding unlawful development issues and currently acts as the management company.
- Prevented development on land off Grange Road.
- Renewed several defibrillators and delivered free training sessions.
- Worked with authorities and other agencies to tackle recent anti-social behaviour in Meir Heath.
- Produced two parish newsletters.
- Moved Parish Office.

Despite a year of struggles, it has still been a very productive and positive year thanks to the Clerk and all the Councillors.

4. **Open Forum**
There were no local groups in attendance.

5. **Public Question Time.**

Two members of the public raised concerns regarding a recent Planning in Principle application. It was noted that the application was considered to be incorrectly titled, which may cause confusion as the site is not located within Spot Acre.

Concerns were also raised regarding the condition and use of the land, which has remained largely unmanaged for several years and contains a number of outbuildings. It was noted that the site lies within the Green Belt and should therefore remain protected from inappropriate development.

Further concerns related to highway safety, with members of the public highlighting that the proposed access arrangements could increase traffic movements at a location where serious accidents are reported to occur regularly.

Significant ecological concerns were also expressed. It was noted that the land has remained mostly undisturbed for over a decade, with sightings of badger setts, foxes, and bats reported on the site.

Following the discussion, the Parish Council agreed to object to the application and request that it be called in. It was further agreed that detailed consideration of the matter would take place at the main Parish Council meeting.

Cllr P Wilkinson arrived.

6. **Final Comments from the Chair and Close.**
Cllr Brunt thanked everyone for coming and thanked the Councillors for working together to make Fulford Parish a great community.

Meeting Closed at 1835 hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**