MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 11th June 2026
Springcroft Primary School

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 Gareth Brunt
Cllr Susan White
Cllr Angela Noblett
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Andrew Lovatt

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO)
SCC Cllr S Bagguley

1 Member of Public

Meeting started at 19:00hrs

028/26 **Public Participation**
A member of the public attended and reported a number of highway-related concerns on Grindley Lane and Sutherland Crescent, supported by photographic evidence.
The Clerk advised the member of the public that additional concerns raised fell within the jurisdiction of Blythe and Forsbrook Parish Council, located within Staffordshire Moorlands.
It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the resident on Grindley Lane requesting that the overgrown hedge/bush be cut back to prevent obstruction of the public footpath.
Cllr A. Sandiford agreed to investigate the reported issue of tree roots affecting the footpath on Grindley Lane.

The Clerk also invited the member of the public to visit the Parish Office on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm should he identify any further concerns requiring the Council's attention.

029/26 **Apologies.**
Cllr T Bryce and Cllr P White.

030/26 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
Nothing declared.

031/26 **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.

032/26 The following **minutes** and action points were approved:
a) Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 14th May 2026.
b) Annual Meeting of the Council Thursday 14th May 2026.
c) Neighbourhood Plan Action Points Thursday 20th May 2026.

Cllr P Meakin thanked the Clerk for producing a very accurate and difficult account of the meeting.

033/26 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).
Did not attend.
The Parish Council agreed to write to the Commander with concerns about the new reduced hours and rota from local PCSOs

034/26 To receive **Report** from:
a) Stafford Borough Councillors
Cllr A. Sandiford provided the following planning and environmental update:

- The planning application relating to The Wood has been refused. An appeal has subsequently been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate.
- The planning application for High Gorsty Farm has also been refused, and an appeal has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.
- The appeal relating to the traveller site at Stallington was dismissed. The occupants are currently in the process of vacating the site, and a five-year injunction remains in place.
- Demolition works are currently being undertaken at the West View garages site.
- A number of tree-related issues have been reported and are being monitored and addressed as appropriate.

Cllr Mike Dodson did not attend the meeting.

b) County Councillor
Cllr S. Bagguley provided the following update:

- He offered his apologies for his absence over the previous two months, explaining that he had been housebound whilst recovering from an operation.
- A public consultation is expected to commence shortly regarding the proposed extension of the double yellow lines at the bottom of Grindley Lane, to prevent parking within the filter lane.

- The deployment of Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) remains on hold whilst Staffordshire County Council considers a county-wide standardisation approach.
- The findings of the previous investigation into a potential crossing on Grindley Lane have been circulated.
- The reported issues relating to the drain covers on Hilderstone Road have not been classified as a priority. However, it is anticipated that the matter will be addressed towards the end of June.
- Diversion signs have been collected and removed from around Fulford Village.
- Improvement works to the Kingfisher footpath and new school signage are scheduled to commence on 24 June.
- Draft reports relating to the recent speed campaign on Hilderstone Road are currently being prepared.
- Information regarding the Community Fund is available, and the Clerk agreed to promote this opportunity via the Parish Council's social media channels.

Cllr K. Deeth thanked Cllr S. Bagguley for his assistance in resolving numerous highways-related issues that she had raised with him directly. Cllrs P. Meakin, P. Wilkinson, S. Green and A. Meredith concurred and expressed their appreciation for his ongoing support and efforts.

035/26 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

- The Parish Wardens' job descriptions were approved.
- The Parish Council agreed to obtain and consider quotations for the installation of an additional Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Uttoxeter Road. The required pole has already been installed, and Staffordshire Highways have advised that installation of further poles within Fulford Village is currently on hold.
- The Parish Council agreed to investigate the costs of employing a self-employed litter picker.
- A meeting for Blythe Bridge Allotments will be arranged to take place during July or August.
- Staffordshire Wildlife summer sessions have been booked. Confirmation of the football coaching sessions is still awaited.
- **Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Deed Update:** The Solicitors Regulation Authority has been unable to locate the title deed following the closure of the solicitors' firm that previously held it. Although the original deed remains unaccounted for, the Land Registry records the Parish Council as the registered owner, and the historic lease confirms that the Village Hall pays the Parish Council a peppercorn rent of £10 per annum, supporting the Council's ownership. The Parish Council confirmed that it is not seeking to alter the existing arrangements but wishes to regularise and update the associated administrative records. Councillor Brunt has continued to contact former Parish Councillors and Clerks, all of whom understand that the Parish Council owns the land. A former councillor responded to the letter issued last month, confirming that they do not hold any Parish Council documentation. They also submitted a Freedom of Information request regarding how many former councillors had been contacted, to which the response confirmed that four had been approached at that time. It is hoped that former councillors or Village Hall Committee members will be able to help establish a timeline to assist with searches of archived records.
- During the half-term period, Grindley Park experienced significant anti-social behaviour, with groups of over 130 people gathering, resulting in loud music, littering, underage drinking and several reported assaults. The Parish Council expressed its appreciation to the local PCSOs for their support during this period and residents for helping to litter pick. A dispersal order was implemented, and Councillor A. Sandiford is now exploring the possibility of introducing a permanent order covering Grindley Park and the Common. The Parish

Council also agreed to investigate the installation of CCTV at Grindley Park. In addition, Councillor Brunt reported concerns regarding a gap in the park fencing that is allowing motorcycles to gain access. The Clerk is obtaining quotations for repairs, which will be presented to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

- Members were reminded of the forthcoming Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training sessions:

  Thursday 18 June, 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm, at Springcroft Primary School.

  Wednesday 15 July, 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm, at Fulford Village Hall.

- The Parish Council agreed to review quotations for the replacement of the planters at West View, the Post Office and the Car Wash. Members also agreed to consider replacing the Christmas tree at the Car Wash with a new tree planted within a permanent planter.

036/26 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) June 26 Bank Reconciliation.
b) May 26 and June 26 Payments list (See attached).

037/26 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
There were no comments for the following planning applications:
26/41950/HOU, 26/41845/FUL and 26/42258/LDCPP.

038/26 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Nothing to report.

039/26 **Neighbourhood Plan.**
a) Reminder: Business meeting at Fulford Village Hall on Monday 15th June.
b) Reminder: Some Green Space templates are still outstanding

040/26 **Health and Safety.**
Cllr Brunt reported to the Council his concerns about requesting a warden to visit Grindley Lane when there were large gatherings to litter pick, and he felt intimidated, but fortunately on that occasion the PCSOs arrived.

041/26 The following **policies** were approved:
a) Councillor Code of Conduct.
b) Data Audit
c) Data Protection Policy

042/26 **Devolution** updates
By the end of this Parliament the Local Government reorganisation structure will hopefully be confirmed.

043/26 **Swynnerton Arms Community Asset**
Cllr Brunt agreed to support the Clerk to gather evidence of what community activities take place at the Swynnerton Arms.

044/26 **Remembrance Plaque**
It was agreed not to progress with this as a precedent would be set.

045/26 **Dog Poo Bag Dispensers for each Ward**
It was agreed not to progress with this as dog owners should provide their own poo bags.

046/26 **Footpath Clearance**
Cllr Meakin informed the meeting that the planned footpath works, scheduled for 2 June, did not take place because Staffordshire County Council was unable to deliver the stone due to a mix-up with the delivery dates. It is hoped that the works will now go ahead on Tuesday, 7 July.

047/26 **Parish Council Community Awards**
Cllr Sandiford to share access to the votes with the Clerk.

All Councillors to help advertise the awards and encourage residents to vote.

Cllr Meakin and Cllr S White to attend the Primary School to advertise the Young Persons Award.

048/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**:
Cllr S. White informed the Parish Council about a swift box project that she is currently researching in collaboration with Fulford Church, with the aim of implementing the initiative. The Parish Council expressed its support for the project and agreed to assist if required.

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

049/26 **Wardens Gifts**
Fulford Parish Council approved inviting the wardens to the Community Awards Evening and presenting them with a bottle each for always going above and beyond.

050/26 Items for **next Agenda.**
Fulford Parish Council meeting arrangements going forward.

051/26 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 9th July 2026 at Springcroft Primary School

Meeting Closed at 2030hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**