ACTION POINTS

Fulford Parish Council
Rough Close Common

Thursday 16th July 2026
St Francis Church Hall

Present:
Cllr G Brunt
Cllr Alec Sandiford
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Penny Meakin

In attendance:
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO)
Mr Waller (SBC)
PCSO Daviesand Fordham
Member of Public

Meeting started at 11:30hrs

1. **Introductions**

The meeting began with introductions around the table.

2. **Situation update**

The member of the public had previously provided a written history and update regarding ongoing issues on the Common, which have been reported to FPC, SBC, and Staffordshire Police since March/April 2026.

The member of the public advised that groups of youths have been bringing tools onto the Common and constructing mountain biking trails. Over the intervening months, both the extent and frequency of these activities have increased significantly. Numerous deep pits and earth mounds have been created, and a number of trees and bushes have been cut, damaged, or removed.

It was reported that substantial environmental damage has now occurred. Areas of the Common adjacent to Common Lane have been reduced to bare earth, with concerns raised regarding the impact on local flora and fauna.

The member of the public further reported that, during weekday evenings and at weekends, the area is regularly affected by persistent screaming, shouting, and the playing of loud music, causing disturbance to nearby residents and other users of the Common.

Concerns were also raised regarding public safety. The member of the public highlighted the risk of injury to mountain bikers themselves due to the hazardous nature of the trails, which have been constructed in close proximity to trees and deep excavations. There is also a risk to other recreational users of the Common, who could potentially be struck by riders or suffer injury by falling into pits or over mounds.

Particular concern was expressed regarding the location of some trails adjacent to Common Lane, a narrow road that can experience significant traffic volumes. In places, the trails are reported to be less than one metre from the edge of the carriageway, creating a potential hazard for both riders and road users.

The member of the public also noted that dead wood and cut vegetation have been left on site, creating a potential fire risk, particularly during periods of dry weather.

3. Reporting Process

It was noted that police resources are generally allocated based on the volume of reported incidents. Residents and service users are therefore encouraged to report concerns through the 101 service, either online or by telephone, as increased reporting helps ensure that issues are appropriately recorded and considered when resources are assigned.

4. Action Points

- **PCSOs** to establish which legislation and/or laws are being breached.
- **SBC** to install signage to educate users on the relevant legislation and/or laws being breached.
- **SBC and PCSOs** to investigate available enforcement powers and determine appropriate measures.
- Once the relevant legislation and/or breaches have been identified, **FPC** to share information with local schools and via social media channels to raise awareness.
- **PCSOs** to seek authorisation for an increased presence in the area.
- **SBC** to arrange for the dangerous holes to be filled as a matter of priority.

The meeting then carried out a site visit

The member of the public wished to stress and have it documented that someone is going to get seriously injured or die here.

Meeting closed at 1330hrs