MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 9th July 2026
Springcroft Primary School

Present:
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Karen Deeth
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

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

3 Member of Public

Meeting started at 19:00hrs

052/26 **Public Participation**

A representative from Fulford Village Hall attended the meeting and advised that the last occasion on which the Village Hall Committee had attended a Parish Council meeting was in 2021, when financial support was requested towards the replacement of the hall roof. The representative expressed appreciation for the generous support provided by the Parish Council.

The representative outlined a number of improvements that have been completed since then. These include the installation of extractor fans, a modern heating system that can be operated remotely, replacement lighting, two new flat roofs, both covered by 25-year guarantees, and, most recently, the replacement of the main hall floor, installation of a new

front door, and the purchase of chair transport trolleys, all funded through a grant from the National Lottery.

The representative further advised that a fire risk assessment undertaken approximately eighteen months ago identified the need to replace the stage curtains and all fire doors. It was noted that the replacement of the fire doors would also require subsequent redecoration. The Village Hall Committee therefore requested financial support from the Parish Council towards the installation of the new fire doors and redecoration.

The Chair thanked the representative for attending the meeting and advised that the Clerk would contact the Village Hall Committee once the Parish Council had reached a decision regarding the request. The Village Hall representative left the meeting.

Two members of the public thanked Cllr Meakin for her ongoing support regarding concerns about the welfare of animals in Meir Heath.

The residents reported that dogs are barking continuously, causing a significant disturbance to neighbouring properties. They explained that a few years ago the local community had worked together to report the matter to Stafford Borough Council, following which the situation improved. However, they advised that the issue has recently reoccurred.

The members of the public stated that the owner of the dogs is reportedly unapproachable. They also believe that more than one dog is being kept in cages outdoors, both day and night. One resident reported that, on the previous day, the dogs were barking continuously from 8:45 a.m. until 1:30 a.m. the following morning.

The Clerk asked the residents to provide the relevant Stafford Borough Council case reference numbers to Cllr Meakin. Upon receipt, the Parish Council will make enquiries with Stafford Borough Council to establish what action has been taken and seek assurance that the matter is being investigated, particularly in light of the current high temperatures, the reported animal welfare concerns, and the ongoing noise nuisance affecting nearby residents.

053/26 **Apologies.**
Cllr T Bryce and Cllr P White, Cllr A Sandiford and County Councillor S Bagguley.

054/26 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
Nothing declared.

055/26 **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.

056/26 The following **minutes** and action points were approved:
a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 11th June 2026.

057/26 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).

PCSOs did not attend the meeting. The Clerk reminded Members that the PCSOs were unable to attend as their shifts have been reduced and now finish at 7.00 pm.

Cllr Meakin reported that her recent one-to-one meeting with the PCSOs had been very useful and provided a productive opportunity to discuss local community safety concerns.

The Parish Council approved a letter to Dr Allison Gardner MP, Mr Ben Adams (Staffordshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner), Ms Vanessa Rigby (Acting Chief Constable, Staffordshire Police), Chief Inspector Butt (Staffordshire Police), Cllr Bagguley (Staffordshire County Council), the Anti-Social Behaviour Officer at Stafford Borough Council, Mr Waller (Stafford Borough Council), and Cllr Sandiford (Stafford Borough Council). The letter outlines the Parish Council's concerns regarding community safety across Fulford Parish, with particular reference to ongoing anti-social behaviour at Grindley Park and Rough Close Common, and requests a multi-agency meeting to work collaboratively with all relevant partners to address these issues and prevent them from escalating further.

058/26 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Did not attend.

b) County Councillor

Did not attend.

059/26 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

a) The Wardens' job lists were approved. The Parish Council also approved the purchase of a brush cutter and agreed that the vacant Fulford Warden post should be advertised as soon as possible, with the successful applicant commencing employment at the beginning of September, subject to the recruitment process.

b) The Parish Council expressed its sincere thanks to Mr Drew for his kind hospitality in hosting Council meetings. It was agreed that, with immediate effect, Full Council meetings will alternate monthly between Fulford Village Hall and St Francis Church.

c) The Parish Council agreed to write to all businesses in Meir Heath to encourage partnership working and support initiatives to enhance and improve the local area.

d) It was agreed to defer consideration of the proposed letters to residents on Grindley Lane regarding overgrown hedges and trees obstructing the footpath until the September meeting.

e) The Parish Council approved Support Staffordshire's quotation to assist with the Council's next steps in relation to the missing title deeds for the land on which Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall is situated.

Updates

- The Blythe Bridge Allotments meeting will take place on **Wednesday 26 August at 6.00 pm**.
- All SPACE summer activity sessions have now been advertised.
- The next defibrillator awareness session will be held on **Wednesday 15 July**, from **6.00 pm to 7.00 pm**, at Fulford Village Hall.
- Councillors encouraged residents to vote in the Community Awards.
- It was noted that the recent Police Drop-in Clinic was again unattended. As the September session has already been advertised in the Parish magazine, it will proceed as planned. Thereafter, it was suggested that the format be reviewed, with

the possibility of introducing bi-monthly drop-in sessions in each ward attended by a PCSO, a Parish Councillor, the Borough Councillor and the County Councillor.

060/26 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) June 26 Bank Reconciliation.
b) June 26 and July 26 Payments list (See attached).
c) Budget spend was reviewed.

061/26 To consider **Planning Applications** received.
There were no comments for the following planning applications:
26/42059/HOU

The Parish Council expressed its appreciation to Cllr Janet Crossley, recognising her hard work and commitment in speaking on behalf of the Parish Council at the Planning Committee meeting in opposition to the proposed Solar Farm application.

Cllr Crossley provided an update following the meeting, advising that there are concerns regarding the Planning Officer's reference to the site being considered "grey belt", as this could have wider implications for future planning applications within Fulford Parish. Cllr Crossley also noted that it is likely the applicant will submit an appeal against the Planning Committee's decision to refuse the application.

062/26 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Nothing to report.

063/26 **Neighbourhood Plan.**
a) Business meeting took place last month
b) Green Space templates meeting on Thursday 16th July at 10am at St Francis Church

064/26 **Health and Safety.**
Cllr Meakin informed the meeting of a fire on the Blake Lake plantation last night.

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

065/26 **Devolution** updates
By the end of this Parliament, the Local Government reorganisation structure will hopefully be confirmed.

066/26 **Footpath Clearance** Cllr Meakin informed the meeting that the planned footpath improvement works, scheduled for **7 July**, had taken place and were a great success. Stone supplied by Staffordshire County Council was laid on the footpath with the assistance of the two Parish Wardens and three volunteers from the Stone Ramblers.

The next volunteer footpath maintenance session is scheduled for **Tuesday 4 August** and will focus on **Footpath 30 at Spot Gate**.

067/26 **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.

068/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**:

Cllr Baskin reported that the footpath on Grindley Lane is becoming overgrown again and advised that she will continue to monitor the situation.

Cllr Baskin provided an update on the recent Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Committee meeting and advised that the Committee's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place on **23 September**.

Cllr Brindley enquired whether there is any legislation relating to vehicles parking on grass verges. Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed that the Clerk should draft a letter for consideration and approval at the September meeting, after which Councillors will deliver the approved letters to the identified locations where parking on grass verges is causing concern.

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

069/26 – Speed Indicator Device (SID) Quotation for Uttoxeter Road

The Parish Council approved the quotation for the purchase and installation of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) on Uttoxeter Road.

Cllr S. White requested that the feasibility of installing a SID in Saverley Green also be investigated. The Clerk advised that, once Staffordshire County Council reopens applications for new SID locations, enquiries will be made regarding the suitability of a site within Saverley Green.

070/26 – Fencing Quotation for Grindley Park

The Parish Council approved the quotation for the installation of additional fencing at Grindley Park to make unauthorised access by motorcycles from the Common more difficult.

071/26 – Solar CCTV Quotations for Grindley Park

The Parish Council approved the installation of two solar-powered CCTV cameras at Grindley Park in response to the ongoing incidents of anti-social behaviour being experienced at the site.

It was noted that the Grindley Warden will install the bases for each camera in preparation for the installation.

The Clerk was instructed to draft a letter to nearby residents informing them of the proposed installation, prepare the necessary CCTV policies and signage for Council approval, and

confirm with Stafford Borough Council whether any planning permission or other statutory requirements apply before the installation proceeds.

072/26 **Replacement Planters for West View, Post Office and the car wash**
Fulford Parish Council approve the quotation for x3 planter replacements.

073//26 **Self Employed Litter Picker**
The Parish Council approved advertising two self-employed positions:

- **Self-Employed Litter Picker** – 4 hours per week at a rate of **£12.71 per hour**.
- **Self-Employed Fulford Parish Warden** – at a rate of **£17.00 per hour**.

It was noted that applicants appointed to either role will be required to hold appropriate personal insurance cover. The Parish Council also agreed that, should a suitable applicant successfully apply for both positions, the roles may be combined

074/26 Items for **next Agenda.**

075/26 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 10th September at Fulford Village Hall at 7pm

Meeting Closed at 2020hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**