MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 10th September 2026
Fulford Village Hall

Present:
Cllr Karen Deeth
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)

Cllr Sean Bagguley (Staffordshire County Council)

Meeting started at 19:00hrs

076/26 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

077/26 **Apologies.**
Cllr T Bryce and Cllr P White, Cllr A Sandiford, Cllr J Crossley and Cllr C Baskin.

078/26 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
Nothing declared.

079/26 **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.

080/26 The following **minutes** and action points were approved:

a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 9th July 2026
b) Neighbourhood Plan Action Points Thursday 16th July 2026
c) Rough Close Common Action Points Thursday 16th July 2026

081/26 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).

PCSOs provided a report as requested, which was distributed to all Councillors ahead of the meeting.

a) Grindley Park anti-social behaviour

The Clerk informed the meeting that three members of the public had attended the CCTV consultation meeting and were supportive of the proposed CCTV installation. However, they expressed their disappointment that they had not received responses from Parish Councillors regarding emails they had sent about the ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) they had experienced throughout the summer, which is continuing.

The Clerk apologised and advised residents to direct any future concerns or correspondence regarding ASB to the Parish Clerk, to ensure that matters can be appropriately recorded and followed up.

The Clerk reassured residents that the Parish Council has been actively working with the relevant authorities and agencies to address the situation. The Council has also written to the Chief Constable, the Police and Crime Commissioner, and the local MP to seek further support. As a result of these efforts, a crime prevention survey has been carried out, and the Parish Council is currently considering practical measures to help address the issues, while ensuring that any measures introduced do not inadvertently create further problems.

The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council will continue to work closely with the relevant supporting agencies and explore longer-term measures to improve public safety. This includes considering whether a Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) may be appropriate for the area in the future. A PSPO could provide the relevant authorities with additional powers to address specific forms of anti-social behaviour and may also support wider preventative initiatives, including engagement and awareness campaigns within local schools.

b) Rough Close Common

The Clerk has chased outstanding actions from the Police, which have now been provided, so the Clerk will now engage with Stafford Borough Council about signage installation.

082/26 To receive **Report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Unable to attend.

b) County Councillor

Cllr S Bagguley provided the Parish Council with an update regarding the Local Government Reorganisation and confirmed that the process has **not been put on hold**.

Cllr S Bagguley also confirmed that he is investigating and following up on the following matters:

- **Saverley Green footpath:** repair works.
- **Hilderstone Road:** ensuring that the proposed speed reduction is implemented as soon as possible.
- **BL1, Lightwood:** issues relating to the proposed 3,000-home development.
- **Hilderstone Road:** ensuring that the road markings are reinstated/repairs completed.
- **Rocking manhole cover:** confirmation that the defective manhole cover has been repaired.
- **Bus shelter:** clarification regarding ownership.
- **Speed indicator consultation:** confirmation that the consultation is expected to conclude at the end of September.

Cllr P Meakin thanked Cllr S Bagguley for his continued support. Cllr S Bagguley congratulated Cllr P Meakin.

Cllr S Bagguley left the meeting at 19:25 hrs.

083/26 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

a) Wardens' Job Lists

The Wardens' job lists were approved.

b) Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall

The Clerk, Chair and Cllr Deeth (Village Hall Representative) are due to meet with Support Staffordshire to seek guidance on applying for a replacement deed for the land on which the Village Hall is situated.

The original deed was held by a solicitor's firm which is no longer in existence. Despite contacting the relevant solicitors' regulatory body, the Parish Council has been unable to make progress in obtaining a copy of the deed.

c) Newsletter
Councillors agreed to prepare articles for the Parish Council newsletter and submit them to the Clerk by **1 October**.

d) Christmas
It was agreed that prices would be obtained for a pensioners' Christmas lunch at Tea and Toast. This will be included as an agenda item for consideration at the October meeting.

e) Remembrance
It was agreed that the lamppost poppies would be displayed again for Remembrance. Following the repair of the Tommy figures, it was agreed that an equal number of Tommies would be displayed in each Ward.

Three Remembrance wreaths will be purchased, as in previous years, for:

- Cllr A Meredith – Fulford Church
- Cllr T Bryce – St Francis Church
- Cllr D Brindley – Blythe Bridge

f) Neighbourhood Plan and Police Drop-in Clinic
Councillors volunteered to attend the Police/Councillor Drop-in Clinic on **Saturday 12 September**. It was agreed that information regarding the **Local Green Space and Village Centre Consultations** would also be included at the event.

084/26 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:
a) July 26 Bank Reconciliation.
b) August 26 Bank Reconciliation.
c) July, August and September Payments list (See attached).
d) Re-stated Agar 2025-26
e) Pay Settlement 2026-27
f) Awaiting External Audit Notice of Completion

085/26 **To consider Planning Applications received**

a) Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan
The Parish Council noted that its representation regarding the Stoke-on-Trent Local Plan had been submitted. It was agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to share the cost of professional planning representation with Barlaston Parish Council, subject to Barlaston Parish Council agreeing to the proposal.

b) Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan
The Clerk confirmed that a quotation had been requested for professional planning representation in relation to the Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan. This matter will be included as an agenda item for consideration at the October Parish Council meeting.

26/42425/PIP
The Parish Council agreed to submit an objection and request that the application be called in for consideration by the Stafford Borough Council Planning Committee.

26/42159/HOU, 26/42154/HOU and 26/42234/HOU
The Parish Council agreed that it had no comments to make on these applications.

26/42509/PIP
The Parish Council agreed to submit an objection and request that the application be called in for consideration by the Stafford Borough Council Planning Committee.

086/26 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Thanked the Clerk and Cllr Gareth Brunt for their work to make the first Community Awards a success.

087/26 **Neighbourhood Plan.**

a) Approved Local Green Space Assessment for consultation.
b) Approved Local Green Space Consultation letters
c) Approved Local Green Space informal comments and responses.
d) Approved Village Centre Consultation Letter
e) Approved Village Centre informal consultation comments and responses

088/26 The following **policies** were approved:

a) CCTV Data Protection Impact Assessment.
b) Fulford Parish Council CCTV Data Protection Policy.
c) Fulford Parish Council CCTV Information Flow.

089/26 **Health and Safety.**
Nothing reported

090/26 **Devolution updates**
Deferred following Local Government reorganisation pause.

091/26 **Footpaths**
Cllr Meakin informed the meeting that Footpaths 38, 39 and 30 had all been cleared during the year. It was agreed that next year's clearance dates would be scheduled on Saturdays, with the aim of encouraging greater participation from members of the community and Stone Ramblers. The footpaths identified for clearance next year will be in the Saverley Green area.

092/26 **Parish Council Community Awards**
The event was considered a great success and it was agreed that it should be repeated in 2028, at a different location, with provision also made for paper voting.

093/26 **SPCA Call for evidence**
Deferred following Local Government Reorganisation pause.

094/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**:

a) Bulb Planting Project

Cllr A Meredith asked whether Councillors would be interested in organising bulb planting within their respective Wards. It was agreed that this would take place after Christmas. Cllr Lovatt will source the bulbs, and Ward Councillors will work together to agree suitable dates and times, which the Clerk will then advertise to encourage residents to participate. Proposed locations will be subject to approval in advance and to be advertised in the Christmas magazine.

b) St Francis Church Grass Cutting

Deferred until Cllr C Baskin is in attendance.

c) A report to show Staffordshire County Council's responsibilities that Fulford Parish Council has fulfilled.

Fulford Parish Council refused to pursue this.

Cllr Brunt informed the Parish Council of a recent sensitive incident that had occurred within the Parish. In light of the recurring nature of such incidents, the Parish Council agreed to write to the Head Office and Governing Body to raise its concerns and request appropriate intervention.

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

095/26 **To consider Grant Applications**

The Parish Council declined Fulford Village Hall's grant application, as the recently adopted Grants Policy specifies that retrospective grant applications will not be accepted. Members felt that making an exception on this occasion could set an undesirable precedent for future applications.

The Parish Council considered the grant application submitted by Fulford Parochial Church Council and agreed to award a grant of 50% of the amount requested. The decision was based on the view that the publication is predominantly religious in nature and would not be distributed to all residents within the Parish.

096/26 **Requesting transfer of assets**

The Parish Council agreed to defer consideration of this request pending further clarification regarding the Local Government Reorganisation pause.

097/26 **Solar CCTV Quotations for Grindley Park**

The Parish Council agreed to the purchase of two solar-powered CCTV cameras, including the additional hours required by the Wardens to install the concrete bases, two data SIM cards, and the necessary signage, through the local supplier.

098/26 **Platinum Properties**
The Parish Council confirmed that it was not interested in exploring the potential purchase of the property. It was noted that the property now appears to have been sold.

099//26 **Hilderstone Allotment Proposal**
The Parish Council agreed to refer the Allotment Association to the Highways Authority to obtain clarification regarding the appropriate permissions and any necessary consents.

100/26 **Appointments and Contracts approval**
Fulford Parish Council approved the appointment and associated contracts for a replacement contracted Fulford Warden and a new Parish Litter Picker.

101/26 **Insurance Renewal**
Fulford Parish Council approved the renewal, subject to confirmation that all listed assets are correct and accurately recorded.

102/26 Items for **next Agenda.**
Christmas
Parish magazine draft

103/26 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 8th October at St Francis Church, Meir Heath 1900hrs

Meeting Closed at 2030hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**