Grindley Park ASB MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council

Thursday 8th October 2026
St Francis Church, Meir Heath

Present:
Mrs H Marshall (Stafford Borough Council ASB)
Mr N Hancock (Staffordshire Police)
Cllr A Brown (Meir Park Ward, Stoke-on-Trent)
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Anthony Meredith (Chair)
Cllr Derek Brindley
Cllr Gareth Brunt
Cllr Susan White
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Alec Sandiford (SBC & FPC)
Cllr Carol Baskin
Mrs Gemma Keiher-Knapper (Clerk/RFO)

5 Members of Public

Meeting started at 17:30hrs

1. **Introductions**

The meeting commenced with a round of introductions, during which attendees introduced themselves and stated where they were from.

2. **Residents' Experiences Over the Summer**

Residents reported that this had been one of the worst summers they had experienced, citing persistent anti-social behaviour that had significantly affected their quality of life and enjoyment of their homes and gardens.

Concerns included the frequent playing of loud oud music, pieces of wood approximately six feet in length being thrown into residents' gardens, narrowly missing individuals, and bricks being thrown at windows.

Residents also reported regular gatherings of more than 100 young people, during which excessive alcohol consumption was said to be commonplace. The behaviour and associated disturbances had left residents unable to enjoy their gardens, with some expressing apprehension whenever the weather was good. The use of offensive and inappropriate language was also highlighted as a concern, preventing residents' children and grandchildren from safely and comfortably using their gardens.

Further concerns were raised regarding the footpath, which residents described as secluded and reportedly used for drug-taking and sexual activity. Residents also reported instances of parents dropping off children and handing alcohol to them.

The meeting noted the significant impact these incidents were having on residents' wellbeing, sense of safety, and ability to enjoy their homes and outdoor spaces.

3. & 4. Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire Police

Incident Reporting and Police Resources

Attendees were informed that no recent incident reports had been received. One resident questioned whether the online reporting system was functioning correctly, having submitted a report the previous week.

A discussion followed regarding the effectiveness of the existing reporting systems, both online and by telephone, which residents considered unfit for purpose. However, it was acknowledged that without incidents being formally reported, it would be difficult to secure an appropriate police response and allocate resources to the area.

The Parish Council will encourage all residents to report incidents, including dog walkers who regularly witness and clear up the aftermath of gatherings and parties, as well as the Wardens. The importance of reporting all incidents, rather than assuming that others have already done so, was emphasised.

Cross-Boundary Policing and Communication

The difficulties arising from the area's cross-boundary location were discussed. Concerns were raised regarding communication and coordination between Staffordshire Police teams covering Stoke-on-Trent, Stafford Borough and Staffordshire Moorlands.

The Parish Council will facilitate the sharing of relevant information and messages across all three areas through the respective Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), to improve communication and coordination.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO)

Stafford Borough Council informed the meeting that, from 7 December, Grindley Park and Rough Close Common would be covered by a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO), which would remain in force for three years.

The restrictions were reported to include measures addressing loitering and the wearing of face coverings. It was also noted that provisions relating to under-16s would apply. Further

clarification of the specific restrictions and their enforcement would be helpful to ensure that residents and park users understand the requirements.

Stafford Borough Council confirmed that information regarding the PSPO would be circulated to local schools, including those in Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire Moorlands.

The Parish Council will update the signage at the entrances to the park to inform visitors of the PSPO and the restrictions in place.

Reporting of Incidents to Stafford Borough Council

The meeting acknowledged that addressing the issues would require an evidence-led approach, supported by the consistent reporting and recording of incidents.

A resident asked whether non-emergency incidents could be reported to Stafford Borough Council, which would then ensure that a formal police incident reference number was obtained. This proposal was agreed at the meeting.

5 Fulford Parish Council

CCTV Installation and Further Preventative Measures

The Clerk informed the meeting that CCTV would be installed in the near future. It was hoped that the footage would assist in identifying individuals involved in anti-social behaviour, enabling local schools to help identify those not already known to the police.

The meeting discussed potential additional measures should the installation of CCTV fail to achieve the desired improvements. Advice would be followed from Staffordshire Police's Crime Prevention Team regarding possible interventions, including relocating the benches to the far end of the area, improving visibility along the footpath, and installing additional CCTV coverage in this location if it is still required.

It was emphasised that any further action taken by the Parish Council must be supported by sufficient evidence and information to demonstrate the nature and extent of the problems and identify appropriate solutions.

The possibility of closing the footpath was also discussed. It was noted that this would require public consultation and could not be implemented immediately, only to be considered if all else fails. Any proposed interventions would need to follow an appropriate process of evidence gathering, fact-finding and, where necessary, public consultation.

The Parish Council reaffirmed its commitment to working collaboratively with residents and all relevant agencies to identify effective, evidence-based solutions and improve the situation for the local community.

6 Preparation for Summer 2027

To continue to report any incidents and encourage all park users to do the same.

Meet again in March 2027 to share school leaving dates, etc review how it has been, and push the informing everyone about the PSPO ahead of summer.

Cllr Brown (Meir Park – Stoke on Trent)

Thanked the Clerk for inviting her to the meeting and emphasised the importance of effective communication, particularly between neighbouring areas. She expressed concern that she had not been made aware of the Section 34 dispersal action implemented over the summer until approximately 24 hours after it had taken place.

Cllr Brown noted that, had this information been shared in advance, neighbouring areas could have helped communicate the message that anti-social behaviour would not be tolerated. It would also have enabled families in the surrounding areas to be made aware of the action being taken and for surrounding authorities to be better prepared for the potential displacement of groups of young people into neighbouring communities.

7 Any other business/ Action Points

Staffordshire Police

- Feed back into the chain of command that the reporting system is not fit for purpose.
- Feed back into the chain of command that cross-boundary communication is poor SBC, SoT and Staffs Moorlands and needs to improve and in some cases i.e Grindley Park, would be better and more quickly attended by Longton as a pose to Stafford.

Stafford Borough Council

- Implement PSPO and inform all Schools (S-o-T, SBC and Staffs Moorlands) and social media push.
- Share correct signage with Fulford Parish Council for PSPO
- Create police incident numbers for non-emergency ASB reported directly to SBC
- Further clarification of the specific restrictions and their enforcement for the PSPO to ensure that residents and park users understand fully.

Fulford Parish Council

- Add new signage including park rules and PSPO information
- Add CCTV
- Consider other recommendations from Crime Prevention Report if required
- Encourage all residents to make incident reports.
- Call another meeting in March and have school leaving dates.
- Ensure communication with SMDC and SoT.