MINUTES

Fulford Parish Council
Full Council Meeting

Thursday 8th October 2026
St Francis Church, Meir Heath

Present:
Cllr Karen Deeth
Cllr Anthony Meredith (Chair)
Cllr Stephen Green
Cllr Derek Brindley
Cllr Gareth Brunt
Cllr Susan White
Cllr Peter Wilkinson
Cllr Alec Sandiford (SBC & FPC)
Cllr Janet Crossley
Cllr Carol Baskin
Cllr Teri Bryce

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

Meeting started at 19:00hrs

104/26 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

105/26 **Apologies.**
Cllr P Meakin, Cllr A Noblett, Cllr P White and SCC Cllr S Bagguley

106/26 **Declarations of interest and dispensation**
Nothing declared.

107/26 **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.

108/26 The following **minutes** and action points were approved:
a) Fulford Parish Council Meeting Thursday 10th September 2026

109/26 To receive a **Report** from the Police (if available).

a) Grindley Park Anti-Social Behaviour
b) Rough Close Common

The meeting was held from 1730hrs to 1900hrs, during which the above matters were discussed. Detailed minutes of the meeting are available separately.

110/26 To receive **a report** from:

a) Stafford Borough Councillors

Cllr Sandiford updated the meeting on several planning applications he had been dealing with within the Parish. He also reported that he had successfully secured an additional £25,000 in funding for Rough Close Common.

b) County Councillor

Unable to attend.

111/26 **Clerk's Report** (See attached).

a) Wardens' Job Lists
The Wardens' job lists were approved.

b) Support Staffordshire and Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall Land Deeds.

The Parish Council agreed to establish a working party to review 20 years of meeting minutes 1980-2000 to identify evidence clarifying whether the land is owned by the Parish Council or held in trust by the Parish Council.

Should the review fail to establish the legal status of the land, the Parish Council will seek legal advice from a solicitor to clarify ownership and, if necessary, arrange for new deeds to be prepared.

112/26 **Accounts/Finance:** Fulford Parish Council approved:

a) September 26 Bank Reconciliation.
c) September & October 26 Payments list (See attached).
d) Audited 2025-26 Audit, Completion letter and Notice of Conclusion 25-26
e) 2026-27 Budget Review
f) 2027-28 Budget Projects – Grindley Park ASB

113/26 **To consider Planning Applications received**

- **Applications 26/42759/PIP and 26/42459/FUL:** The Parish Council raised no comments on these applications.

- **Application 26/42603/FUL:** The Parish Council requested that the application be referred to the Planning Committee and raised objections on the grounds of highway access and flooding.
- **Application 26/42554/HOU:** The Clerk was instructed to contact SBC Planning, as no supporting documents were available to view on the planning portal.
- **Staffordshire Moorlands Local Plan Partial Review** representation was approved.

114/26 **Report** from Fulford Parish Council Chairman.
Nothing to report.

115/26 **Neighbourhood Plan.**
a) Local Green Space Assessments Consultation was reviewed.
b) Village Centre Consultation was reviewed.

116/26 The following **policies/risk assessments** were approved:
a) Data Audit
b) Tommies and Lamp Post Poppies
c) Grindley Park and Cockieshall Lane open spaces
d) Parish Office
e) Parish Council Meeting
f) Storage Container
g) Blythe Bridge Allotment and Hilderstone Allotments
h) Lone Working
i) Manual Handling

117/26 **Health and Safety.**
Nothing reported.

118/26 **Devolution updates**
Nothing to report.

119/26 **SPCA call for evidence**

Fulford Parish Council approved the following proposed improvements for submission to the SPCA as part of its call for evidence:

- **Contact Directories:** District and County Councils to provide Parish Councils with contact directories containing details of relevant departments and key points of contact.
- **Highways Liaison Meetings:** The introduction of quarterly or six-monthly meetings with the relevant Highways Officer to discuss local highway matters and concerns within each parish.

- **Street Scene Meetings:** The introduction of quarterly or six-monthly meetings to discuss Street Scene matters, review ongoing issues and address local concerns.

120/26 **Parish bulb planting and Christmas tree decorating**

Ward Councillors to agree dates and locations for bulb planting and ask the Clerk to advertise.

Christmas tree decorating dates are now in the draft Christmas Parish Magazine.

121/26 **Councillor Updates/Items**:

a) St Francis Grass cutting – Cllr Baskin, it is no longer required.
b) Tea and Toast

Cllr Bryce informed the meeting that the Walk Talk Action – Tea and Toast initiative has been operating since 2023, supported by an annual grant of £500 from Fulford Parish Council.

However, due to the requirements of other funding providers, the project is currently scheduled to end on 9 December 2026. Cllr Bryce advised that, should additional volunteers come forward over the next few weeks and undertake the necessary training, there may be an opportunity for the Tea and Toast sessions to resume in January 2027.

The following dates were noted:

- **25 November 2026:** Christmas Fair at St Francis Church.
- **2 December 2026:** Christmas Meal.
- **9 December 2026:** Final Tea and Toast session, to be marked with a celebratory party.

Update at next Parish Council meeting.

Cllr Brindley informed the meeting that he had attended a Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall meeting. It was reported that summer bookings had been lower than expected, which was thought to be due to the weather. However, future bookings were looking more promising.

No Treasurer's Report was available at the meeting due to internet connectivity issues.

The next meeting will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM), scheduled for Wednesday, 21 October.

Cllr Brunt informed the meeting that the old Chinese in Meir Heath is up for auction and that Haywoods are moving into Meir Heath too.

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

122/26 **Replacement planter at Springcroft**

The Parish Council approved the installation of a replacement planter, matching the existing design, at the bottom of Grindley Lane, near Springcroft Primary School.

123/26 **Replacement Notice Board**

This matter remains on hold. Following the installation of the new green planter, it became apparent that the existing noticeboard's green finish had faded due to sun exposure, leaving the blue primer visible.

The Clerk is obtaining quotations for the noticeboard to be either powder-coated or repainted green to match the new planter. A quotation for a replacement noticeboard is also being sought to allow the Parish Council to compare the costs and make an informed decision.

The Clerk confirmed that not all quotations had been received at the time of the meeting. The matter will be reviewed once all quotations are available.

124/26 **1 day Skip hire at Blythe Bridge allotments**

This is no longer required, as the Parish Wardens were able to accommodate all the rubbish in their vehicles and complete the necessary disposal through trips to the tip.

125/26 **Christmas Newsletter**

Following discussion, it was agreed that articles from District and County Councillors would no longer be included in the Parish magazine.

The draft magazine was approved, subject to the inclusion of information regarding the Christmas events and an update on the Tea and Toast initiative requiring volunteers.

126/26 **Christmas Event**

The Parish Council approved supporting Walk Talk Action in offering free Christmas lunches to parish pensioners on Wednesday, 2 December 2026. Residents wishing to attend are required to book their place through the Clerk.

127/26 **Wardens' additional Hours** approved for Remembrance.

128/26 **Locker for Grindley Park**
Deferred until consultation with residents and Parish Councillors have seen the location**.**

129/26 **Hedge Trimmer** purchase approved.

130/26 Items for **next Agenda.**
Tea and Toast
Newsletter Content Rules

131/26 To **confirm Date**, Time and Location of next meeting.
Thursday 12th November at Fulford Village Hall 1900hrs

Meeting Closed at 2000hrs

Signed **Date** **Position**