

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th MAY 2009 AT 8.00 P.M.
AT FULFORD CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs.Brayford (Chairman), Baggaley, Mrs Bennett, Brayford, Colclough, Lovatt, Mrs McPherson, Moore, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw, Taylor, Mrs Weaver and Mrs Wheat.

IN ATTENDANCE: S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Holmes, Borough Councillors Harp, Oldfield and Roycroft and County Councillor Parry

OTHER NON-ATTENDEES: Councillors Bevan and Mrs Holmes

30/09 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2009/10 YEAR

Two (2) nominations were received for the position of Chairman, Cllr. Mrs Bennett and Cllr. Mrs Brayford. Following a vote the candidates received the following votes – Cllr. Mrs Bennett 5 votes, Cllr. Mrs Brayford 9 votes.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr. Mrs Brayford be elected as Chairman for the ensuing year. The Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

31/09 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Moore declared an interest in agenda item 10 (Planning application no.09/12032/FUL)

32/09 ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE 2009/10 YEAR

One (1) nomination was received.

RESOLVED:

That Cllr. Mrs Bennett be elected as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year. The Statutory Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

33/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th April 2009, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

34/09 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

There being no County or Borough Councillors present there was no reports.

35/09 FINANCE

(a) Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED:

That authority be given for cheques to be issued in settlement of the invoices shown in the accounts for payment attached as an Appendix to the signed minutes.

(b) Receipts and payments 2008/09

A summary of the Annual Receipts and Payments for the financial year 2008/9, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member, was presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the Receipts and Payments Schedule for the year 2008/9, a copy of which is attached to the signed Minutes, be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

(c) Notice of External Annual Audit for 2008/9

The Clerk reported that notification had been received from the Audit Commission that the date appointed for the audit of the Council's accounts for the year ending 31st March 2009 was 17th August 2009. The necessary papers would shortly be with the Internal Auditor and the statutory advertisements would be placed.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted.

(d) Insurance Renewal

Details of the insurance renewal from Allianz were outlined to the meeting and it was pointed out that any Councillor over the age of 75 was not covered under the personal accident section of the policy. If individual councillors, who fall into this category, require cover then it will be necessary for them to be named on the policy and for them to obtain a doctor's letter stating they are capable of carrying out the duties of a councillor. There will be no extra cost to the insurance, although it may be that members could be charged for the doctor's letter.

Following comments from the External Auditor the Council were recommended to increase the level of the Fidelity Guarantee to £80,000

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the premium be paid and the Fidelity Guarantee increased to £80,000. It was further agreed that the Council would reimburse any Councillor who incurred any costs in relation to obtaining a necessary doctor's letter to ensure insurance cover for personal accident.

(e) Request for a financial contribution from Moddershall Cricket Club

RESOLVED:

As this organisation was not in the Parish area it was decided that a financial contribution was not appropriate.

36/09 APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES/WORKING PARTIES AND REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

RESOLVED:

That the following be appointed for the 2009/10 year:

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Councillors Bevan, Colclough, Lovatt. Shaw and Taylor. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio.

Planning Committee

Councillors Colclough, Holmes, Mrs McPherson, Mycock Taylor. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Grindley Park Management Group

Councillors Oxby plus all Members from the Meir Heath and Rough Close Wards. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Parish Newsletter Working Party

Councillors Lovatt, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw and Taylor. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Parish Plans Working Party

Councillors Colclough, Lovatt, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw and Mrs Wheat. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Parish Council Website Management Group

Councillors Baggaley, Holmes, Oxby and Taylor. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Highway Maintenance Liaison Group

Councillors Holmes, Oxby, Shaw and Taylor. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Playbuilder working group

Councillors Baggaley, Holmes, Oxby, Shaw, Taylor and Mrs Weaver. Chairman and Vice-Chairman ex-officio

Representatives on Outside Bodies

Meir Heath & Rough Close V.H.M.C. – Councillor Mrs Bennett

Fulford V.H.M.C. – Councillor Mrs. Wheat

Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Group – Councillor Baggaley

SPCA Stafford Area Committee – Councillors Mrs. Brayford, Holmes and Mrs McPherson

Sustainable Staffordshire – Councillors Colclough and Oxby

Stone Crime Prevention Panel – Councillor Mrs. Brayford

Adamthwaite Drive Anti-social Behaviour Group – Blythe Bridge Ward Councillors

37/09 PLANNING

(a) Applications

RESOLVED: -

1) That no objections be raised to the following applications:-

09/11644/FUL – construction of a brick detached garage & workshop for private use – Hunters Lodge, Leadendale lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent ST37NS

09/11885/FUL – conversion of existing barn to two residential units – Long Lane Heads Farm, Long Lane, Hilderstone, Staffs.ST15 8SN

09/11956/FUL – single storey extension to form function room, foyer & toilets with additional overspill parking area & vehicle passing area – Moddershall Oaks, Moddershall, Stone ST15 8TG

09/12032/FUL – proposed two storey rear and side extension – 81 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NU

09/12067/FUL – two storey extension & single storey side extension – 65 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NU

09/12076/FUL – UPVC conservatory – 64 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LS

(b) Decisions

1) It was reported that the following applications had been approved:-

09/11360/FUL – single storey living room extension – Thaxted, Hartwell Lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NG

09/11621/FUL – detached garage – Stoneycroft, Heatherlands Close, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7UY

09/11629/FUL – loft conversion, including front dormer – 11 Blythe Avenue, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7JZ

09/11689/FUL – replacement roof with rooms & rooms to existing roof – 9 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LR

09/11792/FUL – conservatory with tiled hip roof – Lothlorien, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent

38/09 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL

(a) Items - the notice of which was given at the last meeting

As instructed at the last meeting, the Clerk included the following matters on the agenda for this meeting and the topics were then discussed by members:-

- Stallington Village – anti-social behaviour
- 54 Birkholme Drive
- Grass verges in Meir Heath

RESOLVED:-

- (1) It was reported that the situation has quieten down recently following activity by the police, however it was felt it would be useful to ask the police to attend the next meeting to try and find a longer term solution to the problem. The Clerk to invite the police.
- (2) Neighbours of 54 Birkholme Drive would like to thank Cllr. Harp for all his efforts to resolve the issues with this dwelling, however they are disappointed

that no Stafford Borough Council officer has been to see them and to explain why no further action can be taken. It is still felt that little has changed and that the whole situation is unacceptable in a residential area. It was agreed to request a meeting with the Borough Council to:

- a) establish why no further action can be taken;
- b) why there has been no direct contact with the neighbours of 54 Birkholme Drive and;
- c) what criteria have to be met under the law?

Adjoining neighbours to 54 Birkholme Drive to be invited to the meeting.

- (3) The Clerk to again request a date from the County Council Highways as to when a meeting re: the grass verges can take place.

(b) Fulford Bus Shelter

No objections have been received from the police, County Council or the bus company as to the siting of the bus shelter outside of the village hall. In addition to the cost of the shelter, details of which were included in a report to the council and are appended to these minutes, 3 estimates for supplying the base had been received ranging in cost from £600 to £1500.

RESOLVED

That the order for the bus shelter be placed with Garricks and the £600 estimate for the groundwork be accepted. The shelter to be sited outside the village hall. The Clerk to write to local residents outlining the proposals.

(c) Playbuilder

It was reported that the Council's bid for round 2 funding had been unsuccessful and feedback given was that it had failed principally on two counts i) there was too little diversity of play equipment and ii) there was insufficient evidence of consultation with children and young people.

RESOLVED

It was agreed that the above feedback be taken on board and an application for round 3 funding be submitted.

39/09 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Highways meeting – the clerk and vice-chairman reported on a recent meeting they had had, along with several other parish councils, with the Highways Department. It was hoped as a result several outstanding issues for the parish would be progressed.

Baulk Lane, Fulford – County Highways feel a making this road one-way is not practicable; however they have not offered any other solutions. A further letter has been sent requesting that some alternative solutions be offered.

Newsletter – next one to be published around the end of June, all contributions to be with Cllr. Oxby by the next meeting (11th June).

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Staffordshire County Council – Strategic Plan

Stafford Borough Council – Members Digest (2)

Staffordshire Moorlands DC – Local Development Framework

Equality & Human rights Commission – details of public sector duties

Stafford Borough Council – Parish forum 10th September

40/09 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be convened at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall on **Thursday 11th June 2009 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN