

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 12th APRIL 2012 AT 8.00 P.M.
IN MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Colclough (Chairman) Shaw (Vice Chairman), Bevan (for part of meeting), Mrs Brayford, Cuncannon, Evans, Holmes, Mrs Jennings, Mrs McPherson, Monks, Mycock, Oxby and Mrs Wheat.

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors Dodson & Roycroft, 2 members of the public & S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Bennett, and Taylor, County Councillor Parry

NON-ATTENDEE: Councillor Lovatt.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The issue of the fencing on the A50 was again raised by a member of the public. Details of a letter received from Mike Penning MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department of Transport was read to the meeting, however the meeting felt that information given in the letter was incorrect and the Clerk was requested to write again to the Department. It was also agreed that the Chairman would raise the issue with the media and a further attempt to get a speed reduction on this stretch of the A50 would be pursued.

30/12 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None declared.

31/12 POLICE REPORT

There was no police report.

32/12 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th March 2012, having been circulated, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

33/12 COUNTY, BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' & POLICE REPORTS

Borough Councillor Dodson reported on the publication for consultation of further sections of the Borough Council's Forward Plan. He also reported that the Borough's Discretionary Housing Payment Fund had been increased.

34/12 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) To approve the annual governance and accounting statement for 2011/12 and the Council's Risk assessment

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the governance and accounting statement for 2011/12 be approved and duly signed by the Chairman. Following some minor amendments the Business Risk assessment document was approved

(c) Request for donation from Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Trust

RESOLVED:

That a donation of £500 be made towards the cost of the book publication.

(d) Membership of Community Council of Staffordshire

RESOLVED:

It was agreed to renew the membership of the above organisation at a cost of £22.

35/12 PLANNING

(a) Applications

The following decisions made by the Planning Sub-Committee were reported to the meeting:

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

12/16777/HOU – 19 Leadendale Lane, Rough Close Stoke-on-Trent – 2-storey extension to rear of existing house

11/16370/COU – Eastfield, 54 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – change of use to 2-bedroom B&B

12/16843/HOU - 23 Meadow Close, Blythe Bridge Stoke-on-Trent – 2-storey extension to rear of existing house. However the Committee had concerns over the size of the extension.

12/16845/FUL - Land at former Bird in Hand carpark, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone – the erection of a small detached timber-framed stable block & alterations to car park layout.

12/16029/FUL (amendment) - detached stable to house 2 horses- land adjacent to 36 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent. However the Committee requested the Borough Council to impose a condition 'that no dirt be placed within 20 metres of the boundary fences of neighbouring properties'.

2) That objections be raised to the following application:

12/16900/FUL– grass verge southside of Grindley Lane, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent – 17.5 metre dual user Vodafone & Telefonica monopole, equipment cabinet and electricity meter. The following objections were raised:

- The scale and design of the development will be intrusive, as it will be far higher than any telegraph post as well as having dishes on the side plus the ancillary equipment.
- Maintenance vehicles attending the mast will be a disruption on a busy road.

- Residents in the area have expressed health concerns about the massing of so many masts in this area.

(b) Decisions

The following application decisions made by the Borough Council were reported:-

Approved:

11/16630/HOU – 5 Lindley Place, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – single storey extension for bedroom and shower room facilities with ramped wheelchair access

12/16709/HOU – 17 Highview Road, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – proposed bedroom/en-suite extension

11/16429/HOU – Rowan Lodge, 99 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – extension to rear of existing garage to form hydrotherapy pool & enclosure

Refused:

11/16485/FUL – The Hunter Inn, Saverley Green Road, Saverley Green – change of use of 2 stables, an existing bar & pool room to restaurant

36/12 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:-

- The Queens Diamond Jubilee

RESOLVED:

1. Arrangements to be made to view a wildflower garden in the Clayton area. The Clerk to contact Bill Waller (Stafford BC) to make arrangements. It was suggested some educational signs could also be included in any scheme brought forward.
2. Fulford ward councillors to pursue the possibility of placing a seat in the churchyard.

(b) Proposals for the erection of signs on Grindley Park

RESOLVED:

Details were circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that 5 new signs + appropriate posts at a cost of £283

(c) Parish OnLine

RESOLVED:

Details of the Parish OnLine scheme was circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that this service should be purchased at a cost of a one-off fee of £20 and annual charge of £60.

(d) Planter for Meir Heath

RESOLVED:

Details circulated prior to the meeting and it was agreed that, subject to County Highways agreement, a planter should be purchased (up to £120) for the grass verge close to the 30mph sign on Hilderstone Road.

(e) Land at the end of West View

RESOLVED:

Complete price to be obtained before final decision is made.

(f) Nomination for Fulford VHMC

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that Cllr. Holmes would continue as the Parish Council's representative on the village hall management committee.

(g) Stafford Borough Council's LDF consultation

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the Planning Committee would be charged with considering these documents

(h) Review of Conservation Area Appraisal

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that an initial meeting be set up with the officer undertaking the work. The Clerk to arrange.

(i) Possible land purchase in Meir Heath

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that this should be considered further once more information has been obtained on the possible availability and costs.

(j) Vacancy for Meir Heath ward councillor

RESOLVED:

Two applications had been received and it was agreed a decision would be made at the next meeting.

37/12 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – Members Digest

Stafford Borough Council – Charity evening on 16th April

Stafford Borough Council – Mayor's charity appeal 4th May

Staffordshire Police Authority – Details of forthcoming changes to governance

Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent Waste Core Strategy – details of Planning

Inspectorate examination

Samaritans – letter of thanks for the donation.

38/12 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting, which will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, is to be convened at **Fulford Village Hall on Thursday 10th May 2012 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN