

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 13th AUGUST 2015 AT 7.15 P.M.
IN FULFORD VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Colclough (Chairman), Mrs Baskin, Brunt, Holmes, Mrs Jennings, Mrs McPherson, Monks, Morris, Mycock, Miss Noblett, Oxby & Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Roycroft, PCSO Lyndsey Brough, S. Beck (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Brayford and McNaught, BC Dodson.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

77/15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllrs. Holmes and Oxby declared an interest in agenda item 9(d) and Cllr. Taylor declared an interest in agenda item 11(b)

78/15 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Lyndsey Brough reported that there had been several incidents of trespass at Stallington Hall and that the owners were increasing security. There have also been several incidents of unsocial behaviour in Ridgway Drive, Blythe Bridge, Fulford village hall car park and on Grindley Park, Meir Heath. A number of shed break-ins had also been reported around the area.

79/15 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

None

80/15 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th July 2015, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

81/15 CO-OPTION TO FILL VACANCY OF COUNCILLOR FOR FULFORD WARD

RESOLVED:

That Mr Richard Flackett be co-opted to fill the existing vacancy in the Fulford ward. Cllr Flackett duly signed the Statutory Declaration of Office and participated in the remainder of the meeting.

82/15 PRESENTATION BY NOVUS ENERGY

Mr Rory Hill from Novus Energy presented details of a proposed small scale commercial solar array development between Meir Heath and Fulford. Key points from the presentation included:

- The proposal is at a very early stage and could well change dependant on central government policy on solar panels which could change in the Autumn;
- The proposed development covers approx. 22acres just off Hilderstone Road behind the cricket club;
- If it goes ahead there is the potential for about £2.5k per annum windfall for the community.

Novus will continue to keep the Parish Council informed as the project develops.

83/15 COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillor Roycroft congratulated Fulford on winning the Best Kept Village competition before reporting on the following:

- *Car wash signs* – Enforcement Officers are putting a report together for the Planning Committee
- *Gazeboes outside 'one stop shop'* – require planning permission
- *Moments* – BC are going to the Magistrates Court on 26th August.

In response to a question from Councillors B.C. Councillor Roycroft was unable to say what was happening with Littlefields.

Cllr. Mrs Jennings reported that piles of debris were growing on the George & Dragon site with no sign that it was to be removed. The Clerk will write to the Borough Council regarding the issue.

Cllr Oxby reported that Fulford village green was not being cut by the Borough Council as frequently as it should be. He also reported that the n0.4 bus that goes through Fulford was now being run by D&G with a different route. There has been no consultation with the community on this issue and the Clerk was asked to write to Cllr. Parry.

84/15 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) CPRE membership renewal

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the Parish Council would continue with its membership of the CPRE.

(c) Audit for the year ended 31st March 2015

The Clerk reported that the Council had received a clean bill of health from the external auditors in respect of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2015.

RESOLVED:

The Council noted the details.

(d) Request for continuing financial support for Fulfest

Cllr Oxby outlined details of Fulfest 2015 and presented outline costs of the event. Fulfest is organised by the Fulford Village Group and has grown year on year. Total expenditure for 2015 was £4331, a £1200 increase on 2014, however due to fund raising efforts by villages and events on the day income had also increased. Overall there was a shortfall of £800 which is well within the £1500 agreed by the Parish Council in support of the event. The Fulford Village Group requested that the Parish Council continue to support Fulfest for 2016.

Linked to this item Cllr, Oxby also reported that Fulford had won the 'Best Kept Small Village' competition and as well as a trophy also received £200 towards activity in the village.

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council will donate £800 to this year's Fulfest and provide up to £1500 to support Fulfest 2016. The Council will also act as the 'Accountable Body' for the £200 prize fund.

85/15 PLANNING

(a) Applications

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

That no objections be raised to the following application:

15/22521/HOU(amended) – Saverley House Farm, Saverley Green, Stoke-on-Trent – proposed single storey extension providing granny annex ancillary to main dwelling house.

15/22584/FUL – Field Farm, Moss Lane, Moss Gate –demolition of existing 2-storey dwelling & erection of new 2-storey dwelling.

15/22690/HOU - 28 Grindley Lane, Meir Heath – 2-storey and single storey rear extension

15/22641/HOU - 23 Woodside Drive, Meir Heath – white PVCU front entrance porch

15/22742/HOU – 23 Woodside Drive, Meir Heath – white PVCU conservatory

(b) Decisions

The following decisions were reported as having been made by the Borough Council:

Approved:

15/22367/HOU – 7 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent –proposed single storey side extension & replacement roof to create additional bedroom at first floor to the rear.

15/22332/FUL – Fulford Dale Farm, Fulford Dale, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – proposed agricultural building.

15/22357/HOU – 20 Hollies Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent –two-storey side extension and front canopy.

15/22030/FUL – Outbuilding at 38 Grindley Lane, Meir Heath – conversion of existing outbuildings to residential unit.

(c) Other Planning Issues

None

86/15 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL

(a) Items - the notice of which was given to the Clerk

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

- Milestone refurbishment
- War memorial in Fulford Church yard
- Health & safety

RESOLVED:

1. Details for the refurbishment of 5 milestones in the parish was provided by Cllr Holmes. Following a discussion it was agreed that a small number of Councillors, led by Cllr. Taylor, would inspect the milestones and agree on the number (if any) to be refurbished.
2. Cllr. Holmes and Mrs Jennings reported on work that they had been doing with the War Memorials Services, with a view to getting the war memorial in Fulford Church yard renovated. It was agreed that they should begin the application process.
3. Following discussions on Health & safety issues relating to the parish council's contractors it was agreed that the contractors should be reminded of their H&S responsibilities and that the Council should ensure that the contractors have the necessary equipment to enable them to do their jobs safely.

(b) Entrance to Grindley Park

Details of costs associated with installing kissing gates at the vehicular entrance to Grindley Park had been circulated with the papers.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the work to install 'kissing gates' would be undertaken as per the cheapest estimate.

(c) Street name for Hilderstone Road development

Suggested names from various Councillors had been circulated with the meeting papers.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the following three names (in no particular order) should be forwarded to SARH for consideration – Heathers Close, Shaw Close and Wrekin View.

87/15 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr. Holmes reported that some work was need at the entrance to Footpath 33 and that there was a need for an additional visit from the refuse lorry in Blythe Bridge when the Council next considers the programme of visits.

Cllr. Holmes also reported that the allotments to be provided by Stafford & Rural Homes are making progress.

Cllr Oxby reminder councillors that articles for the Autumn edition of the Newsletter are now needed.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – Digest 210

Staffordshire County Council – Staffordshire in the Great War Saturday 3rd October

Post Office – confirmation of re-location of the Post Office to McColl's.

Staffordshire Women's Aid – thank you letter

Stafford Borough Council – Anniversary of the Battle of Britain – Sunday 20 September.

Fields in Trust – Impact Report
CPRE – notification of AGM

88/15 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be convened at **Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on Thursday 10th September 2015 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN