

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 13th DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.15 P.M.
IN FULFORD VILLAGE HALL.**

PRESENT: Chairman Cllr Brunt, Vice Chairman Colclough, Cllr Miss Baskin, Cllr Miss Noblett, Cllr Mrs White, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Lovatt, Cllr Mycock, Cllr Oxby, Cllr Monks, Cllr Garside.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs D Plant (Clerk) Borough Cllr Dodson.

APOLOGIES: Cllr Flackett

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Emails had been received at the Parish Office as follows:

1. *Several villagers are complaining about the state of the land at the Hunter Public House. I believe the Parish Council wrote to them earlier in the year, but as the grass is no longer growing, all the rubbish which has been hidden in now on show. Would the Parish Council write to the owners of the land and apprise them of the situation? It is an eyesore as you drive into the village.*

.....

2. *Would it be possible to have the bus stop (and the concrete base) on Stallington road, near Cavell Court, removed? None of the residents wanted there in the first place, and it just attracts loiterers, rubbish and weeds and always looks dirty, as predicted when we were told it was going to be put there.*

I'm not sure that any busses stop there now, but in any case, even when busses did stop, I can honestly say, that in what must have been the best part of ten years since it was erected, I never saw it being used by anyone waiting for a bus, not even once.

I know it was put there with the very best of intentions, but it really does detract from the neighbourhood and so I'd appreciate consideration by the Parish Council concerning its removal.

3. *I am writing to ask if you could consider putting a request in the Parish magazine for dog owners to consider the nuisance their dogs can cause to their neighbours and in such instances to control the noise their dog(s) make when left in the garden.*

This last warm summer and up to December my wife and I have and are experiencing the noise of a small dog constantly barking during daylight hours, morning and afternoon. This occurs even when there is somebody in the owner's house. The dog is obviously very anxious, bored or seeking attention etc. It barks constantly for long periods and on the rare occasions when silent it immediately reacts to whatever alarms it. When we have sat quietly in the house the sound can still penetrate through double glazing. I have lived here for over fifty-five years. We have had dogs' owners including ourselves in the cul de sac with never any noise nuisance. We are elderly,

housebound and our only pleasure is in the garden weather permitting. The present barking comes from a house in Birkholme Drive.

If the nuisance persists, I will have to seek an abatement order if this situation is not remedied but hopefully a notice in the Parish magazine may be seen and make it unnecessary. Perhaps you could point out that owners could eventually face up to £5,000 fine if the order is ignored and the noise persists.

I have not confronted the owners they being unknown to me and thereby I am avoiding a direct confrontation.

Cllr Oxby reported that he had been asked by a member of the Parish to raise concerns over the consultation for the closure of Blythe Bridge Post Office.

Cllr Miss Noblett reported that a member of the Parish had asked why former Cllr Taylor had not been thanked in the newsletter for his contribution to the Parish Council over his 25 years tenure.

Cllr Cooke had been approached by a member of the Parish to query if the recent sewage leakage at Black Lake Farm were anything to do with the septic tank at the traveller site on Hilderstone Road.

Cllr Cooke also asked if the weeds on the island adjacent to the Windmill were the responsibility of the Parish Council, He also mentioned the area outside the chinese takeaway and that it required a certain amount of weeding.

Cllr Cooke reported that West View had been subject to “Nottingham Knockers” who were cold callers investigating properties for signs of vulnerability.

100/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

101/18 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

1. The Councillors asked the Clerk to contact Stafford Borough Council with regard to the problem with rubbish around The Hunter.
2. The Councillors discussed at length the issues with the bus stop and the cost of installing the bus stop. Cllr Oxby expressed concerns that school children use the bus stop and although we have no public service buses at present we may do in the future. Chairman Cllr Brunt also asked where it would be stored once taken out, he also stated that it had cost a lot of money to purchase and install. It was unanimously decided to refuse the request to remove the bus stop and the base.
3. The Councillors requested that the Clerk contact the enquirer and provide details of abatement orders and the contact details of Stafford Borough Council who are the presiding authority on the matter.

Cllr Oxby explained that a member of the Parish had expressed concerns over the consultation for the closure of Blythe Bridge Post Office and a potential move to the Spar shop in Forsbrook. Cllr Monks explained that the Post Office was no longer owned by Royal

Mail and were therefore looking at ways of improving their offer to keep making money. The Councillors urged people to complete the consultation to give their opinions.

Cllr Noblett asked why the agreed gift for Cllr Taylor had not been purchased. The Clerk apologised as she did not realise, she had to purchase it. She would do it on the following Monday. Cllr White questioned if a gift should be purchased. Cllr Noblett stated that previous Councillors with long service had received gifts so a precedent had been set in her opinion. Chairman Cllr Brunt would write a letter to former Cllr Taylor thanking him.

Cllr Cooke had been approached by a member of the Parish to query if the recent sewage leakage at Black Lake Farm were anything to do with the septic tank at the traveller site on Hilderstone Road. Chairman Cllr Brunt explained that the cause had been found and that it was not the septic tank.

Cllr Cooke also asked if the weeds on the island adjacent to the Windmill were the responsibility of the Parish Council, He also mentioned the area outside the Chinese takeaway and that it required a certain amount of weeding. Cllr Noblett explained that the weeds on the island were the responsibility of Staffordshire County Council and asked the Clerk to report them. The issue with the Chinese was a problem which occurred on a regular basis and usually someone pops in and asks them to tidy up.

Cllr Cooke reported that West View had been subject to “Nottingham Knockers” who were cold callers investigating properties for signs of vulnerability. The Councillors asked the Clerk to invite the PCSO to the meetings. Cllr Mycock explained they had been operating in the Stallington Road as well. Cllr Monks said he had found the sign in the back of the newsletter very useful to put in the window to stop cold callers.

102/18 MINUTES

That the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 8th November 2018, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

103/18 COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Cllr Dodson apologised for this absence over the past two meetings due to holidays and commitments at the Borough Council.

He explained that he would make enquiries at the Borough Council regarding the dog nuisance and The Hunter public house which had been bought up in the public session.

He addressed the Councillors stating there was lots at happening at the Borough. The budgets were in a satisfactory condition and they had managed to avoid having to cut services. The building at Westbridge Park is continuing and the work on the pool is taking place. Cllr Dodson passed around the master plan for the area.

Stafford Borough Council had concentrated their efforts for building houses on five major centres. They are keen to see that rural parishes are largely unaffected by major housing developments.

The Burley Fields site has been approved for housing with a 15m staged contribution by the developers for a western bypass near Stafford.

Cllr Baskin asked Borough Councillor Dodson if extra infrastructure had been thought about with all the extra housing. Cllr Dodson said it had been included in the master plan.

Cllr Noblett asked what percentage of the housing is to be affordable housing. Cllr Dodson said it would be a minimum of 24 houses out of the original 400 built.

Cllr Cooke asked if there were any plans for the A & E at Stafford Hospital to be reviewed in light of all the extra housing. Cllr Dodson said this was an NHS remit.

There is an ongoing issue with the former Bird in Hand pub carpark. The enforcement team at Stafford Borough Council were continuing to work on this case.

104/18 FINANCE

Balance of Bank as at 03.11.18 was £51047.14

The Bank reconciliation for October was circulated and approved.

(a) Accounts for Payment

RESOLVED - Authority was 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) Finance and General-Purpose meeting report, including recommendations for the budget 2019/2020, salary reviews and the Precept.

The report from the Finance & General Purposes Committee was as follows: -

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2018 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE PARISH OFFICE

PRESENT: Councillors Brunt (Chairman), Mycock, Baskin, Noblett & Lovatt

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

IN ATTENDANCE: Dawn Plant (Clerk)

1. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS:

None

2. ANNUAL REVIEW OF SALARIES, CONTRACTS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

In accordance with the customary practice, the Committee reviewed the contract payments paid on grass cutting, litter picking, minor maintenance and Grindley Park attendant,

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That, with effect from 1st January 2019, the contract payments made to Mr E Probyn, Mr L Turner, Mr. C Duffy and Mr K Collier be increased by

2%. The newsletter contract would be set at £400 per delivery.

- (ii) That the contract for the cutting of the open spaces and the grass verges be continued with Town & Country and Millstone Gardening Services respectively, however Millstone Gardening Services will also be asked to quote for annual work in clearing overgrown vegetation from the footpaths.

3. BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2019/20

It is recommended that the budget for 2019/20 be set at £86,190 (Copy attached) which includes £6,000 contingency level.

RECOMMENDED:

- (i) That the draft budget for 2019/2020 as shown in the Appendix attached to these Minutes be considered by the Council for approval.
- (ii) That the precept for 2019/20 be retained at £50,000.
- (iii) That the earmarking of reserves are as follows: -
The balance of the bank account at 31.10.18 was £56060

Average monthly spend over the period April - November 2018 was £6370.
 $£6370 \times 4 = £25480$ recommended (as per internal auditor) free cash required.

The Finance and General Purposes committee recommended earmarking the remaining £30580 as follows.

£15000 for future play equipment at Grindley Park
£5000 for future community projects
£5580 for contingency Village Halls
£5000 contingency for the grass cutting*

**Staffordshire County Council have indicated that there will be a substantial decrease in the grant amount received for the grass cutting. They have not been forthcoming in the amount of reduction at the time of setting the budget. Therefore, this amount will cover any decrease.*

4. PARISH NEWSLETTER

RECOMMENDED:

That no changes be made to the level of charges for advertisers in the Newsletter for the year 2019.

Cllr Noblett requested that the adverts which are published in the Newsletter also be included on the Parish Web Site.

5. Review of the Council's Financial Regulations

RECOMMENDATION:

That no changes are made to the Financial Regulations.

The Councillors discussed the minutes and unanimously accepted that the precept remain at £50,000 for the year 2019/2020.

The Councillors unanimously agreed the salary increase for the year 2019/20 Cllr Garside did comment that he thought the rise was a little high compared to other sectors.

The Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the report for the earmarked reserves and the budget for the coming year 2019/20

The Councillors unanimously agreed to accept the advertiser rates for the forth coming years remain the same.

Cllr White asked that they line for earmarked reserves reading “£15000 for future play equipment at Grindley Park” be amended to read “£15000 for future play equipment at Grindley Park and associated community projects within the area”

Cllr Cooke asked if he could investigate trying to get the cost of the newsletter printing for down. Cllr Oxby said he did not have an issue with this.

105/18 PLANNING

(a) Applications

18/29591/FUL – 160a Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge – removal of condition 6 on application 18/15346/FUL

The Councillors objected to this application and the removal of condition six on the grounds that the junction of Grindley Lane and Uttoxeter Road are very busy junctions and that any extra traffic or conflict from junctions would be dangerous.

18/29693/FUL Groundsman House Stallington Sports Club, Fulford Lane.

The Councillors objected to this application on the grounds that this building is in green belt. Cllr Colclough said that this is setting a dangerous precedent.

Cllr White stated that this opens the flood gates for other applications.

Borough Cllr Dodson was requested to call-in the application in.

106/18 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: -

- Fire Extinguishers for the Parish Office

Cllr Monks proposed that the Parish Council place an order for this and the fire door installation. Cllr Noblett seconded this.

- Christmas Cards

Cllr White provided the Councillors with some Christmas cards and asked that the Councillors sign them.

➤ Chairman's Chain of Office

Cllr White asked if the Councillors thought the Chairman's chain could be improved and she would be happy to get a quote.

Cllr Colcough said he disagreed and he had objected to a chain in the first place.

Cllr Cooke stated he thought if the Parish was going to do have a higher profile in the future then it may be needed.

Cllr Mycock stated he agreed with Cllr Colclough.

The Cllrs agreed for Cllr Mrs White to research the idea.

➤ St Matthews School Carpark

Chairman Cllr Brunt explained that they Clerk had been approached by Mrs Probyn (crossing patrol) regarding the bottom carpark for St Matthews school. The Parish Council had previously cut back the overgrowth however the mud/ soil had now encroached onto the carpark and rendering car parking spaces unusable. The request was for the Parish Council to remove the debris.

Chairman Cllr Brunt explained he had inspected it and this was a large job involving a digger and skips.

Cllr White stated that this was never designated as a carpark anyway. It was currently used by Teachers, it has no benefit to the Parish and the Parish Council do not own the ground.

Cllr Noblett suggested directing the School to Bill Waller at SBC.

Cllr Colclough agreed as it was nothing to do with the Parish Council.

Cllr White proposed that no works is undertaken Cllr Baskin seconded the proposal.

➤ Parish Office Opening Hours

It was noted that the Parish Office would close on Wednesday 19th December 12:30 and reopen on Monday 7th January at 9:30am. A sign would be placed on the office window, Village Hall gate and an out of office auto reply to the email address.

➤ Leadendale Lane Update

Cllr Lovatt explained that the resurfacing works had now been completed. The Cllrs asked the Clerk to contact SRH to ascertain if they were to undertake any works to the pavements.

➤ War Memorial update

Cllr Oxby reported a quote for the war memorial works had been received and the funding was as follows: -

£5578 (plus VAT) Total Cost

£2000 – SCC Cllr Parry

£2500 – Fulford Parish Council

£500 – Fulford Village Group

The Village Group had offered to act as bankers for the short fall, however over the last 3 weeks a just giving page had raised nearly £2000.

Cllr Oxby was also receiving a donation of £250 from Dilhorne Church and this was due to be presented by Levison Wood Snr on Saturday.

➤ Allotments

The bill for the legal works associated for the land was £1450. This was more than originally expected. However, the Cllrs agreed that this was an excellent community asset.

Cllr White proposed excepting the cost and Cllr Noblett seconded.

107/18 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr White urged the Cllrs to complete the School Crossing patrol consultation.

Cllr Oxby asked the Clerk to arrange the meeting with Richard Rayson regarding highways and asked if she could put on the agenda the posts at the village green in Fulford.

Cllr Monks requested that he be the Parish Council representative for the Village Hall – this was agreed.

108/18 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Parking on the Green at Leadendale Lane

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

1. The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be convened on Thursday 10th January 2019 at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall at 7:15pm.

CHAIRMAN