

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 10th DECEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Brayford (Chairman), Baggaley, Mrs Bennett, Colclough, Mrs Holmes, A. Holmes, Lovatt, Mrs McPherson, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw & Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors Oldfield & Roycroft, 45 members of the public and S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Brayford, Mrs Wheat & Mrs Weaver and Borough Councillor Harp.

OTHER NON-ATTENDEES: Councillor Bevan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public expressed concerns on the following issues:

Fulford Youth Club – A youth club has now started in Fulford on a Monday evening based at the village hall with upwards of 18 young people attending. It is presently been run by volunteers and the charge for the use of the hall is presently £10 per session. The volunteers would like to see the Parish Council meet this cost.

Land of Grange Road – The Parish Council were asked why they would want to consider buying this land.

George & Dragon (Rough Close) – the Council were informed that residents were opposed to the development for a number of reasons, but in particular:

- the proposals were totally inappropriate and not in keeping with a small village;
- the road (A520) alongside where this development would take place is very busy and an accident black spot, increasing the numbers of vehicles coming away from the number of units proposed will only lead to increased traffic and the possibility of more accidents;
- there are no facilities to support this development – the primary school is oversubscribed, no shops and a very limited bus service;
- the George and Dragon has been on this site for 175 years.

The above items were considered by the Council with the following agreed;

Fulford Youth Club – the Parish Council agreed to met the weekly cost of the hire of the village hall for this venture.

Land of Grange Road – it was pointed out that at this stage purchase was only an option as the Parish Council were looking at ways of providing parking facilities for Grindley Park.

George & Dragon (Rough Close) – the Parish council reiterated their objection to the proposed development on this site and will writing to the Borough Council along these lines. B.C. Oldfield also stated that he will be calling this application in.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

84/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5th November 2009, having been circulated, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

85/09 COUNTY, BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' & POLICE REPORTS

Borough Councillor Oldfield reported that the outline application for Golborn Avenue had been rejected. Decision on the gypsy site was still awaited.

86/09 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) To receive the 2010/11 budget and recommended 2010/11 precept

Details had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the budget be accepted and the precept for 2010/11 be set at £45,000

(c) To receive the report from the Audit Commission

Details had been circulated prior to the meeting showing that there had been no issues raised by the Audit Commission.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

(d) To consider a request from the Marie Curie Cancer Care

RESOLVED:

That no donation be made as the request was from an organisation outside of the area and that the Parish Council continue to support local cancer charities.

(e) To consider a request for a donation to the Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Group

RESOLVED:

That a donation of £250 be made.

87/09 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:-

09/12909/FUL – wildlife pond on vacant land near the lodge – Blacklake Lodge Residential Home, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent
09/12851/OUT – proposed 2-storey detached dwelling – Southdown, Plot1, Hartwell Lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent
09/12988/FUL – proposed sitting room extension – The Firs, Cross Gate, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent
09/12949/FUL - 1st floor extension over existing garage to provide 2 bedrooms, single storey kitchen extension to rear & addition of dormer-type roof canopy to front – 36 Tudor Hollow, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9NP

- 2) That objections be raised to the following application for the reasons stated at the meeting:-

09/12962/COU - change of use of existing 2-bed care bungalow into private 2-bed detached bungalow – Blacklake Lodge Residential Home, Hilderstone Road, Stoke-on-Trent

(b) Decisions

It was reported that the following applications had been approved by the Borough Council:-

9/11885/FUL – conversion of building into 2 dwellings – Long Lane farm, Long Lane, Hilderstone, Staffs. ST15 8SN
09/12629/FUL -2-storey side extension – 22 Sutherland Crescent, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9JU

It was reported that the following applications had been refused by the Borough Council:-

09/12140/FUL – retention of building for use as dwelling – Fulford Manor Farm, Fulford Dale Road, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9QR
09/12527/FUL – extension of residential curtilage & retention of workshop erected thereon – The Hollies, Moss Lane, Moss Gate ST15 8RQ
09/12580/FUL – 2-storey rear extension & loft conversion – 11 Grindley Lane, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LN

(c) Other planning issues

George & Dragon, Rough Close – Due to the controversial nature of this application it had been referred to the full council for them to take a view.

RESOLVED:

The Council fully supported the many residents who attended the meeting in their objections to this proposal and asked the Clerk to write to the Borough Council to voice the Parish's objection for the following reasons:

- The proposals are totally out of keeping with this small traditional village that has a number of old buildings and cottages;
- The proposed development is next to the A520 which is a well used, not only by cars, but heavy vehicles heading for the A34 and the M6. This road has seen a number of accidents and fatalities in recent years close to this particular site. Having this development, with an increase in the number of cars accessing the A520, will simply exacerbate the existing problems;

- There are very few facilities in the village with a small oversubscribed primary school, no shops and a very limited and infrequent bus service
The George and Dragon public house is 175 years old.

Monsoon Restaurant – because this is a relatively large development it was referred to the full council.

The Council considered this proposed development to be in keeping with the surrounding area and will provide 2/3 bedroom houses that are needed in the area, therefore have no objections to the development

88/09 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:-

- Councillors proof of identity
- Consideration of purchase of land off Grange Road
- Consideration to erection of a notice board in Mayfield Drive, Blythe Bridge
- Extra lighting in Ridgeway Drive
- 54 Birkholme Drive
- Meir Heath representative on the Planning sub-committee

RESOLVED:-

1. That Cllr Holmes raise the issue at the next SPCA Executive meeting
2. More work needs to be undertaken to determine the suitability of the land for car parking. In the meantime Cllr Shaw and the Clerk will meet with the vendor.
3. Agreed that an additional notice board should be provided. The Clerk will bring details of costs etc. to a future meeting.
4. This extra lighting to be initially explored with the County Highways. The Clerk to write to the County Council
5. The Clerk was asked to write to the Chief Executive of the Borough Council outlining the Parish Council's continuing concerns on this issue
6. Cllr Shaw will be the Meir Heath representative on the planning sub-committee..

(b) Letter re: Fulford Youth Club from Staffordshire Police

RESOLVED:

As indicated earlier in the minutes the Council have agreed to meet the costs of the village hall hire for the youth club.

(c) Dates for 2010 Council meetings

RESOLVED:

The dates were agreed as circulated.

(d) Casual vacancy for Meir Heath Ward

The Clerk updated the Council as to the present position

89/09 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Playbuilder Application – email received indicating that there had been 29 applications submitted. No decisions made and all applicants have further work to do with a final submission by 24th February. Details of additional work to be given to applicants at workshops early in the New Year.

Report on SPCA December meeting– details were given on information received at the December SPCA meeting.

Highways Agency – Details of a consultation event on 14th December.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – Annual Report 2008/09

Stafford Borough Council – Members Digest (nos135 & 136)

Staffordshire Moorlands DC – Amendments to the LDF

Greenpark Energy Ltd – correspondence regarding proposals for methane extraction at Spot Acre.

90/09 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Contribution to Sandon High School for Playbuilder work

Methane extraction at Spot Acre

BT phone boxes – adopt a kiosk

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be convened at Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on **Thursday 14th January 2010 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN