

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th DECEMBER 2011 AT 7.30 P.M.
IN MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Colclough (Chairman), Mrs Brayford, Ms Ellerman, Mrs Jennings, Mrs McPherson, Monks, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw & Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Parry, S Beck (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Bennett, Mrs Wheat, Parish and Borough Councillor Holmes, Borough Councillors Dodson & Roycroft

OTHER NON-ATTENDEES: Councillor Bevan, Lovatt.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present; however the following issue had been raised by telephone with the Clerk:

One young person housed in the Southlands care home has been causing a nuisance to neighbours in the area by knocking on doors late at night. The resident who reported the incident was concerned about the well-being of the individual who was on the streets late at night.

106/11 CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR TO MEIR HEATH WARD

Further to minute 103/11(c) it was confirmed by the Clerk that no request had been made for an election therefore Ms S Cuncannon was confirmed as being co-opted onto the Parish Council to fill the Meir Heath ward vacancy. Ms Cuncannon duly signed the Acceptance of Office and participated in the meeting.

107/11 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

108/11 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that in the first instance the issue raised concerning the care home should be addressed by writing to the Manager of the home. (Before a letter could be sent it is understood that the young person concerned has subsequently been moved to a different home outside of the area)

109/11 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10th November 2011, having been circulated, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

110/11 COUNTY, BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' & POLICE REPORTS

County Councillor Parry reported the following:

- The delivery of health services is subject to major changes with much closer working between agencies who work in this field; this should result in individuals having a single point of contact. It is likely this fresh approach will bring savings of between £20m - £30m. It was suggested that the Parish Council might like to consider how it could help with this new approach;

Cllr. Parry was asked about the poor OFSTED report received by the Children's Services Dept. and what had been done about it. He replied that the area of concern for OFSTED was the 'point of entry' into the system which was judged as poor. Once children were in the system it had been judged as good/outstanding. To address the concerns more resource had been put in to 'point of entry'.

111/11 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) Consideration of report from the F&GP Committee

Minutes from this meeting and the draft budget had been circulated to members prior to the meeting

RESOLVED:

The following was agreed:

- (i) That the Clerk's salary be increased by 1 point on the national scale from 1st June 2012.
- (ii) That, with effect from 1st January 2012, the contract payments made to Mr E Probyn, Mr L Turner and Mr. D. Wheat be increased by 2%.
- (iii) That, with effect from the delivery of the March 2012 edition of the Parish Newsletter, the payment made to Mr. G. Wheat be increased by 2%.
- (iv) That the contract for the cutting of the open spaces and the grass verges will be continue with Town & Country and Millstone Gardening Services respectively. Additional grass cutting could be added to the Millstone contract following further discussions with Stafford Borough Council (Fulford Village Green, land at the bottom of Kingfisher Crescent and Fulford play area) and with Staffordshire County Council (grass verges on Uttoxeter Road)
- (v) That no changes be made to the level of charges for advertisers in the Newsletter for the year 2012
- (vi) The following changes to the Financial Regulations be made
:
Para. 3.5 to add the following " unless money has been specifically earmarked for a future project". The reason for the change is that money under individual cost headings cannot be carried forward, but have to be precepted for each year.

Para. 6.4 3rd line to read “where the Clerk and the Chairman certify” The reason for this change is that the Clerk and the RFO are one and the same and therefore a second person should be involved in the decision.

- (vii) As the Council generally has considerable funds in its current account at any one time consideration will be given to investing in a variety of saver accounts. The Clerk to arrange for the bank to discuss those options further with the F&GP Committee in the first instance
- (viii) No changes were suggested to the draft budget or precept, therefore the final budget and precept will be agreed at the January meeting.

(c) Victim Support – appeal for funds

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that a donation of £50 be made.

112/11 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:

11/16090/PAGR – proposed agricultural building for storage of hay & straw – land at Willow Farm, Cresswell Road, Hilderstone

11/16148/HOU – demolition of existing rear conservatory & extension & replacement with new single storey rear extension – 21 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent

11/16102/HOU – detached car port & garden shed – The End Cottage, Sandy Lane, Cross Gate, Hilderstone

11/16260/HOU – replacement detached garage – 376 Sandon Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent

11/16296/HOU – extension to 1st floor level to form additional bedroom and canopy roof to frontage – 33 Meadow Close, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent

11/16428/FUL– variation of condition 2 on planning permission 11/15378/FUL – former Monsoon Restaurant, Uttoxeter Road, Blythe Bridge

2) That objections be to be raised with the following applications:

11/16149/ FUL(amendment)– single storey annexe & new access from the highway adjacent to 418 Sandon Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent for the following reason:

- There should be no new access to the site as the property accesses onto a busy road and is also close to a bus stop, road junction and roundabout
- 11/16383/PTEL – grass verge southside, opp. 260-262 Grindley Lane, Blythe Bridge. A member of the public expressed concerns about this development. The Parish council objected for the following reasons;
- 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. It is also directly opposite residential properties and would be far better sited higher up Grindley Lane away from any housing.
- 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.

Borough Councillors would also be asked to ‘call in’ this application 11/16024/FUL (amendment) – land at Hartwell Lane, Rough Close Stoke-on-Trent.

The reasons for objection as follows:

- space about dwelling and ;
- the close proximity of the development to neighbouring properties.

(b) Decisions

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

Approved:

11/15723/HOU – new front extension, rear conservatory addition and new roof light to existing western side roof slope (retrospective) – Sunnycroft, Windmill Hill, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent

11/15949/HOU – single storey side extension to include rebuild, mono pitched roof to side and balcony area to rear – 69 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent

11/16030/HOU – 2-storey rear extension to rear & single storey extension to side of building – Malvern, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent

11/16037/HOU – 36 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – single storey pitched roof kitchen/ flat roof bathroom/bedroom

113/11 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:-

- Grindley Park – dog control orders

Details concerning dog control orders had been circulated prior to the meeting

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that before considering the process of putting dog control orders in place information would be put on the notice boards and in the next newsletter.

Additionally new signs would be installed asking people to keep dogs away from the children’s play area.

(b) Review of Conservation Area Appraisals: Fulford Conservation Area

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the parish council request involvement in this process.

(c) Calendar of meetings for 2012

RESOLVED:

The dates were agreed with the proviso that the Annual Parish meeting be held in April.

114/11 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Dropped kerbs(Meir Heath) – further email from Highways dept. indicating that the work will be done as and when funding becomes available.

Housing Needs Survey – work taking longer than expected, now likely to report back mid-January.

SPCA meeting – Cllr. Mrs McPherson reported on the meeting she attended where presentations were given on British Legion's work, Localism Bill, Neighbourhood Plans and the closure of the A&E dept. at Stafford Hospital

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – Village Hall Grant scheme

Stafford borough Council – Borough Carol Service at Collegiate Church, Stafford on 18th Dec.

SPCA – details of a solar power discount scheme

Big Lottery Fund – details of funding for good causes

115/11 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Neighbourhood Plans

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be convened at **Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on THURSDAY 12th January 2012 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN