

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT FULFORD VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs.Brayford (Chairman), Baggaley, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Holmes, A. Holmes, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw, Taylor and Mrs Wheat.

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillors Oldfield & Roycroft, S Beck (Clerk), PC Neil Massey, PCSO Emma Kempson, PCSO Rick Hunt and 6 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Bevan, Brayford, Colclough, Lovatt, Moore and Borough Councillor Harp

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Concern was expressed by 3 members of the public present at the proposal to locate a bus shelter on ground outside the village hall. They were particularly interested to find out:

- how demand for the facility had been established;
- what consultation had taken place;
- why this particular location had been chosen, given that there is a lay-by a little further down the road and;
- had a safety assessment been undertaken.

It was pointed out by the Council that the need for more bus shelters across the parish was highlighted in the Parish Plan and this proposal was part of an ongoing programme of providing more bus shelters. Local residents and school children had also expressed a wish for a shelter. Proposals to site a bus shelter in Fulford had also been mentioned in the two previous parish newsletters.

Following the submission of a letter to the Council concerning traffic in Baulk Lane, Fulford 3 other members of the public spoke about this continuing problem in a very narrow lane, which is used by parents to walk their children to school. In particular the residents were seeking support from the Council to:

- over time make Baulk Lane a ‘no go’ area for vehicles;
- addressing safety by placing some form of traffic calming devices or clearer speed restrictions/access signs.

The police indicated they were prepared to take action if they were able to identify drivers. Additionally the clerk was asked to write to the County Highways department setting out residents concerns and asking for action to be taken particularly regarding signage and cutting back foliage as well as exploring longer term solutions.

Police report – PC Neil Massey introduced himself as the replacement for PC Paul Ryan and a new PCSO, Rick Hunt was also introduced. The following crime statistics for the period 1st November 2008 to 31st January 2009 (figures in brackets show previous quarter) were reported:

Burglary (Homes)	3(0)
Burglary (Business)	2(2)
Theft of motor	2(1)
Theft from motor	5(6)
Criminal damage	7(19)
Anti-social behaviour	17(76)

08/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 8th January 2009, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

09/09 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Cllr. Roycroft reported on the withdrawal of the proposals to extract sand and gravel from Fulford Dale, however there were still proposals to extract from Moddershall Dale. As reported below the application for 5 new gypsy pitches at Spot Acre has been rejected by Stafford Borough Council. Efforts are still being made to resolve the issues associated with 54 Birkholme Drive.

10/09 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) External Auditors report

It was reported that the external auditors report had been received, which showed that no matters had come to the attention of the Auditor that gave concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. The only comment made was that the fidelity insurance cover is not regarded as adequate cover as it should cover the year-end balance plus 50% of the precept as a guide.

RESOLVED:-

The insurance position to be considered at the next renewal stage.

(c) Parish Council's receipts

It was reported that repayments of VAT had been received from both village halls and all advertisement payments for 2008 had been received.

11/09 PLANNING

(a) Applications

RESOLVED: -

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

08/11435/FUL – proposed conservatory extension – 34A Grindley Lane, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LW

08/11474/FUL – alterations to front elevations – 4 Hillside Close, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9RU

08/11551/FUL – porch extension and internal alterations – 30A Highview Road, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9QQ

08/11022/FUL – erection of front and side fencing – 18 Leadendale Lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent.

(b) Decisions

1) It was reported that the following applications had been approved:-

08/11222/FUL – erection of timber post and rail fence – The Wood, Stallington Lane, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent

08/11257/FUL – proposed extension and alteration– 29 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7PB

2) It was reported that the following application had been refused:-

08/10281/COU – change of use for the stationing of caravans for 5 new gypsy pitches with utility rooms and areas of hardstanding ancillary to that use – Woodfield, Hilderstone Road, Spot Acre

08/11037/FUL – new agricultural building for livestock – land between Mossgate and Sharpley Heath, Stone, ST15 8SL

(c) Other planning issues

It was reported that The Borough Council’s Development Control Committee would be taking no further action in respect of the changes to the window opening shown on the approved plans under planning application 06/06423/FUL

12/09 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:-

- Fulford bus shelter.
- Replacement trees for Grindley Park
- Dangerous trees in the parish
- Blythe Bridge Safer Routes to Schools
- Planters for Fulford
- Plaque for ‘John Bedson’ tree

RESOLVED:-

- (1) Location proposed would appear to be the best available and the Village Hall Management Committee had agreed to the siting of shelter, however information still awaited from the Highways and the view of the police and bus company needs to be sought, therefore a final decision was deferred until all this information is available.
- (2) It was agreed, with one abstention, that the work to replace trees at the entrance to Grindley Park be undertaken at the cost shown in the paper presented to the meeting and attached to these minutes.
- (3) Clerk to speak to the Borough Council to find out their plans for dealing with dangerous trees.
- (4) Information on the Safer Routes to Schools be made available from the Parish Office.
- (5) It was agreed that 5 planters be purchased (3 for Fulford and 2 for Meir Heath). The planters for Fulford to be used as part of the village’s entry into the BKV competition. Staffordshire Highways to be consulted on the locations.
- (6) It was agreed to purchase a plaque at a cost of £50.

(b) Highways - grass cutting

RESOLVED

The recommendations contained in the paper attached to these minutes were agreed by the Council, subject to final negotiations with the County Council's Highway department

(c) Casual Vacancies

One application had been received to fill the two vacant positions.

RESOLVED

That the applicant be invited to the next Parish Council meeting to meet councillors and that the 2nd post be re-advertised.

(d) Freedom of Information Act Compliance

RESOLVED

The Model Scheme was adopted by the Council and it was agreed to set up a small working group to update several council policies and procedures. The working group would be Cllrs. Mrs Brayford, Baddaley and Mrs Bennett.

(e) Playbuilder Programme

RESOLVED

Following an update on progress it was agreed to hold a special council meeting on Wednesday 4th March at 6.00pm to view the proposed scheme and agree the level of Council contribution to the plan.

(f) Stafford Borough Local Development Framework

The meeting received an update on this document and it was confirmed that there are no proposals for any new housing development within the parish.

(g) Annual Parish Meeting

RESOLVED

That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 14th May prior to the commencement of the Parish Council meeting.

13/09 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Moss Lane – it was reported that information on the owner of the ditch at the end of Moss Lane had been given to the Highways and they were now looking at contacting the owner with a view to filling in the ditch.

Adamthwaite Drive – a further letter had been received from the Borough Council confirming that Council's legal opinion is that the scale of use of the dwelling does not require planning permission.

Operation Impact – event not now to go ahead in March, further information to follow from the Borough Council's Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – invite to Mayor’s Ball
Sustainable Staffordshire AGM
Staffordshire County Council – invitation to bid for Community Paths Initiative
Stafford District Voluntary Services – small grants information
Stafford Borough Council – letter regarding BT proposal to remove payphones
Staffordshire Strategic Partnership – Staffordshire Compact
Staffordshire County Council – acknowledgement of letter re: minerals core strategy
and confirmation that Fulford Dale has been withdrawn from proposals
Stoke-on-Trent City Council/Newcastle-under-Lyme BC – Local Development
Framework
Email from resident congratulating the Council on the provision of the seat and bus
shelter at Stallington
Stafford Borough Council – winter edition of Sundial
Stafford Borough Council – Members Digests
Community Council of Staffordshire – February Newsletter
Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Group – progress report

14/09 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Speaker for AGM

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Council is to be convened at Meir Heath & Rough Close Village
Hall on Thursday 12th March 2009 at 7.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN