

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 11th FEBRUARY 2010 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT FULFORD VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Parry, Borough Councillors Oldfield & Roycroft, 3 members of the public and S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Brayford, Lovatt & Mrs McPherson & and Borough Councillor Harp.

OTHER NON-ATTENDEES: Councillor Bevan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public expressed concern at the poor state of repair of the fencing alongside the A50 where it crosses Stallington Road and the footpaths in Charterly Close, Blythe Bridge.

Another member of the public highlighted concerns with speeding cars in Baulk Lane and the poor state of the hedge down one side after it has been cut (it was not known who had been responsible for the cutting).

A further member of the public raised the issue of the gypsy site and the fact that what appeared to be a wooden chalet had been erected on the site in what he considered to be contrary to the planning consent.

RESOLVED:

1. The Clerk was asked to write to both the County Council and the Borough Council concerning the state of the footpaths in Charterly Close. Information on the work undertaken by the Highways Agency on the Blythe Bridge stretch of the A50 is still awaited. Cllr Parry will be following this up.
2. The Parish Council have already indicated to the County Council that solutions to address the issues of Baulk Lane are a priority for them. Cllr. Parry agreed that something needs to be done. The Clerk will try and find out who was responsible for the tree/hedge cutting.
3. The Clerk to write to the Borough Council to alert them to possible breaches of planning consent.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

08/10 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 14th January 2010, having been circulated, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

09/10 COUNTY, BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' & POLICE REPORTS

County Councillor Parry reported on the following:

Winter gritting – the gritting policy for the County is that only A & B roads will be gritted (this covers about 45% of the county roads). It was pointed out by Parish Councillors that some roads in the parish, particularly country roads and roads on estates had been extremely dangerous and made worse by the fact that grit bins had not been replenished. It was also reported that where re-surfacing work had been done on some of the Meir Heath roads following work by Severn Trent water last year, that these areas had been left very smooth and hence creating further problems. Cllr. Parry agreed to check on whether the contractors had complied with County Highways standards.

Proposed Blythe Park power station – Staffordshire Moorlands DC had rejected this proposal, although the final decision will rest with the Government.

Quarrying – the County Council are presently in negotiation with the Regional Development Agency on agreeing a reduced allocation for Staffordshire. The County do not accept the current allocation.

Potholes – the Parish Council were asked to map out where they are and report all at the same time.

Rate increase – kept to 1.9%, 2nd lowest in the country.

Borough Councillor Roycroft reported that the proposals for the Bird in Hand pub had been referred back to the developers to try and rearrange the site to allow for better access to the highway.

Further issues with The Wood – Borough Council is investigating.

10/10 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) Audit requirements for 2009/10 accounts

Parish Councils in Staffordshire have been advised that the accounts for 2009/10 will need to be with the National Audit Office by 1st June 2010. This gives very little time from the end of the financial year to complete our internal audit. The accounts will need to be signed off at the April Parish Council meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the details be noted.

11/10 PLANNING

(a) Applications

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

- 1) No planning applications had been received since the previous meeting of the Council.

(b) Decisions

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

09/12851/FUL – 2-storey detached dwelling – Sundown Plot1, Hartwell Lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NG

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

09/12998/FUL – proposed sitting room/utility extension – The Firs, Cross Gate, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent ST15 8RL

(c) Other planning issues

Blythe Power Station – proposed visit to another site will not now take place until after 11th February. As Staffordshire Moorlands DC had rejected the proposal it was not clear on what happens next.

RESOLVED:

The Council noted the position.

Greenpark Energy Ltd – submission of a formal planning application is awaited.

12/10 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:-

- BT phone boxes – adopt a kiosk

RESOLVED:-

1. The Clerk to check on insurance position and to be placed on agenda for next meeting

(b) To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Parish Meeting be held on Thursday 13th May 2010. It was proposed that someone responsible for traffic enforcement at the Borough Council be invited to speak.

(c) Playbuilder application

An update on the present application was presented to the meeting. Final application to be submitted by midday on the 24th February.

RESOLVED:

The Council noted the present position.

13/10 MATTERS FOR REPORT

54 Birkholme Drive – the Clerk read out a letter from the Borough Council that he had received following further concerns expressed by the Parish Council. The letter informed the Council that a visit had been made by a Borough’s Environmental Health Officer and they were content that the site did not give rise to “either a statutory nuisance or a risk to the public health” The Parish Council were not content with the response from the Borough and asked the Clerk to again write with a copy to our MP.

S.I.D. Hilderstone Road – not now likely to be in place until towards the end of the financial year, in the meantime a mobile unit to be put in place.

Garden Party – Cllr. Mrs Bennett to be nominated

Spring Newsletter – contributions required by the end of February.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Staffordshire County Council – correspondence re: proposed waiting orders/speed humps on Ridgway Drive

Staffordshire County Council – Mobile library service review

Staffordshire County Council – Neighbourhood Highway Teams

NALC – draft development strategy & business plan

Fulford Youth Group – letter of thanks

Douglas Macmillan Hospice – letter of thanks

Meir Heath Windmill Preservation Group – letter of thanks

Stafford Borough Council – Members Digests (138 & 139)

14/10 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

BT Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

Litter & dog bins

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be convened at Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on **Thursday 11th March 2010 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN