

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 14th FEBRUARY 2013 AT 7.15 P.M.
IN FULFORD VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Shaw (Chairman), Mrs Brayford, Holmes (also Borough Councillor), Mrs Jennings, Lovatt, Monks, Mycock, Miss Noblett, Oxby and Taylor.

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Roycroft, 3 members of the public, PCSO Becky Powell & S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Mrs Bennett, Colclough, Evans, Mrs McPherson and Mrs Wheat and Borough Councillor Dodson

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A member of the public outlined problems that residents were experiencing with flooding on Hilderstone Road. The flooding appears to be caused by blocked grids and water overflowing from a ditch close to the road. The Highways Department have already been contacted, but no action has been taken.

A second issue raised concerned the parking of vehicles on the footpath opposite the shops on Hilderstone Road.

Another member of the public outlined plans for the installation of solar panels at St Francis Church, Meir Heath to help reduce energy costs as well as reducing the carbon footprint of the church. Unfortunately the Diocese had blocked the project and the church was now appealing to the Secretary of State. To help with this appeal the church is seeking the support of the parish council.

The clerk reported that he had received correspondence from a resident of Bernard Grove who was concerned at the damage to grass verges on the corner of Bernard Grove as well as the rubbish being left by contractors.

11/13 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

12/13 POLICE REPORT

PCSO Becky Powell informed the council of several instances of crime and anti-social behaviour in the parish including:

- a scam involving Romanians who were stopping cars and offering to sell bogus gold items;
- teenagers causing a nuisance close to Fulford village hall;
- possible burglary at Meir Heath post office;
- theft from a vehicle in West View;
- possible poisoning of cats in Ridgeway Drive.

13/13 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

Flooding on Hilderstone Road – It was agreed that a letter should go to County Councillor Maryon (portfolio holder for this area of work) and copied to Cllr. Parry and BC Councillor Holmes.

Parking on footpath – PCSO Becky Powell to deal with this.

St Francis Church – it was agreed that the Parish Council would fully support the church in their efforts to install solar panels. The Clerk was asked to write a letter on behalf of the Council expressing their support.

Bernard Grove – it was noted that the construction of the new build opposite Bernard Grove and which had been causing the problems had now been completed. However there was some residual gravel that had been left on the grass verge. The Clerk to write to the Borough council asking them to ensure the contractors tidied up.

14/13 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 10th January 2013, having been circulated, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

15/13 CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

Details of the nomination received from Mrs Lightfoot had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That Mrs Lightfoot be co-opted to the Parish Council as a councillor for the Meir Heath ward. The Declaration of Acceptance of office was duly signed and Mrs Lightfoot participated in the remainder of the meeting.

16/13 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

Borough Councillor Holmes reported on the following:

Helicopter landings (old Creda site) – planning application awaited.

Stallington Hall – some progress, but there is still some hold-ups with Persimmon.

Rough Close Common – a 3-year plan is being developed by the Borough and they are hoping to set up a 'Friends of Rough Close Common' group. Stone Ramblers are putting in some new finger post.

17/13 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) DONATION REQUEST FROM SAMARITANS

RESOLVED:

A donation of £100 was agreed.

(c) ALTERATIONS TO COUNCIL'S INSURANCE POLICY

Following a visit from the insurance company it appeared the amount of equipment on the play area on Grindley Park was undervalued and a higher level of cover was proposed.

RESOLVED:

An additional premium of £95.39 was agreed.

(d) CONCURRENT FUNCTION ALLOWANCE

It was reported that the Borough Council has informed the Parish Council that the level of concurrent function allowance for 2013/14 will remain at the same level as 2012/13 i.e. £4,445.

18/13 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 application:
12/18114/HOU – Barnfields, Fulford Road, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – extension and alteration to existing house including 2 new 1st floor bedrooms over existing single storey lounge etc.
13/18158/HOU – The Hollies, Fulford Road, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – proposed utility/garden room extension.
13/18223/HOU – 21 West View, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent – porch

(b) Decisions

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

Permitted:

- 12/18016/OUT – Hunters Moon, Fulford Road, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – demolition of existing garage/store, proposed new dwelling and new vehicular access to Hunters Moon
- 12/17624/FUL – 107 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath Stoke-on-Trent – rebuilding of existing dwelling to form replacement dwelling
- 12/18014/HOU – 17 Tudor Hollow, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – side extension

19/13 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL

a) Governor nomination for Fulford Primary School

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that Cllr. Colclough be nominated for this position.

b) Proposal for work on footpath in Meir Heath area

Details had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that this work be undertaken at a cost not exceeding£300.

c) Diversion of Footpath 14 in Fulford

Details had been circulated with the agenda

RESOLVED:

It was agreed to support the proposal to divert this footpath, however concern was expressed as to the implementation, if this proposal is approved.

d) Request for meeting with the parish council concerning land around Fulford

A letter had been received from Bagshaws LLP requesting a meeting with the council to discuss possible uses for areas of land around Fulford village.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that this discussion should take place at the Council meeting on the 14th March.

e) Community Paths Initiative – Bids for 2013/14

Details had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting.

f) Sustainable Communities Act – request for feedback

Details had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that no comment would be made.

g) Grass verges on Grindley Lane (Meir Heath)

Several grass verges on Grindley Lane are in a very poor state of repair caused by vehicles parking on them during the wet weather. Complaints had been received from several residents.

RESOLVED:

The County Council to be contacted and asked to deal with the problem.

20/13 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Spring Newsletter – reports and items now needed.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council - Digest

Katherine House Hospice - - request to support Open Gardens event

Community Council of Staffordshire – request for entries to Staffordshire Diary of Village Festivals and Events for 2013

21/13 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Meir Heath School signs

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council, is to be convened at **Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on Thursday 14th March 2013 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN