

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 9th JULY 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs.Brayford (Chairman), Baggaley, Mrs Bennett, Brayford, Colclough, Holmes, Moore, Oxby, Shaw, Taylor, Mrs Weaver and Mrs Wheat.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Parry, Borough Councillors Oldfield and Roycroft, 7 members of the public and S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Holmes, Mrs McPherson, Mycock, Borough Councillor Harp and PCSO Emma Kempson

OTHER NON-ATTENDEES: Councillors Bevan and Lovatt

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public outlined arrangements he was making for the 'Big Lunch' on Sunday 19th July and requested permission to use Grindley park for car parking. (This item is dealt with below under minute 52/09)

Several other members of the public expressed concern and voiced their objections to an outline planning application that had been submitted to the Borough Council for the development of 4 new houses at the rear of 5 Golborn Avenue. The Planning Committee that had met prior to the Council meeting were recommending that the Parish Council object to this development it was also further agreed that the plans should be 'called in' to allow for proper scrutiny.

Another member of the public raised continuing concerns with the traffic on Hilderstone Road and the disappointing results coming back from the County Council's survey of traffic at school times, particularly as a census undertaken by residents show a far greater flow of pedestrians crossing the road than the County Council's figures. It was agreed that the Parish Council should again write to the Highways Department expressing their concerns and request that a meeting be set up involving residents and the school.

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declaration of interests.

48/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 11th June 2009, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

49/09 COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

County Councillor Parry reported the following:

- The issues concerning traffic on the Hilderstone Road needed to be dealt with, however at present the volumes did not allow for a pedestrian crossing or a school patrol officer, therefore possible other solutions needed to be looked at, such as increasing the length of the 30mph area and reducing speed to 20mph close to the

school. This was an objective for the County for all schools to be implemented gradually over the coming years.

- An announcement on a £40m spend on highways is to be made in Sept/Oct.
- Community Crews are continuing with a probable increase for communities.
- Local Member Initiative scheme to continue and extended to cover highways and social care, with each member having £10k to spend starting in July 2009.
- The process to consider local quarrying proposals will be delayed because following the changes resulting from the May elections the County Council is seeking to re-negotiate with the Regional Assembly the County's share of the regional requirements for sand and gravel.

Borough Councillor Oldfield advised the members of the public concerned with the development at 5 Golborn Avenue to contact him.

50/09 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) Chairman's Allowance

Cllr. Mrs Bennett took the chair for this item details of which had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

That the Chairman's allowance for 2009/10 be £140 in line with the amount set in the agreed budget.

(c) 100th Birthday donation for Mrs Heath

RESOLVED:

That a bouquet of flowers be given to Mrs Heath on her 100th birthday.

(d) Draft Internal Audit Report

The draft internal audit report was presented to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

Members to pass any comments to the Clerk before the final document is presented to the August Council meeting.

(e) Approval of Annual Governance Statement

RESOLVED:

The annual governance statement was agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.

(f) 'Park it Right' – request for donation

Details of this police initiative had been circulated to members with the agenda.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that a £25 book token be donated as a prize to each of the 3 schools participating in the competition. The Clerk was also requested to ask the police that

any further initiatives involve Rough Close primary school as a number of the pupils come from within the parish.

(g) Request for CPRE annual subscription

Councillors felt they required more information regarding CPRE's position on such issues as wind farms and open cast mining before agreeing to renew the council's subscription.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to write to CPRE requesting details of their policies regarding the above issues.

51/09 PLANNING

(a) Applications

RESOLVED: -

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

09/12222/FUL – side double storey & rear/front single storey extensions – 8 Greenacres Avenue, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9HU.

09/12330/FUL – UPVC Double glazed conservatory – The Beeches, Hartwell Lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NG.

09/12234/FUL – change of use of existing 2 storey stables and store into a 3 bed dwelling for use by a family member – barn attached to Poplars Farm Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NY.

09/12248/FUL – erection of general purpose agricultural building – land off Cresswell Road, Hilderstone, Stone ST15 8SJ.

09/12281/FUL – refurbishment & conversion of existing unused farm buildings, a cowshed & a corn store into a single dwelling – cowshed, Manor farm, Hilderstone Road, Spot Acre, Nr Hilderstone, Stone ST15 8RP

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

09/12243/OUT - 4 detached houses – 5 Golborn Avenue, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LT

(b) Decisions

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

09/11644/FUL – construction of brick detached garage & workshop – Hunters Lodge, Leadendale Lane, Rough Close, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7NJ

09/11760/FUL – 2-storey extension to side of existing dwelling to form new garage & utility/wc at ground level & 2 bedrooms with en-suite at 1st floor level & porch to front of dwelling – 14 Field Close, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9LD

09/11860/FUL – variation of conditions 6, 7 & 11 on permission 08/09751/COU – former Indesit works, Grindley Lane, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent

(c) Other planning issues

None

52/09 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:-

- Road safety/children's crossing officer at Meir Heath
- Provision of dog litter bin for Grindley Lane, Blythe Bridge
- Nuisance bonfires in Birkholme Drive

RESOLVED:-

- (1) This item had been covered in earlier discussions and the Clerk was requested to write again to the Highways Department requesting a meeting with the residents and the school.
- (2) It was agreed that a dog litter bin be requested.
- (3) The Clerk to obtain details of conditions applying to garden bonfires.

(b) Playbuilder project – Groundwork proposals

To assist with the process of submitting the Playbuilder application Groundwork Stoke-on-Trent and Staffordshire have been approached for assistance in the consultation and project design phase. Details of their proposal were circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED

That the Playbuilder working group work with Groundwork within a budget of £2500.

(c) Request for the use of Grindley park for car parking on 19th July

A letter requesting the use of Grindley park for car parking on the 19th July for an event supporting the 'Big Lunch' had been circulated to councillors with the agenda.

RESOLVED

Councillors expressed concerns that using Grindley Park for what was considered a private function could set a precedent, as well as having concerns about the damage that could be done to the area if the day was wet. Therefore it was agreed that permission should not be given. An alternative suggestion to use the village hall car park was offered, subject to an approach being made to the village hall management committee and the hall being available on that day.

53/09 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Burglaries on Windmill Hill – it was reported that there had recently been a spate of burglaries to houses on Windmill Hill.

Parish magazine – input required by the next parish council meeting.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – Members Digest

Open Spaces – summer newsletter

Stafford & rural homes – invitation to open event on 5th August

SPCA newsletter (circulated with agenda)

54/09 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is to be convened at Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall* on **Thursday 13th August 2009 at 7.15 p.m.**

***Please note the change of venue**

CHAIRMAN