

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 12th JUNE 2014 AT 7.15 P.M.
IN MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Roycroft, 2 members of the public & S. Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Evans, Mrs McPherson and Shaw

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public were present and they raised issues concerning speeding in Stallington Road and in particular the lack of support the volunteer speedwatch group are receiving from the police and the Safer Roads Partnership.

Additionally they informed the meeting that the grids in Stallington Road were totally blocked and causing big problems after heavy rain.

55/14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

56/14 POLICE REPORT

None

57/14 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The following was agreed:

1. A letter to go to the Safer Roads Partnership and copied to County Councillor Parry and the Police and Crime Commissioner.
2. Bor.C. Holmes is taking up the issue of the grids with Bill Cash MP

58/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6th May 2014, with some minor amendments and having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

59/14 COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Borough Councillor Roycroft reported that the Plan for Stafford Borough was due to be considered by the Council shortly, following the publication of the Inspector's report.

Borough Councillor Holmes reported on the following:

- The Enforcement Officer is still dealing with Littlefields, Fulford
- Moments Restaurant and The Windmill are both appealing against the refusal of planning applications

- The car wash business has been told to submit a planning application for their signs. Cllr. Oxby raised two issues relating to Fulford village a) the overgrown triangle of land opposite Ivy House Farm and the state of the wall alongside the footpath to the children's play area.

Cllr. Holmes said that the Enforcement Officer had looked at the land opposite Ivy House Farm and did not consider it an issue. The problem with the wall would be reported to the Leisure Services Department.

60/14 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.

61/14 PLANNING

(a) Applications

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

That no objections be raised to the following application:

14/20449/HOU – 2 Lancaster Avenue, Fulford, Stoke-on-Trent – 1st floor side extension.

That objection be raised to the following application:

14/20241/FUL – Stallington Sports Club, Fulford Lane, Stallington, Stoke-on-Trent – the use of sports field for equestrian use. The objection was on the following grounds:

- the application is contrary to the Borough Council's Local Plan as regards the retention and protection of sport facilities.

(b) Decisions

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

Approved:

14/20068/ADV – The Windmill, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath – new business signage (in part, some of the signage has been refused)

14/20177/HOU – 3 Diamond Close, Meir Heath – single storey extension to side and rear

14/20152/HOU – 122 Stallington Road, Blythe Bridge – single storey extension

Refused:

14/20090/FUL - Land off Fulford Dale, Fulford – erection of monopitch agricultural building

(b) Other Planning issues

None

62/14 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING A DECISION BY THE COUNCIL

(a) Items - the notice of which was given to the Clerk

As instructed, the Clerk included the following matters on the agenda for this meeting and the topics were then discussed by members:-

- WW1 Commemoration
- Grass mowing - Fulford Village Green
- Refreshments at PC meetings
- Footpaths
- Flower beds at the end of West View

RESOLVED:

- 1 Several suggestions were made, however it was agreed that this item should be reviewed further at the next meeting in order to take account of any views coming back from members of the public, following the article in the parish newsletter.
- 2 Following a discussion on the frequency of the cutting of the village green by Stafford BC it was agreed, with 1 abstention, that an extra 4 cuts a year would be undertaken at a cost of £30 per cut.
- 3 A proposal to provide refreshments at parish council meetings was rejected by the meeting.
- 4 Cllr. Taylor had approached the farmer on whose land footpath sits with a view to installing 'kissing gates', however the landowner was not keen on the idea, therefore it will not be pursued. Footpath 38 needs hardcore laid at the entrance, the Clerk to get a cost for the work.
- 5 Cllr Miss Noblett reported that these had now been planted out.

(b) Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015-2030)

The Clerk reported that this draft plan was now available for comment with responses required by 4th July.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that a response to this document be delegated to the Planning Committee.

(c) Good Neighbourhood Scheme

Details of this scheme had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that it would be helpful to receive further information from the Community Council of Staffordshire and a representative to be invited to a future meeting. Additionally interest for the scheme to be gauged by putting an article in the next Newsletter and through notices on the noticeboards.

(d) Councillor Vacancy for Blythe Bridge

The Clerk reported that Mrs Barker had resigned as a parish councillor for the Blythe Bridge ward.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to begin the process to co-opt a new councillor.

(e) Community Transport

Details circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

The Clerk to arrange for a presentation to a future meeting.

(f) Bus shelter – Stallington Lane

The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint about the dirty state of the bus shelter in Stallington Lane and in view of the need to keep all the bus shelters clean it was suggested that contract be put in place to clean all 6 on a regular basis.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed the shelters should be cleaned 3 monthly and the Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

(g) Seat for play area on Grindley Park

Details had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the seat be purchased at a cost of £246 plus delivery.

(h) Purchase of a mower

Details had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

The purchase was agreed at a cost of £399 (incl. VAT)

63/14 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr. Mrs Jennings reported on the SPCA 75th anniversary conference which she attended along with Cllrs. Mrs Baskin, Mrs Brayford and Holmes. A number of interesting presentations had been received covering, safeguarding and developing the Staffordshire economy, development of brownfield sites, efforts being made to bring town councils to Stoke-on-Trent, work of the police in Staffordshire and the value of volunteering. The Clerk reported on an incident that had occurred at the entrance to Grindley Park from the common land side (although it has subsequently been established that this land belongs to Persimmon); a lady had slipped when approaching the stile cutting her face on the railings. Although the incident happened on the Persimmon side it was agreed that some hardcore needs to be put down on the Grindley Park side to avoid this path becoming waterlogged.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – members digest (195)

Stafford Borough Council – invitation to Mayoress Afternoon Tea

Stafford Borough Council – As You Like It – Gala performance on 1st July

Highways Agency – details of work to be carried out on the slip roads leading to the A50.

64/14 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Trees on Stallington Lane
- Wildflower meadow
- Neighbourhood watch
- Crossing on Grindley Lane

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be convened at **Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on Thursday 10th July 2014 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN