

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 13th MARCH 2014 AT 7.15 P.M.
IN MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Borough Councillor Dodson and S. Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Barker, Mrs McPherson, Mrs Wheat and Borough Councillors Roycroft

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present; however several issues had been referred to the clerk by email/phone call:

1. Concern over grass verge in front of the Newsagents in Meir Heath.
2. Hedges in front of the Chinese take-away in Meir Heath overgrown and encroaching on the pathway.
3. Newly laid footpath by the mini-roundabout in Meir Heath is becoming slippery with weeds growing through.
4. State of grass verges on Grindley Lane
5. Litter around car park by the post office

21/14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

22/14 POLICE REPORT

None

23/14 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The following was agreed:

Grass verges Grindley Lane & by newsagents – the matter to be again reported to the CC.

Hedges – the clerk to write to the owners requesting they cut their hedge back.

Footpath – to be included on the Highway Team work for when they next visit the area

Litter around post office car park – letter to go to Stafford & Rural Homes (who own this land) requesting action

24/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th February 2014, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/14 COUNTY, BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' & POLICE REPORTS

Borough Councillor Dodson reported that a lot of work is being done by the Borough in relation to planning applications with a lot of speculative planning applications coming in. A large scheme around Stafford Town Centre is currently being developed. Stafford Local Plan is close to being signed off by the Secretary of State
Borough Councillor Holmes reported that there was still no movement regarding Littlefields, Fulford.

26/14 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.

(b) Request for funding

A request to help fund the showing of a film at Meir Heath village hall relating to the Creda factory was considered by the Council

RESOLVED:

As it was unclear as to how any profits made from the event would be used the Council asked for more information before making a decision.

27/14 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:

14/19978/FUL – Blacklake lodge Residential Home, Lake Croft Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – rear single storey extension to provide additional 10 bedrooms, however the council had concerns that this proposed development, along with previous extensions, could result in an extension to the building with disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building, which would be contrary to present Green Belt legislation.

14/19944/FUL – Land Opposite Woodlands Grove, Meir Heath – erection of 20 affordable homes.

14/20068/ADV – The Windmill, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath – new business signage

(b) Decisions

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

Refused:

13/19762/LBD – Stallington Hall, Stallington Road – demolition of Grade 2 listed building

(c) Other Planning issues

None

28/14 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:-

- A50 (Highway Agency Route-based strategies)

RESOLVED:

1 The Council expressed disappointment that the Blythe Bridge roundabout had not been included in this major trunk road investment and the Clerk was asked to write to the CC on this issue.

(b) Litter bin(s) for Grindley Park

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that a new litter bin be purchased at a cost of £95.74 and placed at the entrance to the park from the adjoining common land.

(c) Good Neighbour Scheme

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that further information be requested concerning this scheme

(d) Seat for Grindley Park

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that a new seat be purchased for Grindley Park at a cost of £504 (excluding VAT), this includes delivery and fixing bolts.

(e) Parish Maintenance Contract

The Clerk reported that the current contractor had given a month's notice of termination, finishing at the end of March.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the position be advertised on the parish noticeboards and the council website.

29/14 MATTERS FOR REPORT

1. Cllr Mrs Jennings reported that an earth barrier had been installed around the site of the now demolished George and Dragon pub, rather than a boarded wooden fence, which had been a planning requirement.
2. Stafford Area Committee – the Clerk reported on an email received concerning this committee and asking for views on whether it should continue. The parish council asked the Clerk to make the following observations back to the SPCA:
 - the Council would like to see the Committee continue, even if it means reducing the frequency of the meetings to either 2 or 3 times a year, as it is regarded as a very useful communication tool;
 - consideration should be given to having a sliding scale of subscription based on the size of the parish council, with perhaps the smallest councils only paying a nominal sum of say £5 per year.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – members digest (193)

Stafford Borough Council – details of the dates for the Civic Amenity visits

30/14 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None

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 April 2014 at 8.00 p.m.** The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting that starts at 7.00pm

CHAIRMAN