

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2014 AT 7.15 P.M.
IN FULFORD VILLAGE HALL**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Parry, Borough Councillor Roycroft, PC Dave Perry & PCSO, 8 members of the public & S. Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Lovett, & Mrs Wheat

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public living in Grindley Lane, Blythe Bridge set out their concerns regarding a business being run from 218 Grindley Lane that is causing noise disturbance for neighbours, particularly in the early mornings and also daily highways obstruction and hazard. They believe it goes beyond just a Grindley Lane issue, but is now a Neighbourhood and Highway issue.

107/14 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

108/14 POLICE REPORT

PC Dave Perry reported that everything was quiet with no emerging trends. Cllr Mycock raised the issue of speeding traffic in Stallington Lane and PC Perry agreed to contact the Roadsafety Partnership to see what could be done. Cllr Oxby was concerned about a poor response to a 999 call made from Stallington on the 31st October and Cllr Shaw said there had been several doorstep sellers in the Meir Heath area.

109/14 MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

Noise & traffic nuisance on Grindley Lane – it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Borough Council and County Council asking that action be taken on both environmental and highways grounds. Borough Cllr. Holmes will also raise the issue with both planning and environmental health departments of the Borough Council.

110/14 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 9th October 2014, having been circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

111/14 CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR THE BLYTHE BRIDGE WARD

RESOLVED:

Following presentation by two prospective candidates for the unfilled Blythe Bridge Ward vacancy it was agreed that Mr Jon McNaught be co-opted to the parish council to fill the Blythe Bridge ward vacancy. Having signed the appropriate declaration Mr McNaught joined the remainder of the meeting.

112/14 COUNTY & BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Parry reported that the broadband roll out was continuing and that progress could be viewed on the County Council (CC) website. He noted that the issue of a crossing for Hilderstone Road was again being raised by the Parish Council and he reminded Councillors that any case for a crossing needs to be based on evidence of need. This could be done by the Parish Council themselves or the CC could undertake surveys. He stressed that he is keen to address the problems with the grass verges on Grindley Lane, Meir Heath and noted that this was on the agenda for later in the meeting.

Cllr. Parry was thanked for CC contribution to the refurbishment of the Fulford Village Hall kitchen.

Borough Councillor Holmes reported that Mr Lord (member of the public at the last PC meeting) had been updated on the latest position re: broadband upgrade in Meir Heath. The new route for footpaths 14 & 17 should be finalised in the early part of the New Year.

113/14 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.

114/14 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:

14/21191/HOU – 8 Golborn Avenue, Meir Heath – resubmission of 14/20723/HOU, bedroom extension depth increase by 675mm

14/21201/HOU – Hazelwood, 91 Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath – single storey side extension.

14/21148/HOU – Kandahar, Fulford Road, Cross Gate – amendment to application

14/21278/FUL – Land opp. Woodlands Grove, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath – construction of balancing ponds

14/21297/HOU – The Mynd, Windmill Hill, Rough Close – extension to existing property

That objections to approval be made to the following applications:

14/21163/FUL – Blacklake Lodge Residential Home, Lake Croft Drive, Meir Heath – single storey extension to the rear of Blacklake Lodge to provide an additional 10 bedrooms. The reasons for objection were:

- The proposed extension is too close to the boundary of the site and could impact on the hedgerow and trees in the area;
- The development is not in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework or the Borough's Plan for Stafford Borough in that the development is within the North Staffordshire Green Belt.
14/21114/OUT – Adjacent to Stallington Grange Farm, Grindley Lane, Meir Heath – residential development for one new dwelling. The reason for objection was:
- The outline proposal does not comply with the Plan for Stafford Borough in that the development proposed is within a designated Green Belt area of the Borough.

The following application was discussed by the full council with the decision made to object to the proposal:

14/21223/COU – Woodfield, Hilderstone Road, Spot Acre – removal of condition 2 of permission granted on appeal dated 10th December 2009 The reason for objection was:

- The site is within the North Staffordshire Green Belt and present Government Policy states that “Inappropriate development is harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved, except in very special circumstances. Traveller sites (temporary or permanent) in the Green Belt are inappropriate development. Green Belt boundaries should be altered only in exceptional circumstances”

(b) Decisions

The following decisions were reported as having been made by the Borough Council:

Approved:

14/21006/FUL - 424 Sandon Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – installation of security shutters to shop front

Withdrawn:

14/20771/COU – 420 Sandon Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent – single storey side extension and rear extension and change of use of side and rear extension to A3 and A5

14/20779/REM – 5 Golborn Avenue, Meir Heath – reserved matters

(c) Other Planning Issues – suggested National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Email from Borough Council circulated with the meeting papers.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed to support the suggested amendment to para. 47 of the NPPF

115/14 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:-

- Fulford Community Choir

RESOLVED:

- (a) It was agreed that the Parish Council would donate £25 per year to the Choir to enable them to photocopy music required by the choir. This would be kept under review.

(b) Dates for 2015 Parish Council meetings

RESOLVED:

The dates were noted.

(c) Voluntary Car Scheme

This item was carried forward from the previous meeting; however no further progress had been made in the recruitment of volunteers.

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that despite the lack of volunteers an effort should be made to get a scheme of the ground in Fulford village. Further publicity will be given in the Parish Newsletter and notice boards.

(d) Grindley Lane – grass verges

Some thoughts on a possible way forward prepared by the County Council had been circulated with the meeting papers

RESOLVED:

It was agreed that the proposals put forward by the County Council should be explored further having particular regard to cost, type of posts used and the extent of the scheme. The clerk to inform the CC of the Parish Council's wish to move this proposed scheme forward.

116/14 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Community Paths Initiative (CPI) – The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's application for CPI money had been successful with an award of £700

Review of local bus services – the Clerk reported that the County Council were undertaking a review of CC subsidised bus services including the Longton to Stone service. Details to be included in the Newsletter.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Stafford Borough Council – members digests (200 & 201)

Stafford Borough Council – Borough Council Carol Service Sunday 21st December

Community Council of Staffordshire – Best Kept Village Competition

Stafford Borough Council – Mayor's 400th anniversary charity ball 5th December

Fulford Village Group – thank you letter

Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association – Annual report & accounts

117/14 ITEM(S) FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Road crossing – Hilderstone Road

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be convened at **Meir Heath & Rough Close Village Hall on Thursday 11th December 2014 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN