

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2009 AT 7.30 P.M.
AT MEIR HEATH & ROUGH CLOSE VILLAGE HALL**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Brayford (Chairman), Baggaley, Mrs Bennett, Colclough, Lovatt, Mrs McPherson, Mycock, Oxby, Shaw, Taylor and Mrs Wheat.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Parry, Borough Councillors Harp & Roycroft, approx. 80 members of the public and S Beck (Clerk).

APOLOGIES: Councillors Brayford, Mrs Holmes, Holmes, Moore, Mrs Weaver

OTHER NON-ATTENDEES: Councillor Bevan

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public present expressed concern over 2 issues:

1. Proposed development on the George and Dragon site, Rough Close – residents of Rough Close who were at the meeting expressed concern at the proposed development and informed the Council that they were opposed to the development for a number of reasons, but in particular:
 - The proposals were totally inappropriate and not in keeping with a small village;
 - The road (A520) alongside where this development would take place is very busy and an accident black spot, increasing the numbers of vehicles coming away from the number of units proposed will only lead to increased traffic and the possibility of more accidents;
 - There are no facilities to support this development – the primary school is oversubscribed, no shops and a very limited bus service;
 - The George and Dragon has been on this site for 175 years and is presently under consideration for listed building status.

Cllr Parry also expressed his concern to this development and said he would oppose it and Borough Councillor Harp said that the application would be called in by Borough Councillor Oldfield. This item is covered further under minute 66/09(3)

2. A50 noise barriers – residents in Charterley Close, Blythe Bridge again expressed their concern at the lack of action by the Highways Agency over the replacement of sound barriers alongside the A50.

Cllr. Parry said he is continuing to press for action by the Highways Agency, as is William Cash, MP. Cllr Mrs Brayford will be organising a public meeting as soon as further information, including acoustic data, is obtained from the Agency

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr. Mrs Wheat declared an interest in agenda item 7(c)

63/09 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 13th August 2009, having been circulated, be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

64/09 COUNTY, BOROUGH COUNCILLORS' & POLICE REPORTS

County Councillor Parry confirmed that he is still pursuing the issues relating to Hilderstone Road and attempts to get a solution to speeding traffic and difficulties for pedestrians when crossing the road at busy times i.e. school starting and finishing.

He reported that he was not happy with the concept of a 'respect day' to be run by Stafford and Rural Homes in Blythe Bridge as he felt it was not appropriate. He also reported that Blythe Bridge HS had achieved excellent GCSE results with a sustained improvement over the last 5 years. The 6th form also had 150 students enrolled.

Borough Councillor Harp reported that 54 Birkholme Drive was now considerably tidier and he showed before and after photographs to Councillors. The Borough Council will not be taken any further action, although it will be monitored from time to time. Borough Councillor Roycroft had nothing to report regarding the gypsy site appeal.

There was no report from the police.

65/09 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) To receive the Internal Audit report

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the report be accepted and the Finance & General Purpose Committee be charged with following up the recommendations contained in the report.

(c) Request for a donation from Vitalise

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk to seek more information from the organisation as to the extent of their work in the Parish.

(d) Remembrance Day Wreath

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Council make a donation of £75 to the poppy appeal that includes the purchase of a 17" wreath (£16.50).

(e) Flowers for planters

RESOLVED:

Following discussion it was agreed that £50 worth of plants should be purchased for each planter owned by the Parish Council per year.

66/09 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 applications:-

09/12402/FUL/09/12403/LBC – proposed new boat cap roof to existing windmill, repairs & refurbishment/restoration for use as a cultural & heritage visitor centre – The Windmill, Hilderstone Road, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent.
08/11253/FUL – garden boundary fence – 2 Nightingale Walk, Stallington, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9TW

(b) Decisions

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

09/12076/FUL – UPVC conservatory at first floor level – 64 Birkholme Drive, Meir Heath, Stoke-on-Trent ST3 7LS

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

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

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

09/12356/FUL – partial demolition of existing ground floor single storey sections & replacement with single storey extension providing new porch, garage, kitchen, utility & sun room – 15 Adamthwaite Drive, Blythe Bridge, Stoke-on-Trent ST11 9HL

- (c) **Other planning issues – 09/12464/FUL proposed new build of 26 residential units on the site of the George & Dragon, Rough Close**
(Cllr Mrs Wheat having declared a prejudicial interest left the room whilst this application was discussed.)

Due to the controversial nature of this application it had been referred to the full council for them to take a view.

RESOLVED:

The Council fully supported the many residents who attended the meeting in their objections to this proposal and asked the Clerk to write to the Borough Council to voice the Parish's objection for the following reasons:

- The proposals are totally out of keeping with this small traditional village that has a number of old buildings and cottages. A multi-storey development would despoil the whole skyline and be an inappropriate development in this locality;
- The proposed development is next to the A520 which is a well used, not only by cars, but heavy vehicles heading for the A34 and the M6. This road has seen a number of accidents and fatalities in recent years close to this particular site. Having a development that would include 37 car parking places, which can be assumed would mean at least this number of cars and probably more accessing what is already a very busy and dangerous road would simply exacerbate the existing problems;

- There are very few facilities in the village with a small oversubscribed primary school, no shops and a very limited and infrequent bus service
- The George and Dragon public house is 175 years old and is presently, so the Council understands, being considered for listed building status;
- The Borough's Local Development Framework – Delivering the Plan for Stafford Borough Issues and Options (Feb. 2009) does not identify any part of Fulford Parish (and this includes Rough Close) as being potential locations for new housing development.

67/09 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:-

- Walking and Cycling Strategies for Staffordshire

RESOLVED:-

That a response to these 2 strategies be delegated to Cllr. Oxby and the Clerk.

(b) Playbuilder working group

Minutes of the meeting of this group was circulated prior to the meeting. The clerk was asked to leave the room whilst discussion took place regarding the Playbuilder bid and his involvement. Cllr Brayford explained that a revised quotation from Groundwork for co-ordinating the bid on our behalf had been received for £7000+ (which a £3000 spend had been previously agreed). Sandon High School had also offered to take a major role in our application for funds.

RESOLVED

That the minutes be accepted and following a discussion, it was proposed to ask Stephen Beck to spearhead our application, with his hours to be remunerated on an hourly basis in addition to his usually monthly salary due to the increased hours that would be required on this project. The motion was carried unanimously. “

(c) Adoption of local red telephone kiosks

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk finds out further information from the Borough Council as to the implications of this proposal for the future of the telephone equipment in the kiosks.

(d) Letter from William Cash, MP seeking support for opposition to mineral extraction in the area

RESOLVED:

The Council confirmed their ongoing opposition to both the level of sand and gravel that the region was seeking from Staffordshire and the proposals to extract minerals from Fulford and Moddershall Dales.

68/09 MATTERS FOR REPORT

Report of flooding in Uttoxeter Road – The Clerk reported that he had received a letter and photographs detailing problems with flooding during heavy rain from a resident in Uttoxeter Road. As this was a drainage issue the Clerk was asked to write to the Highways Department to try and seek a solution.

The Youth of Today – a request to join the Local Councillor Shadowing Programme has been received. It was agreed to offer an opportunity for a young person to shadow a councillor(s).

SPCA Executive Committee – request for nominations for the SPCA Executive has been received. Response required by 30th October.

Receipt of the following correspondence/reports was noted:-

Staffordshire County Council – bus service changes from September 2009

South Staffordshire Care Trust - notice of AGM on 30th September

Community Council of Staffordshire = notice of AGM on 24th September

SPCA – notification of Locality Action Working meeting on 28th September

Stafford Borough Council – notification of Parish forum on 1st October

69/09 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 8th October 2009 at 7.15 p.m.**

CHAIRMAN