



Chairman  
Cllr. John Bradbeer  
01782 399393



Clerk to F.P.C.  
Martin J. Manley  
01889 563546

## Parish Council News

Since the last issue of the Parish Newsletter, two new councillors have been appointed, Councillor Tim Beasley, representing Fulford Ward, and Councillor Shirley Wheat, representing Blythe Bridge. A warm welcome is extended to both of them.

It is pleasing to see more members of the public attending our monthly Parish Council meetings. Clearly residents are now more interested in local issues, and hopefully look to our council for information and guidance.

During the last three months the Parish Council have made some major decisions. In particular: -

1. In response to problems with both motorcycles and exuberant football players on Grindley Park, fencing will be erected from top to bottom of the boundary, but still allowing public access via kissing gates.

2. A parish office and meeting room is being considered which would be an annex to the Meir Heath and Rough Close Village Hall. Benefits would include: -

(a) Viewing of advice re local plans and planning issues will be available locally, and visits to Stafford will be less necessary.

(b) Parish/Borough/County Councillors will make use of the facilities and hold surgeries with local residents, and use them for council

meetings, etc.

(c) Encouragement of more parishioners to make use of the annexed village hall.

Progress on the project will be reported in future issues.

Due to requests from members of the public, an up to date picture is given regarding the gypsy site on Hilderstone Road at each Parish Council meeting. Up to going to press we can say that an enforcement notice was served on 11th July, which is effective from 30th August 2005. We do expect an appeal to be lodged, and further progress will be reported in further issues.

The dog fouling initiatives, introduced in Meir Heath which involved stencilling signs onto the pavements to make dog owners more aware of their responsibilities, have been favourably received, and they are currently being rolled out into the Fulford ward.

Finally, the Council is investigating the feasibility of having its own website. A small working party is seeking to identify (a) whether a site is necessary, (b) the benefits to the council, (c) data to be held, (d) the maintenance of the site. The recommendations will be put to the council in due time.



Cllr. Richard Mycock  
01782 396869

Cllr. Ken Brayford  
01782 393157

Cllr. Kath Brayford  
01782 393157

Cllr. Ellis Bevan  
01782 393140

Cllr. Shirley Wheat  
01782 395133

## Blythe Bridge Ward News

**A50** - There is no further information about the A50 to present. Houses that border onto the A50 from Creda roundabout to the Uttoxeter roundabout are being consulted about tree pruning by the Highways Agency.

**Planning** - The Parish Council objected to the proposed development on the health centre site. There are concerns for the density of the development and the entrance of the site which is close to a busy road junction. If you are concerned about any planning issues, telephone any of the above numbers.

**Dog Fouling** - Dog fouling is an ongoing concern in the Blythe Bridge Ward. Please contact the Dog warden or a councillor so that action can be taken to prevent this.

**The Bus Shelter on Uttoxeter Road Blythe Bridge** - Following complaints about the appalling state of the bus shelter. It was put on the agenda and discussed during the Parish Council meeting. It was agreed that we should look at the cost of repairs to the bus shelter and also the cost of replacing it with a different type of shelter that would discourage vandalism.

**Stallington Lane** - Parish Councillors are monitoring the amount of heavy-duty vehicles and the speed that they are travelling at in Stallington

Lane and Stallington Road. There has been a noticeable increase in this type of vehicles using these lanes as a short cut to Hilderstone Road and not delivering to The Stallington Village Site.

**Play Area** - The feedback about play facilities in the Blythe Bridge area has shown that two separate play areas are required. There is a lack of play facilities for young children under the age of seven and a separate kick about area for older children. It has been suggested that a young children's play area would be ideally placed not far from the flats or houses so that it is not any distance to take the children to play, and that the kick about area is away from the houses and that all that is required is an area where football or basket ball can be played. If you can identify suitable areas for either facility will you please contact one of the above councillor with your suggestions.

**Notice Board at Blythe Lodge** - If there are any local organisations that would like to inform the community of future events by advertising in the notice board please contact Councillor Shirley Wheat for further information. Shirley can be contacted on **01782 395133**

The Parish Council are planning to have a second notice board by the bus shelter and shops on Uttoxeter Road.



Cllr. John Bedson  
01782 393251

Cllr. Martin Oxby  
Vice Chairman  
01782 397629

Cllr. Frank Colclough  
01889 505325

Cllr. Tim Beasley

## Fulford Ward News

Recent reports that a farm off Hilderstone Road has been sold to a quarrying company have been brought to the attention of the Parish Council; naturally the Parish Council will be strongly resisting any sand or gravel extraction plans.

In spite of the Parish objecting to a Change of Use application for the Old Hospital Car Park on Stallington Road to be used for motorcycle training purposes, the Borough Planning authorities have seen fit to allow it.

Incidents of "inappropriate behaviour" by young car drivers on the Village Hall and the Church car parks have been reported to the police – residents witnessing such are advised to report likewise. NOTE: Leaving or depositing litter is a criminal offence, subject to a maximum fine of £2,500. Either the police or a local authority can prosecute litter droppers.

**Telephone Boxes** - BT proposes that their payphone telephone kiosks at Post Office Terrace and at Moss Lane are converted to card only use.

**Gypsy Site** - Stafford Borough Council has issued an Enforcement Notice re the gypsy site of 5 pitches, 10 caravans (trailers) and 5 utilities located off Hilderstone Road at Spot Acre. This notice takes effect from 30th August

2005, unless an appeal is made before this date.

**Fulford Village Green** - The carriageway resurfacing from Baulk Lane towards Townend have been completed, including the surfacing of the footpath that leads from Highview to the Green. After consultation with the adjacent residents, the Parish Council pressed for the "tidying up" right around the Village Green, by re-profiling and resurfacing the tracks on the two sides of the Village Green, and with the use of cobble setts to edge the roads and the Green. The Parish Council will now be considering the replacement of the posts on the Green.

Your ideas for other improvements to the local environment should be passed to one of the ward councillors.

**Balaams Lane, Moss Gate** - Councillors conducted a survey of the residents as to whether they wanted any improvement to the street lighting in Balaams Lane. With only 18% of the residents in favour of any further lights, the Parish Council is not taking this any further.

**Stallington Hospital** - Permission has been granted for the developer's plans for alterations to the former Hall and stables to form 28 dwelling units.



Cllr. Andrew Lovatt

Cllr. John Bradbeer  
Chairman  
01782 399393

Cllr. S. Deakin  
01782 392491

## Rough Close Ward News

### The Common

A meeting between the biodiversity officer and local parish councillors resulted in the management programme for the remainder of this year being outlined. This includes:

Heathland scrapes (October),  
Gorse control (December and January),  
Scrub control (December and January),  
Bracken control (August and September),  
Verges to the Common (completed).

Consultations have taken place and it is hoped that the application to DEFRA will go ahead in the autumn. With any luck, fencing and livestock may be a reality before next spring. Footpaths and rights of way are very much to the forefront and realignments should be in place before the end of the year.

### Benches

As many of you will have seen, the Windmill Hill bench has been repainted, and I think everyone will agree, looks much better.

### Traffic Control

In an effort to control speed at the roundabout at the bottom of Windmill Hill notices indicating speed restrictions are now in position and the Borough are starting proceedings hopefully to reduce the speed limit in Hartwell Lane.

### Notice Boards

The notice board outside St Matthew's school has been deemed unsafe, and has been removed.

### Neighbourhood Watch

Since we last reported, fortunately there have been no further incidents. However as before, the Neighbourhood Watch chairman urges residents to remain vigilant, and report any suspected happenings to their local co-ordinator.

There are still a few areas which would benefit from having their own co-ordinator, namely: The lower half of Windmill Hill; Lightwood Road (from Swynnerton Arms to Little Lane); Part of upper Common Lane.

May we remind everyone, when your home insurance is due, that discounts are available from most insurance companies for Neighbourhood Watch areas.



Cllr. Barry Goodfellow  
01782 399837

Cllr. Barry Shaw  
01782 394922

Cllr. Roy Taylor  
01782 392548

Cllr. Grace Holme  
01782 394525

Cllr. John Insley

## Meir Heath Ward News

**Grindley Park** - We are currently carrying out some improvements to the Park, namely repairing and re-painting the furniture, and trying to keep the litter under control, particularly after the weekends, when litter is at its worst, even though bins are provided for its deposit.

After complaints from members of the public, we are extending the protective netting behind the goalpost near to Sandon Road, so as to contain the footballs within the Park. Complaints are made on a regular basis about motorcyclists encroaching onto the area, and we are fencing off the boundary of the park adjacent to the open land to the northwest, to prevent their access from there. We are incorporating a kissing gate to allow pedestrian access.

The pavement signs to remind dog owners of their duty to remove their dogs' excrement has had mixed success. We will continue with our efforts to control this anti-social behaviour, and remind the public that this is an offence, and offenders can receive large fines!

If you have hedges, shrubs or trees which are sited adjacent to public walkways or footpaths,

may we ask you to check whether they are encroaching onto these areas. Would you please cut back any such branches so that they do not cause a nuisance or danger to others? We receive quite a few complaints about overhanging vegetation, which we refer to Staffordshire County Council. They, in turn, contact the owners, requesting that the offending growth be cut back, and if this is not complied with in reasonable time, the Council can carry out the work and recover the cost from the owner.

All residents should be aware that they could be sued for damage if someone is injured or their clothes or property are damaged by overhanging branches.



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## **MSW MAINTENANCE**



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## Bulletin Board

### Correspondence

To the Editor of Fulford Parish News.

A national campaign entitled "SAVE OUR STREETS" was launched earlier this year by Bill Bryson and in conjunction with National Federation of Women's Institutes and English Heritage. Each WI throughout the country was issued with an audit check list, members were asked to conduct a survey in the area where they lived. The aim of the campaign was to free our streets with unnecessary clutter, i.e. unwanted signs etc. to record the state of the grass verges and public seating areas etc. Being president of Rough Close WI, I conducted the survey and reported my findings to Mr Barry Shaw. On behalf of Rough Close WI, I would like to thank Barry for addressing all the issues raised in the audit. Hopefully you may wish to include the letter in the next issue of Fulford Parish News.

Yours faithfully,  
K Beardmore (Mrs)

### A Brief History of Rough Close



Rough Close is a corruption of "Rough Cote", meaning a rough hut for a shepherd.

William Yates' map of 1775 shows Rough Close standing on a T-junction, the roads being the Stone Road, Lightwood Road, and Windmill Hill. Meir Heath is the vast heathland covering as far as Spot Gate, Moddershall, Leadendale, and possibly even to what is now Meir, and Normacot. Hartwell Lane is shown merely as a track.

In the 19th century reference is made to several springs "which gush from under the sandstone formation of Meir Heath." One of the springs was known locally as "The Ludwall", which originates from the Saxon Leod-wall = The People's Well. Indeed at least one well near to the crossroads was used well into the 20th century, until mains water was run to the area from Longton.

A small brick church was built in 1849, containing a turret and bell, and seating for eighty people. It was also used as a Sunday school. There was also a Methodist New Connexion chapel in the village. There is a mention of the Lord of the Manor in 1872, being one John Broughton of Hamilton Hall, Market Drayton. The principle landowners were the Duke of Sutherland, and Sir Smith Child Bart M.P. of Stallington Hall.

Silk lawn, for the pottery trade was manufactured at the bottom of the common, on Hartwell Lane.

In 1892 there was a post office on Stone Road, where letters would arrive from Stone by messenger, at 9am, and despatched at 4.30pm. Letters for Meir Heath (sic) arrived from Stoke, via Blythe Bridge, at 7am. The nearest money order office was at Dresden, and the nearest telegraph office was at Longton.

The first purpose built school in the village seems to have been in 1896, with about 60 pupils attending. The village appears to have had a policeman patrolling the area, one Constable Herbert Johnson.

A United Reform Chapel is recorded in the archives of 1908. Later on the school attendance figures dropped dramatically to 45, with seemingly no reasons given. A new school opened in the area perhaps, or an epidemic?

Autumn 2005  
Issue 12

Brookfields began a bus service from Longton to Stone, via Meir Heath, in 1926, and in 1929 J Lymer began a service between Longton and Hilderstone.

Interestingly, there appears to have been a very important and ancient farm at Hartwell. In the 14th century it was described as "consisting of a hall with chambers, a kitchen, a bakehouse, a gatehouse with a stable, a chamber by the gate, and a building outside the moat".

An indication of how inflation has developed over the years is given in an account of repairs to the gatehouse and barn at Hartwell, about 1405. The work cost £2 13s 5d (someone explain it to the young ones), and included the wages of a master carpenter working for 7 weeks and 2 days at 2s 4d a week, of other carpenters working for a shorter time, of a thatcher and two female assistants, of four men who carried out the daubing of the barn walls, and of a man who gathered sticks for the wattle and daub process!

### **Meir Heath Windmill Group**

The History Group will meet at St Francis Church Hall on 12th September at 7.30pm when the guest speaker Terry Wooliscroft will amuse the meeting with The Tale of a Toilet.

The Windmill Group will meet at the above venue on 14th September at 8pm after the Brownies leave the Hall. Anyone wishing to join the Group will be welcome.

In July Adam Hill, Leisure Officer for Stafford Borough Council came with two other people to look at the Windmill with the view to SBC taking it on, and our group raising money for the Educational facility. As yet no decision has been taken as the conservation officer is on holiday and he needs reports from other people before he can let me know. No news is good news. They haven't said no!

We hope to have a Quiz evening at Meir Heath Primary School in October and there will be posters with information on them in the village in September.

Readers may be interested to know that I have another book published in September. Fenton and Crown Staffordshire China. I have researched and written this because I grew up in Fenton, and both of my parents worked at Crown Staffs for 40 years, and it is a beautiful pottery. The Hanley Museum and Potteries Art Gallery will have them on sale, and a well-known music shop in Longton. Details from G Swift 01782 317521.

### **Saving Water in the Home**

We are getting drier summers by the year in the U.K., and with them, hosepipe bans are becoming commonplace. Saving water makes sense since building new reservoirs is very expensive, and eventually we the householders pay the price for them in our water bills.

Some of the following tips may be useful and easy ways to save water.

Washing fruit and vegetables in a bowl, rather than in running water, and using the left over water to water your house plants.

Running the tap until the water is cold enough for drinking is wasteful. Why not keep a jug of cold water in the fridge?

Wait until you have a full load of washing before switching your machine on. Half-loads use just as much water as full ones.

Taking a shower uses about a third of the water of a bath.

Some old toilet cisterns use up to 9 litres of water per flush. Water "hippos" or "save-a-flush" devices can save water, but remember

that in some cases, reducing the water in the cistern can mean having to flush twice, so no gain is achieved.

Replace washers on any dripping taps. This is a quick and easy way to save water. Lagging your water pipes in good time for winter can prevent burst pipes, which can waste water and cause damage.

Finally, consider installing a water meter if you don't already have one. They are installed free, and you can change your mind - within the first year you can have them removed without charge. Many people find their water bills significantly reduced by having a meter.

## Tree Preservation Order

We are frequently asked about protected trees I hope the following information will help.

### Protected Trees

Local planning authorities have specific powers to protect trees by making Tree Preservation Orders. Special provisions also apply to trees within Conservation Areas.

### What is a Preservation Order?

A preservation order is an order made by the local planning authority which in general makes it an offence to cut down, lop, uproot, wilfully damage or wilfully destroy a tree

without the planning authority's permission.

### What is the purpose of a Tree Preservation Order?

The purpose of such an order is to protect trees which make a significant impact on their local surroundings.

### How Can I find out if a tree is covered by an order?

Details of all orders are available for inspection at the local planning authority. An official search of the local land charges register can be made before you purchase a property.

### What type of trees can be covered by an order?

All types, including hedgerow trees but not hedges, bushes or shrubs. The order can cover anything from a single tree to woodlands.

### If I see work being carried out on a protected tree, how can I find out if the owner has permission?

Check with the local planning authority. It has a register of applications and decisions which you can look at.

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**STREET SCENE** - ONE phone call, one solution – that’s the message from Stafford Borough Council with the launch of its new "Street Scene" service. The special hotline means that a wide range of environmental issues, such as littering, graffiti, dog mess, sharps, fly tipping and problems with children’s play areas, can all be reported with just one phone call. The new service follows a review of the Borough Council’s environmental maintenance service to make it more efficient, flexible and accessible. Street Scene Hotline: 01785 619401 (8.30 am – 5pm). [streetscene@staffordbc.gov.uk](mailto:streetscene@staffordbc.gov.uk)

**Saving Lives**

Guidance to the Establishment and Operation of a Community First Response (CFR) Scheme in Staffordshire:

A Community First Response (CFR) Scheme is a group of trained volunteers dedicated to a specific area that, under the control of the Ambulance Service, are notified of medical emergencies in their area and agree to respond and provide emergency life support until the arrival of the Ambulance Service.

CFR schemes are not expected to be called upon to respond to more than an average of one emergency per week, however, such emergencies could be expected to occur at any time of day and be of any nature.

The establishment and operation of a CFR scheme is a major undertaking, a significant responsibility, and will involve a great deal of work for the CFR co-ordinator and team members.

A scheme will only be successful if it is supported by the community that it serves and has enough volunteers to guarantee a continuous service.

The above statement is a copy of the opening paragraphs of a rather long document which the Parish Council has not had the opportunity to discuss as yet. However, we

believe it is important that we give you a flavour of it as soon as possible. We will of course be discussing it at length and hold a public meeting on the subject if appropriate.

It might help at this stage if anyone who is interested in participating in such a scheme could let their local councillor know so that we can get a flavour of whether we could put a team together.

The CFR would expect volunteers to be between 18 and 70 years of age, physically fit, committed to training and responding, hold a clean driving licence or have a friend/partner who has one, have no criminal record, and be able to maintain full confidentiality about patients and incidents.

This is a serious commitment for anyone to undertake, involving lots of training and responsibility, but is obviously in a very worthwhile cause, and could literally mean saving lives in those precious minutes between an incident occurring and the arrival of an ambulance.

Please give serious consideration of this scheme before volunteering.  
 Thank you!

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## Dates for 2005 meetings

Dates for 2005 meetings

Thursday 8th September at Meir Heath &  
Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 13th October at Meir Heath &  
Rough Close Village Hall

Thursday 10th November at Fulford  
Village Hall

Thursday 8th December at Meir Heath &  
Rough Close Village Hall

Note: All meetings start at 7.15pm with an opportunity for any local government elector from the Parish to ask questions of the Parish Council relating to any Parish issue. At the formal meeting, which follows at 7:30 pm, these matters will then be considered; the public may also attend but are not usually invited to join the debate. Alternatively, write to the Clerk such that the matter can be raised.

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Stafford Borough Council  
General Enquiries Tel: (01785) 619000  
or <http://www.staffordbc.gov.uk>

Staffordshire County Council  
General Enquiries Tel: 01785 223121  
<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/live/welcome.asp>

Community Beat Officer  
PC 4884 Gareth Hilditch based at Stone Police Station is the  
Community Beat Officer for our area.

NOTE: Urgent emergency number: 999  
Non-urgent number: 0845 3 302010  
Fly Tipping clearance: 01785 619401

Planning worries?  
Tel: 01785 276151  
or go online [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/planning)

## Civic Amenity Visits:

A REFUSE LORRY will be available between 9am and  
11am on the following Saturdays for the collection of  
household items.

Fulford Village Hall - Sat 1st October 9:00 - 11:00

Blythe Bridge, Mayfield Drive - Sat 15th October 9.00 -  
11.00

Rough Close - Common Road Lay-by - 29th October  
9.00 - 11.00

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## Members of the Council

### Finance and General Purposes Committee

John Bedson, Ellis Bevan, Roy  
Taylor, Andrew Lovatt, Chairman  
and Vice-Chairman ex officio

### Grindley Park Management Group

Martin Oxy, Kath Brayford, Andrew  
Lovatt and all members of the Meir  
Heath Ward

### Parish Newsletter Working Party

Tim Beasley, Richard Mycock, John  
Bradbeer, Martin Oxy, Barry Shaw,  
Roy Taylor, Andrew Lovatt,  
Kath Brayford & Sheila Deakin.

### Planning Coordinators

Richard Mycock (Blythe Bridge)  
Frank Colclough (Fulford)  
Barry Shaw (Meir Heath)  
John Bradbeer (Rough Close)

### Representatives to outside bodies

Fulford Primary LEA Governor:  
Frank Colclough  
Fulford Village Hall: Cllr. Richard Mycock  
Meir Heath Primary School:  
Cllr. Barry Goodfellow  
Meir Heath/Rough Close  
Village Hall: Cllr. Goodfellow  
Springcroft Primary School LEA Governor:  
Cllr. Richard Mycock  
Staffordshire Parish Councils Association:  
Cllr Kath Brayford & Cllr Richard Mycock  
Sustainable Committee: Cllr. John Insley