

# MONTHLY UPDATE



**The Parish Council meets formally each month. Here are some of the things discussed at the meeting on December 11th 2025. The detailed minutes are available on our website.**

Fradley Parish Council met on 11 December 2025 at Fradley Village Hall, with Councillors Ashcroft, Beswick, Leytham (Chair) and Stroud present, alongside the Clerk/RFO, District and Ward Councillor Derick Cross, and six members of the public.

The meeting opened with no apologies or declarations of interest. A significant item of business was the co-option of four new councillors: Tosh Crompton, Derick Cross, Jan Leytham-Gain and Jon Sealey, who were formally appointed following a vote of Council. Each signed their Declaration of Acceptance of Office, strengthening the Council's capacity going into the new year.

During public participation, residents raised concerns about unauthorised works at Junction House, Fradley Junction, a listed building within a conservation area. Issues included the installation of gates and floodlighting and the removal of established hedging. Councillor Cross confirmed that Lichfield District Council's Enforcement and Conservation teams were actively investigating, stop notices had been issued, and a retrospective planning application was expected. Councillor Cross also responded to questions on the relocation of badger setts linked to the Bloor Homes development, confirming that ecological mitigation and drainage controls form part of the planning conditions. Wider concerns were raised about infrastructure pressures, particularly healthcare provision, and the limitations placed on local planning control by national housing policy.

Councillor Cross also provided updates on the Worthington Road Play Park refurbishment, confirming that tenders had been received and that works were expected to commence by early February. Funding arrangements were explained, including the split between the play park project and the refurbishment of St Stephen's Church to improve its long-term sustainability. A written report from Councillor Stephenson outlined the approval of the Bloor Homes development despite strong local opposition, detailing both the objections raised and the concessions secured for residents.

The Council approved the minutes of the October meeting and formally noted that the planning complaint raised earlier in the meeting required no further action. Members then considered and approved a major item of festive expenditure: the Christmas lighting project. This included approving the motif designs, installation costs, a 36-month electricity supply contract, and professional event management support to ensure public safety at the switch-on event. Importantly, members agreed that the total project cost of £14,229.49 would be funded from underspent budget lines rather than general reserves.

Planning matters were noted, with no comments submitted on a Section 73 application at Heath Gap, and several planning approvals elsewhere in the parish acknowledged.

The Council approved payments for November and December, noted income including Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts, and agreed the unaudited accounts to 30 November 2025. Members then approved the draft budget for 2026/27, including minor amendments, and set the precept at £141,080.97, representing a 4.18% increase, the first since 2022.

Community grant funding was agreed, awarding £500 to the 1st Fradley Guides, with a further £600 grant for St Stephen's Churchyard Men's Working Group subject to confirmation of need.

Following reports and diary updates, the meeting moved into confidential session to consider staffing matters, approving salary-related budget provisions and future incremental increases linked to qualifications.

The meeting closed at 9:42pm.

