

MONTHLY UPDATE



The Parish Council meets formally each month. Here are some of the things discussed at the meeting on January 15th 2026. The detailed minutes are available on our website.

Fradley Parish Council met at 7:00pm on 15 January 2026 at Fradley Village Hall. Councillors Ashcroft, Beswick, Crompton, Chair Leytham, Jan Leytham-Gain and Stroud were present. Also in attendance were the Clerk/RFO, District & Ward Councillor Richard Stephenson, and County Councillor Richard Holland. No members of the public attended.

There were no apologies for absence, no declarations of interest, and no candidates for co-option. The Council confirmed there were no variations to the order of business and approved the minutes of the 11 December 2025 meeting unanimously.

District and County Councillor Reports

District Councillor Stephenson reported positively on the opening of the new leisure centre at Stychbrook, noting strong feedback, especially on swimming facilities and clarified that it operates on a pay-as-you-go basis without requiring membership. He warned members to be mindful of potential financial implications arising from Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), including the possibility that district elections may not take place in 2027 if the district council is abolished. This could mean parish councils may face the full cost of any future contested elections, estimated at £8,000.

He also raised concerns about litter issues following recycling collections (particularly blue bags) and confirmed he had escalated this with the relevant district cabinet member. On planning, he advised he had called in several significant applications, including Junction House, the Vistry Horner Avenue scheme (noting major changes including a move to 100% affordable housing and alterations to mix and design), and the Midland Pig Producers Canalside development (Phase 1), requesting that original intentions, particularly provision aimed at over-50s be maintained. He also updated members on forthcoming food waste recycling proposals, expected to introduce weekly collections around May, and highlighted consultation on Mini Nature Reserves across the district, suggesting this may be of future interest to Fradley.

County Councillor Holland advised Staffordshire County Council tax was expected to rise by 3.99% and provided an update on highways repairs, explaining potholes are now categorised by severity and urging residents to report issues online. He noted an imminent Prologis planning application for the Palletways site, with possible traffic implications for Fradley. On the Bloor Homes development, he confirmed continued engagement with residents and upcoming discussions with the developer, focusing particularly on Church Lane flooding and drainage. He explained that Bloor's original offer of works has shifted to a financial contribution (now £30,000), with assurances from the county council that drainage improvements will be completed before building begins. He also updated on LGR discussions, funding support given towards the St Stephen's Church bell repair, and emerging interest in a microbrewery for the Stirling Centre. The Council also raised concerns about the reduced advocacy for Speed Indicator Devices; the Clerk will share highways correspondence with Cllr Holland.

Planning Matters

The Council considered multiple planning applications and agreed its responses unanimously. It resolved to make no comment on several domestic applications, noted resident concerns regarding the Junction House retrospective listed building and householder applications (both called in by Cllr Stephenson), noted FRAG's objection to the Horner Avenue Section 73 application (also called in), raised no objection to Phase 1 of the Midland Pig Producers reserved matters application, and noted that the Bear Cottage Heath Gap application had been granted.

Finance and Governance

Members approved the January 2026 payment schedule unanimously and noted a small Amazon refund. The unaudited accounts to 31 December 2025 were approved, showing total funds of £290,217.66. The Council agreed to amend the Unity Trust bank mandate by removing resigned councillors and adding Cllr Stroud as an authoriser. It also authorised the Valda Energy direct debit for the Christmas lights and approved the signed precept return for 2026/27. The bat box project cost review was deferred pending signage quotations. The Council approved the final commemorative tree project cost (£2,426.27) and agreed it would be funded from underspent website upgrade budget lines rather than reserves. Members also adopted a substantial suite of 36 parish council policies and procedures for 2025/26 unanimously.

Project Updates and Clerk's Report

A scheduled Working Group meeting had been postponed due to adverse weather, so no recommendations or grant applications were presented. However, the Clerk reported the Worthington Road Play Park project was back on track following discussions at Lichfield District Council. The annual play park inspection report was received and circulated, with further review meetings planned.

The next meeting was noted for 19 February 2026. The meeting closed at 9:04pm.

