

MONTHLY UPDATE



The Parish Council meets formally each month. Here are some of the things discussed at the meeting on January 16th 2025. The detailed minutes are available on our website.

The meeting was held at Fradley Village Hall at 7:00 pm, chaired by Cllr David Leytham, with Cllrs Mike Ashcroft, Phil Beswick, and Stuart Gilmour in attendance. Apologies were received from Cllr Matthew Richards. The Clerk/RFO Claire Crompton, District Cllr Derick Cross, and 28 members of the public were also present.

Cllr Stuart Gilmour was elected as Vice Chair for the remainder of the 2024/2025 term and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. There were no applicants for co-option.

During the public forum, residents raised concerns about planning application 25/00002/COU, citing issues with parking, access, and road safety. The Parish Council pledged support for residents and will submit a formal objection.

AFC Fradley provided an update, announcing their nomination as Staffordshire Club of the Year. Training will soon begin on two new pitches at Fradley Manor/Anson Gardens, with discussions ongoing about long-term management. The club has also acquired 6.5 acres to expand facilities, including padel and netball courts, and seeks both moral and financial support from the Parish Council.

District Cllr Derick Cross confirmed that S106 funding of £192,500 (2025) and £118,500 (2026) has been secured for Fradley. A task group will be established to manage spending, with £80,000 allocated to Fradley Church for essential improvements. The remaining funds may support play park enhancements and AFC Fradley's expansion. The possibility of working with the LDC trading company to manage projects efficiently was also discussed.

The PCSO report highlighted vehicle crime, theft, and anti-social behaviour. Incidents included the theft of a BMW, attempted break-ins on Murphy Street, and a neighbour dispute on New Year's Eve, which resulted in a Community Resolution. Concerns about e-scooters in Love Lane were also raised, and a community awareness campaign is underway.

The Parish Council reviewed planning matters, including applications for ancillary HGV parking, a training hub, and a children's home. The Council objected to the NHBC Training Hub application (24/00738/FUL) and supported residents' objections to the children's home conversion (25/00002/COU).

Financial matters were discussed, and the Council approved payments and income for January 2025, including an S106 payment of £18,702 for swings, a cycle shelter, and gym equipment. The unaudited accounts as of 31 December 2024 were also approved.

The Working Group meeting, initially scheduled for 9th January, was rescheduled to 25th January. Plans for the Commemorative Tree Ceremony were finalised, including a tour of the war memorial and refreshments in the church, with a budget of £250 agreed. The Council also agreed to support a proposal to transform historic pillboxes into bat roosts, assigning a £150 budget for signage.

The Clerk reported on upcoming meetings, banking updates, and training opportunities. Councillors agreed to arrange a group training session on the Code of Conduct.

The next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed for 20th February 2025.

During a confidential session, the Council approved an increase in the Clerk's salary to SCP Scale 26 from May 2025, with entitlement to NJC-negotiated back pay once confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8:53 pm.

