

# MONTHLY UPDATE



The Parish Council meets formally each month. Here are some of the things discussed at the meeting on March 20th 2025. The detailed minutes are available on our website.

The Fradley Parish Council met on 20 March 2025, with all Councillors present and no apologies for absence. There were no declarations of interest, and no candidates had come forward for co-option. During the public forum, residents passionately voiced their objections to planning application 25/00064/COU, which proposed the conversion of a residential property into a children's care home. Concerns raised included increased traffic, child safety risks, and the suitability of the location for vulnerable children. Residents also expressed frustration over the lack of clarity and engagement by the applicant and stressed the impact the uncertainty had caused in the neighbourhood. The Council echoed the community's worries and resolved to submit a strong formal objection to the planning authority.

County Councillor Janet Eagland attended the meeting and was warmly received in what was her final appearance before retirement, concluding two decades of dedicated public service. She provided an update on local matters, including a new bus service linking Tamworth and the National Memorial Arboretum. She also highlighted upcoming road closures related to HS2 works on the A38. Cllr Eagland urged the Council to stay alert to ongoing concerns with local industrial sites operated by Cemex and Tarmac. The Council thanked her for her outstanding contribution and extended their best wishes for a well-earned retirement.

District Councillor Derick Cross reported that the District Council had earmarked a significant Section 106 fund of £194,000. Of this, £118,000 must be spent by 2026 and is designated for improvements to Worthington Road Play Park, with the remaining funds supporting repairs at St Stephen's Church. PCSO updates included incidents involving anti-social driving, a stolen motorbike, a residential burglary, and persistent problems with HGVs near Common Lane. A joint site visit involving the police and Parish Councillors had taken place, and a series of enforcement options, including issuing Fixed Penalty Notices, were being considered. Letters introducing a new traffic initiative had been circulated to residents, and evening police patrols in the area had commenced.

The minutes from the February meeting were reviewed and approved without amendments. In planning matters, the Council resolved not to comment on several minor applications but formally objected to 25/00064/COU in support of the community. Financially, the Council approved March payments, covering routine costs like grounds maintenance, staff wages, and community grants. The financial report showed a bank balance of £258,431.58 as of the end of February, and the accounts were approved accordingly.

Although the scheduled Working Group meeting had been cancelled, the Clerk provided updates on key matters. The Council approved quotes for constructing a plinth for the Watersmeet commemorative tree, resurfacing the path, and trimming tree branches overhanging a resident's property on Turnbull Road. These were agreed unanimously. Policy reviews continued, with Councillors adopting the Business Risk Management document, as well as updated registers of land, buildings, and assets.

Cllr Wilcox gave a progress update on the Community Speed Watch initiative. Six volunteers had already recorded over 50 speeding vehicles on key village roads. Offenders will be issued warning letters by the Police. Plans are also underway to install SIDs, with community consultation to follow. He also launched "FLIP" - the Fradley Litter Pick - inviting volunteers to help keep the village clean. Children will be supervised in quiet areas, while adults tackle the main roadsides. The Council agreed to publicise the initiative in its next newsletter.

Meeting closed at 20.48pm

