MONTHLY UPDATE

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

Fradley Parish Council met at Fradley Village Hall on 15 October 2026. Six councillors attended, together with the Clerk/RFO, District and Ward Councillor Richard Stephenson and County Councillor Richard Holland. Apologies were received from Councillors David Leytham and Jan Leytham-Gain and District Councillor Derick Cross. No members of the public attended.

County Councillor Holland provided updates on highways, traffic monitoring and ongoing drainage concerns. Members expressed frustration regarding delays to pothole repairs, particularly along Halifax Road, and the lack of progress on flooding and drainage improvements. Councillor Holland agreed to pursue further information regarding proposed works and timescales.

Considerable discussion focused on HGV parking and littering along Common Lane. Councillors raised concerns about road safety, obstruction and the rapid accumulation of litter following recent clearance work. Members agreed to investigate the feasibility of installing CCTV, continue discussions with local businesses and Fradley Park Industrial Estate, and gather evidence to support further enforcement action.

District Councillor Stephenson provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation, highlighting continued uncertainty surrounding Government proposals. He also outlined forthcoming changes to planning procedures, including restrictions on councillors' ability to refer applications to Planning Committee. Concerns were expressed about reduced community involvement in planning decisions and the potential impact of increased housing targets on local infrastructure and developer contributions. Members were encouraged to submit clear representations during planning consultations.

Further district updates included progress on Lichfield's new cinema, expected to open in spring 2027, continued enforcement against fly-tipping and illegal dog breeding, and Lichfield's successful retention of its Purple Flag accreditation.

The Council considered planning applications relating to properties at Oaklands Close and Cowhill Lane, redevelopment of Fradley North Services and a proposed LNG fuelling station at Fradley Park. Members resolved not to submit comments on these applications and noted decisions on two previously considered proposals.

Financial matters included unanimous approval of October's payment schedule and the unaudited accounts to 30 September 2026, showing total balances of **£301,901.48**. Members also noted notification of £4,255.53 in Community Infrastructure Levy funding awaiting transfer to the Council.

The Council received the External Auditor's Report, which confirmed successful completion of the audit with one minor administrative issue identified. Members approved an action plan to strengthen future audit procedures, including improved reporting, document checks and the introduction of an Audit Action Log.

Councillors considered proposed road names for the Canalside development at Hay End Lane, expressing a preference for names reflecting Fradley's canal heritage. Alternative suggestions will be circulated before a final response is submitted.

Preparations for the Christmas Lights Switch-On are progressing, with Fradley Park Primary School and the Community Choir participating. Members approved a budget of up to £1,000 for event management, security, equipment and safety arrangements. The Council agreed to proceed with this year's existing plans while exploring opportunities for a larger collaborative event in future years.

Updates were received on Section 106 projects, including new planters, benches, history boards and replacement skate park equipment. The annual play area inspection identified minor issues requiring remedial work, which the Clerk is pursuing with contractors.

Members also discussed proposed traffic regulation changes, including speed limits, signage and parking restrictions, with further clarification awaited.

The Clerk reported on recent community activities, including the successful September litter pick, and confirmed that remedial works at Barlow Drive Play Park had been completed.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on **Thursday 19 November 2026 at 7.00pm at Fradley Village Hall**.

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