

# MINUTES OF A MEETING



## Fradley Parish Council

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### Minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm at Fradley Village Hall on 19 September 2024.

#### **Present:**

Cllrs Mike Ashcroft, Phil Beswick, Glen Bown (Chair), Stuart Gilmour, David Leytham (Vice Chair) and Matthew Richards.

#### **In Attendance:**

Claire Crompton (Clerk/RFO), County Cllr, Janet Eagland and District/Ward Cllr Mike Wilcox and 2 Members of the Public.

#### **24/85 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85**

Apologies were noted from Cllr Dhillon.

#### **24/86 - Declarations of Members' Interests.**

There were no declarations of members interest.

#### **24/87 – Co-option of Councillors Local Govt Act 1972 s87(2) and the completion of their Declarations of Acceptance of Office and Register of Members Interest Forms Local Government Act 1972 s 83 (4)**

There were no applicants for Co-option.

#### **24/88 –Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100**

Apologies were noted from Cllr Cross.

Cllr Mike Wilcox arrived to join the meeting.

#### **County Cllr Janet Eagland was present at the meeting and gave her report as follows:**

Cllr Eagland continues to keep the Clerk informed and up to date on various matters. She confirmed that she has sent several emails, including one with a PowerPoint presentation outlining the responsibilities for hedges and verges. She has also provided additional resources detailing the appropriate contacts for specific issues. The Clerk will circulate the relevant schedule to all Councillors.

Cllr Eagland also provided an update on Gorse Lane, confirming that its reopening is imminent, with two-way traffic controlled by lights.

Regarding the black box traffic data, we have now received the initial information, but further analysis on behalf of the Parish Council is ongoing before it can be published.

On the issue of potholes, Cllr Eagland mentioned an email discussing new machinery being used for repairs. She is pleased to report that after a recent tour of the village, most potholes have now been repaired. However, questions were raised about why some potholes remain unaddressed even when others nearby are repaired. It was explained that two different teams are involved—one to identify the areas needing attention, and another to carry out the repairs.

Finally, Cllr Eagland noted that there is an upcoming meeting with Alrewas Liaison Group for Cemex.

**District Cllr Mike Wilcox was present at the meeting and gave his report as follows:**

Cllr Wilcox reported that the first dig for the new leisure centre at Stychbrook Park took place two weeks ago. This state-of-the-art facility will include a gym, swimming pool, 4G football pitch, and a community space. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2025.

The old Debenhams store is being transformed into an Everyman Cinema, which will feature four screens. In addition, The Botanist will be opening with a rooftop terrace. The new dining options will include Willow, a restaurant similar to Ego, and Pizza Express. The council is currently looking for two more companies to complete the food and beverage offering for the development.

There are also plans to potentially move the bus station across to the railway station. This would free up the current bus station site for redevelopment, with a hotel being considered for the location.

Due to changes introduced by the new government, the district's housing targets have increased from 330 to 800 new homes per year. The council is receiving significant interest from developers keen to develop local land. As a result, LDC are reviewing the five-year land plan. A large proportion of the new homes, approximately 50%, will be designated as social or affordable housing.

**24/89 – Variation to the Order of Business.**

There were no variations to the order of business.

**24/90 – To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024.**

**RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.**

**AGREED: 5 Councillors, 1 Abstain.**

**24/91 – Finance – (5mins)**

- a. **To consider the following payments, any payments required after publication of the agenda will be advised at the meeting.**

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	POWER
<b>August 2024</b>			
SJL Landscapes	Ground Maintenance Contract	2873.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	449.99	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Salaries, TAX,NIC	March Payment	3219.81	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Staff County Council	Speed Watch Equipment	466.33	LGA 1972 s111
Claire Crompton	Expenses	88.99	LGA 1972 s111
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	24.34	LGA 1972 s111
Vision ICT	Email Hosting	48.00	LGA 1972 s111

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	POWER
<b>September 2024</b>			
SJL Landscapes	Ground Maintenance Contract	2873.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	468.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Salaries, TAX,NIC	March Payment	3219.81	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
GE Copywriter	Website Review & Report	200.00	LGA 1972 s111
Claire Crompton	Expenses	190.39	LGA 1972 s111

Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	24.67	LGA 1972 s111
Vision ICT	Email Hosting	96.00	LGA 1972 s111

b. To note the following income:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
HMRC	VAT Reclaim	6765.69

c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2024 to 31.08.2024, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

**31.08.2024**

Current Account	£362,373.93
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£362,373.93</b>

**RESOLVED:** The Council approved the above payments, income and unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk for payments made in August under delegated authority of the Clerk as no meeting was held in August.

**Proposed; Cllr Bown, Seconded; Cllr Ashcroft. AGREED; unanimously.**

**RESOLVED:** The Council approved the above payments, income and unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk for September.

**Proposed; Cllr Bown, Seconded; Cllr Beswick. AGREED; unanimously**

**24/92 – Working Groups and External Representative Reports: – (20 mins)**

- a. **Projects Group:** Meeting 02.09.24. Cllr Bown gave his report as follows: Positive feedback has been received regarding the recent resurfacing of the Multi-Use Games Area at Hay End Lane Park. The group is now moving forward with plans for the installation of outdoor gym equipment. Broxap has provided the best value quote and will also be responsible for the installation of the cycle shelter, bins, and swings. These works are scheduled to commence on 11th November 2024, with the installation of the outdoor gym equipment set to begin on 2nd January 2025. To ensure compliance, the group purchased pre-planning advice from Lichfield District Council (LDC) at a cost of £90. This was done to confirm that planning permission would not be required for the outdoor gym equipment at Hay End Lane Park. As we approach the remaining term of office, it is recommended that the Council reviews its overall objectives to ensure that current projects are completed. One potential project for consideration is the refurbishment of Worthington Road Play Park, and other projects may also be considered, especially if grant funding can be secured. These matters can be discussed in further detail at the upcoming October meeting. Discussions are ongoing regarding the new football pitches at Fradley Manor and Anson Gardens. AFC Fradley has expressed interest in taking on the day-to-day management of these pitches, which would include securing the facilities. However, it is noted that this may conflict with the terms of the S106 agreement, signed by the developers which stipulates that the pitches should be available for use by all Fradley residents.
- b. **Environment Group:** Meeting 26.09.24. To include a monthly update on the Grounds Maintenance Contract. Cllr Beswick gave his report as follows: The

proposed project of converting old pillboxes and air raid shelters into bat boxes is making steady progress. There are three pillboxes in the local area that are suitable for conversion. Cllr Beswick is seeking funds to provide locks and doors to secure these structures. Further investigations, supported by the Clerk, will be conducted, and costings and information regarding from whom permissions should be sought will be obtained. This is a wonderful way to conserve wartime relics. The ongoing project to conserve and improve the war memorial was discussed. This includes removal of the rosemary hedge and cutting back the remaining hedges that surround. Cllr Bown reported that the council lost its grounds maintenance contractor (GMC) in August. A new company has been recruited on a temporary three-month contract, which was signed last week. Invitations to tender have been sent out to nine companies, which include additional works on The Moor and Dumore Hay Lane, as well as the inclusion of the new bin locations. Companies have also been asked to submit up to 500 words with their tenders. The tender panel has been identified as the Environment Group, which will be supported by Cllr Gilmour.

**RESOLVED: The Environment Group and Cllr Gilmour will form the panel responsible for reviewing the tender submissions and selecting the new grounds maintenance contractor: AGREED: Unanimously.**

The wildflower area project is also progressing, with stakes having been purchased to mark the exact area. The seeds that will be used are the same mix as those used in the wildflower area on Eastern Avenue. Regarding the commemorative tree, all three quotes have now been received, and the tree has been reserved. The Engagement Group are to organise the opening ceremony, with the proposal to invite the Staffordshire Sheriff to attend the event. Cllr Mike Wilcox left the meeting.

- c. **Engagement Group: Meeting 10.09.24.** Cllr Bown provided an update on several recent and upcoming events. Publicity had been produced and distributed for the Police and Parish Surgery, scheduled for Tuesday, 24th September. This event will also include a collection for the food bank at Fradley Park School. The recent "Tidy the Village Hall" event took place as planned and was deemed a success. Cllr Bown also reported that Tesco at Fradley Park has communicated plans to hold a remembrance event on Saturday, 9th November, starting at 12:30 pm and lasting approximately two hours. The event will feature live 1940s music, and a buffet will be provided. The Clerk has been tasked with contacting Alrewas British Legion and the local care home regarding this event. All Councillors are welcome to attend, and they are requested to inform the Clerk if they plan to do so. Additionally, Cllr Bown attended the Battle of Britain event on behalf of the Parish Council, where a wreath was laid in commemoration.
- d. **HR Committee:** Date for the next meeting is 10.10.24
- e. **Representatives:**
- **CEMEX:** Next planned liaison meeting for CEMEX is 18.11.24. Next planned liaison meeting for Tarmac is 25.09.24. The scoping exercise was completed by Councillor Bown for Staffordshire County Council regarding the consultation and request for a scoping opinion for the land at Pyford Brook Quarry. The completed scoping exercise has since been submitted.  
Cllr Eagland left the meeting.
  - **HS2:** No date set for next meeting as yet.
  - **Alrewas & Fradley Charities:** Meeting 13.11.24 A new representative is to be appointed at a future meeting.

**24/93 – Consider the recommendations of the Engagement Group regarding the Community Grant applications we have received. – (5 mins)**

**RESOLVED: The Parish Council considered and agreed the following applications:**

- **St Stephen’s Church for Places of Welcome, AWARDED, AGREED: All**
- **Fradley Choir for Musical Director, DECLINED, AGREED: For: 2 Against: 4**
- **Village Hall for Outside Gardens, AWARDED, AGREED: All**

**24/94 – Planning Matters– (5 mins)**

**N.B - Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sched. 1, para.8 - Right to be notified of planning applications if right has been requested. The Parish Council is a non-statutory consultee within the planning process.**

**Receive and consider report from the Planning Advisory Group:**

- a. **To determine any additional action required on the planning application information, from information circulated via email by officers in advance of the meeting.**
- b. Any planning application received after publication of this agenda will be advised at the meeting.

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Comments by
24/00354/FUH	7 Turner Croft, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Single storey rear and side extension comparison	Application Rec 18.07.24 Comment by 08.08.24
24/00839/FUH	14 Denyer Court, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Conversion and extension of existing garage roof space into an office/annexe area	Application Rec 30.07.24 Comment by 20.08.24
24/00881/LBC	18 Long Lane, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire.	Works to listed building to enable rebuild of garden out building and erection of new green house	Application Rec 15.08.24 Comment by 07.09.24
24/00795/FULM	Florette House , Wood End Lane, Fradley, Lichfield	Erection of single storey extension, plant room and 11no additional car parking spaces	Application Rec 11.09.24 Comment by 02.10.24

- c. **To note the outcome of the following planning applications for which the Council has made full comment : None received this month.**

**RESOLVED: Fradley Parish Council do not wish to comment on applications 24/00354/FUH, 24/00839/FUH and 24/00881/LBC. Authority was given to Cllrs Bown and Leytham to discuss 24/00795/FULM ahead of submitting comments.**

**Proposed: Cllr Gilmour, Seconded: Cllr Beswick, AGREED: unanimously.**

**24/95 – Consider allowing a local resident to place items connected with a Halloween Activity on Parish owned land to support her fundraising. – (2 mins)**

**RESOLVED: The Parish Council agreed to allow the local resident to place items connected with Halloween activities on Parish owned land to support her fundraising. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Beswick, AGREED: unanimously.**

**24/96 – Clerk Reports – (10 mins)**

- a. To note the positive outcome regarding the Horner Avenue Planning meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2024. **Noted.**
- b. To note the grant application correspondence has been sent to the initial tranche of applicants. **Noted.**

c. An update on budget v payments by the Clerk.

The Clerk gave a brief overview of expenditure to date for this financial year.

d. To note the email confirming the suspension of the water supply by Source for Business at Worthington Road Park. **Noted.**

e. Ratify the appointment of JR Landscaping as our temporary grounds maintenance contractors following the email sent on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024. We are planning to go out to tender as soon as possible.

**RESOLVED: The Council ratified the appointment of JR Landscaping as our temporary grounds maintenance contractor for a period of 3 months. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Beswick, AGREED: unanimously.**

f. Ratify the decision to approve additional costs of resurfacing the MUGA from the contractor and hiring security during surface curing due to issues faced at the beginning of the works. Email sent on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2024.

**RESOLVED: The Council ratified the decision to approve the additional costs incurred during the resurfacing of the MUGA at Hay End Lane. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Gilmour, AGREED: unanimously.**

g. To note the resignation of Cllr Paul Deathridge. **Noted.**

#### **24/97 – Discussion regarding the results of the community survey – (45 mins)**

Cllr Gilmour has thoroughly analysed the results of the community survey, identifying the areas that resonated most with the local residents as well as those deemed less important. This analysis provides a strong foundation for the Council to prioritise future projects and tasks based on the community's needs and preferences. Cllr Bown expressed sincere gratitude to Cllr Gilmour for his exceptional efforts in not only conducting the analysis but also for clearly presenting the findings to all councillors.

**RESOLVED: The council formally recorded its thanks to Cllr Gilmour for his efforts. AGREED: Unanimously.**

#### **24/98 – Identify how Fradley Parish Council has made Fradley a better place to live since the last full meeting? – (5 mins)**

Over the past month, the Parish Council has made significant progress in enhancing the village through various initiatives. The Multi-Use Games Area has been resurfaced with a safer, more modern surface. Additionally, work has been completed on analysing and interpreting the results of the community survey, providing valuable insights for future planning.

Efforts to advance S106 projects have continued. A temporary ground maintenance contractor has been appointed to ensure continuity while preparations are made to go back out to tender. The Parish Council has also made progress in the fight against the Horner Avenue development, securing a temporary defeat of the proposal.

In terms of environmental improvements, work on the wildflower area at Watersmeet has progressed, contributing to the area's natural beauty and biodiversity. Furthermore, the Council has purchased speed watch equipment and conducted several speed watch events to address local traffic concerns.

#### **24/99 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 17th October 2024 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm. – (1 min)**

**RESOLVED: The Council AGREED the next Parish Council Meeting as 17th October 2024, at 7.00pm, Fradley Village Hall.**

Meeting closed at 21.14pm