

MINUTES OF A MEETING



Fradley Parish Council

Telephone: 01543 444233

Website: www.fradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Email: clerk@fradleyparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held at 7:00pm at Fradley Village Hall on 17 October 2024.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Claire Crompton (Clerk/RFO), District/Ward Cllrs Derick Cross and Mike Wilcox and 0 Members of the Public.

24/100 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85

Apologies were received from Cllr Richards after the meeting had started.

24/101 - Declarations of Members' Interests.

There were no declarations of members interest.

24/102 – 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.

24/103 –Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100

Apologies were noted from Cllr Sonia Wilcox.

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

Cllr Wilcox gave an update on the Regeneration Project in Lichfield city centre.

Phase 1 Update: The sale of the former Tempest Ford site was finalised this week. The site has been sold to a developer with planning approval for 107 high-quality apartments, featuring gated access and an underground car park with lift access. Safety concerns about the underground parking have been raised. The design will be tailored to harmonise with neighbouring buildings like St. John's Hospital. A buy-back clause allows the council to repurchase the land if the project is not completed on schedule. Purchased in 2007 for £2.2 million, the land was sold for £5.4 million. The proceeds will fund improvements in rural areas, Burntwood's Sankey's Corner, and Lichfield city centre.

Phases 2 and 3: Focus on establishing cinema and food & beverage venues. The multi-storey car park demolition is nearing completion, with a target to open these sites by 2027. Discussions continue regarding relocating the bus station near the railway station, though there are objections from the County Council.

Emerging Local Plan: The call for sites for potential residential and commercial development has concluded. A consultation will begin soon, supported by an interactive map of available sites.

District Cllr Derick Cross was present at the meeting and gave his report as follows:

Littering Enforcement: A new littering enforcement system has been implemented, introducing a £500 fixed penalty notice for offenders. If cases proceed to Magistrates' Court, fines may increase up to £2,500. This initiative will be enforced by members of Lichfield District Council's (LDC) enforcement team rather than the police.

Fly-Tipping Measures: Fly-tipping remains a significant concern, and Cllr Cross emphasised LDC's strict approach toward offenders. This month, three incidents resulted in the confiscation of vehicles involved in illegal offences.

Neighbourhood Plan Grants: Grants are now available for Neighbourhood Plans, with funding ranging from £10,000 to £18,000 to support local development planning.

Section 106 Contributions: A total of £155,000 is allocated from the Leavesley development to fund improvements to the canal towpath, which will be released upon the occupation of the 46th dwelling should this development go ahead. Additionally, Cllr. Cross noted there is a list of further Section 106 contributions potentially due to Fradley Parish Council. He will investigate the status and current location of these funds and report back.

24/104 – Variation to the Order of Business.

There were no variations to the order of business.

24/105 – To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 19th September 2024.

RESOLVED: *The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 19th September 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.*

Proposed; Cllr Gilmour, Seconded; Cllr Ashcroft. AGREED; unanimously.

24/106 – 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
October 2024			
JR Landscaping	Ground Maintenance Contract	2400.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
JR Landscaping	Additional Work	180.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	352.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Salaries, TAX,NIC	March Payment	3219.81	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses	190.10	LGA 1972 s111
Broxap	Logo Template for Bins	60.00	LGA 1972 s111
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	24.67	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	Handling Fee	0.30	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	Service Charge	23.25	LGA 1972 s111

- b. **To note the following income:**

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LDC	S106 Payment for MUGA Resurface	29,800.00

- c. **To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2024 to 30.09.2024, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.**

30.09.2024

Current Account	£385,077.71
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	£385,077.71

d. Amend the current bank mandate with Unity Trust:

- i. To note Cllrs Evans & Petrou have been removed from the bank mandate.
Noted.
- ii. Consider who should be signatories/authorisers on the new bank mandate. In addition to Cllrs Ashcroft and Bown.
RESOLVED: Cllrs Beswick, Gilmour and Leytham will be added to the signatories/authoriser on the bank mandate. AGREED: unanimously.
- iii. Consider the need for a bank card to make payments for essential items by both the Clerk and Councillors, eliminating the need for personal funds and subsequent reimbursement through expenses.
RESOLVED: The Council agreed for the Clerk to apply for the Equals Money Prepaid Card, following a brief comparison between the Unity Bank credit card and the Equals Money prepaid card, as presented by the Clerk: Proposed; Cllr Beswick, Seconded; Cllr Gilmour. AGREED; unanimously

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

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

24/107 – Working Groups and External Representative Reports: – (20 mins)

- a. **Projects Group:** Meeting 07.10.24. Cllr Bown gave his report as follows:
The scheduled meeting was been cancelled; however, project activities are continuing as planned. An order has been successfully placed for key items, including the new bins, swing, cycle shelter and outdoor gym equipment. The potential start date for installation and setup is set for 11th November 2024.
- 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 GMC tenders have been received and reviewed, and we are now prepared to award the contract as planned on Monday. Progress is also underway on the commemorative tree project at Watersmeet, with discussions about holding an opening ceremony that may include the presence of the Lord Lieutenant.
- c. **Engagement Group:** Meeting 08.10.24. Cllr Leytham gave his report as follows:
The Clerk will proceed with re-advertising the community grant scheme. Additional discussions are required to review the newsletter, analyse the survey results, and assess the Parish Council's website. A conversation also took place regarding the structure of the working groups, addressing the issue of low attendance due to the current limited number of Councillors. It was suggested that the Council consider transitioning to a single, collective working group meeting, where all Councillors would convene once per month.
RESOLVED: The Council agreed to temporarily suspend the current working groups and consolidate them into a single group to meet once per month and it will cover all components of the Projects, Engagement and Environment Groups, excluding the Budget Advisory, Planning Advisory Groups & HR Committee, just the 3 groups, on a monthly basis to focus on what can be achieved with a smaller group of councillors with the proposal to bring it all to full council.

PROPOSED: Cllr Gilmour, Seconded: Cllr Beswick. AGREED: 4 Cllrs, Against: 1 Cllr. The Clerk is to arrange a date. The practical working arrangements of this new group will be discussed at its 1st meeting. Cllr Cross left the meeting.

d. **HR Committee:** Date for the next meeting is 10.10.24 **No report submitted.**

e. **Representatives:**

- **CEMEX:** Next planned liaison meeting for CEMEX is 18.11.24
- **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.

24/108 – 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
22/00080/FUL	Fradley Airfield, Wood End Lane, Fradley, Lichfield (Roxanne)	Construction of parking and manoeuvring area for up to 50 HGVs including a welfare block containing WCs, showers and canteen	Application Rec 23.09.24 Comment by 23.10.24
21/00315/FULM	Fradley Airfield, Wood End Lane, Fradley, Lichfield (Roxanne)	Construction of storage warehouse with associated yard including new HGV exit road	Application Rec 23.09.24 Comment by 23.10.24
24/01028/FUH	4 Beeches Croft, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Erection of a double storey side extension, single storey and first floor rear extension, alterations to existing porch, demolition of existing garage to form passageway, widening of existing drive	Application Rec 24.09.24 Comment by 15.10.24

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 24/01028/FUH. It was agreed to submit an objection to applications 22/00080/FUL and 21/00315/FULM Proposed: Cllr Leytham, Seconded: Cllr Bown, AGREED: unanimously.

24/109 – Clerk Reports – (10 mins)

- a. Consideration of the completed/conclusion of the AGAR for the Year Ended 31.03.2024 – Section 3 External Auditors Report and Certificate 2023/2024. **Noted by all Cllrs.**
RESOLVED: Cllr Ashcroft expressed gratitude to the Clerk, commending her dedication and hard work in successfully completing the first external audit.
Proposed: Cllr Ashcroft, Seconded: Cllr Beswick, AGREED: unanimously.

- b. To note the bi-annual CIL report received. *Noted, there has been no CIL received.*
- c. To note the grant application funds have been transferred to the successful applicants. *Noted.*
RESOLVED: To write a press release for submission to Lichfield Live to announce the successful distribution of funds for the first four applications in our Community Grants scheme.
Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Ashcroft, AGREED: unanimously.
- d. To note the tender packs received for the Grounds Maintenance Contract on Friday 11.10.24. *Noted.*
- e. To note, we are trialling a new format of email correspondence in an attempt to streamline communications. *Noted.*
- f. To note the rosemary hedge has been removed from the War Memorial and the surrounding hedge trimmed. Cllrs to consider additional short term improvements. *Noted.*
RESOLVED: Additional improvements include painting the fence. Once completed, the next step will be to purchase and display additional street poppies at the war memorial.
Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Beswick, AGREED: unanimously.
- g. To note the response submitted for the Pyford Brook Quarry proposal. *Noted.*
- h. To note the resignation of Cllr Tracey Ham. *Noted.*
- i. To note the resignation of Cllr Mani Dhillon. *Noted.*
- j. To note an updated Councillor application pack and application for has been produced to encourage applicants. *Noted.*
- k. To note the play inspection report has been received for Worthington Road & Hay End Lane Play Parks. *Noted.*
- l. To note the progress made with the speed activated signs project. *Progress on the SIDS project is progressing steadily. The next step involves arranging a site visit with highways officials to determine optimal locations. The Clerk will request this visit from SCC. Additionally, 20 mph signage to be requested for the area outside Fradley Park Primary School.*

24/110 – Discussion of project priorities taking into account the results of the community survey – (40 mins)

The Council is pleased with the strong response to the recent community survey. To move forward, the Council need to assess available funding and resources. During discussions, the Council reviewed several popular suggestions from the survey that may be pursued, including: improvements to the canal towpath, additional Christmas lights, a new defibrillator, more benches and bus shelters, visual improvement of roundabouts, sensory play equipment and gardens, and enhancements to the Watersmeet amenity.

There was also interest in supporting existing clubs and offering more community activities. The survey highlighted a demand for events such as a summer fair, Christmas fair, local history exhibits, and first aid courses. Cllr Gilmour will try to formulate a plan to help decision-making on these projects. Cllr Mike Wilcox left the meeting.

24/111 – 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 a variety of initiatives. Key accomplishments include finalising orders, distributing community grant funds, upgrading the War Memorial, conducting a thorough inspection of the play park, and submitting a well-crafted response to the Pyford Brook Quarry Scoping exercise.

24/112 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 21st November 2024 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm. – (1 min)

RESOLVED: The Council AGREED the next Parish Council Meeting as 21st November 2024, at 7.00pm, Fradley Village Hall.

24/113- To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the Public. – (10 mins)

a. Discussion regarding the Pyford Brook Public Consultation – (15 mins)

Pyford Brook is a small brook that serves as a natural boundary between Alrewas and Fradley. Currently, excavation is underway in the area to meet the material demand for the HS2 project. Plans are now proposed to expand the excavation site, which is divided into seven phases, with some sections impacting areas within Fradley. The Parish Council has submitted a formal response to the scoping request regarding this expansion. However, the public consultation exhibitions initially scheduled for Alrewas and Kings Bromley have been temporarily cancelled. In response to these developments, the Alrewas Parish Council has formed a Quarry Working Group and is inviting a representative from Fradley to join and participate on behalf of the community.

RESOLVED: Cllr Mike Ashcroft has been appointed as Fradley Parish Council's representative on the Alrewas and Kings Bromley Quarry Working Group. Proposed: Cllr Bown, Seconded: Cllr Gilmour, AGREED: unanimously.

Meeting closed at 21.19pm