

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 16 January 2025.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Claire Crompton (Clerk/RFO), District/Ward Cllr Derick Cross and 28 Members of the Public.

24/154 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85 (1)

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllr Richards.

24/155 – Election of Vice Chairperson for the remaining term of 2024/2025 (Local Govt Act 1972, S15(2)) and the completion of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office (Local Govt Act 1972, S83(4)).

RESOLVED: Cllr Gilmour was duly elected as Vice Chair to Fradley Parish Council for the remaining term of 2024/2025.

RESOLVED: In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Cllr Gilmour signed the Acceptance of Office form before the Clerk. Proposed: Cllr Gilmour seconded: Cllr Ashcroft, **AGREED: Unanimously.**

24/156 - Declarations of Members' Interests.

Cllr Beswick declared a personal interest in a planning item on the agenda, as the decision may affect a close family member who resides on the same road. Cllr Beswick remained in the meeting but did not participate in the discussion or vote on this item.

24/157 – 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.

24/158 – Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100.

Apologies were noted from County Cllr Janet Eagland, District Cllrs Sonia Wilcox and Mike Wilcox.

Members of the public attended the meeting to express concerns regarding planning application 25/00002/COU. A resident, speaking on behalf of the local community, outlined key objections to the proposal, highlighting issues related to parking, access, and road safety.

The Parish Council acknowledged these concerns and confirmed its support for residents in addressing the matter with both the Local Planning Authority (LDC) and other relevant stakeholders. The Council will submit a formal response reflecting these objections and continue to monitor developments.

Update from AFC Fradley

Representatives from AFC Fradley attended the meeting to provide an update on recent developments. The club has been nominated as Staffordshire Club of the Year, reflecting its growing success and community impact. Preparations are underway for training to commence on the two new pitches at Fradley Manor/Anson Gardens. Discussions with the developers regarding the long-term management of these facilities are ongoing. In addition, AFC Fradley has acquired 6.5 acres of land, which will accommodate approximately 450 players. While football will remain a core activity, the site will also feature padel courts, a netball court, and broader sports club facilities, ensuring greater inclusivity and community engagement. The club expressed its intention to seek both moral and financial support from the Parish Council in the future to sustain and develop these initiatives.

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

District Cllr Derick Cross announced that funding has been secured from Lichfield District Council (LDC) for Fradley, sourced from previously allocated Section 106 (S106) funds. The total funding amounts to £192,500 for this year and £118,500 in 2026, to be distributed at the discretion of district and ward councillors. Cllrs Wilcox and Cross will liaise with the Parish Council to determine allocations. To ensure the effective use of these funds, it was proposed that a task group be established to oversee project planning and expenditure.

An initial allocation of £80,000 has been designated for Fradley Church to replace pews with chairs, level the floor, and improve heating. These enhancements aim to create a more flexible and financially sustainable space. The remaining funds may be used to improve Fradley's three play parks and support AFC Fradley in achieving its future development goals.

There is also the possibility of working with the LDC trading company to design, procure, and deliver these projects efficiently and within budget.

PCSO Report

A report was received from our PCSO covering incidents reported between 15th November 2024 and 13th January 2025. Key issues included vehicle crime, theft, and anti-social behaviour.

Several incidents of vehicle crime were noted, including the theft of a delivery van in Blenheim Way, later recovered, and a BMW stolen from Edwards Farm Road. There were also reports of unknown offenders attempting to access vehicles in Murphy Street and Beeches Croft, with two insecure vehicles entered and items stolen.

In terms of motorist offences, a driver in a silver Audi A3 was stopped on Halifax Avenue for driving without insurance and issued a Fixed Penalty Notice. A Toyota Aygo registration plate was also stolen from an address on Clayton Avenue.

Anti-social behaviour incidents included a neighbour dispute on New Year's Eve, which escalated to public order offences, leading to a Community Resolution for unacceptable behaviour. Concerns were also raised regarding e-scooters being ridden around Love Lane, with PCSO Maggie Griffiths addressing the issue through a community awareness campaign and letter drop. The Clerk has also supported by posting this on the PC's social media and website.

The Parish Council thanked the PCSO for the update and ongoing efforts to address local concerns.

24/159 – Variation to the Order of Business.

RESOLVED: Cllr David Leytham proposed a change in the order of business to move item 24/162 AGREED; Unanimously.

24/160 – 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.**

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Comments by
23/01317/FUL	Unit 6, Dove Close, Fradley, Lichfield.	Creation of ancillary HGV parking (retrospective) and new car parking area	Application Rec: 09.12.24 Comment by: 01.01.25 Ext until after 16.01.25
24/00738/FULM	Land Northeast of Watery Lane, (Care Homeland (Parcel L)), Curborough, Lichfield	Creation of a NHBC Training Hub to include site cabins, covered training areas, hardstanding, car parking and associated works	Application Rec: 11.12.24 Comment by: 03.01.25 Ext until: 09.02.25
25/00002/COU	12 Alexander Close, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Conversion of house (C3) into children home (C2)	Application Rec: 07.01.25 Comment by: 28.01.25
25/00009/CLE	Fradley Distribution Park, Wood End Lane, Fradley, Lichfield	Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing): Confirmation that planning permission 21/00428/COUM has been lawfully undertaken	Application Rec: 08.01.25 Comment by: No date specified.

To note the outcome of the following planning applications for which the Council has made full comment: None this period.

Discussion on Planning Application 25/00002/COU

Many residents attended the Parish Council meeting to express concerns regarding planning application 25/00002/COU. Their primary objections related to parking, access, safety, and the suitability of the location for the proposed change of use. Concerns were raised about insufficient on-road parking and inconsistencies in the application regarding the number of required parking spaces, which were variously stated as 3–4, 4, and 5–6. It was also noted that the limited driveway space may result in vehicles reversing onto a public footpath, creating a significant safety risk, particularly for schoolchildren who use this route.

Further safety concerns were highlighted due to the absence of adequate footpaths, meaning residents at the property would need to walk on the road to access it. Residents also expressed concerns about potential noise and disturbance, which they felt would be an issue on a daily basis. Additionally, they objected to the proposed change of use from residential to commercial, arguing that the location was unsuitable for this purpose.

The Parish Council agreed to seek further information regarding the intended purpose of the property and the age range of children expected to use the facility. Councillor Derick Cross will "call in" the application for further scrutiny. The PC will also assess the potential impact of increased traffic, noise, and safety concerns.

RESOLVED: Fradley Parish Council do not wish to comment on applications 23/01317/FUL and 25/00009/CLE. It was agreed to submit an objection to application 24/00738/FUL and to formally support the residents' objections for 25/00002/COU.

AGREED; Unanimously.

26 members of the public left the meeting.

24/161 – To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2024.

RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2024 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

AGREED; Unanimously.

24/162 – 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
January 2025			
JR Landscaping	Ground Maintenance Contract	2498.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Royal Mail	PO Box	424.20	LGA 1972 s111
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	270.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Salaries, TAX, NIC	January Payment	3349.68	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses	112.12	LGA 1972 s111
Gordon Ellis & Co	Planters	8399.16	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	27.30	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	Service Charge	8.25	LGA 1972 s111
Fradley Open Gardens	Community Grant	170.17	Section 137 Grant
St Stephens PTA	Community Grant	500.00	Section 137 Grant
Fradley Village Hall	Room Hire	42.50	LGA 1972 s111
Vision ICT	Website	330.00	LGA 1972 s111
Vision ICT	Website	78.00	LGA 1972 s111
Tesco (paid by card)	Refreshments	38.55	LGA 1972 s111

RESOLVED: The Council approved the payments for January 2025. AGREED; Unanimously.

- b. To note the following income:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
LDC	S106 Payment for Swings, Cycle Shelter & Children's Gym Equipment	18702.00

RESOLVED: The Council approved the income for January 2025. AGREED; Unanimously.

- c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2024 to 31.12.2024, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

31.12.2024

Current Account	£293,750.04
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	£293,750.04

RESOLVED: The Council approved the unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk up to 31.12.24. AGREED; Unanimously.

24/163 – To receive a report from the working group and to discuss their recommendations.

The Working Group meeting originally scheduled for 9th January was cancelled due to illness and adverse weather conditions. It has been rescheduled to take place on 25th January.

24/164 – To consider a budget for the Commemorative Tree ceremony. – (5 mins)

Plans for the Commemorative Tree Ceremony include a formal gathering at the tree, the unveiling of a plaque, a tour of the war memorial, and a visit to the war graves, concluding with drinks and light refreshments in the church. Efforts are being made to involve children from local primary schools, and a budget for refreshments has been agreed upon.

RESOLVED: A budget of £250 was agreed for the organisation of the Commemorative Tree ceremony. AGREED; Unanimously.

24/165 – To consider a resident's request to hold a street food event on Watersmeet in the spring.

The Clerk reported that no further correspondence had been received from the resident since their initial email. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up on the matter.

24/166 – Consider the proposal to transform four historic pillboxes in the village into bat preservation habitats. – (5 mins)

The Council agreed to the proposal to convert the historic pillboxes into bat roosts, with the support of Bellway Homes, as the structures are located on land owned by Bellway Homes or their clients. Permission has been granted by Bellway Homes to proceed with the project, starting with one pillbox as a trial before extending to the remaining structures. The Parish Council's only financial commitment will be the cost of signage for each bat roost.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the project and assigned a budget of £150 for the signage. AGREED: Unanimously.

24/167 – Clerk Reports – (10 mins)

a. Parish Council Diary Dates:

Cemex Liaison Meeting: 13th January 2025, Cappers Lane. **Rescheduled.**

Working Group Meeting: 23rd January 2025, Fradley Village Hall. **Noted.**

Parish Network Meeting: 27th January 2025, Alrewas Village Hall. **Rescheduled.**

b. To note the forms have been sent to the bank with the new signatories/authorisers. **Noted.**

c. To note, Cllrs Beswick, Leytham and Richards attended a meeting with 2 representatives from Bloor Homes on Friday 13th December 2024. **Noted, notes from this meeting will be available on the website.**

d. To consider a date for the next Police and Parish event. **This item was deferred.**

e. The Clerk has provided a list of training courses provided by the SLCC for February, should Cllrs wish to part in any, please email the Clerk directly. **RESOLVED: Cllrs agreed that the Clerk would arrange a group training session on the Code of Conduct. The Clerk will confirm the date and time with all councillors once scheduled. AGREED: Unanimously.**

1 Member of the public left the meeting.

24/168 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 20th February 2025 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm. – (1 min)

RESOLVED: The Council AGREED the next Parish Council Meeting as 20th February 2025, at 7.00pm, Fradley Village Hall.

1 member of the public was asked to leave the meeting while agenda item 24/169 was discussed.

24/169- To consider a resolution under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act 1960) to exclude members of the Public. – (2 mins)

- a. To review and consider recommendations from the HR Committee regarding a proposed salary increase for the Clerk.

RESOLVED: The Council agreed to increase the Clerk's salary to SCP Scale 26 starting in May 2025. It was also confirmed that once the NJC negotiations are complete, the Clerk will be entitled to the agreed salary increase and any associated back pay.

Meeting closed at 20.53pm