

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 20 February 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 20 Members of the Public.

24/170 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85 (1)

Apologies for absence were noted from Cllr Richards.

24/171 - Declarations of Members' Interests.

There were no declarations of members interest.

24/172 – 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.

24/173 – Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100.

Apologies were noted from District Cllrs Sonia Wilcox and Mike Wilcox.

Members of the public attended the meeting to express their concerns regarding planning application 25/00046/OUTM submitted by Bloor Homes. A resident spokesperson provided an overview of the key concerns, which include:

The development is outside the local planning map and permitted development area.

It is outside the Cannock Special Area of Conservation (SAC) but within a mineral safeguarding area.

There are local flooding issues and a lack of road infrastructure to support additional housing.

The area has insufficient infrastructure, including no provision for GP services.

There is no information regarding the removal of mature trees within the proposed development site.

The site is classified as a "red zone" for great crested newts and is home to corn buntings, bats, and badgers, all of which require environmental consideration.

Residents have gathered 680 signatures on a petition opposing the development. Additionally, many have experienced difficulties accessing the planning portal to formally submit objections.

Planning Application Status Update:

Cllr Cross informed the Council that the planning application is currently on hold at Staffordshire County Council due to a formal objection, potentially from Highways and the Environmental Department.

The Council has requested that Lichfield District Council and SCC keep them updated on any further developments regarding this application.

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.

County Cllr Janet England was present at the meeting and gave her report as follows:

Cllr England provided her report, stating that Staffordshire County Council will not proceed with the above planning matter until they receive instructions from Lichfield District Council, as the application falls under LDC's jurisdiction. She explained that once LDC grants its approval, the application will then be referred to SCC and Highways for their assessment and input.

PCSO Report

A report was received from our PCSO covering incidents reported between 16.01.25 to 16.02.25.

16/01/2025 – Vehicle theft Violet Walk Fradley. Range rover stolen with keys, after home owner left door unlocked with keys just inside on top of cupboard. Ongoing enquires.

16/01/2025 – Vehicle theft Violet Walk Fradley Range Rover stolen without keys. Home owner woke up to find vehicle gone, no entry to property and they have keys still. Ongoing enquires.

17/01/2025 – Violence at skatepark Fradley 15 yr. old youth attacked by group of youths, ongoing enquires.

18/01/2025 – Public Order – Skate park, Male verbally abusive to two young boys after school on 16/01/2025. The school made contact with local PCSO after the incident, as boys were taken into school and parents contacted. Male has been dealt with accordingly and parents and boys updated.

25/01/2025 – Attempted theft of vehicle – Murphy Street -2 males dressed in black go to either side of BMW parked on driveway. This was caught on neighbours ring doorbell. The footage cuts of once males go to vehicle. Vehicle had no damage done to it, nor do the gates that had been bolted closed but were found open. If this was not caught on neighbours ring door bell owner would not been aware of males coming onto his drive way.

15/02/2025 – Report of males trying to break into van – Forrester Close, owner chased them off. They drove off in an old shape Nissan Juke either white or light grey.

As you can see we have been hit by vehicle crime again. Smart alerts were sent out for these and hopefully it has made residents check on their security and invest in steering wheel locks, tracker, faraday pouches for keys and to lock doors.

24/174 – Variation to the Order of Business.

There were no variations to the order of business.

24/175 –To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025. – (1 min)

RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 16th January 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

AGREED; unanimously.

24/176 – 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
25/00046/OUTM	Land East Of, Fradley Lane, Fradley, Lichfield	Outline planning permission for the erection of up to 230 dwellings including community facility, affordable housing, landscaping, open space, drainage, and associated infrastructure (all matters reserved except for access to Fradley Lane)	Application Rec: 28.01.25 Comment by: 20.02.25 Ext until after 28.02.25
25/00097/FUH	23 Jackman Road, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Erection of a double-storey rear extension with wrap around single-storey side extension incorporating new entrance, living area, and two additional bedrooms, with repositioned detached garage to front garden	Application Rec: 11.02.25 Comment by: 04.03.25

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

Discussion on Planning Application 25/00046/OUTM

Many residents attended the Parish Council meeting to express their concerns regarding planning application 25/00046/OUTM. This is an outline application submitted by developers as a proposal, meaning that most details are subject to change, except for the confirmed introduction of a roundabout. Residents' primary concerns focused on biodiversity, wildlife, flooding, and infrastructure. Fradley Parish Council pledged its support on planning considerations, highlighting issues such as inadequate drainage, persistent flooding, poor sewage capacity, and road safety concerns. It was noted that the existing roads are too narrow, and any development would necessitate improvements to the A38 slip road, which falls under Highways' jurisdiction.

The site is designated as a special area of conservation, lying outside the Cannock SAC but within a mineral safeguarding area. While the location is still covered by the local neighbourhood plan, the District Local Plan is now outdated. The emerging Local Plan is expected to enter public consultation in approximately two years and, if approved, will be formally adopted about a year later.

Additional concerns were raised regarding light pollution, which is also a Highways issue. If the planning application is eventually approved, residents questioned what measures would be put in place to address their concerns. Specific issues included noise from the A38 and whether there would be proposals for baffle mounds to mitigate its impact. Questions were also raised about whether hedgerows would be allowed to grow to enhance natural screening and whether a nature reserve could be established to protect the conservation area. Furthermore, residents sought clarity on whether a condition could be included in the application to secure S106 funding for improvements to the A38 slip road.

RESOLVED: Fradley Parish Council do not wish to comment on application 25/00097/FUH. It was agreed to formally support the residents' and submit an objection to application 25/00046/OUTM AGREED; Unanimously.

24/177 – 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
February 2025			
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	23.63	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	Service Charge	9.30	LGA 1972 s111
Amazon (paid by card)	Office Supplies	9.98	LGA 1972 s111
Post Office (paid by card)	Postage	2.60	LGA 1972 s111
Salaries, TAX,NIC	February Payment	3349.68	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses	33.59	LGA 1972 s111
JR Landscaping	Ground Maintenance Contract	4394.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	252.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Fradley Village Hall	Room Hire	42.50	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC	Staff Training	18.00	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC	Staff Training	36.00	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC	Staff Training	144.00	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC	Staff Training	36.00	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC	Staff Training	54.00	LGA 1972 s111
Mazars	External Audit Fee	1008.00	LGA 1972 s111
Broxap	Bins & Gym Equipment	26,376.30	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10

RESOLVED: The Council approved the payments for February 2025 with the exception of Broxap £26,376.30 as these works are still incomplete and it was agreed payment would be made once all remedial works were complete. **AGREED; Unanimously.**

- b. To note the following income: None this period.
- c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2024 to 31.01.2025, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

31.01.2025

Current Account	£287,036.01
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	£287,036.01

RESOLVED: The Council approved the unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk up to 31.01.25. **AGREED; Unanimously.**

24/178 – To receive a report from the working group and to discuss their recommendations.

The Working Group met on 23rd January 2025 at Fradley Village Hall to discuss ongoing projects and initiatives.

Councillors reviewed plans for Christmas lights in 2025, with the Clerk recommending a company from Manchester that provides a full installation and maintenance service. A quote will be obtained, subject to budget considerations. Discussions also took place regarding a potential Street Food Festival, but further follow-up is needed with the resident who initially proposed the idea. Alternative locations were considered, and a local event manager may be approached for support.

Progress on Section 106 projects was discussed, prioritising the installation of history boards, finger posts, park signs, and notice boards. Former Cllr Glen Bown will assist in completing the works on the history boards. Updates were provided on the Hay End Lane project, where installation of adult gym equipment has begun, though some items are delayed. The new bins have been installed, and the old ones removed, but fencing work has been postponed until early February. A task group will be formed to oversee the refurbishment of Worthington Road Play Park, including councillors and district representatives.

The second edition of the Fradley Newsletter is in progress, with articles assigned and the Clerk exploring external production and printing options. A Commemorative Tree Planting ceremony is being planned, with dates under review based on significant milestones related to Queen Elizabeth II. The Lord Lieutenant will be contacted for availability. The upgrade of the Parish Council website remains a priority, but no action will be taken until funding is received in the 2025/2026 budget.

There were no updates on Bown Pond, though the Clerk will continue to follow up. A review of policies, procedures, and the asset register will take place before the new financial year, with a councillor skills register to be considered in the future. Items regarding new housing rules, the council's powers under the Local Government Act 1972, and green space discussions with Bloor Homes were deferred to a later meeting.

Cllr Derick Cross reported that he had visited Worthington Road Play Park alongside a representative from the proposed team at Lichfield District Council (LDC) responsible for upgrading the play equipment. He advised that, contrary to earlier information, funding for the project may become available sooner than initially expected.

24/179 – To receive a report from our Cemex Representative on the meeting held on Friday 7th February at the NMA. – (5 mins)

The meeting, held at Cappers Lane Compound, was attended by representatives from CEMEX, BBV, Lichfield District Council, Staffordshire County Council, and multiple parish councils. The key discussions focused on planning conditions, operational concerns, community impact, and project updates. Key Discussions and Actions:

1. Planning Requirements & Out-of-Hours Work
 - The out-of-hours application was approved and valid until 31 March 2024.
 - Councillor Colin Davies sought clarification on conditions for out-of-hours operations.
 - CEMEX confirmed compliance and tracking of output volume.
 - Issues were raised regarding HGV traffic management and trucks using restricted routes.
2. Operational Update
 - CEMEX has removed its tannoy system to reduce noise complaints.
 - Traffic management improvements were outlined, including a one-way system to limit reversing.
 - Concerns were raised about bunding effectiveness—residents at Fradley Marina can still hear reversing alarms.
 - A query was raised regarding lighting arrangements, with adjustments promised in line with planning agreements.
 - Hedge transplants from Phase 1 to Phase 2 were confirmed, with progress photos to be shared.
3. HS2 and Road Closures
 - BBV announced overnight closures for the A38 Southbound (24–28 February, 3–5 March 2025).
 - Councillors expressed dissatisfaction over lack of communication from HS2 and BBV regarding project updates.
 - Concerns about Handsacre Junction and West Coast Mainline connections were raised.
 - Local councils requested more direct updates rather than national summaries.
 - Increased HGV traffic through residential areas due to road closures remains a major concern.
4. Community & Council Engagement

- BBV was urged to improve communication with parish councils and provide timely updates.
 - CEMEX was asked to notify residents ahead of any out-of-hours operations.
 - Parish councils were invited to submit community investment proposals.
5. Concerns About Project Delays
- Councillors expressed frustration over project delays and extensions.
 - The original urgency of the project did not align with the current slow pace.

Next Steps & Future Meetings

- The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for either 19 May 2025 (3-month review) or a 6-month interval.

This meeting highlighted persistent issues with traffic, planning enforcement, communication gaps, and community concerns regarding CEMEX and BBV's operations. Local representatives remain frustrated over limited transparency and the impact of construction on their communities.

It was agreed for the Clerk to attend future Cemex meetings and to publish approved minutes on the website.

24/180 – To consider 2 additional Defibrillators for the village using the British Heart Foundation promotion. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the application of two additional defibrillators through the British Heart Foundation's promotional scheme. AGREED: unanimously.

24/181 – To consider a residents request to hold an Easter Egg Hunt around the village again this year. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the request to hold and Easter Egg Hunt around the village. AGREED: unanimously.

24/182 – Consider the issues of littering in the village and the prospect of setting up a Fradley Litter Picking Group. – (10 mins)

The Parish Council supports the idea of a community litter-picking group but, due to low member numbers, does not feel it can be directly involved at this time. However, the Council is committed to supporting the group in other ways. The Clerk will compile a list of volunteers and facilitate an initial meeting, allowing them to establish the group independently.

24/183 – Consider a request for a link from our website to a Help Prevent Flooding initiative. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved to promote the Help Prevent Flooding initiative on the website. AGREED: unanimously.

24/184 – Consider a request from a resident to have signs erected round Bown Pond, Tye Road side, for the forthcoming amphibian migration. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: Fradley Parish Council approved the request for signs informing residents about the upcoming amphibian migration across Allen Way. AGREED: unanimously.

24/185 – Clerk Reports – (10 mins)

a. Parish Council Diary Dates:

20's Plenty Meeting: 17th February 2025, Zoom. **Noted.**

Curborough Brooks Meeting: 27th February 2025, time & venue tbc. **Noted.**

Parish Network Meeting: 27th February 2025, Alrewas Village Hall. **Noted.**

CLr Training: 6th March 2025, Fradley Village Hall. **Noted.**

SLCC Branch Meeting: 13th March 2025, Stowe By Chartley. **Noted.**

Working Group Meeting: 13th March 2025, Fradley Village Hall. **Noted.**

Cemex Liaison Meeting: 19th May 2025, venue tbc. **Noted.**

b. Date proposed for the Resus Training to be determined, funding to be approved for room hire. This item was deferred.

- c. KP Events have requested that they continue to use Watersmeet for the Florette Fradley 10k on 23rd March 2025 as per previous years and that Fradley Scouts will be fundraising by selling tea and coffee. They have Public Liability Insurance and food hygiene certification. **RESOLVED: The PC approved the request from KP Events to utilise the area of Watersmeet for the Florette Fradley 10K on Sunday 23rd March 2025. AGREED: unanimously.**
- d. The Clerk has provided a list of training courses provided by the SLCC for February and March, should Cllrs wish to part in any, please email the Clerk directly. **Noted.**
- e. To note the planning application 25/00002/COU has been withdrawn. **Noted.**
- f. To note the HS2 and Bloor Homes events were both attended by Cllrs. **Noted.**

24/186 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 20th March 2025 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm. – (1 min)

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

Meeting closed at 20.58pm