

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 March 2025.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Claire Crompton (Clerk/RFO), County Cllr Janet Eagland, District/Ward Cllr Derick Cross and Mike Wilcox and 9 Members of the Public.

24/187 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85 (1)

There were no apologies for absence.

24/188 - Declarations of Members' Interests.

There were no declarations of members interest.

24/189 – 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.

24/190 – Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100.

Members of the public attended the meeting to voice their concerns regarding planning application 25/00064/COU. A resident spokesperson outlined the primary objections, stating that the proposal is unsuitable for the area due to the anticipated increase in vehicle traffic as well as the potential for light and noise pollution at antisocial hours. They also highlighted that the vehicle traffic will likely exceed typical residential use and that the village has limited infrastructure to support children with complex needs. Concerns were raised about restricted access, as the garage and driveways are small, and although the application claims to provide five parking spaces, in reality, it can only accommodate two vehicles. Additionally, the lack of pavements on Paskin Close was cited as a safety issue.

A second resident shared their personal experience, describing increased stress and anxiety caused by the uncertainty surrounding the application. A third resident expressed concerns over inconsiderate parking and speeding vehicles, which have already become an issue despite the application not yet being determined.

Residents collectively urged both the District Council and the Parish Council to support their objections.

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:

County Cllr England informed the Council that she had forwarded all relevant information to members via the Clerk. She announced that this would be her final meeting, as she is retiring after 20 years of dedicated service to Fradley and the surrounding areas.

Cllr England reported that Staffordshire County Council has approved a new bus service running from Tamworth to the National Memorial Arboretum, which was launched the previous Friday. She also noted upcoming road closures on the A38 at Hilliards Cross due to HS2 works. Additionally, a Tarmac Liaison Committee meeting is scheduled to take place on 26th March at Yewtree House.

Cllr England reflected on her longstanding support for the local villages, particularly in opposing the activities of Cemex and Tarmac. In her absence, she advised the Parish Council to remain vigilant in monitoring these operations.

Fradley Parish Council extended its sincere thanks to Cllr England for her ongoing support and unwavering commitment to Fradley and the wider rural community over the past two decades. The Council wished her a very well-deserved and happy retirement.

Cllr Cross arrived at the meeting.

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

Cllr Cross reported that a task group has been established to oversee the upgrade of Worthington Road Play Park. This project is being funded using historic Section 106 contributions. A portion of the funds will also support improvements at St Stephen's Church, while the remainder will go towards renovating the play park, which is now over 20 years old and in need of enhancement.

He informed the Council that he had attended a meeting the previous day to discuss the allocation and expenditure of this year's available funding, totalling £194,000. The aim is to ensure these funds are effectively utilised ahead of the remaining balance of £118,000, which must be spent by the end of 2026.

PCSO Report

Antisocial Behaviour:

Boy racers - 13th March - Whitemoor Lakes, Barley Green Lane. Report of boy racers racing up/down the road and doing skids round the roundabout near to White Moor Lakes and on the stretch of road towards the A38 island between 01.30am – 02.30am. Officers are aware and will KIV the location at the times stated. No CCTV at the location.

Crime:

Vehicle Crime – 14th March Statfold Lane – overnight a motorbike was stolen, bike had a disc lock on so would have been lifted onto a vehicle, motorbike was found abandoned on the village green in the bushes. Forensics are examining.

Burglary – 14th March Paskin Close – overnight a house in Paskin Close was broken into and family car stolen, entry was gained via patio doors, offenders made an untidy search of the house. Various items taken including both sets of keys, money & jewellery. No CCTV.

OF NOTE:- theft of motorbike and burglary, both locations are near to each other, enquires in hand for both.

Traffic Issues:

25th Feb – Uninsured vehicle recovered from Wood End Lane, Fradley Business Park.

26th Feb – Report of multiple HGV's blocking the island on Common Lane, trucks queuing. Causing traffic to go round the island the wrong way or drive over the pavement to get past.

Addressing HGV Parking Issues on Common Lane:

Following concerns raised by local residents regarding HGVs parking on Common Lane and surrounding areas causing grid lock on the roundabout. Frustrated drivers are mounting pavements to navigate

around the lorries, a dangerous and unlawful action that put pedestrians and other road users at risk. PCSO Maggie Griffiths, PCSO Tracy Horton and PCSO Lisa Anderson and Representatives from Fradley Parish Council (FPC), Lichfield District Council (LDC), visited the affected area on Tuesday 11th March to assess the situation first hand. During the visit we engaged with several businesses who were extremely helpful and have pledged to work with us in finding a solution.

Enforcement measures may be taken, by means of Fixed Penalty Notices for unlawful parking and obstruction by Police or local council enforcement officers. Fradley PC Clerk has very kindly put together a letter outlining the proposed initiative. PCSO's have since patrolled the location on the evenings to monitor the situation and ensure that HGV drivers drive straight into UPN to unload, and not to park on Common lane.

24/191 – Variation to the Order of Business.

There were no variations to the order of business.

24/192 –To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 20th February 2025. – (1 min)

RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 20th February 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

AGREED; unanimously.

24/193 – 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
25/00107/FULM	Fradley Link, Wellington Crescent, Fradley Park, Lichfield	Section 73 application to vary of Grampian condition 1 of application 22/00531/FULM to clarify reference to the word 'occupied'	Application Rec: 18.02.25 Comment by: 13.03.25 Ext until after 21.03.25
25/00064/COU	12 Paskin Close, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Change of use of the existing dwelling from a C3 dwelling house to a C2 residential institution (children's home)	Application Rec: 20.02.25 Comment by: 13.03.25 Ext until after 24.03.25
25/00173/CLE	The Threshing Barn, Bears Hay Farm, Brookhay Lane, Lichfield	Certificate of Lawfulness (Existing) : Use of the land as part of the residential garden of The Threshing Barn	Application Rec: 24.02.25 Comment by: 17.03.25 Ext until after 24.03.25
25/00189/FUH	78 Church Lane, Fradley, Lichfield, Staffordshire	Replacement flat roof to side extension	Application Rec: 27.02.25 Comment by: 20.03.25 Ext until after TBC
SCC/25/0002/FULL-MAJ	Chetwynd Bridge, Alrewas	New bypass bridge and conversion of existing Chetwynd bridge from a road bridge to a pedestrian and cycle bridge	Application Rec: 25.02.25 Comment by: 18.03.25 Ext until after TBC

RESOLVED: Fradley Parish Council do not wish to comment on applications 25/00107/FULM, 25/00173/CLE, 25/00189/FUH and SCC/25/0002/FULL-MAJ.

It was agreed to formally support the residents' and submit an objection to application 25/00064/COU. AGREED; Unanimously.

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

24/194 – 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
March 2025			
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	23.86	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	Service Charge	7.50	LGA 1972 s111
Wickes (paid by card)	Spray Paint	8.00	LGA 1972 s111
Etsy (paid by card)	Trophies for Fradley 10K	33.57	Chairs Allowance
Salaries, TAX,NIC	February Payment	3349.68	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses	51.59	LGA 1972 s111
JR Landscaping	Ground Maintenance Contract	10,412.92	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	261.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Fradley Village Hall	Room Hire	59.50	LGA 1972 s111
SLCC	Membership	300.00	LGA 1972 s111
SPCA	Councillor Training	240.00	LGA 1972 s111
ICO (DD)	GDPR/Data Protection	144.00	LGA 1972 s111
Broxap	Bins & Gym Equipment	18,949.50	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Mark Jarvis	Community Grant	220.00	Section 137 Grant

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

- b. To note the following income: **None this period.**
- c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2024 to 28.02.2025, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

28.02.2025

Current Account	£258,431.58
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL	£258,431.58

RESOLVED: The Council approved the unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk up to 28.02.25. AGREED; Unanimously.

24/195 – To receive a report from the working group and to discuss their recommendations.
The Working Group meeting scheduled for 13th March was cancelled; however, the Clerk provided a brief update in its place.

Quotes have been received for the construction of a plinth for the Commemorative Tree at Watersmeet, and the Clerk asked councillors to review and consider the proposal. A separate quote has also been submitted for resurfacing the path at Watersmeet. This follows work by the Grounds Maintenance Contractor to clear the path edges, which revealed significant deterioration requiring attention. Councillors were asked to consider this quote as well.

Additionally, the Clerk reported that a resident has submitted a complaint regarding overhanging branches from trees that are severely impacting their property. A quote has been obtained to reduce the height and length of the branches to prevent them from encroaching further. The Clerk requested councillors to consider this matter and the associated cost.

RESOLVED: Cllrs approved the quote to construct the plinth for the Commemorative Tree at Watersmeet ahead of the ceremony on 2nd May. AGREED: unanimously.

RESOLVED: Cllrs approved the quote to resurface the path at Watersmeet ahead of the ceremony on 2nd May. AGREED: unanimously.

RESOLVED: Cllrs approved the quote to reduce the height and length of the branches at a residents home on Turnbull Road. AGREED: unanimously.

24/196 – Consider the reviewed Business Risk Management and Business Risk Assessment document. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: The Business Risk Management and Business Risk Assessment document were adopted. AGREED: Unanimously.

24/197 – Consider the land and buildings register. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: The land and buildings register was adopted. AGREED: Unanimously.

24/198 – Consider the updated asset register. – (5 mins)

RESOLVED: The updated asset register was adopted. AGREED: Unanimously.

24/199 – Report from Cllr Mike Wilcox regarding the Speed Watch sessions. – (5 mins)

Cllr Wilcox reported that six volunteers have currently signed up to support the initiative. The group is actively monitoring vehicle speeds on Hay End Lane, Church Lane, and Fradley Lane. While there is a desire to expand to additional locations where speeding is a concern, any new monitoring sites must first be approved by Highways. The group has already recorded over 50 vehicles exceeding the speed limit while entering or leaving the village. These drivers will receive formal letters from the Police as part of the enforcement process. Cllr Wilcox noted that more volunteers are being sought to help expand the scheme and emphasised that the initiative is making a real difference. The efforts have been very well received by local residents. In support of further speed reduction efforts, the Parish Council is also progressing with plans to install three Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) at key locations in the village. Funding is available, and the process is already underway. However, a public consultation must still be carried out before the project can proceed.

24/200 – Report from Cllr Mike Wilcox regarding the Volunteer Litter picking. – (5 mins)

Cllr Wilcox informed the Council that he is in the process of establishing a community litter-picking group in Fradley to be called "FLIP" (Fradley Litter Pick). The group is currently looking for additional volunteers to get involved. His suggestion is that adults cover the busier main roads, while children, under adult supervision, help in quieter, safer areas away from traffic.

He requested that details about FLIP be included in the Parish Council newsletter to help raise awareness and encourage participation. Cllr Wilcox also raised the question of who within the Council has the authority to contact businesses on Fradley Park in light of the significant littering issue on the industrial estate. He noted the presence of large amounts of rubbish, particularly takeaway food containers and bottles of orange liquid.

A further concern was highlighted regarding the amount of litter along Gorse Lane, which may be linked to HGV traffic. In response to these concerns, the Parish Council pledged to support and help promote the Keep Britain Tidy campaign within the community.

24/201 – To consider purchasing a gazebo for future outdoor events such as Police and Parish Events and the Memorial Tree Ceremony – (5 mins) [This agenda item was deferred.](#)

24/202 – To consider the issues of lorries parking on Common Lane and whether the PC would like to pay for the yellow lines to be repainted. – (5 mins)

In response to multiple complaints from residents regarding lorries causing traffic congestion along Common Lane, Councillors, along with PCSOs, visited local businesses to explore possible solutions. While the Police were supportive, it was noted that they do not have the authority to move the drivers on. One of the contributing issues is the badly faded double yellow lines in the area. The idea of having these repainted was raised, especially in light of the dangerous behaviour now being observed. Car drivers are attempting to bypass stationary lorries by mounting kerbs and footpaths, posing a serious risk to pedestrians. Given the urgency of the situation, councillors discussed whether the Parish Council could directly fund the repainting of the yellow lines, rather than waiting for a lengthy response and action from Highways. Cllr Eagland highlighted that, since the original double yellow lines were installed, the village and its industrial estate have both seen significant growth, and additional restrictions may now be required to meet current traffic demands.

The Clerk will write to Highways to formally request their support and guidance on both the repainting and the possible extension of yellow line coverage in the area.

24/203 – Clerk Reports – (10 mins)

a. Parish Council Diary Dates:

20's Plenty Meeting: 17th March 2025, Zoom.

Florette Fradley 10K: 23rd March 2025, Watersmeet.

Working Group Meeting: 27th March 2025, Fradley Village Hall.

Parish Network Meeting: 28th March, Time and venue tbc.

Memorial Tree Ceremony: 2nd May 2025, Watersmeet.

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

SLCC Branch Meeting: 17th June 2025, The White Room, SCC. [Noted.](#)

- b. The renewal for Insurance is due, I have requested a new quote to include the new equipment at Hay End Lane.
- c. Update on Bown Pond including correspondence from the EA.
- d. To note the Community Grant funds awarded last month have been transferred. [Noted.](#)
- e. To note all Councillors attended the Code of Conduct training provided by the SPCA on 6th March. [Noted.](#)
- f. The Clerk has provided a list of training courses provided by the SLCC for March and April, should Cllrs wish to part in any, please email the Clerk directly. [Noted.](#)
- g. To note the trophies and vouchers have been purchased for the Fradley 10K. [Noted.](#)
- h. To note the new signatories have now been set up on the bank account. [Noted.](#)
- i. To note the Chair and Clerk attended the Parish Forum at Alrewas Village Hall on 27th February. [Noted.](#)
- j. To note Councillors attended a meeting with Curborough Brooks representatives. [Noted.](#)
- k. To note the Chair and Clerk attended the Rural Themed Seminar on 5th March. [Noted.](#)
- l. To note the Clerk attended a meeting with LDC and the local PCSO team regarding the issue of lorries blocking Common Lane and the subsequent letter sent to local companies. [Noted.](#)
- m. To note the resignation of Cllr Matthew Richards. [Noted.](#)

24/204 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 10th April 2025 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7.00pm. – (1 min)

[RESOLVED: The Council AGREED the next Parish Council Meeting as 10th April 2025, at 7.00pm, Fradley Village Hall.](#)

Meeting closed at 20.48pm.