

# 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 10 April 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 PCSO Tracy Horton and 1 Member of the Public.

#### **24/205 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85 (1)**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **24/206 - Declarations of Members' Interests.**

There were no declarations of members interest.

#### **24/207 – 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.

#### **24/208 – Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100.**

Apologies were noted from District/Ward Cllr Wilcox.

#### **PCSO Tracy Horton attended the meeting and gave us her reports:**

The PCSO reported a number of recent incidents, including the theft of a van from Cowhill Lane on 21st March, without keys, overnight. No CCTV with no further lines of enquiry at this time. On 21st March, there was a burglary at ASOS warehouse, Halifax Avenue, travellers accessed the warehouse and there were 15 caravans onsite, caused damage and threatened staff. There were 2 additional reports of travellers arriving at Fradley Park Industrial Estate. Despite additional security measures being introduced, including guard dogs and concrete bollards, further activity was reported on 28th March, with the travellers removing the bollards and re-entering. On 2nd April, a vehicle was stolen from the Screwfix car park (CCTV available) enquiries are in hand, and a separate group of travellers occupied a different premises on Fradley Park for two days before leaving. There were unofficial reports that one of their dogs bit a member of staff and they were aggressive with staff. That same day, two males on motorbikes were seen acting suspiciously in the Tesco car park, believed to be linked to the Screwfix incident. 4<sup>th</sup> March An uninsured vehicle was seized on Common Lane. Anti-Social Behaviour: Reports of a blue and

white quad bike being ridden dangerously around Common Lane and the Stirling Centre. CCTV is available and enquiries are ongoing.

On 5th March, a serious incident occurred at a private property in Fradley where a group of around ten primary school-aged children and one adult were seen attempting to enter a private residence in Fradley by trying door handles. A further male later joined and assaulted the homeowner. This incident is under investigation and CCTV is available. A Police pop-up surgery will be held on 3rd June from 3.15pm to 5.00pm at the Stirling Centre; support from the Council is welcome. There have been no further complaints to Police regarding HGV activity on Common Lane. PCSO Horton left the meeting.

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

Cllr Cross reported on the Horner Avenue planning application. An inspector is expected to be appointed in June in relation to the appeal for the Horner Avenue development. A hearing date has been scheduled, with the informal hearing to take place later this year. A decision is expected on or before 16th December.

He advised that the Parish Council should begin internal discussions regarding the piece of parish-owned land adjacent to Shaw Drive. This land could potentially be proposed as an alternative access route to the development site, should the need arise. Cllr Cross encouraged councillors to consider whether they would support selling or using this land for access, and to agree a position accordingly. It was noted that both Staffordshire County Council and Lichfield District Council are currently minded to approve the development proposals, so it is essential that the Parish Council and local residents prepare to oppose the application if they wish to influence the outcome.

Cllr Cross also reported that the planning application for Paskin Close had been refused. Additionally, the Bloor Homes development remains on hold due to ongoing drainage issues.

Cllr Cross left the meeting.

**24/209 – Variation to the Order of Business.**

There were no variations to the order of business.

**24/210 –To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025. – (1 min)**

***RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.***

***AGREED; unanimously.***

**24/211 – 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

There were no planning applications this month.

To note the outcome of the following planning applications for which the Council has made full comment: [Noted](#).

## 24/212 – 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>April 2025</b>			
Tesco (paid by card)	Gift Cards for Fradley 10K	102.00	Chairs Allowance
PW Direct (paid by card)	Road Signs for Frogs	46.50	LGA 1972 s111
Tesco (paid by card)	Refreshments/Leaving Card	9.30	LGA 1972 s111
Focus Group (DD)	Telephone Line	25.44	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust	Service Charge	7.80	LGA 1972 s111
Salaries, TAX,NIC	April Payment	3426.04	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses	11.99	LGA 1972 s111
JR Landscaping	Ground Maintenance Contract	3266.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	387.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Fradley Village Hall	Room Hire	22.50	LGA 1972 s111
Broxap	Adult Gym Equipment	7426.80	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
LDC	Waste bin Village Hall	374.00	LGA 1972 s111
SPCA	Councillor Training	42.00	LGA 1972 s111

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk advised members of a clerical error on the agenda, where the Fradley Village Hall invoice was incorrectly listed as £22.50 instead of the correct amount of £25.50. The Council approved the schedule of payments for April 2025, including the revised amount for Fradley Village Hall. **AGREED; Unanimously.**

- b. To note the following income: [None this period](#).
- c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2024 to 31.03.2025, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

**31.03.2025**

Current Account	£243,223.65
Unpresented Payments	<u>0.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£243,223.65</b>

**RESOLVED:** The Council approved the unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk up to 31.03.25. **AGREED; Unanimously.**

## 24/213 – To receive a report from the working group and to discuss their recommendations.

The Clerk confirmed that all works at Hay End Lane, including installation of equipment and fencing repairs, are now complete and payment can be processed, marking the end of this phase of the S106-funded project.

Regarding Worthington Road Park, a design proposal has been submitted to LDC, but the project has stalled due to the current LDC project manager being unavailable. Cllr Cross will continue to progress the matter with LDC, and a meeting is expected soon. The contractor has been asked to amend plans to not include the fencing along Worthington Road and to include more usable play equipment with these additional funds.

Councillors reviewed progress on the upcoming parish newsletter. A draft is due shortly, with articles including community grants, local events, and updates on the May elections, commemorative tree ceremony and VE Day.

For the commemorative tree event on 2 May, a full schedule is in place with invitations sent and refreshments coordinated with church volunteers. It was agreed that bunches of rosemary would be placed at the War Memorial, the area would be tidied, the path on Watersmeet re-laid, and the plaque installed once finalised.

The Florette Fradley 10K on 23 March was a success. Cllr Leytham presented the trophies and prizes, and the Parish Council will continue to sponsor the event annually. Better promotion of the local resident discount is planned for next year.

Cllr Leytham also introduced the Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2025.

A site visit to Bown Pond with the Environment Agency confirmed there was no significant fish loss arising from the oil leak in December, and restocking was discouraged. It was advised to enhance the habitat instead by introducing reeds and other plants.

Councillors recommended approval of repair works to the Watersmeet footpath following concerns raised during recent maintenance.

Due to repeated delays from Bellway Homes, Cllr Beswick proposed that the Parish Council proceed independently with the bat box project at the old pillboxes. Councillors supported the idea and recommended formal approval at the next meeting.

At Worthington Road, residents reported antisocial behaviour and safety concerns from children playing football. Complaints included damage to grass and fences, and disturbances from noise and inappropriate behaviour. Councillors agreed to explore improved fencing options and to refer behavioural issues to the police.

In addition, a damaged Parish Council-owned fence further along at a private residence on Worthington Road will be replaced like-for-like, subject to approval at the next meeting.

The latest community grant application was discussed.

***RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to replace the damaged fencing along the footpaths and roadside at Worthington Road with like-for-like fencing. In light of safety concerns regarding children playing nearby, the roadside fencing will include additional protection to prevent footballs from passing through onto the highway. The Clerk will obtain quotes for the works.***

***AGREED: unanimously.***

***RESOLVED: It was also agreed that the damaged Parish Council-owned fence adjacent to a private residence on Worthington Road will be replaced at the same time on a like-for-like basis.***

***AGREED: unanimously.***

***RESOLVED: The Parish Council approved the Community Grant application. AGREED: unanimously.***

**24/214 – To confirm and finalise the timings for the May meetings, including the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Meeting of the Council. This will be followed by a discussion to brief Councillors on the agenda, expected procedures, and their roles in the meetings. – (10 mins)**

***RESOLVED: The Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 16th May, 6.30pm at Fradley Village Hall, prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council, 7pm. AGREED: unanimously.***

**24/215 – To consider the proposed meeting schedule for the year, as provided by the Clerk, noting that meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month, except for August, when no meeting is scheduled and December, when an earlier meeting date is proposed – (2 mins)**

***RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to the proposed meeting schedule, as provided by the Clerk, noting that meetings are typically held on the third Thursday of each month, except for August, when no meeting is scheduled and December, when an earlier meeting date is proposed.***

***AGREED: unanimously.***

**24/216 – A quarterly update on Budget to Cashflow by the Clerk/RFO. – (10 mins)**

The Clerk provided a quarterly update on the council's budget and cashflow position, including a summary of the S106 project funds and current overspends. An overview of the council's financial position as it stands at year-end was presented. A full breakdown of the year's underspends and overspends and proposals to amend the Council's reserves will be reported at the next meeting, once the year-end accounts have been finalised.

**24/217 – To note the Neighbourhood CIL Annual Report 2024/2025 to be signed by the Chair and Clerk/RFO has been received. – (5 mins)**

***RESOLVED: It was agreed for the Chair and Clerk to sign the CIL Annual Report. AGREED: unanimously.***

**24/218 – To consider subscribing to Canva for the Clerk at a cost of £99.99 per year to support the creation of posters and newsletter publications.– (5 mins)**

***RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to subscribe to Canva at a cost of £99 per year. AGREED: unanimously.***

**24/219 – Following communications from Bellway Homes, it appears they can no longer commit to the proposal to transform four historic pillboxes into bat roosts. Cllr Beswick would like to progress the project using Council funds. – (5 mins)**

Cllr Beswick provided an update on the pillbox conversion project. Following recent correspondence from Bellway Homes confirming they are currently unable to support the initiative, he has undertaken independent research into the costs of converting three of the pillboxes himself. He has already cleared and cleaned the structures, which are now ready for the next stage of the project.

Cllr Beswick has contacted a local company to request support with building supplies, and the Clerk has followed up with a formal request for donated materials, noting the community value of the project. In line with discussions at the last Working Group meeting, Cllr Beswick is now seeking quotes for external doors in both metal and timber, and will present the quotes to the Council once received.

**24/220 – Clerk Reports – (10 mins)**

a. Parish Council Diary Dates:

20's Plenty Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025, Zoom.

Working Group Meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025, Fradley Village Hall.

Memorial Tree Ceremony: 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2025, Watersmeet.

FLIP Litter Pick: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025, 10am, Stirling Centre

Annual Parish Meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 6.15pm, Fradley Village Hall.

Annual Meeting of the Council: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7pm, Fradley Village Hall.

Cemex Liaison Meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025, venue tbc.

SLCC Branch Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025, The White Room, SCC. **Noted.**

Councillors also noted the additional date for the pop up Police surgery on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 3.15pm at The Stirling Centre.

b. To ratify the decision to accept the revised insurance renewal quote for the council, which is now due. A new quote was requested to include the additional equipment at Hay End Lane, resulting in an increased annual premium of £286.68. ***RESOLVED: The Council approved the decision to accept the revised insurance renewal quote which is now due. AGREED: unanimously.***

c. Update on Bown Pond including correspondence from the EA.

**The Clerk gave an update on correspondence received, below is a summary of the email:**

The Environment Agency has taken its response to the Bown Pond oil spill incident seriously and we thank your residents for their patience whilst our investigation was ongoing. This has been completed, so we are now able to provide these details for you to share with your residents. In early December 2024, an oil tank became damaged by storm Darragh which resulted in a spill of the oil. The owner of the tank reported this incident to us and contained what they could at the source. Unfortunately, the secondary containment system became



overwhelmed, resulting in oil entering Bown Pond through the surface water drainage system. The owner of the tank cooperated with us, and they arranged for a specialist contractor to conduct the cleanup of the oil from the pond. Environment Agency officers attended the pond several times to conduct water quality testing, assess for impact on wildlife, and to monitor the cleanup. Sadly, approximately 40 small fish and 5 Swans died in December. We have been in contact with the wildlife sanctuary who cared for the Swans to update them on the progress of the cleanup and the water quality of the pond to help inform their decisions on releasing the remaining swans in their care. The oil was contained in the pond, and did not affect the receiving brook. The nearby canal was also unaffected, which is not connected to the pond nor brook. The surface water drain leading to the pond has been cleaned and the cleanup on the pond from this incident is complete. Testing has shown that the water quality in the pond is good, and we do not expect there to be any long-term impacts from this oil spill. The damaged oil tank has since been removed and will not be replaced, preventing a reoccurrence. The polluter has paid over £410,000 to remove the pollution and has paid the costs of the Environment Agency's time responding to this incident. It has been a welcome sight to see wildlife including many bird species and fish enjoying the pond since the cleanup. Unfortunately, on 7 March 2025, Environment Agency officers discovered a separate pollution incident affecting Bown Pond. The pollution, believed to be paint, had entered the pond on the North-East side via the surface water drainage system, and was traced to a drain outside domestic properties, however the offender has not been identified. On the request of the EA, the owner of the surface water outfall, Severn Trent Water, is working to remove the pollution from the drains and pond. Testing has shown no impact on water quality and no impact on wildlife has been observed, however, officers will continue to monitor this as well as the cleanup until the pollution has been removed. The pollution had naturally started to separate in the water resulting in an oily sheen being visible on the surface of the pond. We are aware this has raised concerns from members of the public that this could have been a continuation of the previous pollution, however there is no evidence to suggest these incidents are linked or will be reoccurring. There is also no evidence to suggest that there is a larger more chronic ongoing pollution risk to Bown Pond. We hope this message offers reassurance to the local community on the Environment Agency's response to these incidents and on the current and future condition of this much loved environment. The Environment Agency appreciates the local residents who reported these incidents to us, and we would like to encourage the public to continue to use our 24-hour incident hotline on 0800 80 70 60 to report any new, worsening, or recurring incidents to us.

- d. To note that the British Heart Foundation grant scheme was at full capacity when the Clerk applied for two additional defibrillators. *Noted, this item will be added to the next Working Group agenda.*
- e. To note that preparations for the Commemorative Tree Ceremony are well underway. Invitations have been sent, the plinth is built, the plaque has been ordered, and an itinerary has been prepared. However, the initial budget of £250 will need to be increased if this is to include the brick plinth, plaque, flags, napkins and rosemary to be laid at the War Memorial. ***RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to add an additional budget of £1500 to the project to include the brick plinth, plaque and catering. AGREED: unanimously.***
- f. The Clerk has provided a list of training courses provided by the SLCC for April and May, should Cllrs wish to part in any, please email the Clerk directly. *Noted.*
- g. To note that Cllr David Leytham attended the Florette Fradley 10K event and presented trophies and vouchers to the first male and female residents to cross the finish line. *Noted.*
- h. To note the date for the 1<sup>st</sup> FLIP (Fradley Litter Pickers) meeting has been arranged for Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> May, 10am at The Stirling Centre. *Noted.*
- i. To note that the final two pieces of equipment have been installed at Hay End Lane Play Park, marking the completion of the current S106 projects. The next phase of projects is set to commence soon. *Noted.*
- j. To note that signs for Allen Way and Bown Pond, highlighting the amphibian migration, have been purchased and installed. *Noted.*



24/221 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meetings to be confirmed as 15th May 2025 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7pm. – (1 min)

*RESOLVED: The Council AGREED the next Parish Council Meeting as 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025, at 7.00pm, Fradley Village Hall.*

Meeting closed at 20.55pm.