

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 16 July 2026.

Present:

Cllrs Mike Ashcroft (Vice-Chair), Phil Beswick, Tosh Crompton, Amena Croxton, David Leytham (Chair), Jan Leytham-Gain and Kevin Stroud.

In Attendance:

Claire Crompton (Clerk/RFO) District & Ward Cllrs Derick Cross, Richard Stephenson, County Cllr Richard Holland and 1 Member of the Public.

26/32 – Declarations of Members' Interests.

There were no declarations of interest.

26/33 – Apologies for Absence. Local Govt Act 1972 s85 (1)

Apologies were noted from Cllr Matt Evans.

26/34 – 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 candidates for co-option.

26/35 – Adjournment for Public Speaking. Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 s1 extended by the LG Act 1972 s100.

a. Public Speaking:

One member of the public was present and introduced herself to the Council. She advised that she has lived in Fradley for approximately two years and works as a Community Engagement Officer. She is keen to explore ways in which she can support the local community, particularly older residents who may be at risk of social isolation.

She outlined plans to develop activities aimed at encouraging social interaction and community engagement for older residents and expressed an interest in using Fradley Village Hall to provide interactive activities and opportunities for residents to meet and socialise.

Members welcomed the initiative and thanked the resident for attending and introducing the proposed project.

b. District & Ward and County Members Reports:

County Cllr Richard Holland attended the meeting and gave his report as follows:

County Councillor Holland reported that he had attended a recent public meeting at Staffordshire County Council where Local Government Reorganisation had been discussed. Members were advised that a two-way north/south unitary arrangement for Staffordshire had now been announced. Cllr Holland

commented that he would have preferred the three-way split that had previously been proposed. Under the proposed arrangements, the local area would form part of a new authority incorporating a number of neighbouring districts. He advised that the scheduled Lichfield District Council elections in May may no longer proceed and that the new unitary arrangements are expected to take effect in 2028.

Cllr Holland also provided an update on the campaign for improved healthcare provision in Fradley. He and District and Ward Cllr Stephenson continue to press for a GP surgery to serve the area, highlighting the significant level of existing development and approximately 4,000 additional homes anticipated across the wider area. Concern was expressed that existing healthcare provision is already under considerable pressure. Cllr Holland advised that further representations would need to be made to the Integrated Care Board, which is responsible for decisions regarding healthcare provision.

Members also received an update regarding planned pothole repairs at Halifax Avenue. Contractors had attended to undertake the works but were subjected to unacceptable behaviour from road users, including verbal abuse and an incident of spitting. Despite advance notification of the works being issued to local residents and businesses, the planned works had to be halted and only temporary repairs could be completed.

Cllr Holland advised that the behaviour towards contractors was unacceptable and would not be tolerated. The full repair works will be rescheduled, with further liaison required with the industrial units to ensure road closure information is communicated to drivers and that suitable alternative access arrangements are established before the works recommence.

District and Ward Cllr Richard Stephenson attended the meeting and gave his report as follows:

District and Ward Cllr Richard Stephenson provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation. He advised that the current proposals provide for approximately 92 councillors across the new authority. Under the proposed arrangements, Fradley would no longer share representation with Alrewas and would instead form part of a unitary ward with Streethay and Boley Park. The area is expected to be represented by two unitary councillors, replacing the current arrangements of one County Councillor and three District and Ward Councillors.

Members were advised that food waste caddies should now have been distributed to all households, together with biodegradable liners. Once the initial supply of liners has been used, residents will be able to attach the provided tag to their caddy to request a replacement pack.

Cllr Stephenson reported that the new micropub at the Stirling Centre had received the keys to the premises and work is expected to commence shortly. He also advised that a further tranche of CIL funding, totalling approximately £781,000, had been allocated locally.

An update was provided on the District Council's homelessness and rough sleeping initiatives. Cllr Stephenson reported that £4.9 million had been invested in temporary accommodation, providing 22 properties, with a further seven in the pipeline and an additional 28 expected through the Cricket Lane development. He advised that the Council is now able to provide same-day assistance to anyone presenting in a housing crisis.

Cllr Stephenson also provided an update on the city centre redevelopment project, which is currently behind schedule. Members were advised that the previous contractors had been removed from the project and a new contractor appointed. Lichfield District Council has now purchased the development outright, providing the Council with greater control over its completion and future operation.

The project is currently approximately £5.4 million over budget, with increased costs attributed to factors including inflation, the administration of the original contractor, enhanced works to the development and plaza, delays and updated fire protection requirements. Cllr Stephenson advised that the additional costs will be met through an over-collection of business rates last year, unspent capital funding and a drawdown from investment reserves, and will therefore not result in an increase in Council Tax. The completed development will remain an asset of the District Council and generate rental income, with tenants having entered into 25-year leases.

District and Ward Cllr Derick Cross attended the meeting and gave his report as follows:

District and Ward Cllr Derick Cross reported that the school playing field had now been transferred by Barratt Homes to the Education Authority and arrangements were required for its ongoing maintenance. St Stephen's Primary School had not yet taken formal handover of the field and did not have the resources to maintain it. An arrangement had therefore been reached with AFC Fradley whereby the club would be permitted to use the field for training in return for undertaking its maintenance.

Members were advised that the two training pitches at Anson Gardens had now been signed off and were ready for handover, with AFC Fradley currently in negotiations regarding the lease.

Cllr Cross also provided an update on AFC Fradley's proposed new facility on land offered by Ms Arblaster. He had attended a meeting with Councillors Richard Cox and Andy Smith to discuss the proposals. Initial plans and searches had been undertaken and the estimated cost of the project is approximately £3.1 million, with delivery anticipated in phases. The proposals are currently with the Planning Department. Members noted that funding would need to be identified to assist with the planning application costs, as community funding cannot be allocated to the project until planning permission has been secured.

Cllr Cross highlighted the significant growth of AFC Fradley from a small junior team into a club supporting multiple junior, men's and women's teams. He offered to share with Members a video produced by the club demonstrating its development and growth.

Cllr Cross advised Members that he was no longer a member of the Planning Committee following concerns he had raised regarding a matter which he considered required planning permission. He reported that subsequent issues had been referred to the Monitoring Officer, including a data protection matter which had also been reported to the Information Commissioner's Office.

Cllr Cross provided a further update on outstanding planning conditions relating to the Barratt Homes development. Cllr Cross and the Clerk had met with a representative of Barratt Homes to discuss the completion of the footpath linking Goring Drive with Hay End Lane Play Park and were advised that these works are now out to tender. An update was also sought regarding the proposed car park extension, which remains under consideration by Barratt Homes.

Members noted that the gravelled section of the existing car park is currently in private ownership and that the landowner may be open to discussing its future transfer to the Parish Council. The ownership and maintenance responsibility for the ditch alongside the car park and Hay End Lane also requires clarification to ensure that it is appropriately maintained and kept safe and tidy. The Barratt Homes representative agreed to investigate the ownership of the ditch and provide a further update.

26/36 – Variation to the Order of Business.

There were no variations to the order of business.

26/37 – To consider the draft motion, Supporting Improved Primary Healthcare Infrastructure from Cllr Stephenson.

Members considered the draft motion submitted by District and Ward Cllr Stephenson in support of improved primary healthcare infrastructure for Fradley and the surrounding areas.

Members noted the significant level of housing growth, with Lichfield District Council's housing target of approximately 750 new homes per year and planning permission already granted for a further 1,811 homes within the local area, without corresponding additional primary healthcare provision.

RESOLVED: that the Parish Council supports the draft motion and that the Clerk write to the Integrated Care Board to make formal representations for the provision of a GP surgery to serve the growing local community.

AGREED: unanimously.

County Cllr Holland left the meeting.

26/38 – To consider the Deed of Easement for Hay End Lane pathway.

Members considered the Deed of Easement for the Hay End Lane pathway, which had previously been discussed at the Working Group meeting. Members noted that Councillor Croxton had reviewed the document on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED: that the Deed of Easement be approved, subject to the condition that, as the school will have access to and use of the pathway, the pathway is gritted by the school at the same time as the school playground during periods of icy weather.

AGREED: unanimously.

26/39 –To confirm the minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2026

RESOLVED: The draft minutes of the Fradley Parish Council Meeting held on 11th June 2026 were approved and signed as a true and accurate record.

AGREED; Unanimously.

26/40 – To ratify the purchase of a post for the installation of the wildlife camera serving Bat Box 1.

Members considered the ratification of the purchase of a post required for the installation of the wildlife camera serving Bat Box 1.

RESOLVED: that the purchase of the post for the installation of the wildlife camera serving Bat Box 1 be ratified.

AGREED: unanimously.

26/41 – Planning Matters.

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
26/00697/FUL	Land Lying South of, Hay End Lane, Fradley, Lichfield	Outline application with all matters reserved, except for access, for residential development of up to 43 dwellings (Resubmission of 23/00154/OUTM)	Rec: 15.06.26 Comm: 06.07.26
26/00784/FULM	Fradley Airfield, Hanger 5 , Wood End Lane, Fradley, Lichfield	Extension of the existing production and storage building and yard, new HGV exit road and associated external works	Rec: 02.07.26 Comm: 23.07.26
26/00761/FUL	Tesco Distribution Centre , Halifax Avenue, Fradley, Lichfield	Installation of 2 no automatic vehicle barriers and 2.4m high palisade pedestrian access swing gate and associated works	Rec: 07.07.26 Comm: 28.07.26

Planning Applications Considered

- 26/00697/FUL – The Parish Council resolved not to submit any comments on this application.
- 26/00784/FULM – The Parish Council resolved not to submit any comments on this application.
- 26/00761/FUL – The Parish Council resolved not to submit any comments on this application.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council members agreed to the above planning application comments.
AGREED: unanimously

To note the outcome of the following planning applications for which the Council has been consulted:

26/00550/LBC	Lock 17 , Fradley Junction, Alrewas, Burton Upon Trent	Works to Listed Building to enable the reduction in lock ladders, alter ladder hoops to form continuous rail with ladder stringers and brick Ladder and recess to match existing chamber wall and masonry	GRANTED
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Noted

26/42 – Finance

- a. To consider the following payments, any payments required after publication of the agenda will be advised at the meeting.

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	POWER
July 2026			
Mainland Aggregates (Card)	Sand for Sand Pit	823.20	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
East Staffs Borough Council (Card)	Parking	2.90	LGA 1972 s111
Lichfield Community 1 st Responder	3 Replacement Defibrillators	2268.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Fradley Heritage Society	Community Grant	1000.00	LGA 1972 s.137
Focus (DD)	Telephone Line May	25.92	LGA 1972 s111
Unity Trust (DD)	Service Charge	9.40	LGA 1972 s111
Scribe (DD)	Civic.ly	70.80	LGA 1972 s111
Valda Energy (DD)	Electricity	22.05	Tourism - LGA 1972, s.144
Salaries, TAX,NIC	July Payment	3,872.98	LGA 1972 s112 - 119
Claire Crompton	Expenses	95.26	LGA 1972 s111
JR Landscaping	Ground Maintenance Contract	2,526.88	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
JR Landscaping	Summer Planters & Watering	6096.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
D Beaumont	Handyman Contract	290.00	Open Space Act 1906 s9,10
Fradley Village Hall	Room Hire	42.50	LGA 1972 s111
Civic Pride	Lamppost Testing (Christmas)	402.60	Highways Act 1980, s.178
DBN Web Design	Neighbourhood Plan Website	68.99	LGA 1972 s111

RESOLVED: The Council approved the schedule of payments for July 2026.
AGREED; Unanimously.

- b. To note the following income:

PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT

Noted

- c. To consider the unaudited accounts from 1.04.2026 to 30.06.2026, including all supporting documents provided by the Clerk.

	30.06.2026
Current Account	£391,323.74
Equals Card	£964.30
Unpresented Payments	£0.00
TOTAL	£392,288.04

RESOLVED: The Parish Council AGREED the above payments and unaudited accounts provided by the Clerk. **AGREED:** Unanimously.

- d. To consider granting delegated authority to the Clerk to authorise and make payments during August 2026, when no scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place.

Members considered granting delegated authority to the Clerk to authorise and make payments during August 2026, when no scheduled meeting of the Parish Council is due to take place.

RESOLVED: that delegated authority be granted to the Clerk to authorise and make necessary payments during August 2026, in accordance with the Council's approved budget and Financial Regulations and inline with their policy, Scheme and Scope of Delegations to the Clerk.

AGREED: unanimously.

26/43 – To receive a report from the Working Group and to discuss their recommendations. This is to include Community Grant applications received this month

Working Group Recommendations:

Members wished to formally record a vote of thanks to District and Ward Cllr Cross for his work in securing funding for the Worthington Road Play Park project and for his continued support in bringing the project forward.

RESOLVED: that a vote of thanks be formally recorded to Councillor Cross.

AGREED: unanimously.

Naming of Play Parks

Members considered the naming of the Council's play parks to enable the new park signage to be ordered.

It was proposed by Cllr Crompton and seconded by Cllr Leytham-Gain that Watersmeet Play Park be renamed Watersmeet Memorial Park.

RESOLVED: that Watersmeet be renamed Watersmeet Memorial Park.

AGREED: 5 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention.

Members considered the name of Barlow Drive Play Park. It was proposed by Cllr Leytham-Gain and seconded by Cllr Beswick that the existing name be retained.

RESOLVED: that the name Barlow Drive Play Park be retained.

AGREED: unanimously.

Parish Council Logo

Members considered the revised Parish Council logo incorporating a lighter sky-blue colour. It was proposed by Cllr Stroud and seconded by Cllr Ashcroft that the revised logo be adopted.

RESOLVED: that the revised Parish Council logo, incorporating the lighter sky-blue colour, be adopted.

AGREED: unanimously.

Suspension of Standing Orders

It was noted that the permitted meeting duration had been reached and that further decisions remained to be considered.

RESOLVED: that Standing Orders be suspended to allow the remaining business on the agenda to be completed.

AGREED: unanimously.

1 member of the public left the meeting.

S106 Projects – Planters

Members considered the purchase and positioning of six planters as part of the S106 projects, in place of the previously proposed floral displays on lampposts.

RESOLVED: that six planters be purchased, with four positioned alongside the new park signs, one at the Old Post Office and one adjacent to the new Parish Council noticeboard at Fradley Park Primary School.

AGREED: unanimously.

Hay End Lane Skate Park Repairs

Members considered the quotation for repairs to the existing skate park ahead of the installation of the new S106-funded equipment. Due to delays to the wider project, Members agreed that the necessary repairs should not be delayed further.

RESOLVED: that the quotation for the skate park repairs be accepted, with 50% of the cost paid in advance to enable the contractor to order the required Skatelite material and the remaining 50% paid upon satisfactory completion of the works.

AGREED: unanimously.

Worthington Road Play Park – Heras Fencing

Members considered the arrangements for the removal of the Heras fencing surrounding Worthington Road Play Park. The contractor had agreed to retain the fencing until the outstanding remedial works were completed. Members noted that retaining the fencing beyond completion of these works until the official opening would incur an additional cost of approximately £975.

Members were satisfied that, once the remedial works were complete, the play park would be safe for public use and that the remaining works would principally comprise of general tidying, mowing and maintenance of the surrounding area. It was noted that Heras fencing would remain around the zip wire until its replacement line had been installed at the contractor's expense.

RESOLVED: that the Heras fencing be removed following completion of the remedial works and that the additional cost of approximately £975 to retain the fencing until the official opening not be incurred.

AGREED: unanimously.

S106 Projects – Appointment of Contractors

Members considered quotations and options for the remaining S106 projects. The Clerk advised that live working documents had been provided to Members to assist with consideration of the designs, locations and contractor options.

For the provision of new benches, Members considered the quotations received and agreed that the quotation from Marshalls represented the preferred option. A combination of the Festival Curve Seat and Festival Straight Seat was selected, with the proposed locations identified within the working documents also approved.

RESOLVED: that the quotation from Marshalls be accepted for the supply of the benches, comprising a combination of Festival Curve Seats and Festival Straight Seats, and that the proposed locations identified within the working documents be approved.

AGREED: unanimously.

Members then considered the remaining S106 projects comprising fingerposts, noticeboards, park signs and history boards. Following consideration of the quotations received, Members agreed that The Noticeboard Company offered the most suitable and cost-effective option, with the ability to supply and install all of the required items, remove the existing street furniture and provide the artwork required for the history boards and park signs.

RESOLVED: that the quotation from The Noticeboard Company be accepted for the fingerposts, noticeboards, park signs and history boards, including removal of the existing furniture, installation of the new items and provision of the required artwork.

AGREED: unanimously.

It was agreed that the final locations for the remaining new street furniture would be considered and determined at the next meeting.

The official opening of Worthington Road Play Park was confirmed for Friday 17 July at 11.00am.

Worthington Road Play Park – Ratification of Expenditure

Members were advised of urgent works required at Worthington Road Play Park ahead of the official reopening. Due to the timescales involved, decisions had been taken between meetings to enable the necessary works to proceed.

RESOLVED: to ratify the following expenditure:

£300 to Lichfield District Council for a nesting bird watch to enable the necessary hedge and vegetation works to proceed safely;

£600 for an alternative contractor to undertake the hedge and vegetation works, as the Council's usual Grounds Maintenance Contractor was unable to complete the works within the required timescale due to the short notice; and

£660 for repairs to the surface surrounding the sandpit to address identified trip hazards.

AGREED: unanimously.

26/44 – Clerk Reports – (5 mins)

a. Parish Council Diary Dates:

- Fradley & Alrewas Charities next meeting: Monday 13th July, 7.30pm, Venue TBC. [Noted](#)
- Re-opening of Worthington Road Play Park: Friday 17th July, 11am. [Noted](#)
- Parish Network Meeting: Monday 28th September. Time and Venue TBC. [Noted](#)
- SLCC Financial Regional Training Seminars for Digital AGAR: Thursday 10th September Derby County Football Club (Pride Park) DE24 8XL, 9am. (Clerk) [Noted](#)

b. To note we have received a complaint about WRPP which has been forwarded onto LWMTS. [Noted](#)

c. To note we have received a complaint about weeds in the older part of the village. [Noted](#)

d. To note we have received a complaint about the appearance and upkeep of the village. [Noted](#)

- e. To note we have received a request to support the residents of Horner Avenue. The Clerk advised Members that this matter had been handed over to District and Ward Cllr Cross to progress, due to his established working relationship with representatives from Vistry. Cllr Cross will liaise with Vistry and provide an update in due course.
- f. To note Cllrs Leytham, Leytham-Gain, Ashcroft and Stroud attended the Dedication of RAF Lichfield World War Two Memorial at St. Stephen's Church on 13th June. **Noted**
- g. To note that Cllrs Beswick, Crompton, Leytham and Leytham-Gain together with D&W Cllr Cross, attended a pre-completion site walkaround of the Worthington Road Play Park in advance of the formal completion of the project where issues were identified and raised with the Project Manager. **Noted**
- h. To note Cllrs Leytham, Leytham-Gain, Ashcroft, Stroud and the Clerk attended the Tesco Armed Forces Day at Tesco Fradley Park Distribution centre on Thursday 25th of June. **Noted**
- i. To note Cllr Leytham and the Clerk attended the Parish Network Meeting on 29th June at Streethay. **Noted**
- j. To note the 1st Brain Storming evening went ahead, was well attended and was deemed a success. The next date is to be confirmed. **Noted**
- k. To note the Clerks Away Day was cancelled. **Noted**
- l. To note the Clerk attended the SLCC Branch Meeting on 16th June. **Noted**
- m. To note that the Clerk has completed the AGAR Digital process and has been invited to attend two seminars in September relating to AGAR Digital and associated Parish Council governance matters. **Noted**
- n. The Clerk has provided a list of training courses provided by the SLCC & SPCA for July and August, should Cllrs wish to take part in any, please email the Clerk directly. **Noted**

26/45 – Date and time of the next Parish Council Meeting to be confirmed as 17th September 2026 at Fradley Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

RESOLVED: The date and time of the next Parish Council meeting is confirmed as 17th September at 7.00pm. AGREED: unanimously.

Meeting closed at 21.35pm.

Signed:

Chair Cllr David Leytham

Date: