

FULFORD PARISH COUNCIL

NEWS

New Chairman Elected in May 2021:

At the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council in May, Cllr. Juliet Koprowska was elected as the Parish Council Chairman for 2021/2022.



Juliet (who much prefers the informal title of Chair, not being a man!) has lived in Fulford for nine years and joined the Parish Council in August 2019. She appreciates Fulford's proximity both to countryside and the city, giving a good balance of life, and has taken on the role of chair having spent some time learning about the extent of the Parish Council's responsibilities. She believes it is really important to work with local people to build the community that we want.

The population of the area is slowly growing and changing, and working with residents and their different interests is a crucial aspect of Parish Council work.

The first point of contact with the Parish Council is to phone or email the Clerk, Rachel Robinson, but do feel free to contact Juliet by email if you wish.

Opportunities For New Councillors

We are looking for new councillors who have some knowledge of local issues, care about the community and have the ability to work with others to resolve issues.

The role involves attending 11-12 Parish Council Meetings per year, plus a modest time commitment to the work of the council between meetings.

We work co-operatively in small groups in areas of regular responsibility, such as looking after the Council's open spaces and the Social Hall, evaluating planning applications and addressing climate and ecological matters. We welcome potential councillors with energy and ideas about how we can work more closely with the community. Councillors work closely with the Parish Clerk, who manages most of the Parish Council's day-to-day responsibilities. We welcome people at all stages of their career.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Parish Clerk on clerk@fulfordpc.org.uk

WHY AM I A PARISH COUNCILLOR? This is a question I would often ask myself, when (under normal circumstances) in a Parish Council meeting in the Social Hall, late on a cold November evening, discussing whether we should hire a digger for the cemetery or buy a new one. One year later, a new digger arrived. Why so long? The reason is simple – it is Fulford Parishioners' money we are spending and each and every spend has to be discussed thoroughly before a decision is made – whether it is a digger at several thousand pounds or a new waste bin costing a hundred or so.

I often wondered what a Parish Councillor did. I was always the first to criticise a new building being put up; the traffic; the litter; the roads; the anti-social behaviour and the list goes on. In truth, I would criticise, but do absolutely nothing about it, leaving it to the Parish Council – and why not? For if nothing was done or it went 'not my way' I would have someone to blame. At this point, I realised that I should do something and decided to apply to be a Parish Councillor. I applied, went to Greece for my holidays, where I was contacted by the then Parish Clerk to say I had been accepted. My first thoughts were of apathy and reluctance and whether I should retract my application. Given time to really think why I had applied in the first place and having a feeling of pride that someone would find me useful, I gratefully accepted.

The first meeting or so, I said very little. Daunted by the experience, wisdom and terminology of the other experienced and highly respected Parish Councillors, in spite of them all making me feel more than welcome. More meetings and gaining further experience and confidence, I look back and am grateful I was accepted to be part of the Parish Council. I'm not so sure if they are though, as I now tend to never shut up and even on Zoom can extend a meeting longer than it should be!

Why am I a Parish Councillor – because I enjoy it! By Cllr. Geof Walker

Covid9 Update:

Fulford Cemetery Visiting Hours have now returned to the usual Summer Timetable of 8am—8pm (the Winter Timetable of 8am-5pm will commence from 1st October 2021). Appointments are available to Blue Badge Holders for access to the Cemetery by car each weekday by contacting the Cemetery Office on 01904 633151 or cemetery@fulfordpc.org.uk.

Fulford Social Hall is now available for event bookings subject to the provisions of the Social Hall's Covid19 Risk Assessment. For more information, please email the Clerk. Fulford Parish Council advises wearing face masks in Fulford Social Hall to protect yourself and others.

Open Spaces Report:

Village Green: Did you know that there is a Village Green owned by the Parish Council? It is not where you would expect, in the centre of Fulford but overlooking the river, on the edge of the Ings. This is an important area for the endangered tansy beetle. There is a board on display at the Green.

This year the Parish Council installed a fence to protect the riverbank from erosion, and to restore the habitat for tansy plants and the tansy beetle. The Council also completed a set of steps to the left hand side so that people can access the beach. Some Giant Hogweed plants were growing next to the steps – it is a dangerous plant, as contact with it makes the skin very sensitive to sunlight and this can lead to severe burns. With the help of the Environment Agency, the plants were removed.

There are picnic tables and benches at the Village Green. Do make use of them! Take your recycling back home with you, leaving any unrecyclable items in the bin nearby.

Allotments: There are 30 allotments at Fordlands Road, adjacent to the Cemetery. Fulford residents enjoy preferential rates and there is a waiting list of approximately 30 people. A new perimeter fence was installed this year to make the allotments more secure.

Donation of Trees from St Oswald's School: St Oswald's School has kindly donated five oak tree saplings to the Parish Council. These will be planted at Fordlands Road Playing Fields in the autumn.

Play Areas: With the help of a ward grant, a new multiplay has been installed to replace the timeworn existing unit in the toddler play area at Fordlands Road. In addition, thanks to the successful application for funding from the City of York, the Parish Council will install a new piece of equipment for young people on Fordlands Road. Look out for a consultation at the Fulford Show and by Facebook!

Litter on the two playing fields is a problem! Bins are provided and everyone should either use them or take recyclable items such as plastic and glass home with them. Parish Council employees do collect litter regularly but it would be far better if no one dropped it in the first place! Parents frequently have to clear up before their children can use the play equipment and litter is harmful to the environment. Please don't leave litter and please use the bins provided!

Pinfold Trees: The Parish Council was pleased that Whitebeam Trees were planted by the care home developers on the Pinfold but it was desperately sad to see these vandalised only weeks afterwards. We are looking into the possibility of their replacement and this of course means more unanticipated expenditure. Suppliers have advised not to replace them before November.

New Bus Shelters for Crossfield Crescent and Main Street: The Parish Council was pleased to work with City of York Council for the installation of 2 replacement bus shelters. Real Time displays will be added to the shelters in the next few weeks.

Parish Field Projects: The Parish Field is an important open space in the heart of Fulford. It has facilities for children's play, for football, for informal play, and is also the home of the Tennis Club, which shares the pavilion with the Sports Club. It also has a shelter mostly used by young people. Together, the Tennis Club, Sports Club and Parish Council are developing the Pavilion area at the end of the year. The aim is to increase planting and seating to make it more attractive, and to make it more accessible for wheelchair users. It is hoped that this will reduce both accidental damage and deliberate vandalism in the pavilion area.

In addition, a larger project is in hand to improve the quality of the playing surface of the field for football, and to enhance the Parish Field for the community as a whole. This is a substantial undertaking, and also involves Persimmon Homes, who own the adjacent land between the Parish Field and the Germany Beck development. A survey of the land has been conducted to explore whether problems with levels and drainage can be solved, and plans should be available towards the end of 2021.

Planning Update: We continue to assess all planning applications in the parish and respond whenever appropriate.

Most recently Fulford School's expansion plans were approved despite the controversial access arrangements and the regrettable loss of a large number of trees.

Meanwhile, applications to expand the Designer Outlet and to construct a business park on the green belt are still under consideration by York's planning department as well as an application to construct a road and car park in the Connaught Court parkland.

There is much concern about future encroachment into the green belt and harm being done to the few remaining verdant areas in the village.

Construction of Germany Beck continues to make good progress and many new residents have been welcomed to Fulford.

However, many residents remain anxious about Persimmon's intention to replace the bungalows approved within phase 1, with very large two storey houses. The PC has registered strong objections to the application but it is still undetermined after nine months.

Details of planning applications are posted on our website so if any resident wishes to raise any planning issue, please contact the Clerk.

Are you interested in making Fulford a greener place to live?

Are you concerned about climate change and the environment?

Would you like to get together with other people to tackle some of the issues at a local level? If so, please come to the next meeting.

Fulford Parish Council has declared a Climate and Ecological Emergency and is hosting meetings for like-minded local people to meet to talk about what matters to us and what to do in the area of Fulford. The first meeting was by Zoom on Thursday 22nd July and future meetings will be scheduled soon.

The link to register your interest in attending future meetings is: <https://forms.gle/5mM5rFFLLW9YoWu17> or email the Clerk on clerk@fulfordpc.org.uk

The Parish Council's Strategy can be found here <https://www.fulfordparishcouncil.org.uk/uploads/attachment/519/fulford-climate-and-ecological-emergency-vision-and-strategy.pdf> - see which ideas interest you, or bring your own ideas!

Did you know that 75% of global gas emissions come from households?

We all need to think of ways to lower our personal carbon footprints!



Ward Councillor Update

Play equipment investment - £10k to be invested in local play areas Fulford Parish Council have been successful in securing over £5,000 of funding from York Council's Community Challenge Fund to carry out improvements at the Fordlands Road play area. The Fordlands Road play area will receive £5,900 to install older children's play equipment, whilst the nearby Outgang playing field in Heslington will also see £4,468 go towards resurfacing improvements.

Twenty-four other projects from across the city received a funding boost from York Council's £175k funding pot to improve community facilities and play areas, with community partners, such as Fulford Parish Council, providing match funding. This will see local play areas across York benefit from a total of £400k investment. Ensuring we have excellent play areas locally and across the city is crucial in supporting our communities and most importantly, providing safe places for young people to enjoy and develop themselves.

Flood investment - £4.9m package secured for joined up flood defences - Following two successful petitions from local councillor Keith Aspden and efforts over a number of years, including by the Parish Council, it was reported earlier in February that £2m from York Council has been proposed to now unlock an up to £4.9m package to complete the joined-up flood defence work for Fulford.

Further information, including community consultation, planning and designs, will be sent to local residents this year. The outline business case of the proposal has already been completed. With the new funding in place, by the end of September 2021, detailed designs and planning approvals will now be progressed. Following consideration of construction partners, the scheme could then be built in late 2021 or spring 2022.

Ward Committee funding available for community groups: Ward funding is used to benefit local residents and meet our community's priorities. Previously this local funding has been used for a wide variety of projects, for example, new salt bins, to improve street lighting, to support the Fulford Scout Group and with a project at Fulford Nursing Home aimed at bringing younger and older people together in the local community. If any local community groups have suggestions on community schemes that could benefit from the ward funding in Fulford and Heslington, then please contact your local councillor Keith Aspden. Keith can be emailed via cllr.kaspden@york.gov.uk, so that he can then look at progressing these ideas.

Social Hall Update

Bookings are now back up and running at Fulford Social Hall (subject to some Covid19 related provisions).

The Parish Council is advising that face masks be worn and all hirers will be given a copy of the Parish Council Covid-19 Risk Assessment for the Social Hall prior to booking.

Don't forget, Fulford residents are entitled to a discounted rate for hire of the hall and/or the Old Library.

Working With Our Community

St Oswald's School 250th Anniversary Foundation Stones project donation: The Parish Council was delighted to be able to donate £250 from its community grants budget towards this commemorative project to benefit our primary school and those who attend it. The Parish Council wishes the project every success.

Defibrillator fundraising project: A community fundraiser has been organised by a Fulford resident to buy a publicly accessible defibrillator for the community! The Parish Council is pleased to be able to facilitate the installation on the external wall of Fulford Cemetery on Fordlands Road and to provide the means for its ongoing maintenance. The Parish Council has also offered support in sourcing funds towards the cost and the installation. For more information on how to donate please see Nic Dunn's Just Giving page for the fundraiser at https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/n-dunn?utm_id=2&utm_term=yV9mBdB94

Fulford Show will make a return this year and is going to be held on Monday 30th August 2021 at the Parish Field on School Lane from 1pm. The show's organisers have said that there will be no charge for pitches this year but they do need to be booked through the website. Whilst they have decided it won't be possible to hold exhibits in the Social Hall this year, there will be new events such as a Fancy Dress Parade for children and a Freecycle area on the parish field. Further information is available on their website at

<https://www.fulfordshow.org.uk/>

Communications / Social Media:

A new and improved website for the Parish Council will be coming soon - the current one will continue to be updated with planning applications, news and other relevant information until the new one is fully functional. The website address is



<https://www.fulfordparishcouncil.org.uk/>

The Parish Council Facebook Page is used as a virtual noticeboard for news, notices and information. To stay up to date with Parish Council and local matters, follow



@FulfordParishCouncilYorkshire on Facebook.

The Parish Council's Facebook page is used to supply information, but any responses, including tags, comments or queries via Messenger are not regularly monitored.



So please send queries direct to the Clerk on

clerk@fulfordpc.org.uk and she will respond as soon as possible.