

YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday 5 APRIL 2023
Yarnfield Park Conference Centre
Minutes

Present (for all or part of the meeting): -

Councillors:

Margaret Broader

Brian Eyre

Stella Hughes

Sally Parkin (Chairperson)

Officer in attendance: John Fraser, Clerk to the Parish Council

Also in attendance: Cllr James (Stafford Borough Council)

Public at the meeting: 3

Viewing on Facebook: 15

Apologies for Absence

23-161 Apologies were received from – Cllr Beeston

Declaration of Interest

23-162 None

Public Question Time

23-163 None

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023

23-164 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15 March 2023 were approved subject to one grammatical correction as a correct record of the meeting.

Reports from Borough and County Councillors

23-165 Cllr James:

- Over the last month the borough council has been focusing on preparation for the council elections on 4th May 2023.
- There have been eight nominations to stand in the Swynnerton and Oulton ward.
- The local plan review is not due to be published until the late summer.

HS2 – update report

23-166 A copy of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) update on their work is attached at Appendix 1.

23-167 The SRCG will be holding its annual meeting on Sunday 21 May at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre.

Actions Tracker Update

23-168 A copy of the Update of Actions Report set out in appendix 2 was noted, and a copy was to be posted on the parish council website.

23-169 **Declaration of interest:** Cllr Eyre declared an interest in the work associated with Severn Trent's sewer project on Highlows Lane and took no part in the discussion on that issue.

23-170 Minute 23-111 – Greenside Playground Repairs

- All the repairs identify in the annual inspection report have been ranked as "require monitoring and review".
- Repairs to the basket swing and stand-up seesaw are being priced and will be reported to the next meeting.
- Jet washing of the equipment has been completed
- A sample test to clean the safety matting was a success. Jet washing the entire area of the matting, and tarmac paths will cost £350.

23-171 **Resolution:** It was resolved that Premier Pressure Wash Services Ltd are engaged to jet wash the Greenside playground safety matting and paths.

23-172 Minute 21-524 – Village Green Project

- Progress with the borough council to resolve outstanding issues with the project has stalled.
- It was agreed that the parish council's concerns about delays are raised with the Borough Council Planning Officer.

23-173 Minute 21-499 Severn Trent - Highlows Lane

- Site visit by STWCo engineers identify difficulties that have prompted a review of the scheme.
- The public health hazard caused by the delay in resolving the problem need to be addressed as a matter of urgency.
- The action tracker rating to be moved up to a "Red Action".

23-174 A new action was raised in relation to the damaged Openreach pedestrian cover plate outside the Labour in Vain.

Parish Clerk's report: Budgets

23-175 Schedule of invoices awaiting payment since the last meeting = £10,761.76

23-176 Bank Account Reconciliation balances on 1st April 2023

- Current Account = 13,628.96
- Reserve Account = £31,088.46

23-177 A grant of £300 has been received from Stafford Borough Council towards the cost of the King Charles III Coronation celebrations.

23-178 A transfer of reserves will be needed to fund the expenditure on the neighbourhood planning and the community support grant.

23-179 **Resolution:** It was resolved:

- i. That The schedule of payment for the period 16th March –5th April 2023 set out in Appendix 3 is approved.
- ii. To transfer £9,780 from the reserve account to the current account.

Correspondence

- 23-180 Stafford Borough Council has confirmed that there have been 7 nominations for parish councillors: four returning councillors and three new nominations. This will mean all the seats on the parish council have been filled and as such there will not need to be an election.

Labour in Vain – Asset of Community Value (ACV) application

- 23-181 The ACV application has been redrafted following the refusal of the first application.
- 23-182 The planning application, that would result in the construction of 3 dwellings in part of the carpark, cannot form part of the ACV application.
- 23-183 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the new Asset of Community Value application is submitted to Stafford Borough Council.

Neighbourhood Plan

- 23-184 The first part of the Design Code has been prepared and the application to prepare a Master Plan for up to three locations in the parish has been approved.
- 23-185 A third application will be prepared to fund work undertaken in 2023.
- 23-186 A meeting with Stafford Borough Council planning officers is scheduled to take place on 17 May 2023.

Planning applications

- 23-187 A review of planning applications setting out the details of applications received by the parish council, their comments and the decision of Stafford Borough Council was circulated and noted by councillors.

Forward Plan

- 23-188 The annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 17th May 2023 and will be followed by the next regular meeting.
- 23-189 The Annual Parish Assembly will be held in the village hall on 23rd May 2023. It was agreed that light refreshments (wine and cheese) would be served at the meeting to encourage a greater participation by residents.

Update from Councillors

- 23-190 As this was the last meeting of the parish council Cllr Parkin offered her thanks to the councillors and clerk for their support over the last four years.
- 23-191 Cllr. Eyre will not be returning when the new council is formed. Cllr. Eyre has been a passionate supporter of the work of the parish council and was instrumental in securing its formation in 2019. He took on the role of chair of the council between 2019 – 2021. His retirement comes after many years of service to the parish, and councillors thanked him for his support and wished him well in his retirement.

Date and time of next meeting

17 May 2023 at 7.30pm



Signed

Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 17 May 2023

Meeting closed 8.53 pm

HS2 – SRCG update

Yarnfield Lane

Following the meeting held between Y&CMPC/SRCG and HS2 Ltd and its contractors (Kier) and its consultants (RPS) on 7th March, Y&CMPC received an email from HS2 Ltd that contained a five-page response to the various points raised. Unsurprisingly, this response failed to adequately address most of the points that had been raised in the meeting. It also confirmed that HS2 Ltd had assumed responsibility as the Overseeing Organisation for the Road Safety Audits (RSA), which Y&CMPC considers to be a conflict of interests.

Y&CMPC has therefore sent a detailed nine-page response that we hope will lead to changes in the HS2 Ltd approach to the proposed realignment of Yarnfield Lane. The changes should include the following:

- Relocating the proposed footpath/cycleway located on the north side of the realigned lane to enable it to be extended into Yarnfield and to Stone as part of a separate application to Staffordshire County Council.
- The redesign and relocation of the proposed permanent IMB-R access onto the realigned lane to provide the appropriate lengths visibility splays required by the relevant Government design standards.
- Confirmation that HS2 Ltd will hand over responsibility for authorising RSAs to the appropriate Overseeing Organisation, i.e. Staffordshire County Highways.
- Kier/HS2 Ltd to provide phasing plans to show how they intend to build the realigned lane, whilst keeping existing Yarnfield Lane open for the safe use by the public.

Schedule 17 applications

As reported last month, HS2 Ltd had applied (on 30th January) for the use of multiple lorry routes along the route of Phase 2a and imposed (via the hybrid Act) a requirement for Staffordshire County Council to approve the routes by 24th March.

Y&CMPC asked to be formally consulted on this matter, but this request was denied by Staffordshire County Council, who instead would only receive informal comments from parish councils. Fortunately, our County Councillor, Jeremy Pert, supported Y&CMPC and formally submitted the 20-page report prepared by Y&CMPC on our behalf. Stone Town Council also submitted informal comments and its County Councillor (Jill Hood) formally submitted the Y&CMPC report as well.

The Y&CMPC report focussed on the proposed HGV use of two lanes:

- Yarnfield Lane because of its direct impact on our parish.
- Pirehill Lane in Walton, because of the impact on our school children attending Walton Priory Middle School.




Although SCC has not credited these interventions for delaying the determination of the CA3 and CA4 Schedule 17 lorry route applications to Y&CMPC, Stone TC or our councillors, it has postponed the determination of the lorry routes until 19th May, with the agreement of HS2 Ltd.

It is also understood that SCC is hoping that the issue could be put off for longer on the back of the two-year delay to Phase 2a. Whilst Y&CMPC agrees with this, the more important issue is that HS2 Ltd has not provided accurate and verifiable details of proposed lorry movements, or adequately considered the use of the available alternatives to using Pirehill Lane. As a consequence, the Schedule 17 applications need to be revisited and reflect the changes both to the HS2 phasing, from when Royal Assent was granted in Feb 2021, and now due to the proposed two-year delay.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council
Council Resolutions and Actions







Resolution Action Log

Monthly Progress Tracker – Update 15/3/23

	 Warning	 Action – in progress	 Achieved
July 2022	12	8	5
September 2022	2	11	4
October 2022	2	13	2
November 2022	2	14	0
January 2023	2	12	2
February 2023	1	12	0
March 2023	0	14	3
April 2023 (proposed)	1	8	5









Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council
Council Resolutions and Actions

Resolution Action Log

Minute	Resolution	Action	RAG
Ambition 1 - Environment			
23-111	Greenside Playground repairs	Cost of work to be secured from manufacture. Authorisation to be given to carryout repairs to missing or work fixings. Structural issues to be delivered as part of village green project. Jetwash of equipment of play equipment completed	↑ 
21-524	Village Green Project	Cabinet lead and ward councillors pressing Stafford Borough Council officers to release funds and agree the lease. Project to be added to new council work programme	
22-376	Yarnfield Lane Lay-by – litter and fly tipping.	Working with SBC and SCC to find a permanent solution. Project to be added to new council work programme	
22-58	Network + repairs	Network Plus now being carrying out repairs. Work is still needed to ensure the verge on Yarnfield Lane is repaired. To do this support will be required from SCC and Network Plus to prevent vehicles parking on the verge	
Ambition – 2 Safety			
23-85	Wheelie Bin Stickers	Meeting with SCC Community Speed Watch [04/04/23]. Stickers to be offered to residents on Yarnfield Park Way, Brookvale Drive, Yarnfield Lane, Meece Road and Swynnerton Road.	↑ 
22-82	Community Speed Watch	SCC CSW support parish council proposal. Pilot to start May 2024	↑ 

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council
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Minute	Resolution	Action	RAG
21-20	Buffer Zone & Cold Meece 40 mph limit	SCC will finish project in April 2023.	↑ 
22-285	Network+ contractor – helpline charge	Raise with HS2 Ltd	
21-499	Severn Trent work Highlows/Yarnfield Lane	Pressing STWCo engineering team for date phase 2 project will be started. Site visited by STWCo progress made on the scheme, date for start still to be confirmed.	
Parish Ambition – 3 Community			
22-265	Labour in Vain	New ACV application prepared and approved for submission to Stafford Borough Council	
22-153	Yarnfield Lane Cycle path	Application submitted to SCC decision not due until Spring 2024	
22-47	Firing Range	SBC pressing Staffordshire Police for date to complete acoustic insulation work at the range.	
21-488	Gates at Cold Meece	Gate design, cost of procurement and installation to be present to September 2023 meeting	
Parish Ambition – 4 Good Governance			
22-97	New Office Systems	Project to be added to new council work programme	

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

Schedule of Payments - 5 April 2023

Date	Ref/Chq no	Payee	Description	NET	VAT	Payment
05/04/23	BACS	Creative Bee Ltd	Election campaing poster	6.00	-	6.00
05/04/23	BACS	Urban Vision	Neighbourhood Plan consultation	3,150.00	630.00	3,780.00
05/04/23	BACS	Premier Pressure Wash Service	Playground jet wash	150.00		150.00
05/04/23	BACS	Clerk	Salary	604.63		604.63
05/04/23	BACS	Clerk	Office expenses	62.78		70.13
05/04/23	BACS	HMRC	PAYE payment	151.00		151.00
05/04/23	BACS	Support Staffordshire	Communty Dev Officer	6,000.00	-	6,000.00
						10,761.76

Chairperson:



Date:

05-Apr-23