

**YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Thursday 30 May 2019 at 7.30pm**

**Yarnfield Village Hall**

**Minutes**

---

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

Councillors:

David Beeston

Malcolm Beeston

Frank Cromey

Brian Eyre (Chairman)

Sally Parkin,

Officers in attendance: - Mr J Fraser- Clerk to the Parish Council

Also in Attendance: - Patrick Wright, PCSO

**19.13 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr. Mrs. Hughes and Cllr. Pert (SCC)  
*Cllr. Rushton*

**19.14 Declaration of Interest**

Nil

**19.15 Public Question Time (30 minutes max)**

Nil

**19.16 Reports from Borough and County Councillors.**

Nil

**19.17 Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 14 May 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

**19.18 To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda.**

Nil

**19.19 To receive an update on HS2 from the Stone Rail Head Crisis Group (SRCG)**

On the 7<sup>th</sup> May the SRCG, which was representing Stone Town Council, presented the third petition against the HS2 Ltd proposals to the High Speed Rail (West Midlands - Crewe) Bill Select Committee. Evidence was given about the impact and safety concerns that the construction work would have on roads in the Stone area, and particularly at the junction of A34/A51 junction and the junction of Yarnfield Lane and the A34. Evidence was also given regarding HS2's claims that it could use the existing Yarnfield Lane as a haul road once the realigned lane was completed.

However, the SRCG's evidence included details of how HS2 Ltd was trying to mislead the committee on this issue and why this was physically unachievable. A demand that HS2 Ltd provide engineering drawings to scale to support its position was reluctantly agreed to by their QC, but was given not to commit on when these would be provided.

The Select Committee Chairman curtailed the SRCG's ability to give all of their evidence including concerns about HS2 Ltd's claims that it could reduce its HGV movements by using its internal haul roads along the railway corridor and the use of borrow pits. They were also unable to give evidence regarding HS2 Ltd's decision to revise the indicative construction programme that would bring the start date for construction forward to 2020.

The SRCG felt the committee was very selective in what it was willing to hear and has written to the Speaker of the House of Commons, Mr John Bercow, asking that he investigate the workings of the Select Committee.

The SRCG has also commissioned a report from Mr Michael <sup>Byng</sup>Byng, who is credited with devising the standard method used by Network Rail to cost its projects. The report will establish the true cost of construction of the Railhead/IMB-R at Stone and the cost of the SRCG's alternative at Aldersey's Rough. While the report has yet to be completed it is already clear the Aldersey's Rough alternative will provide a significant saving in both time and money. The SRCG will be attending the Stone Festival on 8<sup>th</sup> June to raise awareness.

#### 19.20 Parish Council Clerk's Report:

(a) **National Westminster Banking – update on the current account application.**

Arrangements for the NatWest bank current account have yet to be completed. It is anticipated that these will be completed by early June 19.

(b) **HMRC update on setting up PAYE**

Registration of the Council as a new business is progressing well. It was proposed that the HMRC Online account systems for PAYE be used. A further update will be provided at the meeting in June.

(c) **Budget update**

A preliminary budget, including commitments and anticipated expenditure has been produced. The budget projection for 2019/20 will result in a small surplus. However this does not take account of:

- The charge that will be made by Stafford Borough Council for the May 2019 election.
- Any unforeseen expenditure.
- The final settlement payment from Swynnerton Parish Council.

(d) **Report on procedures – to agree work programme for the adoption of procedures**

A report setting out the policy and procedure documents that the Council will need to adopt will be prepared before the next meeting.

RESOLVED: - that the preparation of the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be completed for the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(e) **Training**

It was recognised that induction training for all councillors was required and that enquires should be made to identify training opportunities with the Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA).

It was recognised that the parish clerk should be undertake the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) training as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:-

1. That options for induction training for councillors be discussed with the SPCA, and reported back to the next meeting.
2. That a budget of £390.00 be approved to fund the CiLCA training for the clerk.

(f) **Correspondence and circulars**

An invitation has been received from the Mayor of Stafford to attend the D-Day Commemoration at St Mary's Church.

RESOLVED: - the Cllr. David Beeston should represent the parish at the ceremony.

(g) **The list of civic amenity dates for the parish has been received from Stafford Borough Council. These are;**

- 22 June 2019
- 19 October 2019
- 22 February 2020

RESOLVED: - the collection dates for June are advertised on the Parish Notice Boards, in the village hall, shop and on the Yarnfield and Swynnerton News Facebook page.

19.21

**To consider actions arising from the Annual Parish Assembly 2019**

The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the turnout for the Annual Parish Assembly. With over 40 residents coming to the meeting it was a great start and the feedback from the working groups will provide valuable information to help set the council's priorities for the coming year.

It was agreed that a small working group be set up to develop proposals for action. Councillors were invited to identify their 5 quick wins and 5 longer term goals which would then be reported to the next meeting of the council.

RESOLVED: - That the working group should consist of Cllrs Sally Parkin and Malcolm Beeston, and the clerk.

**19.22 Communication - Parish Notice Boards**

Communication was identified by the Parish Assembly as a significant issue that needed to be addressed. It was agreed that improvement to the parish notice boards should be a priority.

It was also proposed that Alleyne's Academy in Stone, voluntary and community groups be invited to design a logo that can be used by the parish council.

RESOLVED:

1. A budget figure of £500.00 was approved for the renovation of the notice boards.
2. An invitation is to be sent to Alleyne's Academy in Stone and local voluntary and community groups to design a suitable logo.

**19.23 Yarnfield Village Hall Payments**

The majority of the parish council's meetings and monthly drop in sessions will be held in the village hall. The hire rate for the hall is currently £12.00 per hour. It was agreed that quarterly payments are made for the use of the hall. The Council will then review its use of the hall and consider making an ex gratia payment at the end of the financial year.

RESOLVED: - that the clerk confirm payment arrangements with the village hall committee.

**19.24 Grass cutting contract**

The contract for grass cutting in the parish has been inherited from Swynnerton Parish Council with the work being undertaken by John Green Landscapers and also by Phil Pattison.

RESOLVED: - That the Council continue with the existing contract:

1. John Green Landscaping for the Greenside, Ash Lane bank, Cold Meece and the culvert inspection for this growing season,
2. Phil Patterson for occasional cuts of the village green up to a maximum of 5 cuts per year for this growing season.
3. That a review of grass cutting is undertaken in October 2019 with a view to retendering the work.

19.25 **Update on the Yarnfield Forum application for an indicative speed sign.**  
Item deferred until the next meeting.

19.26 **Neighbourhood Plan – to consider approach to be taken to the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish**

Prior to the Governance Review that led to the formation of Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council the area had been included in the Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by Swynnerton Parish Council. The Community Governance review has resulted in progress on this plan being put on hold.

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council needs to decide whether it wants to continue to work with Swynnerton Parish Council or whether its interests would be better served by preparing its own Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED:-

1. That the Council develops a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish rather than a joint plan with Swynnerton Parish Council.
2. That the Borough Council's Planning Policy Manager be contacted to explore developing a Neighbourhood Plan specifically for the parish.
3. That work is undertaken to identify what will be involved in developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish.
4. That Swynnerton Parish Council is informed of the decision to prepare a new plan specifically for the parish.

19.27 **Reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended.**

The Chairman and Clerk attended the annual Stafford Borough Council Mayor Making Ceremony.

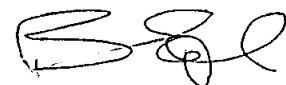
19.28 **Article for inclusion in the Church magazine and the Newsletter's Community News**

It was recognised that improved communication with residents of the parish was essential.

RESOLVED: That the future publishing deadline for articles in the Church Magazine and the Newsletter's community page be identified.

19.29 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

25 June at 730pm at Yarnfield Park Conference Centre.



Signed  
Chairman of the Council  
25<sup>th</sup> June 2019