

**YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
11th February 2020 at 7.30pm
Yarnfield Park Conference Centre
Minutes**

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

Councillors:

David Beeston

Sally Parkin

Frank Cromey

Brian Rushton

Brian Eyre (Chairman)

Officers in attendance: - John Fraser- Clerk to the Parish Council

Also in attendance: - Cllr. Roy James (SBC)

Public at the meeting: - 14

20.16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Hughes, Cllr M Beeston, Cllr. Nixon (SBC) and Cllr. Pert (SCC)

20.17 Declaration of Interest

Nil

20.18 Public Question Time

1. Footpath 34. What work is being done to ensure it will continue to be passable.

Response: Now that the path is open again, we will discuss with the Rights of Way Officer how we can ensure that the path continues to be kept open and passable

2. Is anything being done to provide an accessible footpath from Cold Meece to Yarnfield.

Response: The Parish Council's budgets for 2020/21 includes a small budget to fund improvements footpaths in the parish. In addition, the Parish Council will bid to the County Council to secure match funding to supplement this budget.

3. Does the Parish Council know what Severn Trent are doing to complete the repair work that has been done in Cold Meece.

Response: The Clerk will contact Severn Trent to ask for an update and timetable for them to complete this work

4. What is the Parish Council doing about the planning proposals for the housing development at Meece Brook?

Response: Everyone has an opportunity to comment on these proposals until the end of March 2020. The Parish Council are very interested in the proposals and will be making their views known to the Borough Council.

5. What future plans are being developed by the Parish Council to share information now that the parish magazine is coming to an end.

Response: The Parish Council has now created a website and Facebook page that it will use to circulate important information about the Parish Council and events in the parish.

20.19 Reports from Borough and County Councillors.

Cllr. James (SBC)

Consultation on the new Local Plan is now open to public consultation.

Cllr Pert (SCC)

Cllr Pert has asked that the following points are brought to the Parish Council's attention:

- i. The highways authority has been asked to visit Yarnfield Lane to assess the state of the road. Monitoring will continue for several weeks.
- ii. Work on the double yellow line survey in Yarnfield is continuing and will hopefully start soon.
- iii. Cllr Pert is organising a training course for Chebsey Parish Councillors about planning applications which we could ask to join if this would help.

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

- Prime Minister announced this afternoon that HS2 has been given the green light by the Government. We are dismayed by the decision, which is politically motivated and does not take account of the vast amount of technical and cost benefit evidence that has been presented to Government over recent months.
- Although the PM's statement was short on detail, this decision includes Phase One and Phase 2a, but not Phase 2b yet, which will be subject to further review.
- On our behalf, Sir Bill Cash asked the PM during the debate to delay approving Phase 2a and making it subject to further review alongside Phase 2b. He also asked for the Handsacre link to be retained, despite Oakavee calling for it to be scrapped to save £2.5bn.
- The PM has given a commitment to preserving the Handsacre link. This is extremely important to Staffordshire because without it Stafford and Stoke will have no inter-city services.
- The true cost of HS2 is now £128.3 billion, and with Northern Powerhouse Rail (£39bn), MC (£20bn), plus their rolling stock (£5.4bn) and SJA connections (£44bn) the total cost will rise to £237bn at 2020 prices

- The SRCG Committee is meeting on Thursday 13th February to discuss the Government's decision and to agree how to continue with our campaign and seek to make Phase 2a subject to further review and to save the taxpayer another £70+ million by moving the Railhead/IMB-R from Stone to Aldersey's Rough.
- There is no news yet about a date for our House of Lords appearance, but given today's announcement we should expect to hear when proceedings will start very soon.
- Y&CM-PC, Stone Town and Chebsey PC representatives met with HS2 on Thursday 16th January. HS2 continue to hide the truth about the ground conditions and feasibility of the construction of the Stone Railhead. We have prepared comprehensive notes of the meeting and shared a draft with HS2, which should result in an exchange of further information between the parties.
- I believe that I speak for my colleagues in the SRCG when I say that we will continue to do everything we can to mitigate the impact of HS2 on our community

20.21 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th January 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

We are still waiting for a response from the County Council about the Freedom of Information request that has been made. [Minute 20.8]

Resolved: that the Clerk contact the County Council as a matter of urgency to resolve this issue

20.23 Parish Council Website

The new Parish Council website is now up and running. A presentation of the website, and the information that will be available through the site, was given to the meeting.

20.24 Parish Assembly Action Plans

Priority Action 1 – Open Spaces

- Discussions with the Borough Council officers about the use of the section 106 funding from Walnut Tree Farm are now progressing well. The Borough Council's Cabinet is soon to receive a report about the approach to be taken to allocate this money.
- Tenders have now been received for the grass cutting contract.

- The problem of littering and fly tipping on the layby on Yarnfield Lane have been referred to the Borough Council Streetscene Service.

Priority Action 2

- The Parish Council website is now online.

Action Priority 3 – Community

- Work on the development of the neighbourhood plan needs to link to the work being done by the Borough Council on their new Local Plan. However, this does not prevent us consulting people who are seldom heard, this includes children and young people. Arrangements have been made to talk to a group of children at Springfields First School and the Guide and Scout Groups in the village about their views on the parish and what they would like to see improved.

20.25 Village Green and Cold Meece grass cutting tenders;

Tenders have been invited for the contract to cut the grass on the village green and in Cold Meece. Three tenders were received. A tender evaluation panel was established consisting of Cllr M Beeston, Cllr Eyre and Cllr Mrs Parkin. An anonymised tender evaluation process was followed and each of the tenders scored against the evaluation criteria. Tender No. 3 was identified by the evaluation panel as their preferred contractor that would be recommended to the Parish Council.

Each of the Parish Councillors had an opportunity to read the anonymised tenders and the evaluation report prepared by the Panel before the Parish Council meeting.

The new tender includes areas of the village green previously managed by Stafford Borough Council. This will inevitably result in some spare capacity in the Council's Streetscene Service. Discussion with the Borough Council about the lease of these areas should also considering how the freed up resource could be used to enhance the grounds maintenance in the village provided by Streetscene.

A meeting with the contractor will now be arranged to agree the start date for the contract.

Resolved: that the grass cutting tender for Yarnfield and Cold Meece be awarded to Tender No.3

Following the vote by the Parish Council the Clerk provided the details of Tender No. 3: Trent Ground Maintenance, Salt, Stafford

20.26 Public Space Protection Order Consultation

The Borough Council is consulting on the renewal of their Public Space Protection Orders. The consultation proposes to renew the dog exclusion order that applies to the Greenside playground. Two areas in the parish are not covered: the Multi-use Play Equipment on Yarnfield Parkway and the children's playground on Worthington Drive.

Resolved: that the Clerk write to the Borough Council supporting the renewal of the Greenside dog exclusion order and ask how the two areas identified might be included in future Public Space Protection Orders.

20.27 Parish Clerk's Report

(a) Budget Update

The precept has now been agreed by Stafford Borough Council and a proposed budget for 2020/21 will be presented to the March meeting of the Parish Council.

The current account balance on the 11 February 2020 is £4,747.17 and the reserve account balance is £1,000. There is a potential commitment of £3,860 until the end of the financial year which will leave a balance of £288.

(b) Schedule of Payment - 11 February 2020

	Invoice No/date	Amount	Cheque No.
Village Hall	19/01/20	120.00	000038
Office expenses	02/02/2020	65.30	000039
Clerk's salary	11/02/20	404.50	000040

(c) Budget Risks – the principle financial risk relates to the uncertainty over the cost of the local government elections and the recharge for this work that will be levied by the Borough Council.

(d) Correspondence and Circulars

- We have received two complaints about the state of Yarnfield Lane and damage to vehicle windscreens which I will take up with the Smart Motorway Team.
- We now have a meeting arranged with Barratts West Midlands Ltd to discuss the management of their contract with Pinnacle Property Management Services.
- I have received a complaint about the condition of the unsurfaced section of Highlows Lane. There is some confusion over the status of the lane and whether, or not, it is an adopted highway. According to the County Council's road classification map the lane is described as a "Byway open to all

traffic". As such this may be repairable at public expense. The Clerk will raise the issue with Cllr. Pert.

- Training is being arranged for councillors on the use of the Planning Portal.
- The first Parish Newsletter is now being prepared. It is hoped this will be published at the beginning of March.
- The timetable of Parish Council meetings for 2020 has been prepared. A copy will be circulated to the councillors and the date of the meetings published on the website. It is proposed that the annual meeting of the Parish Council will be held on 5th May 2020 and that the Annual Parish Assembly will be held on 14th May 2020.

20.28 Reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended.

- Cllr Eyre and the Clerk have visited the manufacturer of the park benches that we hope to purchase to satisfy themselves about the quality of the benches. It is hoped an order for three benches will be placed before the next meeting.
- The Staffordshire Football Association hosted a meeting for the parish councillors at Wellbeing Park to hear about their plans for the future of the park. The Association have plans to develop the site and are clearly keen to make sure the local residents are able to benefit from their plans. Arrangements are being made for the Association to come to a future meeting of the Parish Council.

20.29 Date and Time of Next Meeting

10 March 2020 to be held in Yarnfield Village Hall

Meeting ended: 9.40pm



Signed
Chairman of the Council
Date 10 March 2020

Planning matters:

To discuss and confirm responses in respect of the following application:

Reference	Address	Outline	Decision
Nil			