

**YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**10<sup>th</sup> December 2019 at 7.30pm**  
**Yarnfield Village Hall**  
**Minutes**

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

Councillors:

David Beeston

Stella Hughes

Malcolm Beeston

Sally Parkin

Brian Eyre (Chairman)

Brian Rushton

**Officer in attendance:** - John Fraser- Clerk to the Parish Council

**Also in attendance:** -Cllr. Nixon (SBC) Cllr. Pert (SCC)

Public at the meeting: - 5

**19.115 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cromey

**19.116 Declaration of Interest**

A declaration of interest was made by Cllr. D. Beeston in relation to Item 19.121(a) - Footpath 34.

**19.117 Public Question Time**

1 - *A question was asked about a planning application to create a traveller caravan site near to Cold Meece and why the Parish Council didn't know about the application?*

Response: The planning application was made in March 2019 before Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish was created. In addition the application related to land in Eccleshall Parish Council as such there was no reason for this parish council to have any knowledge of the application.

2 - *What is being done about the use of Yarnfield Lane by the Smart Motorway Construction Traffic and in particular the amount of mud on the road?*

Response: The Parish Council has raised its concerns about the problem of mud on the road with the Smart Motorway Construction Team. As a result they have now installed a wheel wash on the site and have briefed security staff and foremen to make sure that all wagons use the site wheel wash when leaving the compound. They have also agreed to increased the frequency of a dedicated sweeper along Yarnfield Lane

3 - The Operation Manager for the BIFFA landfill site explained that he has reduced the operation hours of the site during the winter months to ensure that the sweeper is able to clean the road leading to the site before it becomes dark.

He also said he had acquired a towable gritter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  ton of rock salt to grit the roads and was in liaison with the County Council over the use of the gritter on the highway. During the Christmas holiday he will arrange for two sweepers and a water bowser to clean the roads.

The offer to pay for the installation of the speed active monitor had been approved and he was just waiting for the cheque to be produced.

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

- Cllr Nixon confirmed that a report had been prepared for the Borough Council's Cabinet to seek agreement to review the scheme of work linked to the Walnut Tree farm planning obligation fund. He also said that the Cabinet Member for Leisure, Cllr Mrs Carolyn Trowbridge, would like to visit the village to see for herself what is proposed.
- Increase in car parking charges - the Borough Council has revised the parking charges across the borough with effect from 1 January 2020

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

There is no news about a date for our House of Lords appearance, but it is expected that this will not happen until the end of January.

A letter has been received from HS2 Ltd requesting a meeting and details of the evidence used to support our petition. In response we said we would only provide our evidence in advance of any meeting if HS2 backed up its earlier Promoter's response to our petition regarding ground conditions from its site investigations and additional engineering information regarding the use of the existing Yarnfield Lane as a haul road.

Following the leaking of a draft of the Oakavee review by the Department for Transport on 12 November, Lord Berkeley and other members of the Review Panel are working on a 'Dissenting Report', which it is hoped will be published before Christmas.

The SRCG tech team is continuing to work on its evidence for the House of Lords petition appearance.

**19.120 Approval of the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were approved and signed as a correct record of the meeting.

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

- **Footpath 34**

The Planning Inspector's ruling has been published upholding the decision of the County Council in relation to the correct location of Footpath 34. The Rights of Way Officer is now in discussion with the owner of the land with a view to the footpath being reopened in accordance with the definitive map.

- **Speed Activated Sign**

BIFFA have confirmed that it will pay for the cost of the installation of the sign and are now waiting for the cheque to be prepared.

- **Bench** - the cost of a new bench to replace the damaged bench on the village green will be £421.86 plus VAT. It was proposed that a hard standing be provided for the new bench. Designs of a recycled plastic outdoor Dale bench produced by TDP Ltd, Wirksworth, Derbyshire were circulated.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- (i) Arrangements are made to purchase and install a new bench and hard standing.
- (ii) That a budget of £600.00 is set to meet the cost of this work.

**19.122 Parish Assembly Action Plan**

**Action Priority 1 - Open Space**

The Head of Operations at Stafford Borough Council has confirmed the Borough Council's willingness to transfer responsibility for grass cutting on all parts of the village green. This will be subject to further discussions to agree the detail of the lease of land to the parish council. The tender document for the 2020 grass cutting contract will secure prices for the Parish Council's existing responsibility and the wider responsibility for the village green.

**Action Priority 2 - Communication**

The Parish Magazine serves communities in Yarnfield and Cold Meece, Swynnerton, Cotes Heath, Tittensor and Standon. The magazine relies on volunteers for its production. It is likely that the edition that will be published February/March will be the last.

**Resolved:** It was resolved that an approach is made to the editors of the Parish Magazine to discuss what is being done to secure its future production.

**Action Priority 3 - Community**

As part of the drive to understand the views of people living in the parish an exciting engagement exercise has taken place with 8 children aged 5-8 who attend Springfields First School Council. The children were extremely forthcoming about

what they like most about the parish, what we can do to make our parish even better and how they can help.

It is hoped the same exercise can take place with older children living in the parish.

The first Parish Christmas Lunch will take place at the Yarnfield Park Conference Centre on 13 December. There will be 40 people at the event and it is hoped this will be the start of an annual event.

#### **Action Priority 4 – Footpaths and pavements**

A Freedom of Information Act request has been sent to Staffordshire County Council Highways asking for a copy of their risk assessment process used to monitor the condition of pavements in Staffordshire.

#### **Action Priority 5 – Traffic**

The new Community Speed Watch Team has been formed and is now operating in the parish. Unfortunately the Community Speed watch teams are unable to operate on roads with a speed limit of more than 40mph. It is not possible therefore for them to do any work in Cold Meece.

### **19.123 Parish Council Clerk's Report:**

#### **i. Budget Update and Schedule of Payments**

The current account balance on the 10 December 2019 is £7,305.57.

A copy of the December 2019 budget position was circulated and the schedule of payments approved and signed by the Chairman. *A copy of the schedule of payments is included at Appendix 1.*

Three items of additional expenditure have been identified;

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| ▪ New Park Bench                            | £600.00 |
| ▪ Play equipment safety matting repair      | £1,000  |
| ▪ Consultation on the section 106 proposals | £100    |

#### **Budget Risks:**

- i. Y&CM-PC are operating with no reserves, however the opening of a savings account will help to address this risk.
- ii. Stafford Borough Council hasn't issued the invoice for the cost of the 2019 parish election and has now revised the date when this will be issued. It is unlikely that this will be available until February 2020.

#### **ii. Correspondence and circulars**

- Cllr. Cromey has written to confirm that he has taken on the role of School Governor at Springfield First School.
- Staffordshire County Council is consulting on its proposed school admission arrangement relating to all community and voluntary controlled schools.

- Civic Amenity collections: the Parish Council pay for three amenity collections each year at a cost of £402. It is unclear how much value these collections are for the community. A review of the amenity collections will be undertaken when the next collection takes place, which will be on the 22 February 2020.
- Invitations have been received from the Borough Council for the Stafford Borough Mayor's Charity Ball and from Stone Town Council Charity Pig Race and councillors interested in attending either event should contact the Clerk.

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

Cllr Eyre and Cllr Mrs Hughes attended the Borough Council Community Award Presentation Evening 2019 that took place on the 21 November. Mrs Hughes had been nominated in the Local Hero Over 18 category in recognition of her work with the Yarnfield Forum. The evening provided a wonderful insight into volunteering groups that work in the Borough. Sadly Mrs Hughes did not win in her category which was won by the founder of Stafford Litter Heroes, Becki Woolrich.

**19.125 Article for inclusion in the Parish magazine and the Newsletter's Community News**

Communication, specifically about the launch of the Parish Council's new web site.

**19.126 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at 7.30pm, Yarnfield Village Hall

Meeting Ended 9:20pm



Signed

Chairman of the Council

Date: 14 January 2020

**Planning matters:**

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

| Reference    | Address  | Outline                                     | Decision   |
|--------------|--|---|------------|
| 19/31113/HOU | Sherborne Cottage<br>Yarnfield Lane Yarnfield<br>Stone Staffordshire<br>ST15 0NJ | Single storey<br>bedroom side<br>extension. | No comment |

# Yarnfield and Cold Meece - Schedule of Payments

10 December 2019

|                 | Invoice<br>No/date | Amount        | Cheque No. |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|------------|
| Clerk's salary  | 12/12/19           | 404.50        | 000032     |
| Yarnfield Forum | 10/12/19           | 50.00         | 000033     |
| John Green      | 13/11/19           | 240.00        | 000034     |
|                 |                    | <hr/>         |            |
|                 |                    | <u>694.50</u> |            |