

**YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL  
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 7.30pm  
Virtual Online Meeting**

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

**Councillors:**

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| David Beeston         | Stella Hughes |
| Malcolm Beeston       | Sally Parkin  |
| Brian Eyre (Chairman) | Brian Rushton |
| Frank Cromey          |               |

**Also in attendance: -**

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

**Public at the meeting:** - 32 (viewing on Facebook Live)

**Apologies**

20.154 ✓ Apologies were received from Cllr. Pert (SCC), Cllr James (SBC) and Cllr Nixon (SBC)

**Declarations of Interest**

20.155 A declaration of interest in relation to Item 13 on the Agenda was raised by Cllr. David Beeston.

20.156 A declaration of interest in relation to a grant application by the Yarnfield Forum that will be discussed in item 9 was raised by Cllr. Stella Hughes.

**Public Question Time**

20.157 Nil

**Radar speed sign - Community Speed Watch report on the use of the sign**

20.158 August 2020 Headline figures:

|                            | Total Traffic | Percentage of vehicles exceeding 31mph |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| INCOMING (from Cold Meece) | 26,698        | 6.88%                                  |
| OUTGOING (from Stone)      | 27,919        | 9.58                                   |
| <b>TOTAL TRAFFIC</b>       | <b>54,617</b> | <b>8.52%</b>                           |

Rolling Year Headline Figures (20 June - 31 August 2020)

|                            | Total Traffic | Percentage of vehicles exceeding 31mph |
|----------------------------|---------------|--|
| INCOMING (from Cold Meece) | 58,514        | 5.46%                                  |
| OUTGOING (from Stone)      | 61,811        | 9.14%                                  |
| TOTAL TRAFFIC              | 120,325       | 7.35%                                  |

20.159 During August 2020, the radar speed sign's display was switched off. The intention was to provide evidence of the speed of vehicles when driver behaviour is not being influenced by the display giving feedback on their speed.

20.160 On 31 August 2020 the sign was turned round to face the traffic travelling from the east (Stone) and the display activated.

20.161 Comparisons between display ON and OFF facing in the direction of Cold Meece

|   | Incoming over 31mph | Outgoing over 31mph |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|
| July (Display on)                         | 885                 | 2,317               |
| August (Display off)                      | 1,980               | 2,676               |
| Difference                                | 1,095               | 539                 |
| Percentage change between July and August | 123.7 %             | 25.2%%              |

20.162 An additional 1,664 vehicles broke the speed limit in August 2020 compared to July 2020. However, as the number of vehicles passing through the village in August increased by 17% compared to July these figures need to be adjusted to account for the increase in vehicle movements. The adjusted increase in vehicles breaking the speed in August limit was 1,382 compared to the July figure.

20.163 The activities of the Community Speed Watch Team is still affected by Covid-19. Efforts are being made to recruit new volunteers with adverts in the School and Parish Newsletters and on Facebook.

20.164 The full overview report is set out in Appendix 1.

20.165 Evidence collated from the speeds sign have been sent to Staffordshire Police who have now agreed to include the village in a speed awareness campaign that it is organising.

**Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

20.166 Nil

**Update on HS2 petition to the House of Lords**

20.167 The House of Lords Select Committee hearing of the joint HS2 Phase 2a petition took place on 15 September 2020. The opening debate focused on an effort by the promotor's barrister to prevent the petition being heard. The Parish Council's opening statement, which had been prepared in advance, persuaded the committee to allow the petition to be heard. The petition evidence was

limited to the impact the HS2 proposal would have on Yarnfield Lane and the A34. Evidence about the proposed alternative location for the Railhead and Infrastructure Maintenance Base - Rail was not allowed by the Chairman who felt that this fell outside the scope of the committee.

20.168 The principal witness for HS2 raised several issues that the parish council's witnesses did not agree with. The committee chairman, Lord Hope of Craighead, has agreed to receive a written submission rebutting this evidence.

20.169 The date of publication of the House of Lords Select report has yet to be announced.

20.170 The Councillors expressed their thanks to each of the witnesses for the professional way in which they represented the parish council and asked that a further update was provided once the House of Lords report was published.

**Approval of the published minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020.  
(Published on the Parish Council Website on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2020)**

20.171 The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020 were approved. As a result of the Covid-19 restrictions on public meetings the minutes will be signed at the first available opportunity.

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

20.172 Matters arising,

- Greenside playground safety matting: two quotations have been received to repair the safety matting. Another area of matting is now requiring attention which was not included in the original quotations. The preference would be to engage the services of a local contractor and as such the clerk was asked to revisit the quotations with a view to having the additional work included in the price.
- An invitation was given to the local Severn Trent engineer to attend the next meeting. Unfortunately, this was not possible, and an invitation has been made for him to come to a future Parish Council meeting.

**Report of the Clerk to the Parish Council:**

- **Budget update and schedule of payments.**

20.173 The Schedule of Payments up to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 amounting to £3,273.10 was approved and is attached at Appendix 2.

20.174 The current account balance on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 was £5,436 and the reserve account balance was £2,000 plus interest.

20.175 Invoices from the Borough Council for the 2019 local government election recharge and the cost of the civic amenity collection have not yet been received.

- **Correspondence, circulars and issues raised.**

20.176 An application has been received from Yarnfield Forum for a grant of £42,00 to help pay for spring flowering bulbs to be planted on the village green the full cost of which will be £84.00.

20.177 **Resolved:** that the grant application is approved.



20.178 A letter of thanks has been received from the Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire, Mr Ian Dudson, thanking people for "the innovation, collaboration, courage and selflessness shown by so many across the County during the COVID-19 pandemic".

The letter has been posted on the Parish Council website.

**Keep Britain Tidy national "September Clean" campaign**

20.179 Keep Britain Tidy are running a national "September Clean" campaign between the 11 - 20 September. One local group will be getting involved and have made arrangements with the Streetscene Service to collect any bagged rubbish they collect from the village green. This provides an opportunity for others in the village to get involved and to take advantage of the collection that Streetscene will be doing on Monday 21 September.

20.180 The Borough Council's Annual Parish Forum will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> September. The invitation is limited to two people from each parish council. On this occasion the Vicechair and Clerk will attend.

20.181 Walking for Health, at a previous meeting a question was asked about the Parish Council promoting walking routes in the parish. The Borough Council's health and wellbeing coordinator has been approached to see if it would be possible to set up a walking for health group. Progress on this will be monitored through the addition of a new priority in Parish Council's Priority Action Plan.

20.182 The latest edition of the Parish Newsletter is now available. Help will be needed to get the Newsletter distributed throughout the parish.

20.183 The formation of a gate from a property on The Willows onto the village green has been to the Borough Council.

**Yarnfield Park - to consider a report on speeding on the estate**

20.184 The Parish Council, and the Community Speed Watch Team, regularly receive complaints about the speed of traffic on the Yarnfield Park estate. This is particularly prevalent on two roads: Yarnfield Parkway and Brookvale Drive.

20.185 It is unclear what the speed limit is on the estate. This is not helped by the fact that the road signs on the two roads are not consistent. The speed calming measures on both Brookvale Drive and Yarnfield Parkway are not having the desired effect to limiting vehicle speed on these roads. Councillors were uncomfortable with the idea that the speed limit on the two main estate roads be set at 30mph and that it was important that the views of residents are sought to inform the approach taken by the Parish Council.

20.186 The County Council's Highways team has been approached to confirm what the speed limit on the estate will be. A further report will be presented to a future meeting of the Parish Council once a reply has been received.

20.187 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:

- i. The County Council be asked to:
  - a) Confirm the speed limits and signage arrangements on Yarnfield Park,
  - b) What support they will provide and what would they advise to improve the safety of road users.

- ii. The residents of Yarnfield Park are asked for their views about traffic speed on the estate.  
**Yarnfield Park, update on the section 106 agreement.**

- 20.188 The parish council received a detailed report on the progress made to address residents' concern about responsibility for the maintenance of the public open space and the general estate maintenance on Yarnfield Park. The Parish Council recognise that the 2012 agreement between the Borough Council and the developers of the site set out how these arrangements would operate and that a better understanding of the agreement was needed to resolve the problems being reported.
- 20.189 In order to make progress on these issues it was proposed that a meeting with residents on the estate is arranged, recognising that it will not be possible to hold a public face to face meeting, and that the only option would be to hold a virtual meeting using Zoom.
- 20.190 The Parish Council recognise that the way forward is to support the setting up of a resident's association which the council will be happy to support. In the first instance a small group of residents should be invited to work with the Parish Council to map out a way to bring this work to a satisfactory conclusion
- 20.191 **Resolved:** It was resolved that the Clerk:
- i. Continue to work with Stafford Borough Council on the enforcement of the section 106 agreement
  - ii. Contact Fratton Development Ltd to establish their responsibility for public open space.
  - iii. Find a way to bring residents together to develop a better understanding of their views and to support the setting up of a Yarnfield Park Residents Associations

**Village Green - to consider proposals to consult on possible improvements.**

- 20.192 In 2019 Stafford Borough Council agreed to a proposal from the Parish Council to allocate a budget of £16,800 to pay for a project to carry out a range of environmental improvements on the Village Green. The Borough Council has required that the Parish Council engage with residents of the parish to gather their views about the proposals.
- 20.193 A consultation exercise is needed to identify what improvements the community would like to see included in any scheme.
- 20.194 Discussions have already been held with the 2019 Annual Parish Assembly, Springfields First School, and Yarnfield Guides and Scouts. These have provided some excellent ideas about the future of the village green and the sort of improvements that would be most appropriate. These ideas have been used to inform this consultation exercise.
- 20.195 The consultation will be featured in the Parish Newsletter, on the Parish Council Website and Facebook page. Notices will also be displayed on the Parish Notice Boards. To further enhance the response to the consultation members of the parish council circulation list will each be invited to complete the survey forms.
- 20.196 The consultation period will run until the 6<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

**Yarnfield and Cold Meece Footpath No. 10 - to consider an application for a Public Path Diversion Order**



- 20.197 Staffordshire County Council has received an application to divert part of the Yarnfield & Cold Meece No. 10 footpath at Gorse Cottage, Cold Meece.
- 20.198 The Parish Council has been invited to comment on the application.
- 20.199 It was acknowledged that the application, if approved, would regularise the line of the footpath. However, there was some uncertainty about the details of the application and in particular the plan provided of the proposed diversion.
- 20.200 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:
- i. Clarification be obtained on the location of the new gate referred to in the application.
  - ii. That an extension for the closing date of the submission be asked for, and, in the event that one cannot be provided, that a special meeting of the Parish Council is arranged.

**Stone Area Parish Liaison Group - to consider a request about the Stafford Borough Council's planning consultation process**

- 20.201 The Stone Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group has written to the Borough Council's Development Control Manager about concerns that the group's members have about the determination of planning applications. In particular they are concerned that:
- a) Parish and town councils' comments about planning applications are not given significant weight and consideration by the Borough Council when determining an application.
  - b) Whenever the Borough Council's determination of a planning application is contrary to the recommendation of a parish or town council, they should send an explanation to the council concerned.
  - c) The parish and town councils do not have an automatic right to appear before the Borough Council's Planning Committee."
- 20.202 **Resolved:** It was resolved that:
- i. That a letter is sent to the Stafford Borough Council to support the Liaison Group's concerns.
  - ii. That representations are made to the Borough Council ward councillors asking for their support to secure a change to the Borough Council's Standing Orders to provide parish councils an automatic right to appear before the Planning Committee of the Borough Council.
  - iii. That a letter is sent to the Stone Area Parish Councils' Liaison Group to confirm the actions taken by this council.
  - iv. That the Clerk, as a matter of routine, reports planning decisions made by the Borough Council where they relate to premises or land in the parish.

**Labour in Vain - to provide an update on plans for the pub**

- 20.203 It has been reported that discussions are taking place between the owner of the Labour in Vain and the landlord of the George and Dragon in Stone with a view to him taking on the tenancy. It is anticipated that if these discussions are successful the Labour in Vain will reopen before the end of the year.

**SBC Community Awards, to consider an invitation to make a nomination from the parish.**

20.204 The Stafford Borough 2020 Community Awards is open to any public, private or voluntary sector organisation and individuals who are contributing to community wellbeing.

20.205 Any nominations for the Community Awards must be returned to the Borough Council by 23 October 2020.

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

20.206 No meetings/course have taken place in the last month.

**Date and time of next meeting.**

20.207 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at 7.30 pm



Signed

Chairman of the Council

~~Date 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020~~

13.4.21

Meeting Closed 9:45pm

## Planning matters:

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

| Reference | Address | Outline | Decision |
|-----------|---------|---------|----------|
| Nil       |         |         |          |
|           |         |         |          |



| Month         | TRAFFIC COUNT         |                       |                | INCOMING SPEEDING       |                         |                      |                                   |                                      | OUTGOING SPEEDING       |                         |                      |                                   |                                      | TOTAL SPEEDING          |                           | MAX SPEEDING      |                   | CSW GROUP                  |                                   |                              |
|---------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
|               | Incoming (1)<br>Total | Outgoing (2)<br>Total | GRAND<br>TOTAL | Incoming<br>31 - 36 mph | Incoming<br>37 - 42 mph | Incoming<br>43 mph + | Grand Total<br>Exceeding<br>51mph | % of Incoming<br>Traffic<br>speeding | Outgoing<br>31 - 36 mph | Outgoing<br>37 - 42 mph | Outgoing<br>43 mph + | Grand Total<br>Exceeding<br>51mph | % of Outgoing<br>Traffic<br>speeding | Grand Total<br>Speeding | % Grand Total<br>Speeding | Incoming<br>(mph) | Outgoing<br>(mph) | Number of<br>CSW<br>Events | Number of<br>speeding<br>Vehicles | % of<br>Speeding<br>Vehicles |
| Jun-20        | 9223                  | 9787                  | 19010          | 301                     | 23                      | 4                    | 328                               | 3.56%                                | 730                     | 71                      | 35                   | 836                               | 8.54%                                | 1164                    | 6.12%                     | 56                | 66                | 0                          | 0                                 | 0                            |
| Jul-20        | 22593                 | 24105                 | 46698          | 813                     | 72                      | 17                   | 865                               | 3.60%                                | 1898                    | 148                     | 91                   | 2137                              | 8.87%                                | 3022                    | 6.47%                     | 52                | 70                | 0                          | 0                                 | 0                            |
| Aug-20        | 26698                 | 27919                 | 54617          | 1836                    | 144                     | 17                   | 1980                              | 6.88%                                | 2378                    | 194                     | 104                  | 2676                              | 9.58%                                | 4656                    | 8.52%                     | 65                | 65                | 0                          | 0                                 | 0                            |
| Sep-20        |                       |                       |                |                         |                         |                      |                                   |                                      |                         |                         |                      |                                   |                                      |                         |                           |                   |                   |                            |                                   |                              |
| Oct-20        |                       |                       |                |                         |                         |                      |                                   |                                      |                         |                         |                      |                                   |                                      |                         |                           |                   |                   |                            |                                   |                              |
| 12 month Tot: | 58514                 | 61811                 | 120325         | 2950                    | 239                     |                      | 3193                              | 5.46%                                |                         |                         |                      | 5649                              | 9.14%                                | 8842                    | 7.35%                     |                   |                   |                            |                                   |                              |

1095  
123.7%

539  
25.2%

**NOTE**

Jun-20 = 10 days of data due to install date

August display turned off

September display now facing Stone

## Yarnfield and Cold Meece - Schedule of Payments

### 15 September 2020

| Detail                                  | Date      | Amount   | Payment Method /<br>Cheque No. | VAT    | Section 137<br>payment |
|---|-----------|----------|--------------------------------|--------|------------------------|
| Clerk's salary (July 2020)              | 20-Aug-20 | 516.13   | Bank transfer                  | -      |                        |
| HMRC (Period 4)                         | 20-Aug-20 | 128.94   | Bank transfer                  | -      |                        |
| Trent Ground Maintenance - Invoice No 5 | 20-Aug-20 | 1,015.74 | Bank transfer                  | 169.29 |                        |
| Clerk's salary (August 2020)            | 18-Sep-20 | 516.13   | Bank transfer                  | -      |                        |
| Panda Press - Newsletter No 2           | 18-Sep-20 | 265.00   | Bank transfer                  | -      |                        |
| HMRC (Period 5)                         | 18-Sep-20 | 129.00   | Bank transfer                  | -      |                        |
| Trent Ground Maintenance - Invoice No 6 | 18-Sep-20 | 677.16   | Bank transfer                  | 112.86 |                        |
| Support Staffordshire                   | 24-Sep-20 | 25.00    | Bank transfer                  | -      |                        |
|   |           | 3,273.10 |                                | 282.15 |                        |

Chairman Cllr. Eyre

Date: 13-4-21

