

YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES
Wednesday 14 June 2023
Yarnfield Park Conference Centre

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

Councillors:

David Beeston	Sally Parkin (Chairperson)
Margaret Broader	Kirsty Treen
Jo Griffiths	Ed Whitfield
Stella Hughes	

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

Also in attendance: 0

Public at the meeting: 2

Viewing on Facebook: 0 (no broadcast)

Apologies for Absence

23-250 Apologies were received from – Cllr James (SBC)

Declaration of Interest

23-251 Nil

Public Question Time

Nil

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 May 2023

23-252 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 17 May 2023 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Minutes of the General Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 May 2023

23-253 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 17 May 2023 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Reports from Borough and County Councillors

23-254 Nil

HS2 – update report

23-255 A copy of the Stone Railhead Crisis Group (SRCG) update on their work is attached at Appendix 1.

23-256 Balfour Beatty have donated 5 oak trees in 40cm containers to the parish council. These are now being cared for and will be planted later in the year in their final location.

Events' Working Group – Coronation Picnic Report

- 23-257 The money raised from the Coronation Picnic amounted to £474.30 from the operation of the Beer Tent and Candy Floss Stall.
- 23-258 The cost of putting on the event, hire of equipment, printing, temporary event notice and some ancillary expenditure was £675.88
- 23-259 After income and expenditure from the picnic is accounted for. the Events Working Group has a working balance of £829.89
- 23-260 The EWG has made a number of recommendations for the parish council to consider:
- i. EWG plan to build a reserve balance of £1,000 to support future events.
 - ii. Previous events have been organised with no charges for attractions; should this continue or should nominal charges be made for activities or entrance to events?
 - iii. The format of a community event in the summer of 2024 needs to be agreed and planning started towards the end of this year.
 - iv. The Events Working Group is proposing the following events during the remainder of the year. The list includes work the Community Action Group is doing in June:
 - 25 June - Community Action Group – Strawberry Tea
 - August – Pop up Picnic on the Green - (date to be confirmed)
 - October – Duke of Edinburgh Community Volunteering Event - (date to be confirmed)
 - 10 November – Remembrance Day Parish Tribute
 - 16 December Childrens' Christmas Party

Community Action Group – review of terms of reference

- 23-261 The Community Action Group has undertaken a review of the terms of reference for the group. The following changes are proposed:
- i. The number of council members on the group is reduced from 3 to 2.
 - ii. Non-elected members of the group will be limited to 8 people who will be nominated at the annual parish council meeting following an agreed selection process.
 - iii. All spending recommendations of the group are to be reported to a parish council meeting for approval.
- 23-262 The Community Action Group Aims and Objectives will be:
- Propose projects for the benefit of the community
 - Overseeing the council's defibrillator programme
 - To promote new and novel volunteering opportunities in the parish.
- 23-263 Recommendation: It was resolved that:
- i. The Community Action Group are asked to consider whether the aim and objectives of the group should be qualified as environmental project.
 - ii. The Chairperson of the Community Action Group be invited to make proposals on the selection criteria for future membership.

Annual Parish Assembly

- 23-264 The Annual Parish Assembly was well attended with 34 people coming to the village hall to support the event. The assembly was the first of the newly elected parish council
- 23-265 The Annual parish assembly provided an opportunity to hear from residents about what they value most about the parish and what they would like to protect. The outcomes from the Assembly Meeting will help guide the work of the parish council in the coming years and so ensure this represents the views of residents.

Labour in Vain - Launch of Community Ownership Fund Round 3

- 23-266 The latest round of the Community Ownership Fund has, for the first time, been extended to allow bids from parish councils.
- 23-267 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. A meeting is held with residents to explore whether there is support for an application to the Community Ownership Fund.
 - ii. A report is brought to a future meeting of the council setting out what will need to be done to prepare an application to the Community Ownership Fund and how the application will be supported.

Parish Council Actions Tracker Update

- 23-268 Minute 23-172 - Damaged Openreach cover plate
- Openreach have indicated that the work to replace the damaged cover and inspection chamber will take place in June 2023.
- 23-269 Minute 22-285 - Traffic management contractors use of premium phone numbers to report defects
- HS2 ltd has confirmed there contact centre will always be available to take calls about broken traffic management controls and will ensure contractors repair defective lights.
 - Parish council posts about HS2 works in the parish that include diversions or traffic management controls will in future include advice on how to report problems to the HS2 contact centre.
- 23-270 Minute 21-499 - Severn Trent work Highlows/Yarnfield Lane the clerk to continue to press Severn Trent for a copy of the programme for the project which will include key dates.
- 23-271 **Resolution:** It was resolved that a copy of the Update of Actions Report set out in Appendix 2 and posted on the parish council website was noted.

Parish Clerk's report:

Budget – update and schedule of payments

- 23-272 Current Account bank reconciliation on 14 June 2023 = £6,926.48
- 23-273 Combined Reserve Account bank reconciliation balances on 14 June 2023 = £35,085
- 23-274 Schedule of invoices awaiting payment since the last meeting = £2,820.56
- 23-275 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the schedule of payment for the period 18 May – 14 June 2023 set out in Appendix 3 is approved.

Update on Actions Taken

- 23-276 **Greenside playground** – parts needed to renovate the swing seat ordered
- 23-277 **Footpath 11 – bench repair** – wood purchased. The other three slats that make up the seat base will need to be replaced within the next 12 months
- 23-278 **Post Office hedge/village green** – research suggest that the hedge between the post office bungalow and the footpath over Yarnfield Brook is on land leased to the parish council.
- 23-279 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. An approach is made to the owner of the Post Office bungalow about ongoing responsibility for maintenance of the hedge adjacent to the footpath over Yarnfield Brook.
 - ii. Estimates for the cost of work to cut the hedge back to the boundary line are obtained.
- 23-280 **Newsletter** – plans for the preparation of the Parish Newsletter to be published in September are underway with articles on - new councillors, HS2 update, Coronation Picnic photo, village green project, Labour in Vain and the Events Working Group programme.

Village Green Project – update and next actions

- 23-281 Cllr Beeston and the clerk met representatives of the Borough Council's Planning and Streetscene Services on 5 June.
- The cost of advertising the lease (£500) has yet to be resolved with Stafford Borough Council looking to see if they can identify a budget to pay for this.
 - Planning Service to look at the boundary lines of the proposed lease to establish ownership details of the pavements surrounding the south green.
 - Streetscene to review work needed to the "red flagged" trees on the village green.
- 23-282 A further meeting has been arranged with Streetscene on 19 June 2023 to explore how they might be able to help with completing some of the work on the project.

Neighbourhood Plan – update and next actions

- 23-283 An information pack for the councillors is to be prepared which will include copies of the Housing Needs Assessment, Draft Master Plan and Draft policy document.
- 23-284 Meeting of the reference group is to be arranged to work on the Design code and Master Plan document.

Planning – to consider any planning applications in the parish

23/37592/NHPD, 3 Mitchell Rise Yarnfield, Rear extension

- 23-285 **Resolution:** It was resolved to offer no comment in relation to the planning application.

23/37093/OUT, Labour in Vain, Revised A1 Site or Block Plan 3007 (10)001 F8 Illustrative Site Layout 1 June 2023

- 23-286 The applicant has, since the parish council submitted its comments on the planning application, made a change to the layout of the car park which would result in an increase in the number of car parking spaces.
- 23-287 It was apparent from the plans deposited that no provision has been made for disabled parking on the site.
- 23-288 **Resolution:** It was resolved to write to the planning service raising the councils concerns about the inadequate parking on the site and lack of disabled parking.

Date and time of next meeting

12 July 2023 at 7.30pm



Signed

Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 12 July 2023

Meeting closed 09:30pm

June 2023 – Stone Railhead Crisis Group report

Public meeting of 21st May

Many thanks to the 60-70 people who attended the meeting on a sunny Sunday afternoon. The SRCG gave a full update on its work over recent months and its proposals for HS2 Phase 1+, the alternative to HS2 Phase 2a and 2b.

HS2 Phase 2a pause

A pause in HS2 construction was announced by the Secretary of State for Transport (Mark Harper) on 9th March. This has led to the cessation to most HS2 works at a local level, but sadly not the land acquisition programme. This means that local people are still being evicted from their properties prematurely.

The pause has led to the suspension of all **Early Civils Works by Kier**, including its design and construction work for 21 road schemes, including the realignment of Yarnfield Lane and its proposed new junction with the A34. Although this is good news for multiple reasons, it has meant that our ongoing discussions regarding the engineering detail have been indefinitely suspended.

With regard to the **Early Environmental Works**, including those accessed from Yarnfield Lane, we have been verbally told by HS2 Ltd that these works would be completed by the end of this month and all signage will be removed. However, the sites will be subject to ongoing maintenance and signage will be reinstated when Balfour Beatty is carrying out work.

Most **utility works** have also ceased, but not before £10s of thousands of public money was wasted at Yarlet bank. National Grid works to divert the gas main for HS2 were allowed to start only 3 days before the Government announced the Phase 2a pause and continue for 6-8 weeks, before being reversed and the site restored.

Realigned Yarnfield Lane - Freedom of Information Act application

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council has successfully acquired design information relating to these works via an FoI application. A further update on this issue will be given next month.

Schedule 17 HS2 lorry route applications

As previously reported, HS2 Ltd submitted multiple S17 routes to the County Council at the end of January. The original determination date was 24th March, which was postponed to 19th May and then 9th June.

The good news is that Pirehill Lane was removed from the revised application for our community area (CA3) on 19th May. This move was undermined because HS2 Ltd has since confirmed that Pirehill Lane still forms part of its construction plan and reserves the right to use it as a haul route in the future.




The bad news is that the County Council approved the S17s for CA3 and CA4 on 9th June, despite the HS2 documentation containing unverified, out of date and irrelevant predictions of HGV movements because HS2 Ltd's construction programme has completely changed. This situation was made clear to the County Council as part of the detailed Y&CMPC consultation submission, but it has ignored the evidence.


Phase 1+

SRCG's alternative proposal to HS2 Phase 2 will result in far better rail services to 75% of West Coast stations located north of Birmingham and save the taxpayer £30 billion at current prices. It has been put to Government and we are working hard with the objective of seeing the Phase 1+ proposal adopted during the Phase 2a pause.






SRCG 14th June 2023

Monthly Progress Tracker – Update 13/06/23







	 Warning	 Action – in progress	 Achieved
April 2023	1	8	5
May 2023	2	10	
June 20213	1	9	2

Minute	Resolution	Action	RAG
Ambition 1 - Environment			
21-524	Village Green Project	<p>Meeting with Planning and Streetscene held on 5 June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The cost of advertising the lease (£500) has yet to be resolved with Stafford Borough Council looking to see if they can identify a budget to pay for this. - Planning to look at the boundary lines of the proposed lease to establish ownership details of the pavements surrounding the south green. - Streetscene to review work needed to “red flagged” trees on the village green. <p>Progress update report to be brough to next Parish Council Meeting (June 23)</p> <p>Site meeting with Stafford Borough Council officers from planning and Streetscene arranged.</p> <p>Progress on the project and lease of the village green has again stalled.</p> <p>Escalate action to the Borough Council’s Planning Officer</p> <p>Cabinet lead and ward councillors pressing Stafford Borough Council officers to release funds and agree the lease.</p>	

Monthly Progress Tracker – Update 13/06/23

		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	Email to SCC raising concerns and for their support 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			
23-172	Damaged Openreach cover plate	Repair to cover expected to be undertaken in June 23 Report concern about the need to complete work on the damaged cover again to Openreach. Repair will require reconstruction of manhole chamber which will require traffic management being put in place. Complaint about the failure to repair the damaged pedestrian cover plate in the pavement outside the Labour in Vain to be reported to Openreach for a second time	
22-285	Traffic management contractors use of premium phone numbers to report defects [Network+ contractor – helpline charge]	HS2 response that reporting of defect should be made using the HS2 Ltd help line that is available 24/7 will be sufficient Email sent to Senior Community Engagement Manager – Phase 2a 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. Request made for a site meeting with engineers responsible for the project. STWCo visit in April 2023 identified further complications with delivery of the project. Work with engineers to establish what needs to be done to see the work completed	

Monthly Progress Tracker – Update 13/06/23

23-231	Greenside Playground	Parts ordered for the repair of the swing basket Complete work on pressure wash of the site Order parts required to renovate the basket swing.	
Parish Ambition – 3 Community			
22-265	Labour in Vain	Community Fund Webinar – parish councils now able to bid for funds from the Community Ownership Fund. Public meeting being arranged to secure support. ACV application submitted result due 17 July 2023 Meeting arranged with consultants working for Enterprise Inns on the preparation of the planning application. 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	Stafford Borough Council Environmental Health to visit noise sensitive properties to carry out noise monitoring. SBC Environmental Health to 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	Contact SCC digital team to agree project to update the parish council website Project to be added to new council work programme.	

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

Schedule of Payments - June 2023

Date	Ref/Chq no	Payee	Description	NET	VAT	Payment
23/05/2023	Debit Card	Morrisons	Parish assembly catering	87.45		87.45
14/06/2023	BACS	Village Hall	Room hire - Craft Group	36.00		36.00
14/06/2023	BACS	Village Hall	Room hire - Parish Council	159.00		159.00
14/06/2023	BACS	Trent Grounds Maintenance	Grounds Maintenance Contract	924.50	184.90	1,109.40
14/06/2023	BACS	Premier Pressure Wash Service	Playground jet wash	350.00		350.00
14/06/2023	BACS	Clerk	Salary	604.63		604.63
14/06/2023	BACS	Clerk	Office expenses	64.07	10.91	74.98
14/06/2023	BACS	HMRC	PAYE payment	151.00		151.00
14/06/2023	BACS	Clr Stella Hughes	CAG - summer bedding	196.74	51.36	248.10
				2,573.39	247.17	2,820.56

Chairperson:



Date:

14-Jun-23