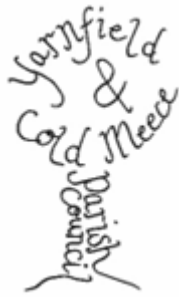


DRAFT MINUTES



YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

12 FEBRUARY 2025

Yarnfield Park Conference Centre

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

Councillors:

David Beeston	Una Simpson
Margaret Broader	Kirsty Treen
Stella Hughes	Ed Whitfield
Sally Parkin (Chairperson)	

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

Also in attendance: Laura Bridgwood (BIFFA, Cold Meece), Cllr Pert (SCC)

Public at the meeting: 4

Apologies for Absence

25-67 Apologies were received from – Roy James (SBC)

Declaration of Interest

25-68 No declarations of interest were received.

BIFFA Site Manager, Cold Meece – presentation

25-69 The manager from the Biffa Landfill site at Biffa, Cold Meece, Laura Bridgwood, gave a presentation about the operation of the site and the recent planning application that had been approved by Staffordshire County Council to install a reverse osmosis treatment plant.

25-70 The site is now used to receive aggregate waste and has not received household waste for many years.

25-71 There are four companies operating on the site:

- Aggregate Treatment Facility
- Soil Treatment Facility (Biogenie)
- Landfill – Restoration (inert soils)
- Power generation (Infinis)

25-72 Currently, every day up to five articulated tankers are needed to transport leachate from the site to a treatment plant near Manchester. The reverse osmosis plant will make leachate management at Cold Meece more sustainable.

25-73 A copy of the presentation slides is attached at Appendix 1.

DRAFT MINUTES

Public Question Time

Question

- 25-74 Could the parish council explain what is the latest position over the Labour in Vain?

Response

- 25-75 The Labour in Vain has now been closed for over two years. We know from an email exchange with Stonegate that the company is again looking at various options. This is presumably driven by the fact that they have failed to find a buyer for either the pub or the building plots which they are trying to sell for £365k and £180k.
- 25-76 The decision, by central government, to cancel all future Community Ownership Fund applications has withdrawn the only viable funding source available to Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd to buy the Labour in Vain.

Reports from Borough and County Councillors

- 25-77 Cllr Pert (Staffordshire County Council)

- The recent Government White Paper setting out proposals to review the structure of local government in England will lead to borough and county councils being replaced by larger unitary authorities, probably by 2027.
- The borough council is still working on the local plan, but nothing is available to scrutinise. The number of houses that will need to be built in the borough has increase to about 750 dwellings. The borough council's Strategic Housing and Employment Land availability cannot support this level of development. There is, as yet, no credible timetable to produce the Local Plan.
- The flooding problem in Yarnfield has been raised at Cllr Pert's regular meeting with Severn Trent management.
- The moratorium on pavement repair work comes to an end in April and a request has been made to carry out work in Yarnfield as a priority.
- Staffordshire County Council has approved an additional £15m investment to deal with drainage and pothole issues in the county.

Community engagement Operation Lazurite - update

- 25-78 Cllr Parkin provided an update on the community engagement following the public meeting on 27 January, 2025. Regular meetings are now taking place with the MOD, Mears, Police and borough council. Work is now taking place to create greater interaction with the Afghan families that will lead to a managed return of the families into the community.

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January, 2025

- 25-79 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13 January, 2025 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Tuesday 28 January, 2025

- 25-80 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 28 January, 2025 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.

DRAFT MINUTES

Parish Action Tracker – review of actions

- 25-81 Minute Number 23-296 – Highway Repair
- Three dates have been offered to HS2 Ltd for a meeting to visit the site on Yarnfield Lane to discuss the problem of flooding.
 - The lack of any response to the request has been shared with Dr Allison Gardner, MP.
- 25-82 Minute 22-97 – New office system
- The new website is now under construction.
 - Plans are in place to launch the site on the 1 April, 2024.
- 25-83 **Resolution:** A copy of the Update of Actions Report set out in Appendix 2 and posted on the parish council website was noted.

Community Action Group – update report

- 25-84 Cllr Hughes provided an update on the work of the Community Action Group arising from the meetings on 1 October, 2024 and 21 January, 2025.
- Work to install the defibrillator at Cold Meece has been completed. The work has benefited from donations from the community, Eccleshall Rotary club, BIFFA and Eurolighting Ltd, who has agreed to provide a home for the device.
 - Two training events on the use of a defibrillator, to be run by the Community First Responders, are being planned.
 - The Community Action Group has agreed to make a £100 donation to the Community Heartbeat Trust in recognition of their help to loan a defibrillator to the parish council.
 - A notice is to be placed on the parish notice boards about the location of the defibrillators in the parish.
 - A letter has been sent to the residents of the Ford Drive estate asking for contributions toward the cost of installing a defibrillator on the estate. Donations amounting to £295 have been received.
 - An application has been made to Stafford Borough Council for a license to install a defibrillator on Ford Drive. No response has been received, and the clerk has been asked to contact the council again.
 - Trent Grounds Maintenance have been engaged to remove Himalayan Balsam from Yarnfield Brook.
 - A small group of residents joined members of the Community Action Group to plant spring flowering bulbs during the Autumn clean-up

New Parish Council website and email addresses

- 25-85 The new website which is being prepared by Parish Online has been received. Work is now being done to update the information on the new site. Plans are in place to launch the site on the 1 April, 2025.
- 25-86 New gov.uk email addresses for the councillors and clerk have been received and plans are in place for these to be used from 1 April, 2025.

Parish Clerk's report

- 25-87 The schedule of bank transactions for the period, 14 January – 12 February, 2025 = £1,782.09.

DRAFT MINUTES

25-88 A Warm Welcome grant of £900 has been received from the Borough Council. The lunch club, craft group and coffee morning have given a commitment to support the project on the same arrangement as agreed in 2023/4.

25-89 The following transfers will be needed:

- i. From the general bank account to the community account, £295.
- ii. From the community account to the general bank account, £104.
- iii. From the reserve account to the general bank account, £2,000.

25-90 The current Account bank reconciliation on 12 February, 2025 after taking into account outstanding payments and transfers = £2,166.13.

25-91 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. The schedule of payment for the period 14 January – 12 February, 2025 set out in Appendix 2, is approved.
- ii. That the cost of room hire for the coffee club and craft group are paid by the parish council for the period January – March 2025.
- iii. That a donation of £50 is made to the coffee club and craft group toward the additional catering cost they will incur.
- iv. That the residue of the Warm Welcome grant is used to fund the lunch club during 2025.

Update on actions taken

- i. Yarnfield Park multiuse play area – Old Alleynians Football Club has had to withdraw from the project to acquire the football ground. Despite this setback there was unanimous agreement that the project should continue, and a further approach is made to the owners of the site to see if we could enter into an options agreement to acquire the site.
- ii. Village green lease – work is still being done to secure a lease. The delay in completing this work has arisen because part of the land to be transferred is not registered with the Land Registry, and this is preventing the borough council moving forward with the lease.
- iii. Cllr Pert has contacted the county council about the possibility of creating a second pick up point for the school buses on Yarnfield Parkway.

25-92 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. Discussions with the owners of the Yarnfield Park group continues.
- ii. That the clerk writes to the borough council ward representative to ask for their help in resolving the issue with the lease of the village green.

Greenside Playground update and inspection report

25-93 The annual inspection of the Greenside playground was completed in December 2024. The report has identified several low-risk issues that will need to inform the annual maintenance programme for the equipment on the playground.

25-94 There is a problem establishing the exact amount of section 106 funding promised to the parish council by the borough council. To help resolve this issue the support of the borough ward representatives will be needed.

DRAFT MINUTES

25-95 A report will be brought to the March 2025 meeting setting out proposals on how to use the section 106 funding and the ongoing maintenance issues arising from the annual inspection report.

25-96 The section 106 programme should aim to:

- i. Improve accessible play equipment: currently there is only one piece of equipment that would meet this criterion.
- ii. Improve the educational value of the playground, possibly with panels and games.
- iii. Provide some facilities for older children.
- iv. Reduce the number of litter bins on the site and replace with new bins.

25-97 A working group will be formed to oversee this work.

25-98 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. A working group is formed made up of Cllr Hughes, Cllr Simpson, Cllr Whitfield and the parish clerk.
- ii. That a project plan is prepared that reflects the ambitions set out in paragraph 25-96.
- iii. An email is sent to Cllr James and Cllr Nixon asking for their help securing the section 106 money coming from Stafford Borough Council.

Neighbourhood Plan – update and next actions

25-99 Stafford Borough Council have provided a response to the draft Neighbourhood Plan sent to them in December 2024. This confirms that the parish council will not need to prepare either a strategic environmental assessment or a habitat regulation assessment.

25-100 The borough council has asked for further information to support the Neighbourhood Plan.

- a. A copy of the letter prepared by Urban Vision in March 2024 about the Yarnfield settlement boundary.
- b. Plan of Yarnfield Settlement Boundary.
- c. Plan of grey field sites (with evidence to demonstrate deliverability).
- d. Plan of brownfield sites (with evidence to demonstrate deliverability).
- e. Plan of Local Green Spaces and individual Plans.
- f. Section 7. Travel.

25-101 Work has started to prepare this information.

Updates from Parish Councillors

25-102 Cllr Simpson attended a councillor introduction training event arranged by the Staffordshire Parish Council Association (SPCA)

25-103 A rural themed seminar is being arranged by the SPCA on 5 March, 2025 at Gayton Village Hall. Anyone interested in attending to contact the parish clerk.

Planning – to consider any planning applications in the parish

25-104 No applications to consider.

DRAFT MINUTES

Forward Plan and Events Calendar

- 25-105 The Village Hall committee has agreed to the proposal to rationalise the booking arrangements for future meetings. The schedule of parish council meetings and the events programme for 2025 is set out in Appendix 3.

Date and time of next meeting

- 25-106 Monday 17 March, 2025 at 7.30pm

Signed

Chairperson of the Parish Council

Date: 17 March, 2025

Meeting closed 21:45pm