



**YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**Monday 8 September, 2025**  
**Yarnfield Village Hall**

**Councillors in attendance:** David Beeston, Margaret Broader, Stella Hughes, Sally Parkin (Chairperson), Una Simpson, Kirsty Treen, Ed Whitfield

**Also in attendance:** John Fraser, Parish Clerk, Cllr Sean Bagguley

Members of the public at the meeting: 5

25-257 Apologies for Absence: Roy James

25-258 **Declaration of Interest:** none

25-259 **Community Presentation:** a certificate of achievement was awarded to William and Callum Fenton for their donation of £920 towards the cost of installing a defibrillator on Ford Drive, Yarnfield.

25-260 **Public Question:** Could the question of speeding in the village be discussed:

- Neighbourhood speed watch is all well and good but is it enforceable if vehicles are caught?
- Why is the timing of the speed watch group only in the morning?
- Could an official police speeding check be set up?

25-261 **Response:** Community Speed Watch (CSW) is made up from volunteers from the parish. With limited resources available they use their time to monitor several different locations in both Yarnfield and Cold Meece; choosing to deploy their efforts at times known to be some of the busiest. The aim of CSW is to educate and deter speeding through warning letters, while persistent offenders may face official action. CSW evidence can serve to identify repeat offenders or "hot spots" and can lead to police official enforcement operation.

25-262 **Resolution:** It was resolved to ask Staffordshire Police to include Yarnfield Lane, Meece Road and Swynnerton Road in the speed camera van programme.

**Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

25-263 Cllr Bagguley:

- While not directly relevant to the parish a review of the operation of the Staffordshire County Council pension fund is being undertaken and it is hoped this will lead to substantial savings for the county council.

25-264 Cllr James asked that the following issue is raised. The Government has published a Green Paper on the future of the Post Office.

25-265 The overriding concern was to ensure village post offices are protected as an essential part of the services relied on by rural communities.

25-266 **Resolution:** In view of the deadline for submission delegated authority was given to the Chairperson and Clerk to submit a response to the consultation.

- 25-267 **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 July, 2025:** the minutes of the meeting were considered and approval given for the minutes to be signed.
- 25-268 **Parish Action Tracker:** the updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.
- 25-269 **Pavement Survey Result and Next Steps:** details of the survey findings and next steps are set out in Appendix 2.
- 25-270 **Resolution:** it was resolved that:
- i. A summary of the survey is published on the Council’s website.
  - ii. The Parish Council continues to work with Staffordshire County Council to resolve the issues identified in the survey.
  - iii. The work resulting from the survey is added to the parish action tracker.
- 25-271 **Staffordshire County Council Highways Report, update on progress:** Cllr Bagguley provided an assurance that work was being done to address the issues raised and gave an undertaking to set up a meeting to review progress.
- 25-272 **Resolution:** It was resolved that Cllr Beeston and the Clerk represent the Parish Council at the meeting with county highways.
- 25-273 **Village Green Project , tender and section 106 funding:** an invitation to tender for the playground contract was sent to seven suppliers. This led to 5 applications being received. The working group is now preparing a report on who should be awarded the Greenside playground contract.
- 25-274 **Resolution:** It was resolved to call an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council on 22 September, 2025 to receive the recommendation of the Playground Working Group and to award a contract for the delivery of the project.
- 25-275 **2025 Community Fund, Grant Application:** the application to Staffordshire County Council was not successful as it did not meet their award criteria.
- 25-276 The Community Foundation has confirmed that it will be extending the warm spaces programme in 2025 and will be awarding £1,500 to the Parish Council.
- 25-277 **Annual Audit, result of the 2024 Audit:** The outcome of the annual audit for the year ending 31 March , 2025 has not yet been received from Forvis Mazars LLP.
- 25-278 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the results of the audit are deferred to the Extraordinary Meeting to be held on 22 September, 2025.
- 25-279 **Parish Clerk’s report**
- 25-280 As the Parish Council did not meet in August 2025 two schedules of payment and transfers, attached at Appendix 3.1 and 3.2, were presented to the meeting.
- i. Schedule of payment since the last meeting
    - August 2025 = £2,284.36
    - September 2025 = £2,944.37
  - ii. Schedule of account transfers since the last meeting:
    - August 2025 = £900
    - September 2025 = £2,000
  - iii. The reconciled general account balance after deposits, payments and transfers have been made = £791.91

- 25-281 **Resolution:** That the schedule of payments and transfers attached at Appendix 3.1 and 3.2 were approved.
- 25-282 **Update on Actions:** The Personnel Committee met on 8 September, 2025 and approved the adoption of the local government pay award for 2025/26.
- 25-283 **Local government reorganisation and devolution proposals:** Stafford Borough Council has been running a public consultation on their proposals for the new structure of local government in Staffordshire. The Parish Council's response to this consultation is set out in Appendix 4.
- 25-284 **Resolution:** It was resolved that Stafford Borough Council and Staffordshire Moorlands District Council be asked for a meeting to explore how their plans will impact residents of the parish and the role of parish councils.
- 25-285 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The draft local green space proposal was shared with councillors. Most of the parish lies within the North Staffordshire Green belt and as such some protection is afforded to the sites identified. Concern was raised about the risk of infill development on green spaces to meet the growing demand for housing in the borough.
- 25-286 The borough council has asked for additional information to support the regulation 14 assessment.
- 25-287 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. The six sites identified as green spaces should be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.
  - ii. That the additional information required to support the regulation 14 assessment is completed and sent to Stafford Borough Council.
  - iii. Update Urban Vision on the revised Neighbourhood Plan project plan.
- 25-288 **Community Action Group:** Cllr Hughes provided an update on the Community Action Group meeting held on 22 July, 2025.
- 25-289 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. The Clerk writes to the Head of Law and Administration and the borough ward councillors asking that they resolve the outstanding issue of permission to site a defibrillator on Ford Drive.
  - ii. A budget of £180 is approved to buy spring flowering bulbs and compost.
  - iii. The Clerk prepares a proposal to renovate the Cold Meece Rose Garden.
- 25-290 **Updates from Parish Councillors:** no updates
- 25-291 **Forward Plan and Events Calendar:** attached at Appendix 5 was noted.
- 25-292 **Planning applications:** no applications.
- 25-293 **Date and time of next meeting:** Monday 13 October, 2025 at 7.30pm



Signed  
Chairperson of the Parish Council  
Date: 13 October, 2025  
Meeting closed 9:06pm