



YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
14 July, 2025
Yarnfield Village Hall

Councillors in attendance: David Beeston, Margaret Broader, Stella Hughes, Una Simpson (Chairperson)

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

Members of the public at the meeting: 5

25-217 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Parkin, Cllr Treen, Cllr Whitfield, Cllr James (SBC)

25-218 **Declaration of Interest:** none

25-219 **Public Question Time:** What is being done about the Labour in Vain? It brings the whole feel of the village down and needs to be either demolished or opened.

25-220 **Response:** The Labour in Vain has been closed since December 2022 and there is no sign that the pub will reopen. Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd was formed in 2024 specifically to address Stonegate's decision to close the Labour in Vain. Throughout their discussions, Stonegate has refused to negotiate over the value of the pub and the car park as they maintained they had received offers close to the asking price of £545k.

25-221 The parish council will monitor what is happening on the site and refer any problems to Stonegate. On the question of the future of the pub, they will continue to urge Stonegate to either sell the pub to a new owner or install their own tenant.

25-222 **Resolution:** that Stonegate are contacted and ask for an update on their plans for the Labour in Vain.

25-223 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors:** Cllr Bagguley (SCC)

- The Staffordshire County Council Community fund is now open to applications from parish councils and community groups.
- Highway work planned in the parish would start very soon and he would provide further information on what is planned at another time.

25-224 **Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th June, 2025:** the minutes of the meeting were considered and approval given for the minutes to be signed.

25-225 **Parish Action Tracker:** the updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.

25-226 **Minute 23-291: Highway Repairs – Yarnfield Lane**

- Survey of the road drains carried out by SCC [13 March 2025].
- Cllr Beeston and the Clerk met SCC highways liaison lead [2/7/25].
- A request has been made for a further meeting with Highways staff to establish what needs to be done to repair the system.

25-227 **Minute 23-296:** Homes Plus Estate Management

- Cllr Hughes and the Clerk met the Homes Plus Area officer [06/06/2025] to draw his attention to complaints received by the Parish Council about state of the pavements and hedges on Greenside and The Furlong.
 - A report of the maintenance problems prepared and sent to Homes Plus.
- 25-228 **Minute 25-229: Yarnfield Park Public Open Space**
 - Staffordshire Playing Fields Association have agreed to support the Parish Council with the acquisition of the site.
- 25-229 **SP3 - Environmental project**
 - Himalayan Balsam removed by Trent Ground Maintenance [12/07/25]
 - Tree work on the village green, Trent Ground Maintenance to provide a price
 - Trent Ground Maintenance has been asked to price for top dressing the footpath on the north green.
- 25-230 **SP9 - Bus shelter (Cold Meece) Renovation**
 - Projected cost of renovation of the shelter is likely to exceed the budget.
 - Council to consider new approach at the next parish council meeting.
- 25-231 **SP10 - Village Green s106 Project**
 - Funding confirmed by Stafford Borough Council.
 - Timetable for tender submission and evaluation agreed.
 - Tender document issued to potential suppliers.
 - Playground Working Group is holding meetings with potential suppliers.
- 25-232 **Parish Clerk's report**
- 25-233 Budget review 2024/25 quarter 1
 - i. A copy of the quarter 1 budget review is attached at Appendix 2.
- 25-234 **Budget – update and schedule of payments**
- 25-235 The schedule of payments and transfers, attached at Appendix 3, was presented to the meeting.
 - i. Schedule of payment since the last meeting = £2,324.95
 - ii. Schedule of account transfers since the last meeting = £203.70
 - iii. The reconciled general account balance after deposits, payments and transfers have been made = £3,445.64
- 25-236 **Resolution:** That the schedule of payments and transfers attached at Appendix 3 were approved.
- 25-237 **Update on Actions**
 - i. Crowd Funding: Two young men, William and Callum are fund raising to support the parish council's efforts to install a defibrillator on Ford Drive.
 - ii. A meeting has been arranged with Cllr James on the 24 July, 2025 to discuss:
 - The implications of the Local Government Reorganisation
 - Stafford Borough Council Local Plan update
 - iii. Summer picnic

- A SumUp card reader has been purchased to allow the council to accept card payments at the summer picnic and future events.
- A withdrawal of £205 will be required to create a cash float for the sales from the beer tent.

25-238 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. The Parish Council support the fund raising work by promoting it on the council website and Facebook page.
- ii. The Parish Council uses the SumUp card reader to receive payments at events and that it opens a SumUp account for this work.
- iii. The Clerk is authorised to withdraw £205 from the general account.

25-239 **Village green project, tender and section 106 funding:** Stafford Borough Council has confirmed the value of the funding coming to the parish council. The award of £48,195.09 is higher than originally discussed with them. Confirmation of the value of the fund has triggered:

- i. The Working Group sending the tender invitation document to seven suppliers.
- ii. Completion of the borough council's s106 application to receive the money.

25-240 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. The s106 application is sent to Stafford Borough Council.
- ii. An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council is held on 22 September, 2025 to receive the Working Group's proposal on the preferred supplier.

25-241 **SCC Highways meeting:** Cllr Beeston and the Clerk met with the SCC highways liaison lead [02/07/25]. Details of the meeting are set out in Appendix 4.

25-242 **Pavement Survey results and next steps:** The interim results of the survey have been prepared and shared with the councillors. The final report will be presented to the September 2025 meeting.

25-243 **Lunch club, review of support:** There is strong support for the Lunch Club continuing to meet. There is no doubt about the social value of the club and support it provides.

25-244 People attending the lunch club recognise that for it to continue they may need to be called to make a weekly donation of £2.

25-245 The 2025/26 budget set aside £300 to support the Lunch Club. The projected cost to the parish council will be just over £320 for the remainder of the financial year.

25-246 In previous years the Parish Council has received grants from Stafford Borough Council's Warm Spaces programme. It is known that a further grant will be awarded in 2025, however the value of the award has yet to be announced.

25-247 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the Parish Council continue to support the Lunch Club for the remainder of the year.

25-248 **Yarnfield Park Football Ground and public open space:** Staffordshire Playing Fields association has agreed to support the work the Parish Council is doing to take on the ownership of the Yarnfield Park public open space.

25-249 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. The Parish Council reaffirmed its commitment to take on the ownership of the public open space and football ground on Yarnfield Park.
- ii. The Parish Council join the Staffordshire Playing Fields Association.
- iii. That the clerk writes to the site owners asking that they set out how they wish to proceed.
- iv. Enquiries are made about the benefits of joining the Open Spaces Society.

25-250 **Neighbourhood Plan**

25-251 The government's Neighbourhood Plan grant has been cancelled with no likelihood of it being available in the future.

25-252 Work undertaken during the summer recess will focus on five aspects of the plan process:

- i. Completing the regulation 14 consultation with Stafford Borough Council.
- ii. Gathering evidence to support the call for green spaces in the parish to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.
- iii. Reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan evidence and identifying any gaps that may need to be filled.
- iv. Building the Parish Council website Neighbourhood Plan pages.
- v. Completing the next draft of the Neighbourhood Plan document.

25-253 **Updates from Parish Councillors**

- i. Cllr Hughes reported that:
 - The Walton Hall Academy spent a day in Yarnfield on the 11 June, 2025 on work experience. Letters of thanks from the children had been received.
 - The Strawberry Tea on the 22 June, 2025 raised £205.60 which will be added to the defibrillator fund.

25-254 **Planning – to consider any planning applications in the parish:** none

25-255 **Forward Plan and Events Calendar:** attached at appendix ~~4~~⁵ was noted.

25-256 **Date and time of next meeting:** 8 September, 2025



Signed

Cllr Una Simpson

Date: 8 September, 2025

Meeting closed 8:35 pm