



Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

Your wellbeing is our business

March 2025



Dear Resident,

In a small parish like Yarnfield and Cold Meece you could be forgiven for thinking that national policy doesn't really affect us, but the current plans for local government reorganisation are likely to have a significant impact on all parish councils.

The Government proposes to replace two-tier council areas with single administrative organisations serving populations of about 500,000. This means that parishes may be asked to take on greater responsibilities. Indeed we are already in a situation where parish councils are filling gaps in services based on requests from residents. For example, this parish council now maintains Yarnfield Village Green which was previously a responsibility of Stafford Borough.

It is important that we have an honest conversation with the community about our priorities, what services we might take on, how these will be paid for and how our existing plans might be affected. Our annual parish assembly will be held at Yarnfield Village Hall on 19 May at 7:30pm. This year our discussions will be more important than ever as we will need to think more broadly and strategically. Parish council meetings are always held in public and local residents are warmly welcomed.

In this edition we explain how we reached a decision about our precept (the money from your council tax that pays for the parish council) for 2025/26. We also update you on the plans for our green spaces and discuss what we are doing to ensure effective communication with you.

Your councillors are volunteers; we are not paid but we work hard in the interests of everyone who lives here. This council is strictly non-party political, and we endeavour to build positive relationships with MPs and other elected representatives regardless of their political affiliation.

With my very best wishes,

Sally

Chairperson, Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council

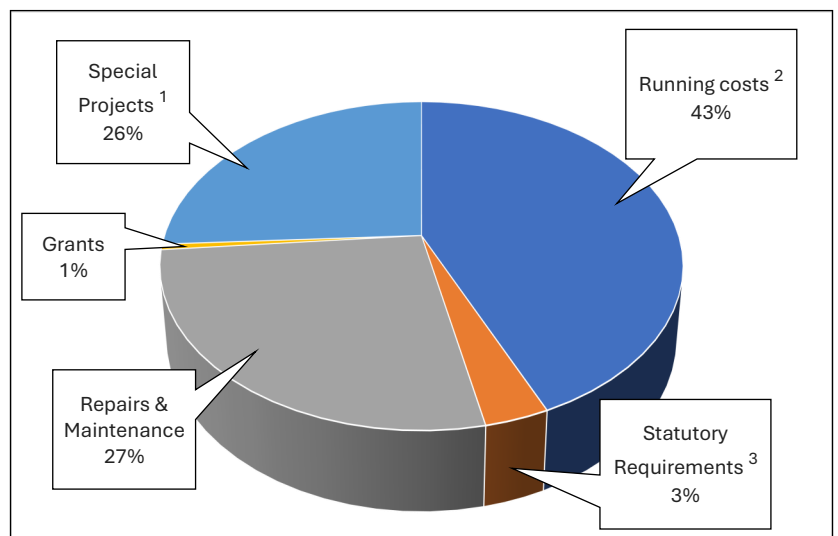
Budget 2025–2026

The work of the parish council is funded by the precept which is collected as part of the annual council tax bill. The increase in national insurance contributions, together with other cost increases, has had a major impact on the council's budget. This year the precept is increasing by 6.1%, which means that the annual Band D household cost will rise by £2.03, which is 4 pence per week. The increase will mean residents in Band D properties will pay £35.49 a year to the parish council.

¹ Special Projects— details on page 3

² Room hire, website, clerk's salary, public engagement and administration

³ Insurance, Annual Governance compliance



Special Projects and Events for 2025

The special projects planned for 2025 arise from conversations with residents, the local community speed watch group and the annual Parish Assembly that takes place in May every year.

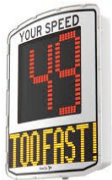


Environmental Projects

A budget of £2,000 has been set for environmental projects across the whole of the parish. This is in addition to the £8,600 budget to maintain the village green and the

Rose Garden at Cold Meece.

The parish council is increasingly being called on to carry out environmental works and with the review of borough and county councils the need to do this work is likely to increase. By committing to this work, it does mean issues raised by residents can be addressed.



Cold Meece—road safety

A budget of £5,000 has been set to improve roads safety in Cold Meece.

In 2023 the parish council successfully campaigned to get the speed limit reduced to 40mph on Swynnerton Road and Meece Road.

However, evidence provided by the local community speed watch team demonstrates that the speed of vehicles on the two roads regularly exceeds 40mph.

It is hoped the project will be delivered in partnership with the county council and supported by contributions from local business.



Village Green—playground project

The parish council is due to receive up to £41,800 from Stafford Borough Council to pay for improvements to the playground on the village green. Plans are now being

prepared that will see the project completed before the end of March 2026. The aim will be to replace some of the oldest equipment on the playground, replace the open topped rubbish bins with more appropriate bins and generally tidy up the site.

As the project progresses details of what is planned will be published on the council website.

Yarnfield Park—road safety

A budget of £2,000 has been set to improve roads signage on the estate.



Concern has been raised about the lack of understanding about the 20 mph limit on Yarnfield Parkway and Brookvale Drive by both residents and visitors to the conference centre. This is particularly concerning as these roads are used by the children living on the estate walking to the school bus and to Springfields First School.

Events

A budget of £1,425 has been set to support an ambitious programme of events that will take place over the coming year. The plans include the summer picnic and children's Christmas party which are organised by the council's Events Working Group. Details of the programme can be found on page 4.



Community Action Group

A budget of £400 has been set to support the work of the group which will be used to pay for spring bulb planting, summer bedding, and the twice yearly clean up around the parish.



The group is responsible for checking and maintaining the parishes defibrillators. They are also working to raise funds to pay for a new defibrillator that will be placed on Ford Drive, Yarnfield.



Cold Meece—bus shelter

A budget of £400 has been set to renovate the shelter: refelting the roof and other general repairs.



St Mary's Toddler Group

Yarnfield Village Hall

Tuesdays: 9:15—10:45 (During school term time)

Pre-school children with parent/carer warmly welcomed.

Text or call 07706 092838 for more information

Future communication plans

Since its first meeting in 2019 Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council has been clear that communication with our residents is an essential part of everything we do. When lockdown came we were amongst the first parishes to meet on zoom and broadcast live on Facebook. When face to face meetings were reinstated we continued to broadcast, as we recognised how much further our online reach was. Unfortunately in recent months, in spite of our best efforts, the technology has let us down and we have reluctantly decided to stop broadcasting unless or until a more reliable solution can be found. From April onwards our meetings will be held at Yarnfield Village Hall and we will monitor the level of public attendance compared to our last few meetings at Yarnfield Park. If you are among the 900+ people who follow our Facebook page, thank you!

We also share information via email, however this is restricted by privacy law which means we can only contact you with your specific consent regarding our purpose. To comply with best practice the clerk and councillors now have official email addresses and we are launching our updated website. (See back page for details). For the traditionalists amongst you, we still use notice boards. There are three, sited opposite the war memorial in Cold Meece, on Yarnfield Village Green and on Yarnfield Parkway. In order to ensure that everyone has equal access to information, without the need for internet access, we produce newsletters that are delivered by volunteers to every household.

However, communication is two-way. Listening and taking on board your thoughts is as important as letting you know what we are doing. We do our best to be open and accessible. Your clerk and councillors all live locally and are visible in the community. We organise events that are designed to bring people together and we have acted on feedback you have given. Please do join us at our meetings or engagement events if you can. We know we will never be able to please everyone in a diverse community like ours, but we promise to listen with respect and to do our best for the community.

If you think we can communicate better with you, please send us an email, contact us via Facebook, telephone the clerk or speak to one of us in person. Thank you!

Spotlight on Lily Edwards

Lily (15) moved to Yarnfield with her family in February 2024. You may have seen her selling hot drinks at our parish picnic to raise money for her trip to Cape Town. Well, fast forward 8 months and Lily has just returned from a life-changing experience with other students from Ormiston Sir Stanley Matthews Academy. The students were part of an established programme providing support to schools and shanty town communities. The money they raised bought toys for a crèche and food parcels for families living in extreme poverty. The students volunteered at community projects, such as “Jabulani’s kitchen” which provides a meal after school for children who would otherwise go hungry. Lily was struck by how happy the children were in spite of having none of the things we take for granted such as running water and electricity. The young people they met experienced gun violence and lived with constant uncertainty, yet they were so thankful for their education and grateful that people from the UK cared about them. Lily was so impressed by Jabulani’s good work that she intends to continue raising funds to support this project.



Cold Meece—Defibrillator

First Responders Stanley and Tina Collins, and Stella Hughes from Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Council met Rotarians from the now disbanded Eccleshall and Mercia Rotary: Brian Eyre, John Ogbourne and Sylvia Keris; Chris Blakeman, from Biffa; and Emma Haverty, from Eurolighting; to thank them for their generous donations and assistance in helping to provide a defibrillator for Cold Meece.



Parish Council Calendar 2025 2026

Date	Start	Meeting	Venue
Monday 14 April	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 22 April	7.30pm	Community Action Group	Village Hall
Monday 12 May	7.30pm	Annual Parish Council	Village Hall
Monday 19 May	7.30pm	Annual Parish Assembly	Village Hall
Monday 9 June	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Monday 14 July	7.30pm	Parish Council	Village Hall
Tuesday 22 July	7.30pm	Community Action Group	Village Hall

Events		
Saturday 12 April	Easter Egg Hunt	Messy Church, Village Hall & village green
Sunday 13 April	Parish Spring Clean	Start at Yarnfield Village Hall
Friday 9 May	VE Day Commemoration	Village Hall
Sunday 18 May	Car Boot Sale	Still to be confirmed
Sunday 22 June	Strawberry Tea	Village Hall
Sunday 20 July	Parish Picnic	Yarnfield village green

Contact details

From the 1 April 2025 the parish council email addresses and web site will be moving to a gov.uk domain name

	Tel	Email
Cllr. David Beeston	07836 642424	cllr.dave.beeston@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Margaret Broader	07753 636311	cllr.margaret.broader@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Stella Hughes	01785 760818	cllr.stella.hughes@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Sally Parkin (Chairperson)	07528 838482	cllr.sally.parkin@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Una Simpson	07919 887550	cllr.una.simpson@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Kirsty Treen (Vice-chairperson)	07976 461919	cllr.kirsty.treen@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk
Cllr. Ed Whitfield	07368 952828	cllr.ed.whitfield@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov
John Fraser [Parish Clerk]	07786 948104	clerk@yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk



<https://yarnfieldandcoldmeece-pc.gov.uk/>



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