



YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
13 April, 2026
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 (SCC)

Members of the public at the meeting: 4

26-85 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Roy James (SBC)

26-86 **Declaration of Interest:** none

26-87 **Public Question Time**

26-88 **Question 1:** Yarnfield Lane, resurfacing work done by Staffordshire County Council in March, is substandard. The first application of tar and chippings was done when the temperature was too low, preventing it from bonding to the road.

26-89 **Response:** Staffordshire County Council Highways has confirmed the most probable reason for this is the changeable early season surface temperatures at the start of the year. The contractor will keep the sites swept and tidy until such time later in the season when they can get back to put this right.

26-90 **Question 2:** Out of Control Dogs. More people seem to be walking their dogs off lead on the village green who have little or no control over their animals and who also allow their dogs to foul and do not pick up after them. The Parish Council should consider implementing public space protection orders which would make it an offence to have dogs off-lead.

26-91 **Response:** A parish council cannot directly make a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO). Only principal authorities, such as district or borough councils, have the power to create PSPOs. However, parish councils can request that their local district council introduce a PSPO on their behalf.

26-92 A PSPO is already in place covering the play equipment on the village green that prohibits dogs on the playground.

26-93 The incident that prompted this question arose from a stray dog on the village green, and it is unlikely the existence of a PSPO would have prevented the attack on the child.

26-94 Stafford Borough Council last updated their PSPOs in December 2023. The orders last for three years, and if new orders are to be introduced, the borough council will need to consult on any new orders before December 2026.

26-95 **Question 3:** A resident who lives on Greenside has asked that the Parish Council consider creating new safe road crossing points in the parish for wheelchair users.

26-96 **Response:** Arrangements will be made for the clerk and Cllr Whitfield to meet the resident and to bring a report to the next parish council meeting.

- 26-97 **Question 4:** A complaint has been received from two residents about the placing of a litter bin on the public open space on Ford Drive, saying the bin is both unsightly and not necessary. A report that was prepared by one of the residents was sent to each of the councillors before the meeting.
- 26-98 **Response:** Following a request by a resident, an enquiry was sent to Stafford Borough Council asking for advice about the process to be followed if a new litter bin were to be requested on Ford Drive. The parish council was not given an opportunity to debate whether the request should be sent to Stafford Borough Council.
- 26-99 There has been a misunderstanding between Streetscene and the Parish Council as to the nature of the initial inquiry. The request to Streetscene was for advice about the process to request a new litter bin. This they took to be a request to install a bin, which they did.
- 26-100 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. The complaint, and the supporting evidence prepared by the complainant, be referred to Stafford Borough Council.
 - ii. Future requests for advice about the location of litter bins in the parish are reported to the Parish Council to consider.
- 26-101 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors:** Cllr Bagguley provided an update on issues that were relevant to the parish.
- i. He reaffirmed the comments made during public question about the resurfacing work on Yarnfield Lane and gave an assurance to follow up on both the repair work that was needed and the concerns raised by the parish councillors about the lack of coordination of the diversions put in place during the work.
 - ii. Staffordshire County Council has allocated £15m specifically to carry out repairs on category 3 potholes.
- 26-102 **Minutes of the meeting held on 9 March, 2026:** The minutes of the meeting were considered and approval given for the minutes to be signed.
- 26-103 **Parish Action Tracker:** The updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.
- 26-104 **Resolution:** It was resolved that Staffordshire County Council is asked to confirm:
- i. When the Traffic Regulation Orders for Yarnfield Park will come into effect.
 - ii. To confirm when the outstanding decision will be made on the location of two speed indicator devices in Cold Meece.
- 26-105 **Close of Account 2025/6:** The Close of Account report, attached at Appendix 2, was approved.
- 26-106 **Parish Clerk's report:**
- i. Schedule of payment received for approval = £2,294.18
 - ii. Schedule of transfers required = £2,500
 - iii. The reconciled general account balance after deposits, payments and transfers = £536.43.
- 26-107 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the schedule of payments and transfers attached at Appendix 3 was approved.

26-108 **Update on Actions:**

- i. Local Government elections in 2027: The government has indicated that 2027 borough elections could be replaced by elections to a new unitary shadow authority, but final decisions on local government reorganisation are yet to be made. It is too early for the borough council to confirm whether the parish election in May 2027 will be held with another election; there is always the possibility that the parish election will not be combined, and the parish council will have to bear the full cost.
- ii. **Proposals for water safety work:** It was agreed to bring to the next meeting costed options to install a short length of barrier to guard against the drop exposed following the recent tree work near to the playground.
- iii. **Ford Drive Defibrillator:** The orders for the work to place a defibrillator on Ford Drive have been prepared, and the cost of the work confirmed with each of the contractors.

AED Donate

- Defibrillator	775.00
- Cabinet	475.00

National Grid

- Unmetered supply	1,736.31
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Next Phase Electrical

- Installation costs	718. 30
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Mounting board and posts	100.00
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3,804.61

26-109 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. The orders for the work are issued.
- ii. That the payments associated with the work set out above are approved.

26-110 **Social media and communication policy:** The draft policy, attached at Appendix 4, was considered and approved.

26-111 **Lunch Club:** The annual review of the costs associated with the running of the lunch club, attached at Appendix 4, was considered and approval given to send a copy to Stafford Borough Council.

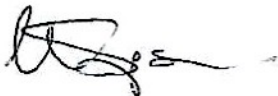
26-112 **Community Resilience:** A meeting will take place on Wednesday, 15 April, 2026, with the Civil Contingencies Liaison Officer from Stafford Borough Council and Support Staffordshire to explore how the Parish Council can enhance community resilience in the parish.

26-113 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return:** The annual internal audit will be undertaken by Blackrose Solutions Ltd on the 25th of May, 2026. The annual AGAR return for 2025/26 will be presented to the Parish Council for approval at the June meeting of the council.

26-114 **Neighbourhood Plan:** The draft neighbourhood plan has been sent to Stafford Borough Council for screening ahead of the Regulation 14 consultation.

- 26-115 The project plan timetable, attached at Appendix 5, has been updated.
- 26-116 **Updates from Parish Councillors**
- 26-117 Cllr Broader raised a resident's concerns about the number of incidents involving deer on Yarnfield Lane and the risk they pose to vehicles. As the length of lane affected is outside of the parish, the clerk was asked to refer the issue to Stone Rural Parish Council.
- 26-118 Cllr Hughes asked that Community Action Group money was released to purchase new plastic troughs for outside the village hall.
- 26-119 **Resolution:** It was resolved that a budget of £100 was approved.
- 26-120 **Forward Plan and Events Calendar:** The plan, attached at Appendix 6, was noted.
- 26-121 **Planning:** To consider any planning applications in the parish: Nil
- 26-122 **Date and time of next meeting:** Monday, 11 May, 2026

Signed:



Chairperson of the Parish Council
Date: Monday 11 May, 2026

Meeting closed: 9.12pm