



**YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

15 June, 2026

Yarnfield Village Hall

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

Also in attendance: John Fraser, Parish Clerk; Cllr Sean Bagguley (SCC)

Members of the public at the meeting: 11

- 26-157 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Roy James (SBC)
- 26-158 **Declaration of Interest:** Received from Cllr. Beeston in relation to agenda item 9.
- 26-159 **Public Question:** Further to the consultation undertaken by the developer in January, 2026 about a housing development of the land by the training centre , I am endeavouring to establish what the current status is as we were advised at the time, by the developer , that a planning application will be submitted imminently.
- 26-160 **Response:** The planning consultants, Evolve Planning + Design, are still waiting for the application to pass the Borough Council's validation process.
- 26-161 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors:**
- i. Cllr Bagguley;
 - a. An update on the county council's review of grit bins has still to be provided and a commitment given to follow up the Parish Council's request for advice.
 - b. The review of the County Council policy for speed indicator devices has not yet been completed.
 - c. A quote has been provided to install 1 pair of drop kerbs but does not cover the revised scheme now being considered by the Parish Council.
 - d. Yarnfield Lane surface dressing work was not done correctly by the contractor. This work will now be redone along the whole length of the lane. The date for this work has still to be confirmed but will be during the summer months.
 - e. The Staffordshire County Council community fund is now open for applications, please refer any possible schemes to Cllr. Bagguley.
- 26-162 **Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May, 2026:** The minutes of the meeting were considered and approval given for the minutes to be signed.
- 26-163 **Parish Action Tracker:** The updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.
- 26-164 **Annual Audit – to approve the 2025/6 Annual Governance and Accountability Return:** The internal audit undertaken by Black Rose Solutions Ltd identified two corrections:
- i. The Asset Register approved in May 2026 failed to take account of equipment removed from the Greenside Playground as part of the recent project.

- ii. The accessibility statement on the Parish Council's website needed to be reviewed in line with the latest guidance
- iii. Copies of the internal audit report and AGAR documents circulated at the meeting are attached at Appendix 2.
- iv. The 30-day period during which the public may examine the accounts and raise issues of concern with the external auditor will run from 17 June – 28 July, 2026.

26-165 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. The recommendations of the internal auditor are accepted.
- ii. The revised Asset Register was approved.
- iii. The Chairperson and Clerk sign the AGAR Section 1;
- iv. The Responsible Finance Officer and Chairperson sign the AGAR Section 2;
- v. The dates for the exercise of Public Rights are noted;
- vi. The annual return is sent to the external auditor.

26-166 **Co-option:** the timetable for the co-option of a new councillor was noted.

26-167 **Labour in Vain - notice of intention to sell**

26-168 Councillor Beeston declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda item 9 (Labour in Vain), left the meeting room and took no part in the discussion or voting on this item.

26-169 Stafford Borough Council has issued a notice of intention to sell the Labour in Vain.

26-170 The Parish Council's asset of community value listing of the pub gives the Parish Council the right to exercise its rights under the asset of community value rules to make an offer to buy the Labour in Vain.

26-171 The Parish Council was instrumental in securing the asset of community value listing of the Labour in Vain and the formation of a community interest company, Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd, the sole purpose of which was to see the Labour in Vain return to trading as a pub.

26-172 Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd does not have a viable funded proposal to buy the Labour in Vain.

26-173 Throughout the closure of the Labour in Vain, the Parish Council has had three main ambitions for the establishment: to ensure it remains a viable asset within the parish, to restore the building to a good state of repair, and to maintain its function as a traditional public house.

26-174 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

- i. An email is sent to the Head of Law and Administration at Stafford Borough Council explaining why the Parish Council would not seek to exercise its rights under the asset of community value rules to make an offer to buy the Labour in Vain.
- ii. A copy of the email to Stafford Borough Council is sent to the Agent acting for Stonegate.

26-175 **Parish Clerk's report:**

- i. Schedule of payment received for approval = £ 3,837.48
- ii. Schedule of account transfers required = £2,500.00

- iii. The reconciled general account balance after deposits, payments and transfers = £2,082.46
- i. **Resolution:** It was resolved that the schedule of payments and transfers attached at Appendix 3 was approved.

26-176 **Update on Actions:**

- i. Reports of large commercial vehicles using Yarnfield Lane have been referred to the BIFFA and GRS sites at Cold Meece who have responded positively to the complaints by reminding drivers and companies coming to their sites about the weight restriction on Yarnfield Lane.
- ii. Bus Shelter, Cold Meece, repairs to the shelter are due to be completed within the next month.

26-177 **Pavement Parking:** A proposal was made to ask the local PCSO to undertake further visits to the village and to ask that some of the councillors could be present.

26-178 **Stafford Borough Council Local Plan review:** Stafford Borough Council is currently carrying out a consultation from Monday 8 June to noon on Tuesday 28 July 2026 about the new local plan.

26-179 A report will be brought to the July meeting of the Parish Council

26-180 **Neighbourhood Plan:** A meeting with the Stafford Borough Council planning officer has been arranged for Tuesday 16 June, 2026 to discuss:

- Neighbourhood Plan Screening process timetable
- Parish Council involvement in the Local Plan review

26-181 **Updates from Parish Councillors**

- i. Cllr Broader: Defibrillator training will be held in the village hall on 12 July, 2026.
- i. Cllr Parkin: Provided an update on this year's visit by children from the Walton Hall School.

26-182 **Forward Plan and Events Calendar:** The plan attached at Appendix 4 was noted.

26-183 **Planning: To consider any planning applications in the parish:** No applications to consider

26-184 **Date and time of next meeting:** Monday 13 July, 2026

Meeting closed: 8:05pm

Signed:



Chairperson of the Parish Council
Date: Monday 13 July, 2026