

# DRAFT v 2



## YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

### MINUTES

13 July, 2026

Yarnfield Village Hall

**Councillors in attendance:** David Beeston, Margaret Broader, Sally Parkin, Una Simpson (Chairperson), Ed Whitfield, Helen Williams

**Also in attendance:** John Fraser, Parish Clerk

**Members of the public at the meeting:** 11

- 26-185 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Kirsty Treen, Cllr Sean Bagguley (SCC), Cllr Roy James (SBC)
- 26-186 **Declaration of Interest:** Received from Cllr. Beeston in relation to agenda item 8.
- 26-187 **Councillor Co-option vacancy:** The strength of the applications prompted Cllr Margaret Broader to bring forward her decision to not stand for election in May 2027 and she decided to resign her position as a parish councillor at the end of the meeting.
- 26-188 Having considered the applications, the councillors agreed to invite Helen Williams to be co-opted to the parish council.
- 26-189 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. Helen Williams is co-opted as a councillor on to the parish council with immediate effect.
  - ii. The vacancy resulting from Cllr Broaders resignation is reported to Stafford Borough Council.
- 26-190 **Public Question:** - no questions
- 26-191 **Reports from County Councillors Sean Bagguley:**
- i. Several roads across Staffordshire have had granite dust applied to them where roads have become "tacky" because of the hot weather.
  - ii. Yarnfield Lane Surface Treatment - the contractual defect period for preventative treatments is 2 years. The company responsible for the work RMS is looking at Yarnfield Lane to identify the best way forward to give it a more permanent fix, until it can receive its permanent remedial work next season.
- 26-192 **Resolution:** It was resolved that an email is sent to Staffordshire County Council reminding it of their original commitment to put right the defects before the end of the summer 2026.
- 26-193 **Minutes of the meeting held on 15 June, 2026:** The minutes of the meeting were considered and approval given for the minutes to be signed.

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- 26-194 **Parish Action Tracker:** The updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.
- 26-195 **Labour in Vain:** After the June parish council meeting, the directors of Yarnivorous CIC lodged a formal complaint against Cllr Beeston and the Parish Clerk, alleging a failure to follow the council's standing orders during a meeting on 3rd June 2026.
- 26-196 The complaint is currently being reviewed by Stafford Borough Council.
- 26-197 The complaint fundamentally questions the integrity and operational procedures of the Parish Council. A report has been submitted to the Borough Council's Head of Law and Governance, robustly defending the Parish Council's actions and challenging the accuracy of the information provided by the complainants.
- 26-198 **Financial Report, April – June, 2026:** No issues of concern were identified in the Quarter 1 Finance Report [Appendix 3].
- 26-199 The council complimented the work of the Community Action Group for the successful Strawberry Tea which raised £316.59.
- 26-200 The council complemented the work of the Events Working Group for their work hosting the 2026 Summer Picnic recognising that, while this cost the parish council £516.56 the purpose of the event was to build community resilience which it has done.
- 26-201 **Parish Clerk's report:**
- i. Schedule of payment received for approval = £2,408.21
  - ii. Schedule of account transfers required = £3,123.45
  - iii. The reconciled general account balance after deposits, payments and transfers = £2,277.59
- 26-202 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the schedule of payments and transfers attached at Appendix 3 was approved.
- 26-203 **Update on Actions Taken**
- i. Cracked willow tree, village green: Arrangements have been made for Neil Taylor Tree Surgeon to remove the dangerous branch from the tree that had partly broken
  - ii. Due to the exceptionally dry weather over the last month Trent Ground Maintenance has been instructed to suspend grass cutting in Cold Meece.
  - iii. Trent Ground Maintenance has been instructed to remove the Himalayan balsam growing on the bank of Yarnfield Brook on the North Green.
  - iv. Yarnfield Brook – letter to go to residents reminding them that garden refuse is classified as controlled waste and dumping it on parish council land is fly-tipping.
  - v. Pavement Parking: Arrangements have been made for a joint visit with the local PCSO on the afternoon of 16 July, 2026.
- 26-204 **Footpath Connectivity Plan:** A draft plan, set out in Appendix 4, has been prepared. Members of the pavement working group agreed to meet Cllr Bagguley to establish how the plan can be delivered.

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- 26-205 **Park Bench Policy:** A request to place a memorial bench in Yarnfield has been received from the family of a resident who recently died.
- 26-206 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- i. The draft policy set out in Appendix 5 was approved
  - ii. That the request for memorial benches is dealt with in accordance with the new policy.
- 26-207 **Local Plan Scoping and Participation Consultation:** Stafford Borough Council is carrying out a consultation on the key issues that should be included in the new local plan and their approach to consultation with residents and interested groups.
- 26-208 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the response set out in Appendix 6 is sent to Stafford Borough Council.
- 26-209 **Neighbourhood Plan:** A meeting with the Stafford Borough Council planning officer on 16 June, 2026 identified further work that was needed before the neighbourhood plan could be submitted for regulation 14 screening.
- 26-210 **Updates from Parish Councillors**
- i. Cllr Broader:
    - A very successful defibrillator training event was held on 12 July, 2026 at which 16 people attended.
    - The number of defibrillators that the parish council owns has increased to 5 units. Mr Collins, who maintains these units for the council, is looking for someone to share this work and to transfer his skills and knowledge.
  - ii. Cllr Parkin:
    - The parish council's trailer, which is in a very poor state of repair and has no real monetary value, needs to be disposed of and removed from the trailer park in Cold Meece as soon as possible.
    - The Community Action Group is reviewing its work and membership to better support the community and Parish Council. To ensure a comprehensive approach, the Events Working Group will be included in this exercise. Because both groups currently operate under different Service Level Agreements, a timely, joint review will help align their strategic goals and service delivery.
  - iii. Cllr Simpson presented a note of thanks from the Springfield Parent, Teacher and Friends Association for the loan of the parish council's marquees and support at their Summer Festival on 19 July 2026.
- 26-211 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:
- iv. The Events Working Group make arrangements to dispose of the trailer and that the asset register is then updated.
  - v. A report setting out the future membership and direction of the Community Action Group and Events Working Group is brought to a future meeting of the parish council.

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- 26-212 **Forward Plan and Events Calendar:** The plan attached at Appendix 7 was noted.
- 26-213 **Planning: To consider any planning applications in the parish:**  
Application 26/42304/LDCPP, 19 Ladybower Way, Yarnfield  
Garage conversion and single storey rear extension.
- 26-214 **Resolution:** It was resolved that a no comment response is submitted to the planning officer.  
Application 26/41933/FUL, Land at Yarnfield Park, Yarnfield  
Construction of 38 affordable homes, new access off Hayeswater Grove, landscaping and associated works.
- 26-215 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the comments set out in Appendix 8 be submitted to the planning officer.
- 26-216 Application 26/42033/FUL, Land Adjacent to the White House, Ash Lane, Yarnfield.  
Construction of four detached three bedroom bungalows together with access road and Biodiversity Net Gain area. (previous related app 25/40456/PIP)
- 26-217 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the comments set out in Appendix 9 be submitted to the planning officer.
- 26-218 **Date and time of next meeting:** 14 September, 2026

Meeting closed: 8:50pm

Signed:

Chairperson of the Parish Council  
Date: Monday 14 September, 2026