

DRAFT v 3



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:** Having considered the applications, the councillors agreed to invite Helen Williams to be co-opted to the parish council.
- 26-188 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.
- 26-189 **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 [written report]:**
- 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 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 this summer.
- 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.
- 26-194 **Parish Action Tracker:** The updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.

DRAFT v 3

- 26-195 **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Beeston declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8, Labour in Vain and withdrew from the meeting room during the discussion and voting on this item.
- 26-196 **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.
- 26-197 The complaint is currently being reviewed by Stafford Borough Council.
- 26-198 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.
- 26-199 **Financial Report, April – June, 2026:** No issues of concern were identified in the Quarter 1 Finance Report [Appendix 2].
- 26-200 The council complimented the work of the Community Action Group for the successful Strawberry Tea which raised £316.59.
- 26-201 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 had done.
- 26-202 **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
- 26-203 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the schedule of payments and transfers attached at Appendix 3 was approved.
- 26-204 **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 both Yarnfield and 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.
- 26-205 **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.

DRAFT v 3

- 26-206 **Park Bench Policy:** A request to place a memorial bench in Yarnfield has been received from the family of a resident who recently died.
- 26-207 **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.
- 26-208 **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.
- 26-209 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the response set out in Appendix 6 is sent to Stafford Borough Council.
- 26-210 **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.
- 26-211 **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 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 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.
- 26-212 **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.
- 26-213 **Forward Plan and Events Calendar:** The plan attached at Appendix 7 was noted.

DRAFT v 3

- 26-214 **Planning: To consider any planning applications in the parish:**
Application 26/42304/LDCPP, 19 Ladybower Way, Yarnfield
Garage conversion and single storey rear extension.
- 26-215 **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.
- 26-216 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the comments set out in Appendix 8 be submitted to the planning officer.
- 26-217 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 application 25/40456/PIP)
- 26-218 **Resolution:** It was resolved that the comments set out in Appendix 9 be submitted to the planning officer.
- 26-219 **Date and time of next meeting:** 14 September, 2026

Meeting closed: 8:50pm

Signed:

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