YARNFIELD AND COLD MEECE PARISH COUNCIL
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
14 September, 2026
Yarnfield Village Hall

Councillors in attendance: David Beeston, Sally Parkin, Una Simpson(Chairperson), Kirsty Treen, Ed Whitfield, Ben Williams, Helen Williams

Also in attendance: John Fraser, Parish Clerk

Members of the public at the meeting: 4

26-220 **Apologies for Absence**: Cllr Sean Bagguley (SCC), Cllr Roy James (SBC), PCSO Rebecca Justice

26-221 **Declaration of Interest**: Received from Cllr Beeston and Cllr Treen in relation to agenda item 10, Yarnfield and Cold Meece Parish Community Ltd

26-222 **Councillor Co-option vacancy**: Having considered the applications, the councillors agreed to invite Ben Williams to be co-opted to the parish council.

26-223 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

i. Helen Williams is co-opted as a councillor on to the parish council with immediate effect.

26-224 **Public Question Time:**

ii. **Rose Garden**: The Cold Meece memorial garden is in an extremely poor condition following this year's hot summer. Is anything planned to put this right?
Response: The rose bushes and some of the box hedging have died from a lack of water. Plans will be put in place to remove all the old plants and to design a new garden that will be able to withstand the sort of extreme conditions that have been experienced in 2026.
Staff at BIFFA have agreed to support the project to renovate the garden. The cost of the material will need to be met by the parish council.

iii. **Weekend's event at Baden Hall**: who was responsible for the noise coming from Baden Hall over the weekend and why were residents not warned.
Response: BCS Events Limited, trading as The BIG Fish 'N' Show, held an event at Baden Hall. An application was submitted to the borough council on the 5 June, 2026 for a New Premises Licence. A detailed report on the use of Baden Hall as a venue for entertainment events will be brought to the October meeting of the parish council.

26-225 **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

i. **Cllr Bagguley** (written report)
   a. A meeting has been scheduled to try and find a solution to the defective design of the road gullies and kerb sets on Yarnfield Parkway.

b. Arrangements are being made for a meeting with the parish council to discuss, dropped kerbs, traffic calming proposals for Yarnfield Lane and the pavement linking Yarnfield and Cold Meece.

ii. Cllr James (written report)

a. Cllr James provided a report detailing changes to the borough council's Standing Orders in relation to planning application determination.

26-226 **Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July, 2026**: The minutes of the meeting were considered and approval given for the minutes to be signed.

26-227 **Parish Action Tracker:** The updated Action Tracker, attached at Appendix 1, was considered and approved.

26-228 **Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2025/6**: The audit and governance return for 2025 has been completed by Mazar plc. A question was raised by Mazars about how the parish council accounts for petty cash. The parish council does not hold petty cash but does receive income from various events. This Mazar says constitutes petty cash and as such future returns should record this fact.

26-229 **Resolution**: It was resolved that:

i. The Mazar report was noted.
ii. That procedures to record cash income are updated.
iii. The notice of conclusion of the Annual Audit, attached at Appendix 2, is published.

26-230 **Parish Clerk's report:**

26-231 August, 2026 [Appendix 3]

i. Schedule of payment received for approval = £2,955.57
ii. Schedule of account transfers required = £1,000.00
iii. Income received since the last meeting = £75.00

26-232 September, 2026 [Appendix 4]

iv. Schedule of payment received for approval = £822.38
v. Schedule of account transfers required = £10,000.00
vi. Income received since the last meeting = £10,734.81

26-233 On the 14 September, 2026 the reconciled general account balance after deposits, payments and transfers = £309.45

26-234 **Correction** – The July schedule of payment reported a transfer of £1,000 from the general reserve account to the current account. A direct debit notification for the sum of £726.90 was received from HMRC on the 20 July, 2026. To ensure the current account remained in credit an additional £1,000 was transferred.

26-235 **Resolution**: It was resolved that:

i. The schedule of payments, transfers and income attached at Appendix 3 and 4 were approved.

26-236 **Update on Actions**: The Clerk's report of activity since the July 2026 meeting, attached at Appendix 5, was considered and approved.

26-237 **Declaration of Interest**: Cllr Beeston and Cllr Treen as directors of Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd declared a pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8,

Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd, and withdrew from the discussion and took no part in the discussion and voting on this item.

26-238 **Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd:** The Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) has written to the secretary of Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Limited raising their concern that the society does not have any members. Where a society does not have at least 3 members the FCA could cancel the society's registration.

26-239 The society's primary purpose was to buy the Labour in Vain. This is no longer necessary as the pub now has a new owner and work is advanced for it to reopen.

26-240 The future of the company is for the directors to determine. However, the parish council, which was instrumental in the formation of Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd, has been invited to offer their views on the future of the society.

26-241 Resolution: It was resolved that;

i. There was no need for Yarnfield and Cold Meece Community Ltd to continue.
ii. That the directors of the company are advised that the parish council would not object to the society being closed.

26-242 **Community Action Group – update report:** a meeting of the Community Action Group and Events Working Group is scheduled to take place on 8 October, 2026.

26-243 **Greenside Playground – repair of safety matting:** The condition of the wet pour safety surfacing has been affected by the extreme weather over the summer leading to shrinkage of the safety surface away from the concrete edging.

26-244 The monthly inspection report is attached at Appendix 6A and 6B.

26-245 **Resolution:** It was resolved that:

i. Three specialist contractors are invited to tender for the work to replace the damaged wet pour.
ii. Trent Ground Maintenance are instructed to build up the areas surrounding the play equipment and to reseed in the spring.
iii. Trent Ground Maintenance are instructed to apply week killer to the grass that is growing around the safety play surface and tarmac path.

26-246 **Public Space Protection orders:** the borough council has invited comments on the orders that are proposed to come into effect in January 2027.

26-247 **Resolution:** It was note that the Parish Council's consultation response has been submitted to SBC and the clerk contact the borough council to establish the outcome. (Appendix 7)

26-248 26-245 re the consultation response: could the resolution be to??

26-249 **Community resilience - wildfires:** A letter has been sent to both the Staffordshire Fire and Rescue Service(SFRS) and Stafford Borough Council setting out the parish council's concerns about the risks of wildfires. Both have agreed to offer advice and to meet with the parish council.

26-250 **Neighbourhood Plan:** work is ongoing with the redrafting of the plan to reflect changes agreed with Stafford Borough Council:

i. Change the period covered by the plan to be the same as the borough council local plan date of up to 2045.

ii. To reflect the increased number of new homes that are likely to be needed in the parish over the plan period.

iii. To strengthen the point that the Neighbourhood Plan is not looking to bring forward sites for housing development.

26-251 **Updates from Parish Councillors**: Cllr Simpson: attended a SPCA event about asset transfer which provided some simple advice on what is involved.

26-252 **Planning: To consider any planning applications in the parish:** No applications.

26-253 **Date and time of next meeting**: Monday 12 October, 2026

Meeting closed: 8:30pm

Signed:

Chairperson of the Parish Council
Date: Monday 12 October, 2026