

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 02 NOVEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Dyott, Mrs Phillips and Mrs Pope

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PARISH FORUM

No members of the public were present.

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Armstrong.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION

None declared.

38. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 07 September 2022 [Minute Nos. 26-35] as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

39. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hopwas Wood Car Park

Councillor Barnes confirmed that he had spoken to a contractor relating to resurfacing etc of the car park and was awaiting a quotation [which would hopefully be received in time for consideration at the January 2023 meeting]. It was the contractor's intention to rip up the car park in two halves avoiding closure of the entire car park. Councillor Barnes confirmed that the contractor in question held a Highways Licence. He stated that the works would probably cost in the region of £10,000 [which could be taken from CIL].

Packington Hall

Councillor Barnes confirmed that the redevelopment of the Hall was progressing very slowly and stated that the Bank of England base rate increase, which affected mortgage rates, was not helping.

40. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Barnes confirmed that he, together with Councillor Loescher had attended a meeting held on Monday 10 October at BBV Whittington Compound. Also in attendance was Mr David Emery, Project Director; Mr

Andy DeBell, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Aoinne Conway, Community Engagement Specialist. Following receipt of the Minutes, an email had been sent by the Parish Clerk to Ms Conway emphasising the points as follows:

Point 2.1

- The Parish Council noted again that the HS2 Ltd Hybrid Act has this area down as Heathland Habitat (Trees and Grassland). Whilst the parish council are happy to consider options the council is mindful that it was included in the environmental statement that this area was to be environmental mitigation area (heathland habitat). As such it would now take an Act of Parliament to substantially reverse the use of this be environmental mitigation area (heathland - habitat trees and grassland).

Point 3.4

- The point was emphasised at the meeting that it seems to make sense to remove the building (old lean-to from sheep shed) left at Packington Moor Farm now (while Rhodar are on site) so the area is ready for soil "sculpting" and tree planting as agreed in due course.
- It was also to stated that there was disappointment that HS2/BBV could not negotiate constructively with local landowners for the reuse and re-siting of a perfectly good steel framed building. The building has now been demolished and the parts all scrapped. This was sale was agreed with Tahir Ahmed who seeming has fallen off the radar since this latest development. This seems a total waste of tax-payers money and disgraceful.

Point 7.1

- This should read Cllr Barnes. The issue here is the need to reconnect drains to maintain drainage status of surrounding land, and to ensure that water finds way into irrigation reservoir to enable local farmers to have sufficient irrigating water. This needs to be resolved by Spring 2023. This issue is huge, and a new drainage plan needs formalising. It was also agreed the irrigation stake holders [3] would be invited to walk the new access road to the lake.

Councillor Barnes stated that he had heard rumours from the Aldershot MOD was transferring some of their administration duties to Whittington Barracks which would result in an expansion of this barracks.

41. CIL MONIES

RESOLVED That the CIL unspent to date totalling £18,555.22 be noted.

42. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO DATE

RESOLVED That the schedule of payments to date be received and noted.

43. BUDGET

RESOLVED That the Parish Clerk's report detailing actual to date figures [budget] be received and noted.

44. 2023/2024 PRECEPT ON LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor Barnes, duly seconded and

RESOLVED That the level of precept to be declared on Lichfield District Council should be £5,500.

**45. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/22
SECTION 3 – EXTERNAL AUDITOR’S REPORT AND CERTIFICATE 2021/22**

RESOLVED That the comments made by the External Auditor be noted.

46. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN 2021/22

RESOLVED That a cheque be drawn in respect of the External Auditor’s invoice in the sum of £288 [**cheque number 100662**].

47. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED That under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (Section 2) (and as expended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

48. PARISH CLERK’S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk’s October 2022 [**cheque number 100656**] and November 2022 [**cheque number 100659**] salary, HMRC – October 2022 [**cheque number 100657**], Staffordshire Pension Fund – October 2022 [**cheque number 100658**], HMRC – November 2022 [**cheque number 100660**] and Staffordshire Pension Fund – November 2022 [**cheque number 100661**].

49. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 25 January 2023
Wednesday 22 March 2023
Wednesday 17 May 2023

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

[The Meeting closed at 6.36 pm]

Signed

Dated