

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 12 MARCH 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Dyott, Loescher and Perks (from 6.30pm)

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

HS2 AND BALFOUR BEATTY VINCI

Councillor Barnes welcomed Wendy McSeveney, Community Engagement Specialist from Balfour Beatty Vinci and Sophia McKain, Senior Engagement Manager from HS2. The Parish Clerk informed Members that prior to the meeting the Parish Council had submitted the following questions:

1. **Works generally**

- Could we have update on the timescale for works generally in this area?
- What is the timescale for the Jerry Lane/Flats Lane bridge crossing construction?
- What is the timescale for the A51 Overbridge construction?

2. **Environmental Mitigation Area Opposite Whittington Barracks**

- What is the latest information regarding the design of the environmental mitigation area opposite Whittington Barracks? Whilst we appreciate work is paused in this area at the moment, the Parish Council would like HS2 Limited's assurance that this element of the Hybrid Act will still be delivered in full as per the Environmental Statement.

3. **Bund and agreed additional planting at Packington Moor Farm.**

- Whilst we appreciate work is paused in this area at the moment, the Parish Council would like HS2 Limited's (as well as BBV's) assurance that the additional planting and the completion of the bund will be promptly delivered in full in accordance with the assurances the Parish Council has already received from HS2 Ltd and BBV. See attached plan.
- What are the timescales for the agreed additional planting at Packington Moor Farm? (See attached plan of agreed additional planting.) It would make sense for this to be progressed irrespective to the pausing of work in this area so the trees have chance to mature before the railway is built.
- What progress is being made on the sculpting of the land (to form a bund??) North of Packington Moor Farm? It was agreed with BBV (Dave Emery) that BBV would undertake to extend the bund North of Packington Moor Farm by "sculpting in" the earthworks. Again, it would make sense for this to be progressed, irrespective to the pausing of work in this area, so the trees have chance to mature before the railway is built.

The Parish Clerk confirmed that the following response had been received, which had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting:

On 9th March 2023, the Government instructed a rephasing of HS2. As part of this, HS2 budgets were reduced for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Financial Years, with funding prioritised for the section of HS2 between Old Oak Common and Curzon Street. This has led to a deferral of several assets, including those in the Swinfen and Packington Parish. We are anticipating an update later this year and will of course let you know what the outcome of that update is.

1. Works Generally

- Timescale for works in the area. Construction will continue throughout 2025 on the A5, Watling Street, A51, WHGC underpass, Whittington Embankment (north of Lichfield Road), and Darnford Lane. This will primarily involve works to install the bridges associated with each road.
- Timescale for Jerry Lane/Flats Lane bridge construction. The construction of this bridge is paused, pending further instruction. It is currently planned to recommence in Q1 2027.
- Timescale for A51 Overbridge construction. Similar to the Jerry Lane/Flats Lane bridge, this is a paused asset, and work is currently planned to recommence in Q1 2027.

2. Environmental Mitigation Area Opposite Whittington Barracks

- Design of the environmental mitigation area. Although work is paused in this area, HS2 Ltd. confirms that the design for the mitigation site is ongoing. The intention is still to deliver the area as per the Hybrid Act, in line with the Environmental Statement. Updates on future mitigation design and construction will be provided when available.

3. Bund and Additional Planting at Packington Moor Farm

- Additional planting and bund completion. While work is paused, HS2 Ltd. and BBV can confirm that the planting and bund will be delivered in full as per the assurances already provided. Timescales will be confirmed once work in the area resumes.
- Timescales for additional planting at Packington Moor Farm. Planting remains paused, as no instruction to commence has been received. Timescales will be updated once work in the area recommences.
- Progress on sculpting the land north of Packington Moor Farm. The sculpting of the bund is also paused. The design and timescale for this work will be confirmed once it is instructed.

Further discussions took place between Councillors and representatives. In an endeavour to advise correctly, it was **AGREED** that Ms McSeveney once she had all the answers to the questions and concerns raised would send everything over in one email for consistency for the Parish Clerk to share with Members.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Armstrong (Dispensation)
Councillor Phillips

62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 15 January 2025 (Minute Nos. 50-60) as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

64. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Botany Bay Stone

Councillor Barnes informed Members that this was still work in progress. P J Neville Memorials had stated that the stone had weathered considerably and unfortunately the lettering is illegible. The stone would have to be removed from site and there is always a risk it could break due to the nature of the material and the fact it has been there some considerable time. The lettering would need re-carving deeper in the stone, re-painting in black paint and then re-fixing back on site again. To enable them to provide a quotation for this work and because they hand carve every letter, they charge price per letter so they would need to know the inscription that is on the stone to work out a quotation to carry out this work.

**Staffordshire County Council – Planning Application SCC/25/0012/FULL-ES
Hints Quarry**

Following consultation with Members, the Town Clerk confirmed that the following response had to be emailed to Staffordshire County Council:

- a. Request that Staffordshire County Council check that the purported extent of the L.19/04/805-808 MW permission is correctly shown on the new permission.
- b. That the Parish Council have remaining serious concerns about reinstatement in the local area. There are acres of unrestored quarries at the Hopwas site that Staffordshire County Council have been unable to enforce to date. Why are further permissions being granted while so much restoration remains outstanding and unenforced? What steps are Staffordshire County Council going to take to enforce restoration of both this site and all previous sites in Hints and Hopwas?

Swinfen Broun Grave Repair

Councillor Barnes informed Members that this was still work in progress. He explained that the Swinfen Broun grave in Weeford churchyard was in need of some attention. It had fallen in on the one side and needs refilling.

Packington Hall

It was noted that there were still properties for sale.

A51 Junction

Councillor Dyott informed Members that this was still work in progress and was awaiting a time and date for a site meeting with County Councillor Alan White (the County Councillor for Lichfield Rural East).

A51 Tamworth Road – Blocked Gully/Drain

Councillor Loescher informed Members that according to the email that he had received from Staffordshire County Council Highways, the work was completed on 27 January 2025.

65. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

See above discussions.

66. CIL MONIES

RESOLVED That the CIL unspent to date totalling £1,980.22 be noted.

67. REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED That the Parish Council considers the system of internal control to be sufficiently effective and the Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit be signed by the Chairman.

68. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL CONTROL AND ANNUAL REVIEW OF EFFECTIVENESS OF INTERNAL AUDIT

RESOLVED That the Parish Council considers the controls currently in place are effective and that the Statement of Internal Control and Annual Review of Effectiveness of Internal Control be signed by the Chairman.

69. STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION [SPCA]

RESOLVED That the Parish Council renew membership of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association.

70. 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.

71. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's February 2025 (**cheque number 100100744**) and March 2025 (**cheque number 100746**) salary, Staffordshire Pension Fund – February 2025 (**cheque number 100743**) and Staffordshire Pension Fund – March 2025 (**cheque number 100745**).

72. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 14 May 2025

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

(The Meeting closed at 7.10 pm)

Signed

Dated