

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2025 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Loescher in the Chair
Councillor Phillips

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

COUNTY COUNCILLOR TRACEY DOUGHERTY (LICHFIELD RURAL EAST)

Members were informed that due to unforeseen circumstances County Councillor Dougherty had been unable to attend, however, she had provided the following update:

HS2

Construction is still active in the Whittington to Armitage corridor - working on overbridges. Cappers Lane compound remains a hub for staff and logistics. The A38 slip road will remain closed with a view to re-opening in spring 2026. The Handsacre Link which connects HS2 with the West Coast Mainline is still planned although no timescales have been given due to new management. Calls have been made by Staffordshire County Council for more transparency and engagement for those areas and residents affected.

A51 Gully Cleaning and Accidents

Lisa Hall and Chloe Hammond (Community Highways Support Officers) had met with the Parish and local residents earlier on this year to discuss their concerns of blocked gullies along Tamworth Road (A51) and the local reports of accidents at the junction with Lichfield Road.

At the meeting officers informed them that the gullies along Tamworth Road are cleansed on an annual pack, last getting cleansed in November 2024. Whereas the gullies along Lichfield Road are on a biennial cleanse, last getting completed in 2023. Both roads are due to be cleansed Autumn/Winter 2025, but officers will reach out to the drainage scheduler to understand if there are any planned dates yet for these locations. Once officers have an update they will be back in touch.

While on site officers recognised that there were in fact some inaccessible blocked gullies due to locked lids, these were all closer towards The Wittington Arms pub and away from the junction. Officers have since raised works for these to be picked up and are waiting for them to be planned in.

With regard to accidents at the junction, Staffordshire County Council takes road safety extremely seriously and as such we welcome communication from local residents offering suggestions to improve areas that are of particular concern to them. With limited resources available to engineer road safety improvements, the County Council utilises a raft of data which is rationalised and challenged to determine those areas where a reduction in road traffic collisions involving personal injury and a benefit to road safety, can be demonstrably achieved.

If someone is injured in a road traffic accident on a public road and it has been reported to or recorded by the police, then the County Council receives the collision

data. Details of non-injury related collisions are not recorded in the same detail by the police, and the County Council do not receive data for these.

The County Council understand that the data does not always align with local perceptions, but it does enable the County Council to take a consistent approach across the network. The County Council often receive insight and feedback from residents on the number of accidents and near misses in their area but sadly they are not in a position to take these into account. The number of locations where fatalities and serious injury are occurring far exceed the resource available for road safety measures and they must target their available resources at road safety interventions that have the greatest impact.

It's worth mentioning that when carrying out assessments for enforcement, the Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership (SSRP) use the Speed Compliance Tool to support speeding concerns in place of formal speed and volume surveys. The tool uses 'connected' vehicle data which the majority of modern private and commercial vehicles on the road provide. The data is combined over a 12-month period, with the most recent data from 2022/2023.

In the meantime, if there are any new concerns raised by the parish, can ask that they please report any these via our website www.staffordshire.gov.uk/reportit, where the enquiry will be assigned to the relevant officer to assess.

County Councillor Dougherty hoped to attend the next meeting scheduled for 12 November 2025.

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Armstrong (Dispensation), Perks and Pope.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

27. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 23 July 2025 (Minute Nos. 16-24) as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

28. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

The Parish Clerk informed Members that Staffordshire County Council have published their proposals for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). Their proposal is an east/west split of the county, with two councils made up of the following districts -

West Staffordshire Unitary: Comprising of the districts of Stafford, South Staffordshire, Newcastle-under-Lyme, and Cannock Chase.

East Staffordshire Unitary: Comprising of the districts of Tamworth, Stoke-on-Trent, Lichfield, Staffordshire Moorlands and East Staffordshire.

The East Staffordshire council would provide services for 689,784 people in Staffordshire Moorlands, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Tamworth, and Stoke-on-Trent using the existing district and borough council boundaries. The West Staffordshire council would serve 487,794 people in Newcastle-Under-Lyme, Stafford, Cannock Chase, and South Staffordshire.

There is still lots of work to do before any reorganisation of councils and responsibilities takes place. A detailed business case needs to be submitted to government by 28 November 2025. The whole process of change will take a number of years and the earliest we expect to see changes fully up and running is 2028.

29. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

Members were informed that HS2 had received our request to register a complaint regarding planting at Packington Moor Farm (our reference: HS2-25-125139-E) however a response was awaited.

30. CIL MONIES

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

31. 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.

32. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's August 2025 (**cheque number 100767**) and September 2025 (**cheque number 100769**) salary, Staffordshire Pension Fund – August 2025 (**cheque number 100768**) and Staffordshire Pension Fund – September 2025 (**cheque number 100770**).

33. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 12 November 2025
Wednesday 14 January 2026
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Wednesday 13 May 2026 – Annual General Meeting

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

(The Meeting closed at 6.28 pm)

Signed

Dated