

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD AT THE
CONFERENCE ROOM 1, CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 06 JANUARY 2016 COMMENCING AT 7.05 P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor R Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Armstrong (from 7.10 p.m.), J Barnes, Dyott and Elliott

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk
District Councillor B Yeates

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

63. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Mrs Harrison.

64. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Armstrong declared an interest in Minute No. 73 – planning application in Packington Lane, as Councillor Armstrong owns the freehold of Packington Lane.

65. MINUTES

Swinfen Hall Hotel - Fireworks - Minute No. 50.2 - 04 November 2015 refers

Mr R Barnes updated Members on the current Regulations relating to fireworks. The Parish Clerk informed Members that she had received the following response from Sarah Tilan, Environmental Protection Officer, LDC:

“In response to your email, a noise report has not been done in relation to the fireworks at the above premises. I have been advised by planning that fireworks are ancillary to the event being held at the hotel.

Noise nuisance is covered by Part III of the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This law empowers local authorities to deal with noise from fixed premises. Before action can be taken we have to be sure that the noise constitutes a statutory nuisance. This means that we have to prove that the noise is prejudicial to health and/or is causing an unreasonable and persistent disturbance to your lifestyle.

A Statutory Noise Nuisance is much more than annoyance or the fact that noise is audible. For a noise to be a Statutory Noise Nuisance it must be a significant or unreasonable emission of noise that materially interferes with the use and enjoyment of your home.

When determining if a noise nuisance exists officers consider the following:-

1. how often the noise occurs
2. how long it carries on for
3. when it occurs e.g. day time or night time
4. how loud it is
5. characteristics of the noise
6. if any malice is involved
7. the local environment
8. how sensitive the complainant is
9. if the noise is the result of reasonable or unreasonable use of the property

If residents feel they want to make a complaint about the noise from the fireworks, they would need to contact customer services on 01543 308000 to log their complaint.”

It was **AGREED** by all Members present that a letter be forwarded to the Swinfen Hall Hotel asking that they take into consideration the noise from the fireworks affecting local residents and that quieter fireworks be used in the future.

Shrine on the A51 Tamworth Road - Minute No. 50.3 - 04 November 2015 refers

Councillor R Barnes informed Members that he had spoken to County Highways who had informed him that they were aware of the shrine, however, they considered it to be not a hazard. Councillor R Barnes informed Members that the land was owned by 30% Mercer Farming and 70% the County Council. Councillor R Barnes stated that the shrine had been in situ for approximately 12 months and that the shrine was now lit up by solar lights.

It was **AGREED** by all Members present that District Councillor Yeates would make enquiries with Neil Wait at LDC and report back.

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 04 November 2015 (Minute Nos. 47 - 62) as circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

66. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

66.1 Flooding outside the Golf Course, Whittington

Councillor R Barnes informed Members present that there was a huge flooding problem outside the Golf Course and that the grips needed to be cleaned out. Councillor R Barnes stated that he had reported this matter to the County Council on a number of occasions.

It was **AGREED** by all Members present that as District Councillor Yeates was meeting with County Highways on 07 January 2016 he would bring this matter to their attention and report back.

67. HOPWAS QUARRY

Councillor R Barnes and Councillor J Barnes updated all Members present on the current situation relating to the Quarry. Members were informed that there was a lot of activity at the Quarry over the Christmas and New Year period which involved the Police.

RESOLVED (1) That an item on Hopwas Quarry continue to be included on the next agenda.

(2) That an email be sent to PCSO 23999 Deryn Beale asking that a report be produced detailing what action had been taken over the Christmas and New Year period.

68. THE HIGH SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Dyott and Councillor J Barnes updated all Members present on the current situation relating to HS2.

RESOLVED That an item on the High Speed Rail Plans (HS2) continue to be included on the next agenda.

69. REVIEW OF FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

Members were informed by the Parish Clerk that it was good practice to review the Financial Regulations of the Parish Council on an annual basis.

RESOLVED That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order that the content can be digested.

70. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

Members were informed by the Parish Clerk that it was good practice to review the Standing Orders of the Parish Council on an annual basis.

RESOLVED That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order that the content can be digested.

71. REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - EMPLOYER DISCRETIONS POLICY

Members were informed by the Parish Clerk that it was good practice to review the Local Government Pension Scheme - Employer Discretions Policy of the Parish Council on an annual basis.

RESOLVED That this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Parish Council in order that the content can be digested.

**72. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
TRANSPARENCY CODE FOR SMALLER AUTHORITIES**

RESOLVED That the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities published by the Department for Communities and Local Government be received and noted.

**73. PLANNING APPLICATION 15/01429/FUL
MR M JENNINGS - EVERGREEN, PACKINGTON LANE
GARAGE CONVERSION, SINGLE STOREY FRONT AND REAR EXTENSION TO FORM
LIVING ROOM, UTILITY, BEDROOMS, EN-SUITE AND ERECTION OF DETACHED
DOUBLE GARAGE TO FRONT**

RESOLVED That 'No Objection' be submitted in respect of the above planning application to Lichfield District Council.

74. EXTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

Members were informed by the Parish Clerk that the best option for the Parish Council was to 'opt in' as opting out would result in the Parish Council making their own arrangements with auditors i.e.:

- Establishing an Auditor Panel;
- Following a statutory appointment process set out in regulations;
- Appointing an auditor by 31 December 2016;
- Providing the Sector Led Body with the contact details of the auditor.

Members were informed that those smaller authorities who wish to participate in the Sector Led Body do not need to do anything as all smaller authorities are automatically 'opted in' to the new body and will have an auditor procured for them.

RESOLVED That the Parish Council 'opt in' to the external audit arrangements.

75. PLANNING DECISIONS
PLANNING APPLICATION 15/01135/FUL - MR AND MRS SANDALL
THE BUNGALOW, TAMWORTH ROAD
ERECTION OF A SINGLE DWELLING (OUTLINE)

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

76. 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.

77. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's December 2015 (**cheque number 100351**) and January 2016 (**cheque number 100352**) salary, HMRC - February 2016 (**cheque number 100353**), Staffordshire Pension Fund - February 2016 (**cheque number 100354**), HMRC - March 2016 (**cheque number 100355**) and Staffordshire Pension Fund - March 2016 (**cheque number 100356**).

78. DATE, VENUE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That Wednesday 02 March 2016 and Wednesday 04 May 2016 in the Conference Room 1, Conference Centre, HMP Swinfen commencing 7.00 p.m. be confirmed as the next Parish Council meeting.

(The Meeting closed at 7.50 p.m.)

Signed

Dated