

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 07 SEPTEMBER 2022 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Mrs Phillips and Mrs Pope

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PARISH FORUM

No members of the public were present.

26. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors Dyott and Loescher.

27. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION

None declared.

28. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 July 2022 [Minute Nos. 15-25] as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

29. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hopwas Wood Car Park

Members were asked if the Parish Council wished to continue pursuing this project with BBV and HS2.

Councillor Barnes felt that the Parish Council did not have the resources to continue with the project with BBV and HS2. He felt that a general tidy up and new signage [predicting the heritage of the site] would be more appropriate. The Parish Clerk confirmed that it would be an acceptable project to spend the parish CIL on even though the car park is in private ownership. She confirmed that even though the work may not be carried out this financial year, the Parish Council could earmark the expenditure in 2023/24.

RESOLVED That Councillor Barnes would obtain a quotation for the works to the car park which would be discussed at a future meeting.

30. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Barnes stated that this was an ongoing project. He referred to the demolition of Packington Moor Farm and stated that a drone was flying over the site on a regular basis in order to document everything that was happening. He said that the speed of the train would be 30 mph less than planned.

31. CIL MONIES

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

32. ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXTERNAL AUDIT FOR THE 5-YEAR PERIOD BEGINNING 01 APRIL 2022

The Parish Clerk informed Members that Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd [SAAA] had been responsible for procuring and appointing external auditors to all opted-in smaller authorities since its establishment in 2017 by the then Department of Communities and Local Government, following the closure of the Audit Commission. The initial 5-year appointing period ended with the passing of the deadline for submission of 2021-22 Annual Governance and Accountability Returns. The next 5-year appointing period runs from 2022-23 until 2026-27 and SAAA has undertaken a procurement exercise to appoint auditors to each County area from 01 April 2022.

The Parish Clerk informed Members that all authorities require an appointed external auditor but must be given the option to opt-out of the central procurement and appointment scheme. However, the process of appointing its own external auditor is onerous. The Parish Council's arrangements for external audit over the past 5 years by Staffordshire's centrally appointed auditors Mazars have proceeded smoothly.

RESOLVED That the Parish Council takes no action and to thereby remain part of the central scheme for the appointment of external auditors for the 5-year period 2022-23 to 2026-27.

33. 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.

34. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's August 2022 [**cheque number 100649**] and September 2022 [**cheque number 100652**] salary, HMRC – August 2022 [**cheque number 100650**], Staffordshire Pension Fund – August [**cheque number 100651**], HMRC – September 2022 [**cheque number 100653**] and Staffordshire Pension Fund – September 2022 [**cheque number 100654**].

35. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 02 November 2022
Wednesday 25 January 2023
Wednesday 22 March 2023
Wednesday 17 May 2023

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

[The Meeting closed at 6.26 pm]

Signed

Dated