

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON  
WEDNESDAY 22 MARCH 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Barnes in the Chair  
Councillors Armstrong, Dyott and Loescher

**In attendance:**

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk  
Mr Alastair Perks

Councillor Barnes welcomed Mr Perks to the meeting.

**PARISH FORUM**

No questions were raised by members of the public.

**61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Mrs Phillips and Mrs Pope.

**62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION**

None declared.

**63. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 25 January 2023 [Minute Nos. 50-60] as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

**64. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Renovation of the parking area [lay-by] opposite Hopwas Woods**

Councillor Barnes confirmed that C T Petford would be starting the renovation of the parking area at the beginning of May with a proposed finish time of end of May. He confirmed that the renovation works would be done in two halves, the car park was deteriorating and the car park will be one car deep. The Parish Clerk confirmed that formal permission to undertake the restoration works to the car park, which is privately owned, had been received from Mr J Barnes and Mr Mercer.

**Quarry**

Councillor Barnes confirmed that he had recently attended a meeting relating to the quarry where road closures over Easter were mentioned. He mentioned that a representative from Staffordshire County Council was present who discussed a tip at the Quarry but there was no reference to the planting scheme whatsoever. Councillor Dyott stated that the planning consent would show the conditions.

### **Packington Hall**

Councillor Barnes stated that with the increase in mortgage rates some of the sales had fallen through. Mr Perks who owns a property within the development confirmed that the seller was holding firm on the asking prices.

### **65. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS**

Councillor Barnes confirmed that there was a HS2 BBV Drop-In on Thursday 23 March from 6pm-8pm at Hints Village Hall to discuss how they are constructing the railway, maps and plans of the project would be available and you could ask questions and understand their programme of works.

Councillor Loescher thought the next meeting with HS2 BBV at the compound was due to hold them to account on the promises made at previous meetings. Councillor Armstrong stated that he had submitted a Freedom of Information request but this had not been minuted in the minutes and he had not received any response.

### **66. CIL MONIES**

**RESOLVED** That the CIL unspent to date totalling £18,555.22 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 [**cheque number 100676**].

### **70. BOTANY BAY SIGNAGE**

Councillor Loescher stated that he had been approached by a member of the public who litter picked at Botany Bay. The member of the public had stated that since 2 Jerry's Lane had been re-rendered the Botany Bay sign on the wall had disappeared and the member of the public did not want Botany Bay to disappear as a location.

**RESOLVED** That the Parish Clerk would investigate the possibility of obtaining a sign.

## 71. A51 FLOODING

Councillor Loescher mentioned the flooding on the A51. Councillor Dyott reminded Members that this had been discussed previously on 10 November 2011 [Minute No. 41].

*Councillor Barnes referred to an email received from Councillor Dyott relating to flooding. Councillor Dyott had detailed that he was going into Lichfield and at the bottom of the dip just beyond the Horse and Jockey the water was right across the road to the centre from the Freeford side. As a consequence when he came home, he went right up to the Whittington Arms and again the water was right across the road opposite All the Winds but this time on the golf course side and to such an extent that it was then running across the road and going into the drains on the Freeford site. Councillor Barnes stated that this was very poor attention to the roadside grip run off and lack of maintenance. This happens every time it rains heavily. Councillor Barnes also referred to flooding at the top of Hopwas Hill – again no maintenance and the manhole cover on the A51 which is now a hole.*

*It was **AGREED** that Councillor Barnes would obtain a quotation to try and rectify the problem with the flooding.*

## 72. PLANNING APPLICATION 23/00239/FUL – SWINFEN HALL HOTEL, THE DRIVE - RETENTION OF TEMPORARY MARQUEE

Following email communication with Members, the Town Clerk confirmed that the following objection had been uploaded onto LDC's Planning Portal.

1. The development would comprise inappropriate development within the Green Belt that would cause substantial harm by definition, moderate harm to openness and minor to moderate harm to visual amenity. No very special circumstances have been put forward which clearly outweigh the harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness and other harms to the heritage asset and neighbouring amenity. The proposed development is therefore considered contrary to Development Management Policy NR2 (Development in the Green Belt), Core Policy 3 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and Policy BE1 (High Quality Development) of the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy 2015 and Government Guidance contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (in particular Section 13).

2. The proposal would be an incongruous form of development that would cause harm to the Grade II\*listed Swinfen Hall and Grade II listed walled garden by virtue of its design, scale and massing, contrary to the requirements of Core Policies 3 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and 14 (Our Built and Historic Environment), Policy BE2 (Heritage Assets) of the Local Plan Allocations, Policy BE1 (High Quality Development) of the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy 2015, and section 16 of the National Planning Policy Framework. Furthermore, there are no demonstrable public benefits of the proposal that would outweigh the harm to the setting of the listed building.

3. The proposal, by virtue of the noise generated and associated disturbance, would result in an unacceptable impact on the amenity of neighbouring residents contrary to the requirements of Core Policy 3 (Delivering Sustainable Development) and Policy BE1 (High Quality Development) of the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy 2015 and the National Planning Policy Framework.

**73. PLANNING APPLICATION 23/00292/PNPV [PRIOR NOTIFICATION PHOTOVOLTAIC] – HORLSEY BROOK FARM, TAMWORTH ROAD – PRIOR NOTIFICATION: INSTALLATION OF ROOF MOUNTED SOLAR PANELS [100Kw SOLAR PV SYSTEM COMPRISING OF 264 X CANADIAN SOLAR 380w MODULES]**

Following email communication with Members, the Town Clerk confirmed that No Objection had been uploaded onto LDC's Planning Portal.

**74. 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.

**75. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY**

**RESOLVED** That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's February 2023 [**cheque number 100670**] and March 2023 [**cheque number 100673**] salary, HMRC – February 2023 [**cheque number 100671**], Staffordshire Pension Fund – March 2023 [**cheque number 100672**], HMRC – February 2023 [**cheque number 100674**] and Staffordshire Pension Fund – March 2023 [**cheque number 100675**].

**76. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**RESOLVED** That:  
Wednesday 17 May 2023

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

[The Meeting closed at 6.50 pm]

Signed .....

Dated .....