

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 08 NOVEMBER 2023 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillors Armstrong, Dyott, Loescher, Perks and Mrs Pope and Mrs Phillips

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PARISH FORUM

No members of the public were present.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None – all present.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

48. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 13 September 2023 [Minute Nos. 35-45] as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

49. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Drive – Field Area

Members referred to the appeal against the unauthorised erection of a marquee at Swinfen Hall Hotel, The Drive which was discussed on 13 September 2023. Councillor Mrs Phillips informed Members that she had done a letter drop informing residents of the appeal. She asked if there was a possibility of granting some CIL monies to enhance the field area in the village that residents use for recreation. The Parish Clerk informed Members that the Parish Council cannot give financial assistance to an individual and the residents would need to constitute themselves and have a bank account [i.e. Friends of Swinfen]. There would also be an issue with ownership of the land [this is not owned by the Parish Council] and installation of play equipment would require regular maintenance inspections, a risk assessment and PLI. It was **AGREED** that this would not be pursued at this moment in time.

Packington Hall

Councillor Barnes informed Members that the development was nearing completion.

Flooding on the A51

Members stated that this was a continuing problem. It was **AGREED** that Councillor Dyott would speak to representatives on Whittington and Fisherwick Parish Council regarding the flooding by the golf course.

Tamworth By-Election

Following the By-Election on Thursday 19 October, Sarah Edwards [Labour] had been elected.

Botany Bay Signage

Councillor Loescher showed Members the completed Botany Bay signage and it was **AGREED** that Councillor Loescher would erect the new signage just below the Levett Fields signage.

Lichfield City Centre

Councillor Barnes referred to the proposals to change cost of using Lichfield District Council car parks. A raft of changes to the cost of car parking charges could be introduced by Lichfield District Council. The changes would also see Sunday parking charges double to £2, while Bank Holidays – which are currently free – would also cost £2. Members were informed that Lichfield District Council had approved use of part of the former Tempest Ford site as an overflow car park for its offices however, the new 60-space facility would be available for public use at evenings and weekends. Members were informed that the Birmingham Road multi-storey car park was due to be demolished as part of wider plans to redevelop the area. Members referred to the lack of a local newspaper and referred to the website Lichfield Live for local information.

50. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

Members explained, that despite the announcement made by the Prime Minister Rishi Sunak regarding the cancellation of the HS2 line from Birmingham to Manchester, it was still happening here. Members were informed that BBV would be starting on the golf course within 18 months however the trees were already being cut down.

51. CIL MONIES

RESOLVED That the CIL unspent to date totalling £2,555.22 be noted.

52. SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS TO DATE

RESOLVED That the schedule of payments to date be received and noted.

53. BUDGET

RESOLVED That the Parish Clerk's report detailing actual to date figures [budget] be received and noted.

54. 2024/2025 PRECEPT ON LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL

RESOLVED That the level of precept to be declared on Lichfield District Council should be £6,000 [Band D Council Tax £35.05]

55. 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.

56. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's October 2023 [**cheque number 100696**] and November 2023 [**cheque number 100698**] salary, Staffordshire Pension Fund – October 2023 [**cheque number 100697**] and Staffordshire Pension Fund – November 2023 [**cheque number 100699**] and HMRC October, November, December 2023 and January 2024 [**cheque number 100701**].

57. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 17 January 2024
Wednesday 27 March 2024
Wednesday 15 May 2024

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

[The Meeting closed at 6.48 pm]

Signed

Dated