

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD IN THE CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2024 COMMENCING AT 6:03 PM**

PRESENT

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

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PARISH FORUM

No members of the public were present.

67. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Loescher.

68. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

69. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 17 January 2024 [Minute Nos. 58-66] as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

70. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Packington Hall

Members were informed that in total there was 28 properties however, 5 were yet to be sold in the Hall plus 2 other properties remain unsold and 3 properties were let.

A51 – Opposite Whittington Arms

Councillor Barnes informed Members that he had met with Carl Petford regarding a road side grip opposite Whittington Arms. A quotation was awaited.

Lichfield Live Article dated 27 March 2024 – Plans to convert barns into wedding venue are rejected

Councillor Dyott referred to planning application 23/00784/COUM for Conversion of existing Barns A and D into offices (Class E) with the installation of a projecting balcony onto Barn A, conversion of existing Barns B and C into wedding venue facilities including a single storey infill between Barns B and C, installation of new fenestration and cladding, demolition of existing water tank to facilitate a new car parking area with

access arrangements, cycle store and landscaping at Swinfen Hall Hotel, The Drive. Members were informed that the application had been refused for the following reason:

a. It has not been demonstrated that the development would not cause significant harm to existing habitats of protected species and, the scheme fails to demonstrate that a net gain to biodiversity can be achieved. As proposed the scheme of development therefore would cause harm to protected species and present a net loss to biodiversity and as such, fails to comply with the requirements of Core Policy 13 (Our Natural Resources), Policy NR3 (Biodiversity, Protected Species and their Habitats) of the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy (2015), the Biodiversity and Development Supplementary Planning Document, the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Lichfield Live – The Lichfield and Burntwood Independent

Councillor Barnes informed Members that a free new local newspaper entitled “The Lichfield and Burntwood Independent” was available from many community venues. He referred to the second edition dated Thursday 21 March 2024 and in particular the front-page article referring to car parking provision in Lichfield City Centre.

Manhole Cover

Councillor Barnes informed Members that a manhole cover had collapsed on the A51 [WS14 9PN].

Parking Area – Hopwas Woods

Members were informed that there were potholes on the footpath.

The Windings

Members were informed that there were potholes by The Windings.

71. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Barnes updated Members on the current situation.

72. CIL MONIES

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

73. 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.

74. 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.

75. STAFFORDSHIRE PARISH COUNCILS' ASSOCIATION [SPCA]

RESOLVED That the Parish Council renew membership of the Staffordshire Parish Councils' Association.

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 February 2024 [cheque number 100708] and March 2024 [cheque number 100710] salary, Staffordshire Pension Fund – February 2024 [cheque number 100709] and Staffordshire Pension Fund – March 2024 [cheque number 1007011] and HMRC – February and March 2024 [cheque number 100712].

78. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 15 May 2024

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

[The Meeting closed at 6:44 pm]

Signed

Dated