

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 14 JANUARY 2026 COMMENCING AT 6.00 PM**

PRESENT

Councillor Barnes in the Chair
Councillor Dyott

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Councillor Armstrong (Dispensation), Councillor Loescher, Councillor Perks, Councillor Mrs Phillips, and Councillor Pope.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

Members formally received and approved Councillor Armstrong's Leave of Absence from attendance at meetings from January 2026 to January 2027.

48. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 12 November 2025 (Minute Nos. 34-45) as circulated, be approved as a correct record.

49. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Swinfen Broun Grave

Referring to previous discussions, Councillor Barnes stated that the grave was still not fixed.

The Hall

In the absence of Councillor Perks, Councillor Barnes stated that 5 units were still available.

Following notification regarding the extended deferral of HS2 works between Curdworth in North Warwickshire and Handsacre, following the initial pause of works in March 2023, HS2 have taken the decision to extend this deferral for a further period of four years, Councillor Barnes stated that a portion of the land acquired by HS2 at Packington had been rented to the agricultural company Huntapec Produce Limited for 2 years.

Referring to the Cricket Lane housing development, Councillor Barnes explained that landowners had been approached sometime ago with regard to selling off their land for housing developments. However, he was not too sure of the exact locations within the parish.

50. THE HIGH-SPEED RAIL PLANS

In the absence of Councillor Loescher, the Information and Feedback Request – Background to the HS2 Deferral, produced by Councillor Loescher, in consultation with Councillor Barnes, was discussed.

It was **AGREED** that the response would be forwarded to Balfour Beatty Vinci.

51. CIL MONIES

RESOLVED That the CIL unspent to date totalling £1,980.22 be noted.

52. GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR SMALLER AUTHORITIES IN ENGLAND PRACTITIONERS' GUIDE 2025

The Parish Clerk advised Members that this was for information purposes only and no decision was required by the Parish Council. The Parish Clerk explained that the Practitioners' Guide 25 (Assertion 10) states that it is best practice for all Council communication to use authority-owned gov.uk domains. Staffordshire Parish Councils Association (SPCA) of which the Parish Council are members, have suggested Parish Online which provide free gov.uk domain and free gov.uk mailbox for Parish Council Clerk (gov.uk domain name and one gov.uk email address for the clerk). The email will be:

clerk@swinfenandpackingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

53. 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.

54. PARISH CLERK’S SALARY

RESOLVED That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk’s December 2025 (**cheque number 100777**) and January 2026 (**cheque number 100779**) salary, Staffordshire Pension Fund – December 2025 (**cheque number 100776**) and Staffordshire Pension Fund – January 2026 (**cheque number 100778**).

55. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That:
Wednesday 11 March 2026
Wednesday 13 May 2026 – Annual General Meeting

All meetings will commence at 6.00 pm.

(The Meeting closed at 6.24 pm)

Signed

Dated