

SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Our Ref: JM

25 June 2014

To: All Members of the Parish Council

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend the Meeting of the Parish Council to be held in the **Conference Room 1, Conference Centre, HMP Swinfen on Wednesday 02 July 2014 commencing 7.00 p.m.** at which the business set out below will be transacted.

Yours sincerely

**Jayne Minor (Ms)
Parish Clerk**

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

A maximum of 15 minutes will be allocated prior to the commencement of the meeting when members of the public may put questions/comments on any matter in relation to which the Parish Council has powers or duties which affect the area (see notes at the end of the Agenda).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATION

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on the Agenda in accordance with the Parish Town Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2007.

3. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 May 2014 (Minute Nos. 1 - 17) (**ENCLOSURE**).

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. HOPWAS QUARRY

Members are requested to debate the up to date position relating to Hopwas Quarry.

6. THE HIGH SPEED RAIL PLANS

Members are requested to debate the up to date position relating to the High Speed Rail Plans.

7. PLANNING DECISIONS

PLANNING APPLICATION 14/00086/FUL

HOME FARM, TAMWORTH ROAD, WHITTINGTON HEATH

Members are requested to receive and note the following planning application decisions:-

14/00086/FUL	Mr R Dyott Home Farm Tamworth Road Whittington Heath Demolition of existing building and erection of a new steel framed agricultural building	Granted
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8. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - DISCRETIONS POLICY

Under the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations each Employing Authority is required to formulate, publish and keep under review a policy statement in relation to the exercise of a number of discretions which employers can use under the LGPS. The need to have such a policy has been highlighted by the major changes to the pension scheme which became effect from 01 April 2014. There are many discretions which employers may operate, but all LGPS employers must have a policy on the following 10 discretions:

1. Whether to augment membership of an active member (by up to 10 years).
2. Whether to grant additional pension to a member (by up to £5,000 p.a.).
3. Whether all or some benefits can be paid if an employee reduces their hours or grade (flexible retirement).
4. Whether to waive, in whole or in part, actuarial reduction on benefits paid on flexible retirement.
5. Whether to grant application for early payment of benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 (for both active and deferred members).
6. Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early.
7. Whether to grant an application for reinstatement of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension on or after age 55 and before age 60.

8. Whether to waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to the reinstatement of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension paid early (i.e. on or after age 55 and before age 60).
9. Whether the Employer intends to adopt a discretionary injury benefit scheme.
10. Whether to permit late inward transfer of pension rights.

RECOMMENDED That in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme Swinfen and Packington Parish Council adopt the following Employer Discretions Policy.

**Swinfen and Packington Parish Council
Local Government Pension Scheme - Employer Discretions Policy**

1. **To augment membership of an active member (by up to 10 years).**

The Council will not grant this.

2. **To grant additional pension to a member (by up to £5,000 p.a.).**

The Council will not grant this.

3. **To grant application for early payment of benefits on or after age 55 and before age 60 (for both active and deferred members).**

The Council will not grant this.

4. **To waive on compassionate grounds of the actuarial reduction applied to benefits paid early.**

The Council will not grant this if it will incur any additional pension costs to the Council.

5. **To pay all or some benefits if an employee reduces their hours or grade (flexible retirement)**

AND

6. **To waive in whole or in part actuarial reduction on benefits paid on flexible retirement.**

The Council will consider each such case individually on its merits, but subject to the following criteria:

- Any employee wishing to work reduced hours or at a lower grade, must first put their request in writing to the Chairman who will consider the business case for the request.
- Requests will only be considered if an employee is reducing the hours of their current job by at least 40% (or are transferring to another job which has either 40% fewer hours or is at a lower grade).
- Employees who have flexibly retired may not subsequently apply for positions that would result in either an increase in hours or being paid at a higher grade.

- 7. To grant of an application for reinstatement of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension on or after age 55 and before age 60.**

The Council will not grant this.

- 8. To waive, on compassionate grounds, the actuarial reduction applied to the reinstatement of a suspended tier 3 ill health pension paid early.**

The Council will not waive this.

- 9. Discretionary injury benefit scheme.**

The Council will not a discretionary injury benefit scheme.

- 10. Discretion to permit late inward transfer of pension rights.**

The Council will not normally grant this if it incurs any additional pension costs to the Council, but will allow members to opt to transfer pension rights beyond the 12 month time period if there is evidence of administrative shortcomings.

Other discretions

Any other discretions which may apply under the LGPS will be dealt with by the Council on their merits on an individual basis.

The Council reserves the right to amend any of the above policies if in its opinion this would be appropriate given the special circumstances of an individual case.

- 9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chairman will move:

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.

- 10. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY**

Members are requested to approve the payment of the Parish Clerk's June and July 2014 salary (**PINK ENCLOSURE**).

- 11. DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Further to Minute No. 17 (14 May 2014) the next Parish Council meetings will be held on Wednesday 03 September 2014 and Wednesday 12 November 2014.

PUBLIC FORUM SESSION AT PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Residents of Swinfen and Packington Parish Council have an opportunity to speak at each Parish Council meeting:

1. *The Public Forum session will usually be the first item on the Agenda.*

2. *The Public Forum will last up to 15 minutes and members of the public can ask the Parish Council a question (or make a statement).*
3. *Your statement or question must relate to a matter of special relevance to Swinfen and Packington or within the responsibility of the Parish Council.*
4. *Matters relating to the conduct of any individual councillor or officer will not be permitted – in such circumstances you should write to the Parish Council.*
5. *You will be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes and you can raise more than one issue within the overall limit of 3 minutes allowed to you.*
6. *After each speaker the Chairman of the Parish Council (or his/her representative) will answer the question or give notice that he/she will provide a written answer as soon as possible.*

If a written answer is to be given this will be sent to you at your stated address.