

**MINUTES OF THE SWINFEN AND PACKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM 1, CONFERENCE CENTRE, HMP SWINFEN ON
WEDNESDAY 02 JULY 2014 COMMENCING AT 7.00 P.M.**

PRESENT

Councillor R Barnes in the Chair
Councillor Dyott

In attendance:

Ms J Minor, Parish Clerk
Mr L Armstrong

PUBLIC FORUM

No members of the public were present.

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillors J Barnes, Stowe and Stubbs.

19. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on 14 May 2014 (Minute Nos. 1 - 17) as circulated, be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

21. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman welcomed Mr Les Armstrong to the meeting.

Swinfen and Packington Parish Council - Co Opting - Mr Leslie Armstrong

It was proposed by Councillor R Barnes, duly seconded by Councillor Dyott and

RESOLVED That Mr Leslie Armstrong be co-opted onto the Parish Council.

Ragwort on Swinfen Island/A38 both sides

It was proposed by Councillor R Barnes, duly seconded by Councillor Dyott and

RESOLVED That an email be sent to the Highways Agency in order that the Ragwort is removed.

Boundary Map

Mr Armstrong stated that the boundary map appeared to be incongruous and doubted the maps correctness.

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

Packington Sign at Hopwas Hill

Councillor R Barnes stated that the Packington sign at Hopwas Hill was bent.

RESOLVED That an email be sent to the appropriate Authority in order that the signage can be replaced.

A51 Manhole Cover

Councillor R Barnes stated that the manhole cover on the A51 had still not been repaired and that it had dropped 2 inches.

RESOLVED That a further email be sent to the Highways Authority in order that the manhole cover can be repaired.

22. HOPWAS QUARRY

Councillor R Barnes updated Members on the current situation and believed that the activity levels had significantly reduced but the problem had not been alleviated.

It was proposed by Councillor R Barnes, duly seconded and

RESOLVED That an item on Hopwas Quarry continue to be included on the next agenda.

23. THE HIGH SPEED RAIL PLANS

Councillor Dyott gave an update on the HS2. It was proposed by Councillor R Barnes, duly seconded and

RESOLVED That an item on the High Speed Rail Plans (HS2) continue to be included on the next agenda.

**24. PLANNING DECISION
PLANNING APPLICATION 14/00086/FUL
HOME FARM, TAMWORTH ROAD, WHITTINGTON HEATH**

RESOLVED That the information be received and noted.

25. LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME - DISCRETIONS POLICY

RESOLVED 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 provide 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.

26. 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.

27. PARISH CLERK'S SALARY

It was proposed by Councillor R Barnes, duly seconded and

RESOLVED (1) That cheques be drawn in respect of the Parish Clerk's June 2014 (**cheque number 100288**) and July 2014 (**cheque number 100289**) salary, HMRC - August 2014 (**cheque number 100291**), Staffordshire Pension Fund - August 2014 (**cheque number 100290**), HMRC - September 2014 (**cheque number 100293**) and Staffordshire Pension Fund - September 2014 (**cheque number 100292**).

28. DATE, VENUE AND TIME FOR NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

RESOLVED That Wednesday 03 September 2014 and Wednesday 12 November 2014 in the Conference Room 1, Conference Centre, HMP Swinfen commencing 7.00 p.m. be confirmed as the next Parish Council meetings.

(The Meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.)

Signed

Dated