

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 JULY 2015 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:** Councillor R A James (Chairman)  
Councillor (Mrs) P Boulton  
Councillor D Butler  
Cllr F Cromey  
Councillor B Eyre  
Councillor Miss B Fieldhouse  
Councillor N Leeson  
Councillor Mateu  
Councillor (Mrs) K Ong  
Councillor S Riddle  
Councillor D Tucker

**In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)  
Mrs Nicky Adams, Trentham resident  
4 members of the public  
Councillor F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

**Apologies:** Councillor F Cheadle, Swynnerton Parish Council (SPC)  
Councillor B Price, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

**15/94 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Residents of Trentham raised concerns over the lack of signage at the end of Whitmore Road after drivers leave. The Clerk would liaise with Cllr Chapman to request such as 'Whitmore Road, Hanchurch, ST5 0DG'. **Action: Clerk**

A resident reported that the milestone on Whitmore road, which had been refurbished some years ago, is now leaning into the field, and has been temporarily propped up. The Clerk will notify Highways. **Action: Clerk**

Residents raised concerns over a planning application for seven dwellings and garages to be build on Foxglove Corner, Fernwood Drive South. They were dissatisfied with responses received from SBC and had now taken the matter to the Local Government Ombudsman. The Chairman would raise the issues with SBC. **Action: Cllr James**

**15/95 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Chapman reported that the Police and Crime Panel, of which he is Chairman, had confirmed the appointment of the new Chief Constable. The Fire and Rescue Authority, of which he is a member, was facing cuts and allocating resources to ensure the safety of residents would be maintained.

Cllr Leeson reported that a number of issues raised by residents and relating to traffic speeds and parking in the Parish had been referred to SCC Highways with little apparent action taken. Cllr Chapman referred to particular problems in Northwood Lane where the area fell on the boundary between two police Divisions, and affected two Members of Parliament. A local Speedwatch group had been formed, and a proposal had been made to install speed humps, although residents had been requesting a chicane at each end of the Lane. Cllr Chapman would consult with SCC Highways over a solution.

Swynnerton Parish covers a large geographical area, and Councillors believed it deserved a greater allocation of time from the Neighbourhood Highways Team. The Clerk would contact SCC Highways to request lengthier or more frequent visits by the NHT. **Action: Clerk**

There were frequent complaints about vegetation overgrowing and hedges overhanging pavements. SBC could information regarding the owners of land, and a request could be made to SCC to contact them. The Clerk would forward to Cllr Chapman details of all the Highways issues discussed during the evening, for discussion with Richard Rayson, the newly appointed SCC Highways Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr James reported that Cllr Price was attending an SBC Planning meeting. The SBC Resources and Corporate Services Scrutiny Committee had approved the budget from last year and agreed a pricing structure for the new multi storey car park in Stafford.

Councillors had anticipated that the light up '20 is plenty' speed awareness signs would have returned to Yarnfield six weeks after first being positioned there. Cllr Cromey requested a permanent '20 is plenty' sign at the junction of the school with the road to the BT site. Cllr Chapman would clarify the arrangements with SCC Highways and ensure that Councillors were consulted before any future installation to ensure signs were sited in the correct positions.

Cllr Mateu, Swynnerton Speedwatch Co-ordinator, reported a 33% increase in traffic from Eccleshall and Stone in the last 14 months, with over 445 vehicles recorded during the peak late afternoon traffic hour, and 15 to 30 vehicles exceeding the speed limit and reaching up to 51mph. Heavy vehicles had been recorded travelling on the main road carrying a weight restriction.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Chapman and the members of the public for attending and for their contribution to the meeting, and closed the public session.

#### 15/96 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Cheadle and SBC Cllr Price.  
(8.05pm, Cllr Chapman left the meeting.)

#### 15/97 Declarations of Interest and to consider written requests from Councillors to grant a dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011)

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.

#### 15/98 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 June 2015

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 25 June 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 15/99 Co-option of Councillor for vacancy in Trentham Ward

Mrs Nicola Adams had confirmed her willingness to be co-opted on to Swynnerton Parish Council to represent Trentham Ward. There were no other candidates.

**RESOLVED** – That Mrs Nicola Adams should be co-opted on to Swynnerton Parish Council to represent Trentham Ward. Mrs Adams signed a Declaration of Acceptance form.

#### 15/100 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk circulated a list of action points arising from the last meeting. Vouchers had been delivered to the two residents who were planting areas in Cold Meece and Tittensor. Potholes and blocked drains had been reported to SCC Highways for action. Stone Gazette had confirmed that they covered all areas of the Parish, including Trentham and Clayton. Details of the procedure to register Community Assets were held by the Clerk and were available for reference. Mr Challinor had completed the refurbishment of two benches on Yarnfield Green.

Information had been received from SCC that the priority for work on footpaths would be health and safety considerations; vegetation clearance, way marking and furniture repair would be carried out if extra resources became available.

#### 15/101 Financial matters

##### 15/101.1 To approve the accounts for June for payment

The following accounts were considered for payment:

Clerk's salary and expenses	502.44
Trent Grounds Maintenance	647.40
Trentham Church Hall, Neighbourhood Plan meeting	20.00
SPCA, Councillor Training Course	20.00
SBC, Civic Amenity vehicle visits	420.00
Creative Copy'n'Colour, printing of newsletter	<u>391.20</u>
Total	£2,001.40

**RESOLVED** - That the accounts for July be approved for payment.

There was an error on the statement provided for bank balances, and the Clerk would provide clarification to Councillors and the corrected figures. **Action: Clerk**

##### 15/101.2 Identity badges for Councillors

After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes for the provision of badges identifying Councillors as representatives of Swynnerton Parish Council. **Action: Clerk**

#### 15/102 Requirements for bulbs to be planted in the autumn

Swynnerton and Yarnfield WI had requested a sack of daffodils plus a variety of other bulbs such as crocus, snowdrops, narcissi, hyacinths, for planting in the village. After discussion Councillors also agreed to provide a sack of daffodil bulbs plus a bag of crocus and a bag of snowdrop bulbs for Yarnfield and Tittensor Wards, and to consult with the resident at Cold Meece and the Friends at Ferndown for their requirements. **Action: Clerk**

#### 15/103 SCC Highway Winter Maintenance Review

Councillors would complete questionnaires on the SCC Highway Winter Maintenance Review and send them to the Clerk, who would summarise the responses and forward them to SCC. **Action: All**

**15/104 Consultation on proposed changes to the Mobile and Travelling Library Services**

Councillors were urged to forward their views to SCC before the close of the consultation period.

**15/105 Ward matters**

**15/105.1 Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

Councillors discussed the provision of speed stickers for attachment to bins. The Clerk would investigate whether SCC or SBC could provide stickers. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Butler read out a copy of a letter sent by Lord Stafford regarding the state of The Old Post Office which should be pursued by SBC Planning Enforcement Officer and SBC Conservation Officer. Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI were keen to create a garden on a site outside Highfield Close. SBC had been asked to remove fly tipping from the site.

**15/105.2 Tittensor, new rail for village hall**

Cllrs Eyre and Tucker had obtained a quote for £975 to replace the rail, which was passed to Cllr Fieldhouse to share with Tittensor Village Hall Management Committee.

Concerns were expressed about the poor state of the grass verges, especially along Winghouse Lane. Cllr Boulton reported dog fouling along Green Drive. The Clerk would forward notices and reminders which Cllr Boulton agreed to put up in the area. **Action: Clerk, Cllr Boulton**

**15/105.3 Trentham, Proms in the Park at Trentham Park**

Cllr Adams reported that residents had been disturbed by the recent Proms in the Park, because of the noise and the late finishing of concerts. Information was given in the SPC newsletter with a telephone number to contact. Residents were advised to keep a log for each concert. Cllr James would also raise the issue with SBC. **Action: Cllr James**

**15/105.4 Yarnfield, The Green**

Cllr James would contact Mr Gammon, SBC Streetscene, for details of any progress with regard to the drainage. The Fete Committee were planning to stage a WWII re-enactment on The Green, near to the play area, and would be advised that Councillors would not permit vehicles on The Green, and that following the event the area should be reinstated to its original condition. **Action: Clerk**

**15/105.5 Proposal to provide adult exercise equipment**

Councillors discussed different sources for funding, including an approach to the developers of Yarnfield Park. Cllr James would contact Adam Hill, SBC Head of Leisure, to ascertain the situation with regard to Section 106 funding from the sale of houses in the development on Ash Lane, and its availability for tackling the drainage on The Green and contributing towards the cost of the proposed adult exercise equipment. **Action: Cllrs James, Tucker**

**15/106 Possible use of church magazine to disseminate Parish Council information**

Councillors agreed to discuss this item in full at their meeting in August.

**15/107 Neighbourhood Plan, update**

Cllr Boulton would prepare the questionnaire for circulation to businesses in the Parish. **Action: Cllr Boulton**  
Several more questionnaires had been received following the recent public meetings, and the response rate would as a result be increased from 6.5%. A meeting with Area Co-ordinators would be arranged for Tuesday 25 August 2015. Reassurance would be given to a resident from Cold Meece who had been concerned about possible future development in the area. **Action: Cllr James, Clerk**

**15/108 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

A list of correspondence received to date had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

**15/109 Matters for the next meeting**

Neighbourhood Plan, next stages  
Use of church magazine to disseminate information throughout the Parish

**15/93 Date of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be Thursday 27 August 2015 in Yarnfield Village Hall at 7.15 pm. There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

.....Date