

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2015 IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor R A James (Chairman)
Councillor (Mrs) N Adams
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)
Councillor F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

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

15/111 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no members of the public present.

15/112 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman reported that he had spent considerable time in the Parish with Richard Rayson, SCC Community Infrastructure Liaison Manager, to acquaint Mr Rayson with local traffic and highways issues. Cllr Chapman read out a comprehensive report received from Mr Rayson. It was hoped to erect community speed watch signs in Swynnerton, and a speed and volume count would be undertaken on the road approaching Swynnerton. Information was provided on village gateway features to slow traffic, and would be circulated to Councillors. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors agreed that Mr Rayson should be invited to address the next meeting of the Parish Council on 1 October 2015 at Tittensor Village Hall. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Chapman would check to see if funds would be available to contribute towards the provision of adult exercise equipment adjacent to the children's play area on Yarnfield Green, but regretted there was very little funding available from this year's allocation and any funds allocated to the adult equipment would be less than £1,000. Cllr Chapman advised that an application should be made to next year's allocation.

Cllr Mateu requested larger Speedwatch signs for Swynnerton and confirmed that the Speedwatch programme was operating effectively in the area. Cllr Chapman cautioned over the dangers of sign pollution.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Chapman for his contribution to the meeting.

Cllr James confirmed that there were allocated spaces for disabled drivers in the new multi-storey car park in Stafford, but that they could not park free of charge.

Gnosall Neighbourhood Plan had been approved by the inspector and would be sent out for approval by a local referendum. Eccleshall and Colwich Neighbourhood Plans would be processed next.

The Chairman closed the public session.
(7.45 pm, Cllr Chapman left the meeting.)

15/113 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Cheadle and SBC Cllr Price.

15/114 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.

15/115 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 23 July 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 23 July 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

15/116 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk circulated a list of action points arising from the last meeting, most of which had been completed or would be covered later in the meeting. Information had been provided to Stone Gazette on the preparation of Swynnerton's Neighbourhood Plan, and this had been included in the latest edition of the Gazette. The Clerk requested further information on when Trentham Ward had last been represented by a Trentham resident, and when the Council had last had a full quota of Councillors so that information could be provided for the local press.

Information had been received on a number of courses that SPCA would be providing during the autumn, and Councillors agreed that the Clerk should attend a course on Financial Training (Budgets, Precepts and Annual Returns) on Tuesday 22 September 2015, and as many Councillors as possible should attend a course on dealing with planning applications 'Development Control: How to deal with planning applications' during October 2015.

RESOLVED That the Clerk should attend the SPCA course on Financial Training and that as many Councillors as possible should attend the course on Development Control

15/117 Financial matters

15/117.1 To approve the accounts for August for payment

The following accounts were considered for payment:

John Green Landscapes, work at Cold Meece	60.00
Eddy's Bdg Services, refurbishment of benches on Yarnfield Green	165.00
Clerk's salary and expenses	385.98
Trent Grounds maintenance	495.60
M T Tree Services, removal of wind blown trees	<u>300.00</u>
Total payments for August	1,406.58

RESOLVED - That the accounts for August be approved for payment.

15/117.2 Identity badges for Councillors

Quotations had been received from four companies. After discussion, Councillors agreed that Cllr Eyre should negotiate with Chadcraft and show them the type of badge provided for Rotary members. **Action: Cllr Eyre**

15/117.3 'Two Saints Way' guidebook

A request had been received for a contribution to be made towards the publication of a 'Two Saints Way' guidebook. Councillors agreed it would not be appropriate to make a contribution.

15/118.i Ward matters, Planting of bulbs

Ferndown Nature Reserve requirements had not yet been received.

Action: Clerk

15/118.ii Ward matters, Swynnerton, application for additional signs to be attached to the speed limit signs

This item was covered during Cllr Chapman's report (Minute 15/112 refers).

15/118.iii Ward matters, Swynnerton, to consider an application for a grant from the Police Commissioner's Fund

This item was covered during Cllr Chapman's report (Minute 15/112 refers).

15/118.iv Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Cllr Fieldhouse requested the reinstatement of a bin at the beginning of the footpath at the end of Bracken Close (Footpath 45), for the use of dog walkers, and this was agreed. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Fieldhouse reported that the Trustees of Tittensor Village Hall would be contacting Mr Challinor and requesting that he commence work on the rail at the village hall.

Cllr Boulton reported that the flower bed at Hammond Rise facing the A34 had still not been weeded. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact Seddons again and urge that the work be carried out. **Action: Clerk**

15/118.v Trentham, Ferndown Play Area

The Friends of Ferndown had raised a number of issues concerning weekly inspections of the play area, minor repairs or items which were covered by the guarantee, and insurance cover, all of which had been resolved by the Clerk. The revised lease had now been received and would be brought to the next meeting.

15/118.vi Yarnfield, The Green

Cllr James reported on a meeting with Mr Gammon, SBC Streetscene. The roots of trees which are covered by TPOs are preventing the digging out of the ditch in the Conservation Area behind the bus shelter. Contractors will be asked to quote for the digging out of a new ditch, but funds would need to be allocated for the work.

Almost all of the houses on the Walnut Tree Farm development had been sold, which should release approximately £17,500 Section 106 Funds.

15/118.vii Yarnfield, Adult Exercise Equipment to be installed adjacent to play area on The Green

Cllr Tucker was submitting a submission to Veolia for funding for the project. If successful, Swynnerton Parish Council would be expected to contribute £750. Wicksteed could install the equipment during 2016.

RESOLVED That Swynnerton Parish Council would contribute £750 towards the installation of adult exercise equipment at Yarnfield Green, provided that the submission to Veolia for funding was accepted.

15/119 Visit of SCC NHT to Parish

After discussion Councillors agreed that the SCC NHT should continue with the work they had commenced on clearing footpaths in Swynnerton, Hanchurch junction area, and Northwood Lane/Whitmore Road area. Cllr Leeson reported that the bank beyond The Woodlands on Swynnerton Road, travelling toward Eccleshall, was overgrown with weeds and long grass. The Clerk would check whether it was the responsibility of SCC Highways or a local landowner. If appropriate, this work could be added to the list for SCC NHT. **Action: Clerk**

15/120 Neighbourhood Plan, update on progress to date

After discussion, Councillors agreed that, as the Parish included two Key Stage Villages (KSVs), Tittensor and Yarnfield, and the future of the Green Belt was not secure, they should continue working on the Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Leeson had prepared a draft questionnaire for circulation to local businesses and this was approved. Councillors discussed the appointment of a technical author to write the final draft of the Plan once all the information had been collected, and agreed that the Clerk should obtain quotes from the authors of the Colwich, Eccleshall, and Gnosall Plans. **Action: Clerk**

Information on the number of farms in the Parish would be sought from DeFRA and the NFU. Cllr Adams had agreed to deliver questionnaires to the businesses at Trentham Park Retail Village. It was hoped to have the final draft of the Plan ready for December 2015.

15/121 SPCA, nomination for membership of the SPCA Executive

Councillors agreed to support the nomination of Cllr Mateu to the membership of SPCA Executive.

15/122 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of correspondence received to date had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr Eyre agreed to represent the Parish Council at the AGM of Stafford and Rural Homes. The Clerk would attend the AGM of Staffordshire Playing Fields Association.

Cllr James confirmed he had been in contact with Avdec Ltd with regard to the updating of the website.

15/123 Matters for the next meeting

- Neighbourhood Plan, next stages
- Ordering of wreaths for Remembrance Day services
- Clerk's annual Appraisal
- Asset List
- The Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity

Cllr Eyre apologised as he would be unable to attend the next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council.

15/124 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be Thursday 1 October 2015 in **Tittensor Village Hall** at 7.15 pm. There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

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