

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2015 IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

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

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
7 members of the public

Apologies: Councillor (Mrs) N Adams
Councillor B Eyre
Councillor (Mrs) K Ong
Councillor B Price, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Councillor F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

15/138 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A member of the public, who was recording the proceedings, assured the meeting that any recordings, or sections of recordings, which were made available on social media would not be edited but would be a true record.

A resident of Yarnfield questioned why draft minutes were not put on notice boards immediately following a Council meeting. The Chairman explained that as they had not been ratified this was not considered good practice. The website was in the process of being updated and he would ensure ratified minutes for the last six months would be added within the next few days.

A resident of Cold Meece thanked the Council for their support in the refurbishment of the area at the junction opposite the war memorial. He also thanked Lord Stafford and SCC Highways for their support. The Clerk reported that the SCC Neighbourhood Highways Team should be working in the area during the following week.

A resident of Yarnfield requested that trees removed from Yarnfield Green should be replaced. SBC Biodiversity Officer had approved their replacement with hornbeam trees. The Clerk and Yarnfield Councillors would pursue the matter.

Action: Clerk, Yarnfield Councillors

A resident of Yarnfield expressed concerns, which were noted, about comments made by the Chairman of the Fete Committee which had been reported to the Parish Council meeting on 1 October 2015.

Residents raised concerns about the state of the pavements along Yarnfield Lane from the Labour in Vain public house through the village, especially by the bus stop. Councillors reported that the pavements had been inspected by SCC some months before when repairs had not been considered to be urgent. The Clerk would report the pavements again to SCC and inform SCC Cllr Chapman.

Action: Clerk

Residents reported a significant pothole at the junction of Yarnfield Lane with the road leading to the school; pavements from Yarnfield Park Gardens to entrance to Yarnfield Park impeded by overhanging hedges; overgrown footpaths on Yarnfield Green making them unusable for residents in motorised scooters. The Clerk would report the matters to SCC Highways. Residents were advised that future concerns should be reported to SCC Highways to ensure prompt action.

Action: Clerk

A resident of Yarnfield questioned the use of £70 of public money for the purchase of name badges for Councillors. He was advised that Councillors give their time, do not claim expenses, and on occasions attend events where they are representing the Council and at which the wearing of identifying badges is appropriate.

15/139 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr James had nothing to add to his previous reports. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Chapman and Price.

15/140 Mr Saul Hocking, SBC Enforcement Officer

Mr Hocking reported on recent success in the Borough in tackling the problem of dog fouling by the adoption of a positive approach, rather than enforcement. Working with Weston Parish Council, a significant reduction (76%) in the incidence of dog fouling in the Parish had been achieved. Four other Parish Councils were now involved in the project. In addition the policy had been changed so that all bins could be used to deposit dog litter.

For the project, a working group had been formed with Weston Parish Council and 'Hot spot' areas identified. Educational talks in schools had been arranged with the Blue Cross animal charity, flyers had been posted through doors monthly, and notices and signs had been displayed in the area. The costs had been for flyers, and for additional bins purchased by Weston Parish Council,

Cllrs Boulton, Butler, and Mrs Hughes (Yarnfield Forum) expressed interest in forming a working group. The Clerk would contact the Friends of Ferndown to ascertain whether Ferndown could be a local 'Hot spot' and invite Mr Clarke to join a working group, should it be formed.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Fieldhouse had requested an additional bin for dog litter on Green Drive, Tittensor. The Clerk would follow this up.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman thanked Mr Hocking for his presentation, and closed the public session of the meeting.

15/141 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Eyre, and Ong, SBC Cllr Price and SCC Cllr Chapman.

15/142 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.

15/143 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 1 October 2015

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 1 October 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

15/144 Clerk’s Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk circulated a list of action points arising from the last meeting, which had been completed or would be covered later in the meeting.

The Clerk reported that all bulbs had now been distributed. Seeds had been ordered for Ferndown Nature Reserve, and delivery was awaited (15/130, 15/112.v).

Details would be circulated shortly about the meeting to discuss progress on the Neighbourhood Plan (15/114).

Contact had been made with Mr Hugh Lufton, who would be willing to assist with the Neighbourhood Plan, a quotation for the writing up was awaited (15/114).

The application for wheelie bin stickers showing speed restrictions for Swynnerton village had been submitted for approval (15/105.1)

Notification had been received from SCC Footpaths that a job sheet had been issued for clearance work on Footpath 44, and the Council would be notified when the work had been undertaken (15/68.3, also 15’146.iii below)

Notification had been received from SCC Footpaths that a county ranger had inspected Footpath 47, cleared the concrete steps and altered the ground level around the stile step to make it easier to negotiate (15/55).

15/145 Financial matters

15/145.1 To approve the accounts for October for payment

The following accounts were considered for payment:

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Clerk’s salary and expenses (includes purchase of bulbs for planting) | 610.34 |
| Trent Grounds maintenance | 605.40 |
| EON, Swynnerton lamp post, maintenance, energy | 76.04 |
| Tittensor Village Hall, Neighbourhood Plan meetings | 20.00 |
| John Green Landscapes, tidying Cold Meece area | 252.00 |
| Avdec Ltd, updating and hosting SPC website | 60.00 |
| SBC, visits of amenity vehicle | 315.00 |
| Royal British Legion, three wreaths | 51.00 |
| Total payments for October | £1, 989.78 |

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

15/145.2 Purchase of wreaths for November Remembrance Day services

Councillors agreed the purchase of three wreaths for Remembrance Day services in the Parish at a cost of £51.

15/146.i Ward matters, Swynnerton, proposal to install benches on Cotes Lane junction and Park View/Highfield Close

SCC Highways were consulting archived maps to confirm the proposed position of the benches. It was unlikely they would be positioned on land belonging to Lord Stafford Estates. It was agreed the Clerk would bring details and prices for benches, preferably oak, to the next meeting, which Cllr Butler would share with Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI.

Action: Clerk, Cllr Butler

15/146.ii Bus shelter, Swynnerton

Councillors agreed that the Estate Manager, Lord Stafford Estates, should be invited to the next meeting to brief the Council on progress of the refurbishment of the Fitzherbert Arms. Action to refurbish the bus shelter would be deferred until after his report.

Action: Clerk

15/146.iii Ward matters, Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Cllr Boulton reported that Footpath 44 was still in a terrible state. If it was cleared, local residents and walkers would ensure it was maintained in a clear state. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact SCC again and advise them of this proposal.

Action: Clerk

Seddons had cleared the weeds in front of Hammond Rise. Councillors agreed that Trent Grounds Maintenance should be asked to clear weeds along the A34 through the village.

Action: Clerk

Date

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Cllr R James, Chairman

Cllr Fieldhouse reported that the Neighbourhood Watch committee would be placing plaques on posts in the village. Reports had been received of traffic travelling dangerously fast in the vicinity of Hammond Rise and the junction with Winghouse Lane. Councillors agreed that SCC Highways should be informed of potential dangers. **Action: Clerk**
Cllr Boulton reported that the grass was wearing in the play area, and signs at the entrance had slipped. Councillors agreed that TGM should be asked to rectify both matters when cutting the hedge. **Action: Clerk**
Councillors further agreed that SBC Streetscene should be asked to provide bin liners when emptying the refuse bins in the play area. **Action: Clerk**
Notification had been received from Tittensor Village Hall Committee that CCTV cameras had been installed that covered the play area.

15/146.iv Trentham, Ferndown Play Area, installation of memorial bench

A request had been received for a memorial bench to be installed adjacent to the play area. Councillors agreed to include this item on the insurance cover, provided that they received an assurance it was of good quality and would be professionally installed. **Action: Clerk**

15/146.v Yarnfield, report on BKV entry

Councillors congratulated Yarnfield Forum on a very good job done in achieving second place in their category, and instructed the Clerk to write to the Forum accordingly. **Action: Clerk**

15/146.vi Yarnfield, Adult Exercise Equipment to be installed adjacent to play area on The Green

Cllr Tucker confirmed that the formal submission to Veolia for funding for the project, together with accompanying documents, had been made. A decision would be received on 7 December 2015.
Cllr Tucker reported there were continuing problems with large commercial and construction vehicles following the wrong route through the village. After discussion Councillors agreed that the Clerk should contact SCC Highways, Barratts, and GRS to make them aware of the problems and remind them of the 7.5t weight restriction. **Action: Clerk**

15/146.vii Yarnfield, Christmas tree on Green, drainage on Green

After discussion Councillors agreed that the siting of a Christmas tree would be most appropriate in the village hall. The Chairman read out a report from Mr Gammon, SBC Streetscene, regarding drainage problems on The Green. Use of SBC Section 106 monies to deal with drainage on The Green had been agreed at a meeting with SBC officials on 7 August 2014 (Clerk to copy minutes of meeting to Councillors). **Action: Clerk**
Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write a letter to remind SBC of the agreement. **Action: Clerk**
Cllr Tucker confirmed that most if not all of the properties at Walnut Tree Farm had now been sold. Cllr James would ascertain when the Section 106 monies would be available. **Action: Cllr James**

15/147 Highways issues, traffic and Speedwatch update

Cllr Mateu reported that new equipment had been received by Swynnerton Speedwatch, there were now eight volunteers, PC Karl Green would carry out a risk assessment at the three main sites, and it was hoped to start operating very soon.

15/148 Neighbourhood Plan, update on progress to date

Councillors agreed that a meeting should be convened to update all interested parties on progress to date. The Clerk would circulate details of the venue and date. **Action: Clerk**

15/149 The Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity

Cllr Leeson agreed to represent the Parish Council at future meetings of the charity.

15/150 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of correspondence received to date had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Since that date a letter had been received from Stone Town Council suggesting that a liaison group be formed between the Town Council and neighbouring Parish Councils. The Clerk would write to confirm the Parish Council's willingness to join such a group. Cllr Leeson volunteered to represent the Parish Council if the group were formed **Action: Clerk**

15/151 Matters for the next meeting

Neighbourhood Plan, next stages
Media Policy

15/152 Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council would be Thursday 19 November in **Hanchurch Village Hall at 7.15 pm**. There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.