

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016 IN SWYNNERTON 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

**In attendance:** Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)  
1 member of the public

**Apologies:** Councillor (Mrs) N Adams  
Councillor F Cheadle  
Councillor (Mrs) K Ong  
Councillor S Riddle  
Councillor D Tucker  
Councillor B Price, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)  
Councillor F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

**16/18 Public Question Time**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no issues raised by members of the public.

**16/19 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr James reported that SBC would not make any change to the rate of Council Tax. Slight amendments would be made to the SBC constitution to ensure compliance with changes made by central government. Cllr James gave details of work to be carried out on the M6 Northbound from 29 February to 19 March 2016. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**16/20 Apologies**

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

**16/21 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.

**16/22 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 January 2016**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 28 January 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**16/23 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda**

The Clerk circulated a list of action points arising from the last meeting.

Leaflets, stickers and dog refuse bags were supplied to Cllr Boulton (16/07).

Heritage England had confirmed that the war memorials at Tittensor and Cold Meece were both Grade II listed. The Clerk would prepare information for Staffordshire Newsletter and the Stone Gazette(16/09.iii). **Action: Clerk**

A letter had been received from Swynnerton Training Camp regretting the recent damage to the area surrounding the war memorial at Cold Meece. Major Salisbury did not have any knowledge of the damage to the traffic island at the junction with the road to Yarnfield (16/09.viii).

The road to Cold Norton had now reopened (16/01). The road leading to Yarnfield Park would not be adopted until after the completion of the development (16/01).

An application had been submitted for wheelie bin stickers for Winghouse Lane, Tittensor (16/07).

A replacement bin had been installed on Green Drive Tittensor (15/174.ii).

The Clerk would send a reminder about the obscured street light on Yarnfield Lane (16/07), a letter to the owners of overhanging hedges on Yarnfield Lane (16/01), a reminder about the blocked grid on the A34 at Tittensor ((16/09.iii).

The Clerk would arrange to purchase three alders and arrange planting on Yarnfield Green (16/09.ix) **Action: Clerk**

**16/24 Financial matters**

**15/24.1 To approve the accounts for February for payment**

The following accounts were considered for payment:

Clerk's salary and expenses	383.40
SPCA, training invoice	55.00

Lufton & Associates, work on Neighbourhood Plan 1,050.00  
**Total payments for February £1,4880.40**

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

**16/25 Ward matters**

**16/25.i Swynnerton, installation of benches**

Quotes for the installation of two benches would be sought from Mr Challinor and John Green Landscapes. Cllr Butler will liaise with the WI over the siting of the benches. **Action: Cllr Butler**

**16/25.ii Swynnerton, new bus service to Swynnerton village**

Councillors reported problems with the new buses serving the village, as they were larger vehicles which found difficulty turning in the area in front of the church, mainly due to cars being parked there. The Clerk would contact Lord Stafford's Estate for advice regarding signage, and advise the bus company and SCC of the problems. **Action: Clerk**

Copies of correspondence from Lord Stafford to the owner of The Old Post Office had been received. The Chairman had contacted the owner, who was hoping to recommence work in the next few weeks and complete by the end of the summer.

The Clerk would obtain estimates for the provision of finger posts showing the location of the village hall and the Toposcope. **Action: Clerk**

**16/25.iii Ward matters, Tittensor, issues raised by residents**

A replacement litter bin had been installed at the end of Green Drive. An additional bin was required at the entrance to Green Drive off the A34. A response was awaited from SCC Highways on the requested reduction to the triangle of grass outside the post office.

Cllr Fieldhouse reported a large pothole at the junction of Chase Lane with the A34. Cllr Boulton would circulate an app, giving the facility to photograph and report potholes. **Action: Cllr Boulton, Clerk**

Councillors discussed the possibility of installing a Christmas tree in the village in December.

**16/25.iv Trentham,**

Cllr Leeson reported that he would attend a meeting of the Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**16/25.v Yarnfield, application for adult exercise equipment**

There was nothing further to report, as the application to Tesco for funding had not been successful.

**16/25.vi Yarnfield, pavements**

Councillors expressed concern over the state of the pavements in the village, which had worsened following recent frosts. The Clerk would write to the SCC Councillor responsible for Highways. Reminders would be sent to SCC Highways about the street light, which was still obscured by foliage, and to Barratts about the number of construction vehicles continuing to travel through the village, and the sign on the A34 which still had not had the lettering replaced. **Action: Clerk**

**16/25.vii Yarnfield, Yarnfield Green**

Concerns over drainage problems on Yarnfield Green had been raised at a recent meeting of Yarnfield Forum and the frequent waterlogged state of the Green.

Yarnfield Councillors were concerned over criticisms from residents due to a perceived lack of action over the frequent waterlogged state of the Green. Councillors discussed the possibility of obtaining a survey on the drainage of the site, and estimates for the likely cost of any work required. Councillors suggested that Walnut Tree Farm Section 106 monies, amounting to approximately £19,000 and which should shortly become available, could be used to meet drainage costs. Cllr James had been pursuing the case with SBC and would ask the Head of Leisure and Culture to attend the next meeting of the Forum. Councillors asked to be kept informed of discussions with SBC, the owners of the land **Action: Cllr James**

SBC Streetscene is in the process of removing a felled tree from the Green.

**16/25.viii Yarnfield, Cold Meece War Memorial area**

Councillors reported further instances of large vehicles damaging the traffic island at Cold Meece and the grassed area surrounding the war memorial. The Clerk would ask John Green Landscapes to repair the damage and notify Major Salisbury at the Training Site. **Action: Clerk**

**16/26 SCC Community Paths Initiative**

Councillors agreed to bring proposals to the next meeting. **Action: All**

**16/27 Provision of waste bins throughout the Parish**

SBC Streetscene was looking to relocate a number of waste bins throughout the Borough to ensure efficient usage. Councillors confirmed that all bins in the Parish were well used, and that additional bins were required at the entrance

to Green Drive from the A34 at Tittensor, and on the play area at Ferndown Drive. The bin in Tittensor play area was regularly left without a black plastic bin liner. The Clerk would advise Streetscene. **Action: Clerk**

**16/28 Consideration of tenders for maintenance/grass cutting in the Parish**

Councillors considered four quotations for maintenance/grass cutting in the Parish. After discussion Councillors agreed that the contract should be awarded to John Green Landscapes, as the most local tenderer, subject to satisfactory renegotiation on grass cutting costs, and subject to review after 12 months. The Clerk would advise all organisations who had tendered. Councillors agreed to request the cutting of the grass verges and play areas at fortnightly intervals during periods of rapid growth. **Action: Clerk**

**16/29 Neighbourhood Plan, update on progress**

A grant of £3,500 had been received, for work on the Neighbourhood Plan to 31 March 2016. Hugh Lufton had submitted an invoice for £1,050 for work carried out to date. Councillors agreed to request a full page advertisement in the church magazine to update residents on progress, and keep them regularly informed of Parish matters. The cost would be approximately £500.

**16/30 Best Kept Village competition, entries for 2016**

Tittensor and Yarnfield both planned to enter the competition. Entries should be submitted by 28 March 2016. Details of the 'Clean for the Queen' initiative were passed to Cllr Boulton.

**16/31 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

A list of correspondence received to 18 February 2016 had been circulated to Councillors. Details of the 'Clean for the Queen' campaign had since been received, together with information on Filmscene – films available for local showing, and Flags and Flagpoles – flags and bunting available for local celebrations.

**16/16 Matters for the next meeting**

Neighbourhood Plan, next stages  
Financial report  
Community Paths Initiative

**16/17 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be Thursday 24 March 2016 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 pm.