

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL
ON THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016 AT 7.15 PM**

- Present:** Councillor R A James, Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council (SPC)
Councillor (Mrs) N Adams, SPC
Councillor (Mrs) P Boulton, SPC
Councillor D Butler, SPC
Councillor F Cromey, SPC
Councillor (Miss) B Fieldhouse, SPC
Councillor E Mateu, SPC
Councillor (Mrs) K Ong, SPC
Councillor S Riddle, SPC
Councillor D Tucker, SPC
Swynnerton & Yarnfield Women's Institute, 1 representative
Lord Stafford Estate, Estate Manager
Yarnfield Forum, 1 representative
Cold Meece, resident
Tittensor Village Hall, Chairman
Tittensor, 2 residents
Yarnfield, resident
Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones, Swynnerton Parish Clerk (Minutes)
- Apologies:** Councillor F Cheadle, SPC
Councillor B Eyre, SPC
Councillor N Leeson, SPC
Councillor F Chapman, SCC
Councillor Brian Price, SBC
Mrs Stella Hughes, Chairman, Yarnfield Forum

1. Welcome

The Chairman of Swynnerton Parish Council welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Swynnerton Annual Parish Meeting 2015

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21 May 2015 had been circulated and agreed, and were **NOTED**.

3. Annual Report of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented his Annual Report to the meeting (copy attached, Appendix 1).

4. Report by the Chairman of the Parish Council's Planning Committee

Cllr Cromey reported that the Planning Committee had considered 49 planning applications, 8 fewer than during the previous 12 months, with 6 planning applications withdrawn and 2 going to appeal.

Of the planning decisions received from Stafford Borough Council, 43 applications were permitted (includes planning applications relating to TPOs), and 6 were refused.

The major work taking place in the parish was at Yarnfield Park, on the former BT site.

5. Financial Report of the Parish Council

Mrs Harrington-Jones, Parish Clerk, presented a report on the financial position of Swynnerton Parish Council (copy attached, Appendix 2). It had been a quiet year, in that no major projects had been undertaken. Grants had been received to enable the purchase of office equipment to ensure compliance with the requirements of the Transparency Code, and the preparation of Swynnerton's Neighbourhood Plan. The unaudited financial position of the Parish Council as at 31 March 2015, showed a total income of £19,767 against expenditure of £23,554, resulting in a final balance being carried forward of £11,445.

6. Attendance Record of Parish Council Members

Details of members' attendance at Parish Council and Planning Committee meetings over the last 12 months were circulated (copy attached, Appendix 3).

7. Any local issues to be raised

Cllr James invited local representatives to address the meeting.

The Chairman of Tittensor Village Hall Management Committee presented a report on the Hall (Appendix 4 attached).

A representative from Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI thanked the Parish Council for their support through the year in agreeing to provide two additional benches, and bulbs for planting in the village.

A resident of Cold Meece thanked the Parish Council for their support of the project to enhance the appearance of Cold Meece. The Chairman confirmed that small wooden posts were being costed in an effort to protect the traffic island on Eccleshall Road. The Estate Manager, Lord Stafford Estates, agreed to replace two oak trees in the area.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 7.45 pm.

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Cllr R JAMES, Chairman, Swynnerton Parish Council

I would like to welcome you all to this, the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting for Swynnerton Parish. Last year saw the official opening of the SaRH Rural Exemption Site in Swynnerton and the completion of their 'for rent' housing on the development at Yarnfield Park (the former BT Site). The children's Play Area at the north end is complete, and Phase 2 of building works is now underway at the southern end of the site.

Your Council gave its support to the Yarnfield Fete last year and had (in the autumn) donated several sacks of bulbs to all Wards in order to enhance the appearance of the Parish overall. We have also supported the Friends of Ferndown Nature Reserve with a donation for specialist seeds and bulbs, and cleaned off all the graffiti from the bus shelter in Ferndown Drive South. We have supported Tittensor Village Hall with a new safety rail and in Swynnerton purchased two new benches and installed three finger posts directing people to the Village Hall, the Cemetery and the View Point (the Toposcope) opposite the Water Tower. We have also given support to the residents of Cold Meece in their continued project in planting out the triangle where Meece Road and Swynnerton Road join, opposite the Army Camp, and other areas nearby. It is our intention over the next few months to install some traffic calming measures to the approaches to the villages of Swynnerton and Yarnfield. This will take the form of gates at the side of the road, giving the optical illusion of a narrowing roadway – thus (we hope) causing motorists to slow down before entering the villages.

Over many years now, your Parish and Borough Councillors have striven to address the issue of flooding on the Green in Yarnfield. An inordinate number of man-hours have been given over to phone calls, letters, emails, petitions and meetings over this. I am pleased at last to announce that the Project is now in train, albeit at a very early stage. There are many hurdles still to overcome, not least the necessity to consult statutory bodies over which we as a Parish (and a Borough) have no control. To ensure transparency, a Public Meeting will need to be arranged, probably in August, in the Village Hall. It has been a long and hard struggle, but I believe that the light at the end of the tunnel is becoming somewhat brighter. The Section 106 contribution from the Walnut Tree Farm project will fund this, and possibly outdoor adult exercise equipment as well.

Your Parish Council continues to maintain and improve the condition of its assets – bus shelters, bench seating, and its notice boards. – and will continue to fund and support local initiatives, as and when projects are brought forward for consideration. A word of caution though, funds are limited and unless projects meet our principal objectives – that is, to make our Parish a better and safer place in which to live, work, learn and play – it may not be possible to offer support.

Our major task over the next few months will be the formulation of the draft Neighbourhood Plan – this will set out how the Parish will develop in the future. I am keen that we distribute a Draft for comment to all residents by early summer with a view to submitting a revised Draft to the Borough Council for their input late autumn (and certainly before the Christmas recess). There is still a lot of work to do and we are lagging behind the progress being made across the Borough - but with the commitment from the Parish, I see no reason why we cannot achieve these milestones.

Finally, I would like to put on record my thanks to the Parish – both as individuals and organisations - for their input and suggestions: and to my fellow Councillors – County, Borough and Parish – for all their hard work and support over the last twelve months. My thanks too, to our Clerk, Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones for all her hard work and support to this Parish Council – without which we would not function as well as we do.

That, ladies and gentlemen, concludes my Annual Report to the Parish for 2016.

Cllr Roy James, Chairman, Swynnerton Parish Council

Swynnerton Parish Council, Annual Financial Report as at 31 March 2015

	31 March 2015	31 March 2016
Balance Brought Forward	15,232	11,445
Receipts	19,767	26,070.05
BALANCE	34,999	37,515.17
Less Expenditure	23,554	25,706.32
BALANCE (Rounded)	11,445	11,809
Current Account	4,611.01	5,343.79
Reserve Account	3,596.63	7,417.51
NSI Account	4,569.91	4,569.91
BALANCE	12,777.55	17,331.21
Less Unpresented Cheques	1,332.43	5,521.73
BALANCE (Rounded)	11,445	11,445

Councillors' attendance at meetings, April 2015 – March 2016

	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	
Adams					√	√	X	√	√	(X)	X	√	6/8
Boulton	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	(X)	10/12
Butler	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	11/12
Cheadle	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	9/12
Cromey	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	12/12
Eyre	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√	√	X	9/12
Fieldhouse	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	11/12
James	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	12/12
Leeson	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	(X)	√	√	12/12
Mateu			√	√	√	X	√	√	√	√	√	√	9/10
Ong	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	X	√	(X)	X	√	8/12
Riddle	√	X	X	√	√	√	X	√	√	√	X	√	8/12
Tucker	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	11/12

Swynnerton Annual Parish Meeting, Report by Chairman of Tittensor Village Hall

I am delighted that the two major projects in relation to the Tittensor Bowling Club, referred to last year, have indeed come to fruition recently with the help of grant funding from the Village Hall and others, and an important letter of support to funders from the Parish Council. The new Pavilion is the most obvious, while the automated watering system to the bowling green is no less valuable because it is not immediately visible.

The rolling programme of maintenance and renewal continues, in particular:

- A new barrier rail has been installed along the side of the Hall, a project supported by the Parish Council;
- Security has been improved by updating our CCTV coverage;
- External lighting has been updated;

I am also very proud to tell you that the Village Hall applied for and has now been awarded Hallmark Level 1 status. Hallmark is a national accreditation scheme acknowledged by the Charity Commission that gives Village Hall volunteers confidence that they are running their hall in the correct way and provides potential funders and other organisations with a benchmark for a well managed community facility.

Our Hall continues to be very well patronised.

Paul Richardson, Chairman, Tittensor Village Hall Management Committee