

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 24 MARCH 2016 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Councillor R A James (Chairman)
Councillor (Mrs) N Adams
Councillor D Butler
Councillor F Cheadle
Cllr F Cromey
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 (Mrs) P Boulton
Councillor B Eyre
Councillor B Price, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)

16/34 Public Question Time

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

16/35 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman offered funding towards adult exercise equipment in the Parish. As the funding application for the play area at Yarnfield had not been successful, Councillors asked him to consider funding for fencing and gates for traffic calming measures in the Parish. Cllr Chapman reported there was now a local authority speeding sign on Northwood Lane. Ward Councillors and residents are looking for a permanent solution to the traffic problems in the Whitmore Road and Northwood Lane area. Cllr Chapman agreed to speak to Richard Rayson, SCC Highways, regarding solar powered vehicle activated signs and report back. Cllr Chapman would also report back on the cost and specifications for traffic calming measures, and where the necessary permissions should be obtained. Cllr Chapman reported that the SCC tax element had increased by 4%.

Cllr Leeson informed the meeting that a resident had reported concerns about the state of the pavement outside the village hall at Hanchurch. A new cable had recently been fitted and the footpath had not been fully reinstated, resulting in it being left in a hazardous condition. Cllr Chapman agreed to take the matter up with SCC Highways. Cllr Chapman reminded Councillors that the SCC grant towards funding for village halls was being removed.

Cllr James reported that Council Tax had not been raised, and there was no increase in the precept for Swynnerton Parish. The fire services would require a 2% increase. The Waterfront car park in Stafford was now open. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting

16/36 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Boulton and Eyre, and SBC Cllr Price.

16/37 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.

16/38 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 25 February 2016

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 25 February 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

16/39 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk circulated a list of action points arising from the last meeting, several of which would be discussed later in the meeting.

The bus shelter on Ferndown Drive South had now been cleaned, and photographs of the condition of the bus shelter before and after the cleaning were shown to Councillors. All agreed that AF Systems had done an excellent job. Residents and bus travellers had reported that the bus shelter roof leaked, and Councillors agreed that repairs should be put in hand. The Clerk would request an estimate for the work from Mr Challinor. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors were asked to inform the Clerk if they wished to attend the Memorial bench dedication at Hanchurch Hills on 28 April 2016. **Action: Clerk**

Notices had been received from SaRH (Stafford and Rural Housing Association) regarding rental housing available at Yarnfield Park for display on notice boards and locally. Notices for display in the shop and at the village hall in Swynnerton were passed to Cllr Cheadle.

A resident in Swynnerton who was hoping to establish a scout group in Swynnerton had requested information on youth provision in the Parish.

Laminated bus time tables had been placed in the bus shelter at Cold Meece.

Three replacement alder trees for Yarnfield Green had been ordered, and delivery was awaited. The southbound sign on the A34 to Yarnfield Park should be replaced within a month. Delivery drivers had been instructed again of the correct access route. A questionnaire had been received from SBC regarding the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. Councillors confirmed their views for the Clerk to complete and return. Full details on fingerposts had been obtained and would be reported Minute in No 16/42.ii.

16/40 Financial matters

16/40.1 To approve grants to Village Halls

After discussion, Councillors approved a grant of £500 to each village hall in the Parish to support facilities for the local community, as listed below.

16/40.2 Receipt of grant

The Clerk confirmed that a grant of £491.68 had been received via SPCA for a laptop and scanner to enable compliance with the Transparency Code.

16,40.3 March accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	481.08
HMRC, PAYE/NI	260.20
Trent Grounds Maintenance, cleaning of signs	446.94
Hanchurch Village Hall	500.00
Swynnerton Village Hall	500.00
Tittensor Village Hall (200 rental, 300 grant)	500.00
Yarnfield Village Hall	500.00
Boultons Nurseries, 3 Alder trees, ties, stakes	80.00
St Luke's Church, Tittensor, Advert in church magazine	250.00
Land Registry, Registration of lease	40.00
JC Computing, laptop, scanner	500.00
JC Computing, projector	250.00
Lufton & Associates, work on Neighbourhood Plan	1,350.00
Total payments for March	£5,658.22

RESOLVED - That the accounts March be approved for payment.

16/41 Traffic issues in the Parish

Cllrs Eyre and Tucker reported on a recent meeting held with Richard Rayson, SCC Highways. It had been a useful meeting despite the late start due to Mr Rayson's confusion over the meeting venue. He had offered a mobile sign for a term and it was agreed that the Clerk would chase this up. **Action: Clerk**

Councillors considered the installation of roadside gates to slow traffic at a number of locations - South of Swynnerton, gates at right angles to road to slow the traffic, one between the bus shelter and lamp post with the Swynnerton sign on it, the other where the 'Z' sign was, with black and white markers; one at the approach to Yarnfield, install gates on the wide verge. Similar signs had been proposed for Norton Bridge as part of the legacy work by Network Rail. Cllr Chapman would obtain detailed costings. A quotation had been received from a local contractor for £200 for a gate and installation. It was agreed that costs should be obtained for Vehicle Activation Signs. Cllr Chapman would obtain information on gates and signs, and approved suppliers and designs, and was meeting Richard Rayson SCC on 8 April 2016. Cllr Chapman would also remind Mr Rayson of his commitment to provide a mobile sign for a term.

The sign indicating the direction to Swynnerton at the junction of Winghouse Lane and the A51 had been stolen some time ago, and it was agreed to send a reminder for its replacement to SCC Highways. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Mateu offered detailed information on speed monitoring equipment
(8.30 pm Cllr Chapman left the meeting.)

Ward matters

16/42.i Swynnerton, installation of benches

Cllr Butler reported that a quotation was awaited from John Green Landscapes. Cllr Butler would contact Mr Challinor to arrange for a site visit and second quotation, and report back to the next meeting. **Action: Cllr Butler**

16/42.ii Swynnerton, Finger post signs for Village Hall and Toposcope

Estimates for fingerposts had been obtained from The Acorn Workshop, Fitzpatrick Woolmer, Eccleshall Fencing (posts only) and D Galloway (Gnosall) for the supply of fingerposts for Swynnerton. After discussion, Councillors agreed to order three posts from D Galloway, giving directions to the village hall, the Toposcope, and the cemetery, at a cost of £160 plus VAT each, with no charge for delivery. **Action: Clerk**

16/42.iii Swynnerton, dissatisfaction with postal delivery services

Further correspondence had been received from a second resident, reporting continuing late delivery of post in areas of the village. Councillors reported that a petition was being circulated round the village. After discussion Councillors

agreed that a letter should be sent to the Stone sorting office expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of service to Swynnerton village. **Action: Clerk**

16/42.iv Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Cllr Fieldhouse reported that the blocked grid on the A34 near The White House had now been cleared. She requested the attendance of road sweepers to clear the gutters, and this was agreed. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Fieldhouse reported overgrown hedges obstructing the pavement along the A34. Councillors agreed that the Clerk should write to the 'The Occupier' at the farm at Strongford and request that they be cut back. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Fieldhouse confirmed that the pothole at the end of Chase Lane had been filled in. The Clerk would contact Cllr Boulton and remind her about circulating the app for reporting potholes. **Action: Clerk**

16/42.v Trentham, issues raised by residents

Cllr Leeson proposed that a bench should be offered by the Parish Council to the Friends of Ferndown, in addition to the waste bin that had already been offered for the play area, and this was agreed.

16/42.vi Yarnfield, Yarnfield Green

The Chairman confirmed that an invoice for Section 106 monies had been raised and forwarded to the developers of the Walnut Tree Farm estate.

It had previously been agreed at a meeting between SPC and SBC officers that money from the Section 106 Yarnfield Park development could be used to improve the drainage on Yarnfield Green. Councillors regretted the unfortunate impression held by many residents in the community that the Parish Council had not been as active as possible. They hoped future correspondence would go to Yarnfield Forum confirming facts and details and giving clarification, and confirming that Sect 106 monies could be used to address drainage problems. A recent letter from the SBC Head of Leisure had been misleading and should be corrected. A report was still awaited from Mr P Gammon, SBC Streetscene. Although SBC were looking at all green spaces throughout the Borough and assessing the possibility of floods, there was a separate agreement relating to Yarnfield Green. Cllr James agreed to take the concerns of Councillors on board and raise them with SBC officers.

16/43 SCC Community Paths Initiative

No concerns or proposals were reported to the meeting.

16/44 Response to HS2 Consultation on W Midlands to Crewe Equality Impact Assessment Scope

Councillors were asked to submit comments to the Clerk as soon as possible. **Action: All**

16/45 Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity, report by Cllr Leeson

Cllr Leeson had attended a meeting of the Lady Katherine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity, where applications for grants had been considered. All local schools had been contacted with offers of grants of up to £500 available for disadvantaged pupils, although only three replies had been received.

16/46 Neighbourhood Plan, update on progress

A draft Neighbourhood Plan had been received from Lufton Associates for discussion. The Clerk would circulate black and white copies to all Councillors for discussion, and arrange a Committee meeting for the first week in May in Swynnerton or Hanchurch village hall. **Action: Clerk**

An update would be included in the next church magazine, together with information on grants to village halls and work to reduce speeding

16/47 Best Kept Village competition, entries for 2016

The Clerk would contact Cllr Boulton to confirm whether Tittensor village was entering the competition this year.

16/48 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of correspondence received to 18 March 2016 had been circulated to Councillors. Details of the 'Pride in Your Patch' awards had been received from SBC. Councillors recommended nominating a resident of Tittensor village.

16/49 Matters for the next meeting

Neighbourhood Plan, next stages

End of year financial report and submission to internal auditor and Grant Thornton

16/50 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council will be Thursday 28 April 2016, Yarnfield Village Hall, 7.15 pm. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.