

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 25 AUGUST IN YARNFIELD VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
Cllr (Mrs) N Adams
Cllr (Mrs) P Boulton
Cllr D Butler
Councillor F Cheadle
Cllr F Cromey
Councillor N Leeson
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr (Mrs) K Ong
Cllr S Riddle
Cllr D Tucker

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

Apologies: Councillor B Eyre
Councillor Brian Price, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Councillor F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

16/112 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. A resident of Yarnfield reported on the difficulties experienced when attempting to push a wheelchair through the village, due to the lack of dropped kerbs and the poor state of the pavements. Copies of correspondence with SCC had been forwarded to SPC, and a Freedom of Information request made to find out the type of work carried out on pavements in the village in the last 20 years.

Councillors agreed that pavements in the village were in a poor state, and that local authorities have a duty to provide reasonable access for people with disabilities. A Parish Councillor had been injured when he fell from his wheelchair due to the uneven condition of the pavements. The local MP had been alerted to the situation. Drop kerbs were being installed in two areas, but not on opposite sides of the road, rendering access incomplete.

There had been no consultation between SBC and local Parish Councils on the allocation of funding from the New Homes Bonus. Stone Area Parish Liaison Group (SAPLG) was lobbying for consultation.

Several residents raised the increasing danger occurring at the junction of Yarnfield Lane with High Lows Lane due to the speed and volume of traffic and poor visibility. Suggestions were made to cut the hedge back further; and to install a mini roundabout at the junction. The width of the road had been measured and is below the Department of Transport minimum. Visibility was poor throughout the village, with a number of concealed entrances.

Photographs had been forwarded to the Parish Council to illustrate problems at a bend in Yarnfield Lane. Work had not proceeded to improve the junction of Yarnfield Lane with the A34

Several suggestions were made to slow traffic, including changes to existing road signs and removal of redundant signs; additional traffic calming gates; creation of a speed limit through the village of 20 mph; installation of chicanes; installation of priority one way traffic schemes.

Councillors agreed to invite a representative from SCC Highways to visit and view the sites of concern, and to attend a meeting with Councillors and residents to advise on the best way forward. **Action: Clerk**

The Parish Council were arranging for the installation of gates at the entrance to the village as a traffic calming measure. Similar gates had been installed at Yoxall, and others were proposed for Norton Bridge. The Parish Council had arranged for signs limiting access by works vehicles to the Yarnfield Park site from the A34, and was disappointed that Cllr Eyre's efforts to establish a Speedwatch Group had not been supported.

Councillors agreed to ask Cllr Chapman for improved signage to give earlier warning of traffic diversions, and additional reminders of the 7.5t weight restrictions on particular roads. **Action: Clerk**

The Chairman thanked the members of the public for attending.

16/113 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman had sent his apologies as he was on holiday. Cllr James had no matters to report from SBC. Cllr Butler informed the Parish Council that Stan Highfield, former SBC Councillor for the area and now an Alderman, was unwell and temporarily residing in St Josephs Convent.

16/114 Apologies

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

16/115 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.

16/116 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 28 July 2016

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

16/117 Clerk’s Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that discussions were continuing for a representative of HS2 to address the Parish Council and Swynnerton residents (16/103).

The attendance of the speed van to Yarnfield had been requested (16/104).

Plaques had been ordered from Avdec for the new benches in Swynnerton (16/105.i).

Damaged and loose kerbstones on the Whitmore Road had been reported to SCC Highways (16/105.iii).

A letter had been written to the hairdresser in Yarnfield (16/106.v).

Advice had been received from Sally McDonald, SBC Leisure, on possible action regarding the grass matting in Tittensor and Yarnfield play areas (16/90). The article for the church magazine had been submitted.

16/118 Financial matters

16/118.i August accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	474.25
John Green Landscapes	720.00
SBC, Civic Amenity vehicle	460.00
Stafford Computing, external back up drive	59.99
Avdec, website services	60.00
Play Inspection Company, Ferndown play area annual inspection	<u>75.00</u>
Total payments for August	£1,849.24

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

16/118.ii Change to cheque signatories for Swynnerton Parish Council

Following the retirement of Miss Barbara Fieldhouse, Councillors agreed that Cllr Pat Boulton should be added to the list of cheque signatories for Swynnerton Parish Council.

16/119 Vacancy for Tittensor Ward Councillor

SBC Elections Team had advised that as no requisition for an election had been received, the Parish Council could proceed with the process to co-opt a Councillor for Tittensor Ward. The Clerk would circulate information and place a notice on the board at Tittensor inviting interested residents to contact the Clerk.. The Clerk would advise SBC that a further vacancy had arisen for Tittensor Ward as this would be Cllr Riddle’s last meeting. **Action: Clerk**

16/120 Traffic issues in the Parish

Cllr Chapman had forwarded a quotation of £8-10,000 for a flashing speed sign. Councillors agreed that more information was required as to acceptable suppliers and models, and appropriate sites. Advice would be sought from SCC Highways. SCC Highways had suggested raising the speed limit on Northwood Lane to 40mph. **Action: Clerk**

The Clerk would contact Hilderstone Parish Council for information on funding procedures followed for the intallation of chicanes and flashing lights on Trent Road. **Action: Clerk**

16/121 Visit of SCC NHT Team

After discussion, Councillors agreed that the Team should be asked to clear the weeds at the back of the pavement on the A34, Tittensor, from the church to Winghouse Lane; clear bushes surrounding the street lamp along Yarnfield Lane from the Labour in Vain public house; clear vegetation obscuring the Yarnfield sign on the approach from Eccleshall; find the historic milestone on Winghouse Lane and clear surrounding vegetation. **Action: Clerk**

16/122 Ward matters

16/122.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents

Cllr Mateu reported that the local Speedwatch group had reported too many people speeding. The risk statement had been modified and the warning sign re-sited to give drivers more time to slow down; 5% are now recorded as speeding, compared to 11% previously. The arrangement had been agreed for the time being, but a complaint would be submitted shortly.

16/122.ii Tittensor, provision of Christmas tree

Cllr Boulton reported that the project to provide a Christmas tree for residents had been abandoned, due to lack of support, and the difficulty in finding a suitable site. Councillors regretted this and hoped a tree could be provided for the village next year, and thanked Cllr Boulton for her efforts.

16/122.iii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Date

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Cllr R James, Chairman

Councillors agreed that Mr Challinor should be asked to replace the boards on the bus shelter on the A34 northbound. A resident had offered to paint the boards and to provide a communal notice board for residents. Councillors agreed to fund the notice board after the provision of further details. **Action: Clerk**

A resident had spoken to the person causing a problem by parking near the war memorial, and the problem had been resolved. It was agreed that the Clerk should provide prices for bollards, and chains and posts, to keep vehicles off grass verges, at the next meeting. **Agenda: Clerk**

Cllr Boulton asked if the Parish Council would consider contributing towards a sign for Tittensor Village Hall. A quotation of £2-300 had been received from Signability Trent Vale, for an aluminium sign. It was agreed to check with SCC for acceptability of size and any requirements for planning permission. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Boulton asked if an arrangement could be made with Tittensor Village Hall so that the keys to the double gates to the playground could be shared. Councillors agreed that the Village Hall should be asked to write with a formal request to be able to lock and unlock the gates on specific occasions.

Cllr Boulton asked when the 2 year plan to work on pavements in Tittensor had started. Councillors understood this had probably been put back following reductions in funding. The adoption of Monument Lane would require contributions from the residents.

Cllr Boulton requested the installation of a bin at the entrance to Green Lane at the junction of Bracken Close and Winghouse Lane. The Clerk would check the exact location with Cllr Boulton and request a bin. **Action: Clerk**

16/122.iv Trentham, issues raised by residents

Councillors agreed to repeat the request for costs of traffic calming measures for Northwood Lane, and to check on the notice board for Ferndown Drive and the play area. **Action: Clerk**

It was agreed to plant daffodil bulbs at the bottom of Park Drive.

16/ 122.v Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

Councillors agreed to continue to progress work on the installation of traffic calming gates on Yarnfield Lane.

A reminder would be sent to Streetscene of the date of the Fete on 17 September 2016, and information would be sent to SAPLG. A reminder had been sent to SCC Highways/Amey about the lamp post on Yarnfield Lane that was obscured by vegetation.

Councillors agreed to fund plant boxes beneath the Cold Meece signs, and asked the Clerk to contact the Clerk at Great Bridgeford for details on the boxes they had recently installed. **Action: Clerk**

16/123 Autumn Bulb planting in the Parish

The Parish Council agreed to obtain crocuses for four areas in support of the Rotary Purple4polio campaign. Daffodils would also be purchased for Trentham, Tittensor, Yarnfield and Cold Meece, in addition to tulips for Swynnerton.

RESOLVED that bulbs should be ordered and distributed to Wards as requested by representatives. **Action: Clerk**

16/124 Proposal to offer Superfast broadband provision to village halls

After discussion Councillors agreed to offer to provide a superfast broadband connection to village halls in the Parish. Village halls would be liable for the costs of rental of land line, and broadband fee, and would have to undertake to keep the code for the router secure. The Clerk would write to the Halls detailing the offer. **Action: Clerk**

16/125 Draft article for inclusion in Church magazine

Councillors agreed that the next article for the Church magazine should contain useful telephone numbers.

16/126 Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress

Cllr Riddle had provided a link to information on the history of Tittensor Ward. The Clerk would submit information for the Neighbourhood Plan, and the draft Plan would be circulated to the Neighbourhood Plan Committee, Parish Councillors, and then residents, as quickly as possible. **Action: Clerk, Cllr James**

16/127 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of received correspondence had been circulated to Councillors. Details were provided of the new 105 number to notify power cuts which was going live in September. The Chairman thanked Cllr Riddle for his many years of service, and wished him well for the future.

16/128 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 22 September 2016, at 7.15pm in Tittensor Village Hall. Cllrs Boulton and Cromey gave their apologies. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.