

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28 JULY 2016 IN HANCHURCH VILLAGE HALL**

- Present:** Cllr R James (Chairman)  
Cllr (Mrs) N Adams  
Cllr D Butler  
Cllr F Cromey  
Councillor N Leeson  
Cllr E Mateu  
Cllr (Mrs) K Ong  
Cllr S Riddle  
Cllr D Tucker
- In attendance:** Councillor F Chapman, SCC  
Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
- Apologies:** Councillor F Cheadle  
Cllr (Mrs) P Boulton  
Councillor B Eyre  
Councillor Brian Price, SBC

**16/95 Public Question Time**

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

**16/96 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors**

Cllr Chapman reported on the last full SCC meeting when he had argued in favour of devolution to a unitary authority. The Police Commissioner had briefed the Police and Crime Panel on the IT contract he was intending to award. The closure of the B5026 Eccleshall to Stone road, the closure of Meece Road, and the planned closure of the Stafford to Eccleshall road, all involved long official diversions and the reality of unofficial diversions through Swynnerton, Yarnfield and Cold Meece. These had been raised with the local MP, Mr William Cash, and discussions held with SCC who were doing all they could to mitigate the effects and keep the actual work times as brief as possible.

Councillors were asked to monitor the responses and actions of Amey to reported highway problems. Cllr Leeson reminded Cllr Chapman he had agreed to provide costs for flashing speed signs. Cllr Chapman confirmed he would forward information on costs, and SCC specifications for installation.

*(7.40 pm, Cllr Chapman left the meeting.)*

Cllr James reported that former SBC Cllr Stan Highfield had been made an Honorary Alderman of Stafford Borough. Councillors signed a card for Cllr Highfield, who had recently been in hospital. SBC were reviewing fees and charges; a new Chief Executive had now been appointed. The Chairman closed the public session of the meeting.

**16/97 Apologies**

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

**16/98 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.

**16/99 Minutes of the the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 June 2016**

**RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 22 June 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**16/100 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.

SCC Highways had confirmed the acceptability of small wooden posts on Cold Meece traffic island (16/85).

Cllr Leeson reported that the Stone Area Parish Liaison Group (SAPLG) had invited a representative from SBC to attend a future meeting to discuss the New Homes Bonus. Cllr Tucker had written to Bill Cash MP and a reply was awaited. A letter had been sent to SBC with regard to the availability of Sect 106 monies from Yarnfield Park (16/85). SAPLG had invited a representative from HS2 to address all local Parish Councils (agenda item 7).

A response was awaited from MoD Swynnerton regarding a vehicle speeding through Yarnfield and the provision of a calendar of events (16/87.i).

Vegetation obscuring speed signs in Yarnfield had been reported to SCC Highways (16/87.i).

A letter had been sent to Tittensor Village Hall clarifying the grants procedure (16/88.iv).

Dominos Football had been asked to remind users to exercise caution when exiting the site (16/88.vii).

Mr Challinor would inspect the sites of Tittensor and Yarnfield play areas and advise on re-laying the matting (16/90).

A resident of Cold Meece had spoken to drivers parking overnight in the area and resolved the situation. The Clerk had obtained contact details for the Senior Planning Regulation Officer for future reference (16/59.vii).

Seddons had confirmed that the land at Hammond Rise adjacent to the A34 had been ceded to homeowners. John Green had been asked to spray weeds along the A34 north of the church (16/74.v)

**16/101 Financial matters**

**16/101.i July accounts for payment**

The following accounts were considered -

Citizens Advice Bureau, grant	500.00
St Luke's Church, Tittensor, grant towards cost of removing tree	200.00
Clerk's salary and expenses	473.08
John Green Landscapes	552.00
Phil Pattison, mowing Yarnfield Green	100.00
Eddy's Building Services, installing benches, re-siting finger post	<u>330.00</u>
Total payments for July	£2,155.08

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

Councillors confirmed that £200 had been allocated to the Chairman's Allowance.

**16/102 Vacancy for Tittensor Ward Councillor(s)**

Formal notice of a vacancy for a Parish Councillor in Tittensor Ward had been posted on the notice board. Councillors agreed that information on the vacancy should be included in the article for the church magazine. **Action: Clerk**

**16/103 HS2, offer of briefing to Councillors**

Councillors agreed that a representative from HS2 should be invited to attend an evening briefing on the route and property compensation schemes for residents in Swynnerton Village Hall. **Action: Clerk**

Stone Area Parish Liaison Group was arranging a meeting with an HS2 representative for Parish Councils in the Stone area.

**16/104 Traffic issues in the Parish**

Cllr Mateu reported that Swynnerton Speedwatch had recorded over 400 vehicles per hour passing through the village, with 11% exceeding the speed limit.

Councillors agreed that a formal request should be made for the speed van to attend Swynnerton and Yarnfield, with a copy sent to Cllr Chapman. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Leeson reported that he had attended a briefing by Highways England on work on the Smart Motorways Scheme for Junctions 13 to 16 on the M6, commencing in 2017 and continuing for approximately two years, and involving significant disruption. Cllr Leeson had reference information available on the proposed work.

**16/105 Ward matters**

**16/105.i Swynnerton, issues raised by residents**

Cllr Butler reported that Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI had planted containers by the new benches. Councillors agreed that plaques should be obtained and installed on the benches. **Action: Clerk**

One fingerpost had been re-sited. Work on the car park at the village hall had been completed. Work had recommenced on The Old Post Office; windows and doors had been fitted and the garden was being landscaped.

**16/105.ii Tittensor, provision of Christmas tree**

This item was carried forward to the next meeting as Cllr Boulton was not in attendance.

After discussion Councillors agreed that the notices on the gate at the entrance to the play area should be attached to one large piece of wood and fixed firmly to the gate. The Clerk would contact Mr Challinor. **Action: Clerk**

**16/105.iii Trentham, issues raised by residents**

A resident had raised concerns over the renovation of a milestone on Whitmore Road; lack of adequate signage for traffic approaching from the motorway roundabout; damaged and loose kerbstones on Whitmore Road. It had not been possible to identify the milestone on Whitmore Road due to the growth of vegetation in the verges, and it was agreed to leave this matter in abeyance until the autumn. The lack of adequate signage had been reported to SCC Highways; damaged/loose kerbstones would be reported to SCC Highways. **Action: Clerk**

**16/105.iv Yarnfield, progress report on installation of traffic calming measures**

The style and site of gates had been agreed with SCC Highways. Councillors agreed that the wording 'YARNFIELD Please drive carefully' should be attached to the gates.

**16/105.v Yarnfield, issues raised by residents, including cutting of grass verges in the village**

Cllr James reminded Councillors that action to improve the drainage of Yarnfield Green was in hand, but would take several months and would not be completed until the spring of 2017. The first phase would be for the ditch to be dug out and results assessed. Should a second phase be necessary, a public meeting would be arranged to discuss

proposals. Funding was available for adult exercise equipment, football goalposts, and work to improve the drainage on Yarnfield Green.

Cllr Adams had been telephoned by a Yarnfield resident, concerned that another resident was cutting grass outside his property. This was not considered to be a matter for the Parish Council and Cllr Adams was advised to ring the resident and advise him to take the matter up with Yarnfield Forum.

Concerns had been expressed by residents about the speed of traffic on Yarnfield Lane, particularly on the bend near the former chapel. Parking for customers of the hairdressers was available at the Village Hall, and the Clerk would write to request that disabled customers be escorted over the road to their cars to avoid them parking outside the former chapel.

**Action: Clerk**

Grass verges in Yarnfield village were the responsibility of SCC Highways, unless an agreement had been drawn up with the Parish Council for maintenance of a specific verge.

SCC Footpaths were investigating the reinstatement of Footpath 34 to its original route. The situation would be monitored.

**16/106 Report on meeting of Stone Area Parish Liaison Group**

Cllr Leeson asked Councillors to inform the Liaison Group of events such as Yarnfield Village Fete so that local events could be publicised.

**16/107 Draft article for inclusion in the Church magazine**

A draft article for inclusion in the next Church magazine would be circulated to all Councillors for approval.

**Action: Clerk**

**16/108 Playground safety inspection, annual report on Ferndown play area**

The report on Ferndown play area had not been received at the time of the meeting.

**16/109 Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress**

Eccleshall's Neighbourhood Plan had now been fully adopted. The final draft had been issued of Stone's Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman confirmed that a draft version of Swynnerton's Neighbourhood Plan would be available by mid August. Brief historical reports were awaited from Swynnerton and Trentham.

**Action: Ward Councillors**

**16/110 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk**

A list of received correspondence had been circulated to Councillors.

**16/111 Date of next meeting**

Items for the next meeting would include autumn bulb planting requirements for the Parish, and a proposal to provide superfast broadband to village halls in the Parish. The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 25 August 2016, at 7.15pm in Yarnfield Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 8.55 pm.