

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
Cllr (Mrs) N Adams
Cllr (Mrs) P Boulton
Councillor F Cheadle
Councillor B Eyre
Councillor N Leeson
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr D Tucker

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
70 (approx) members of the public
Mrs J Malkin
Councillor Brian Price, Stafford Borough Council (SBC)
Councillor F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)
Terry Stafford, Manager, Stakeholder Engagement Team, High Speed 2, Phase 2a
Joe Wilson, Stakeholder Engagement Team, High Speed 2, Phase 2a
Michael Dalton, Area Engineer, High Speed 2, Phase 2a
Johnny Ojeil, Transport Lead, High Speed 2, Phase 2a
2 representatives from Arup

Apologies: Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr (Mrs) K Ong

16/144 Public Question Time

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no issues raised by members of the public. All present stood for one minute silence in memory of the late Stan Highfield, former Stafford Borough Councillor.

16/145 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman SCC reported that following representations he had made, the reopening of the B5026 had now been brought forward to December, instead of March 2017. A 40mph restriction had been proposed for the A519 Clayton Road, Newcastle. The increasing costs of care for the elderly and reduction of central government funding had resulted in SCC being very short of money and in dire straits. A member of the public commented that the situation had been made worse by the decision of SCC to close day care centres for the elderly.

Cllr Price SBC reported that approval had been given for the construction of 24 additional shops at Trentham, which should be open by Easter 2017.

Cllr James SBC reported that the Neighbourhood Plans for Colwich and Hixon had been adopted.

16/146 Presentation by representatives of HS2/Arup

The Chairman welcomed HS2 representatives, who gave a brief presentation on HS2, Phase 2a (Birmingham to Crewe), and its proposed construction through Swynnerton Parish. Terry Stafford summarised the history of the project to date, and the procedure to be followed in order to achieve completion by 2027, should Royal assent be given. Actual construction should take place between 2020 and 2026. The route announcement had been made with the details for the route and its environmental impact still being worked on. This Consultation was to receive informed comment to enable final work on the design. Michael Dalton, Area Engineer, outlined the planned construction through the Parish with a series of diagrams. Members of the public then raised a number of questions.

The proposed re-routing of the roads at Swynnerton involved a 1.8m cutting at the highest point of the Parish. Although tunnels are costly, residents felt a tunnel would be preferable, and cause less disruption.

Large numbers of residents had apparently not been notified of the consultation. It was alleged that the maps used for reference were 30 years out of date and the descriptions of Yarnfield village were inaccurate and unrecognisable and clearly based on outdated information, leading to a lack of confidence in the process. HS2 responded that a letter should have gone to all people within 1 kilometre of the impact work and the proposed line of the route. (*Most residents of Yarnfield were more than 1 km from the HS2 route and proposed railhead, although they would be greatly affected.*) Consultation events had been advertised in the local media, and there had been a good turnout, particularly at the Yarnfield event. Decisions will be made following this consultation, and further consultations will be held in future.

The proposed railhead is a significant construction and planning for it is a work in progress. Yarnfield Lane will be fully reinstated following completion. It was emphasised that responses to the consultation should be based on what is in the documents circulated.

It was recommended by a resident that a roundabout rather than a T junction would be more appropriate at Swynnerton for the junction with the proposed new Tittensor road, and this was noted.

Work on the traffic assessment details was still to be completed. The railhead had been sited at Yarnfield as it was midway between Birmingham and Crewe, enabling work to be carried out in two directions with good connection to motorway and rail networks, and likely to have least impact on Stone and Yarnfield.

HS2 were not aware of any flooding risks on the proposed Tittensor Road realignment. 7.5t weight restrictions currently applied to local roads would not be affected.

A resident suggested that easing the existing railway up at one point and lowering the road slightly would be a cheaper procedure than the proposal to relocate the road to Tittensor from Swynnerton..

A number of preferred alternative sites were suggested, particularly as there were no local benefits.

HS2 accept that the route passes through predominantly rural areas. They are obliged to present their best design to government, but accepted that communication could have been better and should be improved. The consultation is to receive the views and suggestions of residents. A similar consultation at Crewe had led to changes being made to the proposals. No option will be ideal, and the HS2 team regretted the lack of consultation due to communication failings. The proposals are evolving and will continue to do so.

A resident was concerned about the likely impact on elderly people attempting to access services in Stone during the construction period.

Residents requested the inclusion of a large scale map with any future information that was circulated.

The Chairman thanked the HS2 team for attending, and closed the public session of the Parish Council meeting. The HS2 representatives would remain to answer any further questions and to hold further discussions with residents. The Chairman urged all present to submit their responses to the consultation by 7 November 2016 (a link was provided on the Parish Council's website), There would be a public meeting at 5.15pm on Saturday 29 October 2016 in Yarnfield Village Hall with William Cash MP, chaired by Swynnerton Parish Council, and it was hoped that as many people as possible would attend.

16/147 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Butler, Comey and Ong.

16/148 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.

16/149 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 22 September 2016

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

16/150 Co-option of Mrs Joanne Malkin as Tittensor Ward Councillor

Mrs Joanne Malkin, a long-term resident of Tittensor, was introduced to members of the Parish Council, having applied for co-option as a Ward Councillor for Tittensor.

RESOLVED That Mrs Joanne Malkin be co-opted on to Swynnerton Parish Council as a Ward Councillor for Tittensor. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Malkin to Swynnerton Parish Council.

16/151 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

The Clerk reported that a letter had been sent to SCC Cllr Chapman expressing dissatisfaction with recent responses from SCC Highways. Since then a meeting had been held with Cllr Chapman, SCC Highways Officers, and residents. The police had been contacted for assistance with the enforcement of speed and weight restrictions. The SID trailer should be deployed in Yarnfield w/c 31 October 2016 to record actual speeds. These would then be analysed prior to the deployment of the speed van (16/34,TIM12102016).

Cllr Eyre reported that there had been an initial expression of interest in setting up a Speedwatch group in Yarnfield, but unfortunately there had been no subsequent offers from residents to take part. The Parish Council was prepared to support a group, equipment was available, and Cllr Eyre was very willing to lead a group, but a minimum of six volunteers was required for it to be viable and no offers had been received to date. Councillors agreed to include information about Speedwatch, and a request for volunteers to contact Cllr Eyre, in the next issue of the Church magazine. **Action: Clerk**

Cllr Butler had provided information on local walks to U3A (16/34).

Information on the footpath over the playing field at Yarnfield, prices for installation of Superfast Broadband in village halls, and the league table of precept charges would be brought to the November meeting (16/34,16/139,16/140).

Cllr James would circulate a rough draft of the Neighbourhood Plan as soon as possible(16/141). **Action: Cllr James**

The Clerk reported that John Green Landscapes were cutting the grass and tidying the area around the War Memorial at Cold Meece the following week, and would carry out a further tidy up two days before the Remembrance service.

16/152 Financial matters

16/152.i October accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses

502.45

John Green Landscapes

768.00

Eddy's Bdg Services, Repairs to Tittensor bus shelter	155.00
Royal British Legion, 3 wreaths for Remembrance services	51.00
P Pattison, cutting Yarnfield Green prior to Yarnfield Fete	50.00
SBC Civic Amenity Visits	<u>230.00</u>
Total payments for October	£1,756.45

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

16/153 Traffic issues in the Parish

A meeting had been held with residents, SCC Officers and SCC Cllr Chapman, to discuss traffic issues. Cllr Leeson confirmed that SCC Highways had agreed in principle to support the installation of portable, solar powered, flashing signs which could be used in the four Wards. Firm costs for supply and installation would be obtained from Messagemaker and other suppliers if available, together with confirmation from SCC Highways that such signs would be acceptable. Priority would be given to Northwood Lane, Trentham, in the first instance.

The licence granting permission for the installation of traffic calming gates on the highways verge at Yarnfield had been received, and was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

16/154 Ward matters

16/154.i Swynnerton, possible adoption for £1 of telephone kiosk outside Fitzherbert Arms

Notification had been received from SBC that the telephone box outside the Fitzherbert Arms, Swynnerton, was one of 53 boxes listed by BT for removal. Councillors agreed to register interest in adopting the box. **Action: Clerk**

RESOLVED That Swynnerton Parish Council should register an interest in adopting the telephone box outside the Fitzherbert Arms, Swynnerton.

Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI had requested help in the planting of a centenary tree, and were advised to contact Lord Stafford in the first instance if they were proposing to plant the tree in Swynnerton. They also asked for details of local organisations and individuals to approach for support in an entry to next year's Best Kept Village competition. The Clerk could provide them with a map of Swynnerton. They had also asked for help in researching a plaque or similar to commemorate Frobisher Hall of Residence and the women who worked at ROF Swynnerton.

16/154.ii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Cllr Boulton submitted an estimate for a sign to be erected outside Tittensor Village Hall, cost approximately £231 plus £80 installation. Councillors supported the installation, but the Clerk would first check with SCC Highways and SBC Planning that there were no objections to the proposed sign.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk would pursue the installation of an additional bin at the A34 entrance to Green Drive.

Cllr Boulton reported that Footpath 44 was very overgrown.

Cllr Boulton reported that residents in Monument Lane were concerned about the dangers from speeding vehicles. Councillors agreed that as the road is unadopted, there should not be a problem if appropriate privately owned signs were utilised to address the problem.

16/154.iii Trentham, refurbishment of milestone on Whitmore Road

Councillors agreed that Mr Wright should be asked to refurbish the milestone in summer 2017. Mr Wright had provided a map showing the location of other milestones in the Parish, and Councillors and the Clerk, would check their condition and report back. The milestone in the centre of the A34 at Tittensor had been refurbished fairly recently.

16/154.iv Yarnfield, rally to be held at MoD Cold Meece

Cllr Price SBC reported that SBC no longer provided an out of hours monitoring service, and any problems should be reported to SBC or the local MP. The Clerk had written to MoD requesting that the rally take place as far from residents as possible.

16/154.v Yarnfield, request for speed limit to be applied through Cold Meece

Councillors discussed the issues, and agreed that, should a VAS sign be acquired in the future, this would be a suitable site.

16/154.vi Yarnfield, public consultation on allocation of Section 106 monies

Cllr James proposed to hold a brief public meeting on a Saturday in December, in Yarnfield Village Hall, to show members of the public the three proposals for the use of the Section 106 monies due from the Walnut Tree Farm development. The proposals are – drainage works on The Green, Yarnfield; provision of adult exercise equipment adjacent to the play area on The Green, Yarnfield; provision of football goalposts on The Green, Yarnfield. The Clerk would request information from SBC on the progress of the availability of Section 106 funding from the first phase of the Yarnfield Park development. **Action: Clerk**

16/155 Response to HS2 – Briefing on Phase 2a Consultation

Cllr Tucker showed Councillors a leaflet that had been circulated by residents, opposing the HS2 proposals, and reported on a local meeting he had attended. It was agreed that flyers encouraging responses to the HS2 Phase 2a Consultation, approved by Cllr Tucker and funded by SPC, should be distributed around the area by the following Wednesday. Councillors agreed that Cllr Tucker should front Yarnfield and Swynnerton Action Group, to register residents' views, lead opposition to the HS2 proposals, and work to mitigate the results of any construction.

Action: Cllr Tucker

Links for comments to be made to HS2 would be provided on the Parish Council's website.

Action: Cllr James

Contact would be made with other Parishes on the proposed HS2 route and a meeting arranged for a further briefing from HS2 representatives.

Action: Clerk

It was agreed to keep pressure on SCC Highways over planned work at the junction of Yarnfield Lane with the A34.

Cllrs Cheadle, James, Leeson, Tucker, and the Clerk, would meet on Thursday 3 November 2016 in Tittensor Village Hall to finalise the response of SPC to the Phase 2a Consultation.

16/156 Policy of Swynnerton Parish Council for mayoral visits to Parish

After discussion Councillors agreed they had no objection in principle to the wearing of ceremonial regalia by civic visitors to the Parish.

16/157 Draft article for inclusion in the Church magazine

The Clerk would draft an article for inclusion in the Church magazine and circulate it to Councillors for approval.

Action: Clerk

16/158 Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress

The Chairman hoped to circulate a rough draft of the Plan over the following weekend. The Clerk would arrange a meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Committee as soon as possible, preferably in Swynnerton Village Hall.

Action: Clerk, Cllr James

16/159 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

Correspondence had been received from SBC Members - Digest No 225 and notes on Parish Forum held on 29 September 2016, Saltex exhibition 2/3 November 2016, Fields in Trust Impact Report 2015,.HAGS play equipment, Glasdon street furniture, Stone Town Council – invitation to attend Remembrance Sunday service.

16/160 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 24 November 2016, at 7.15pm in Hanchurch Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 10 pm.