

**MINUTES OF THE SWYNNERTON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2017 IN SWYNNERTON VILLAGE HALL**

Present: Cllr R James (Chairman)
Cllr (Mrs) P Boulton
Cllr D Butler
Cllr F Cromey
Cllr N Leeson
Cllr J Malkin
Cllr E Mateu
Cllr (Mrs) K Ong

In attendance: Mrs Liz Harrington-Jones (Parish Clerk)
Cllr F Chapman, Staffordshire County Council (SCC)

Apologies: Cllr (Mrs) N Adams
Cllr F Cheadle
Cllr B Eyre
Cllr Brian Price
Cllr D Tucker

17/017 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

17/18 Reports of County Councillors and Borough Councillors

Cllr Chapman reported that the precept for SCC would rise by 4.9% for 2017/2018. He had received a copy of a report prepared by Yarnfield residents on the state of pavements in the village, and was discussing this with SCC Highways. He had been contacted by a Tittensor resident over the state of the pavements in Winghouse Lane. After discussion it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Stafford and Rural Homes to ask whether all the garages in Monument Lane were occupied and to seek their help in alleviating the problems caused by residents parking in the vicinity of the war memorial.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Chapman would be monitoring the effects of the proposed closure of the A51 to ensure minimum disruption.

Cllr James reported that SBC would increase Council Tax by 2% for 2017/2018, bringing Band D properties to £161.16. The new Mayor would be Cllr Aidan Godfrey and the Deputy Mayor would be Cllr Brian Price.

17/19 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Adams, Cheadle, Eyre, Price and Tucker.

17/20 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.

17/21 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 26 January 2017

RESOLVED That the minutes of the Swynnerton Parish Council meeting held on 26 January 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

17/22 Clerk's Progress Report, items not on the agenda

A list of action points arising from the last meeting was circulated to Councillors, most to be discussed later in the meeting.

The Clerk reported that a resident from Cold Meece had complained that further damage had been done to the traffic island as a Jeep or Land Rover had been driven over the area.

17/23 Financial matters

17/23.i February accounts for payment

The following accounts were considered -

Clerk's salary and expenses	531.70
Glasdon, provision of gates for Yarnfield	2,822.83
Eddy's Building Services, installation of gates at Yarnfield	143.00
Total payments for February	3,497.53

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

Date

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Cllr R James, Chairman

17/23.ii Payment for space in the church magazine

Councillors agreed the booking of space in the church magazine for another year, and instructed the Clerk to enquire whether a discount would apply if the Parish Council agreed to commit for two years. **Action: Clerk**

17/23.iii Confirmation of Mrs Christine Heelis as auditor

RESOLVED That Mrs Christine Heelis, Parish Clerk for Eccleshall Parish Council, should continue as internal auditor. Notification had been received that the fees charged by Diane Malley MAAT for payroll services would increase to £81 pa from 1 April 2017, and Councillors agreed this was acceptable.

17/24 Traffic issues within the Parish

Councillors agreed their support for a training session for new recruits to the Speedwatch projects in Swynnerton and Yarnfield, to be held in The Fitzherbert Arms, Swynnerton, on 11 March 2017.

Traffic calming gates had been partially installed at the entrance to Yarnfield village. Glasdon were sending additional parts to enable a 2m gate to be installed on one side of the road .

Cllrs Ong and Leeson had attended an SCC/SPCA workshop on joint working between SCC and Parish Councils. A number of concerns with the performance of SCC Highways, and dissatisfaction with the contract with Amey ,had been raised.

17/25 Ward matters

17/25.i Small community grants (Veolia)

Information had been received about the availability of small community grants from Veolia. The Clerk would forward details to the Friends of Ferndown, and Yarnfield Forum. **Action: Clerk**

17/25.ii Swynnerton, request to varnish/preserve seat at Toposcope/view point

Mr Challinor had submitted a quotation of £150 to complete the work in his workshop, and this was accepted. **Action: Clerk**

17/25.iii Tittensor, issues raised by residents

Councillors discussed different options for signposting the village hall. The Clerk would contact David Wright, to ascertain if an additional finger could be added to the black and white fingerpost., and the likely cost. **Action: Clerk**
Footpath 44 was looking very neglected. A response from Streetscene was awaited the request for an additional waste bin.

Councillors discussed the notification received from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the intention to apply for closure of the burial ground at Beech. It was agreed to seek advice from SBC Legal Team, and that the burial ground would need to be brought up to an acceptable standard before the Parish Council could consider taking on responsibility. **Action: Clerk**

17/25.iv Trentham, issues raised by residents

No issues had been raised by residents.

17/25.v Yarnfield, issues raised by residents

Councillors discussed the recent damage to the traffic island at Cold Meece. The Clerk would consult with local residents and ask if they would be in favour of the installation of small wooden posts. She would also obtain costs. **Action: Clerk**

(8.35 pm, Cllr Chapman left the meeting.)

Cllr James reported that a report prepared by SBC Leisure on the drainage of Yarnfield Green should be submitted to the Cabinet at the May meeting. If approved, work should be carried out during the summer months. The wildflower meadow created by Yarnfield Forum should not be disturbed by any work on the Green.

SBC Legal was dealing with the footpath across the recreation area, but it would take some time.

Two trees, one by the bus stop, and one further along, were obscured by branches. **Action: Clerk**

17/26 Draft article for Church magazine

The Clerk would circulate a draft article for the Church magazine, to include - notification that SCC were withdrawing from the provision of a number of services; the draft Neighbourhood Plan would shortly be available for viewing on the website. **Action: Clerk**

17/27 Best Kept Village (BKV) competition entries

Swynnerton & Yarnfield WI were leading Swynnerton's entry for the BKV and had called a public meeting for 1 March 2017. Cllr Boulton would report back if Tittensor decided to enter. Yarnfield was not going to enter this year. Information received from Streetscene on a project to clean and litter pick areas on 11 March 2017 had been forwarded to local organisations.

17/28 Maintenance arrangements for 2017/2018

Councillors agreed that quotes should be obtained from John Green, Trent Grounds Maintenance, Sheds Maintenance, and any other local interested firms, for consideration at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**

Date

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Cllr R James, Chairman

17/299 Safer, Fairer, United Communities Strategy 2016-2020 (Staffordshire Police)

Councillors were asked to forward comments to the Clerk, for submission by the closing date of 24 March 2017.

17/30 HS2 – Stone railhead, report on action to date

Councillors discussed opportunities for benefit to local communities that could arise from the HS2 Project. Improvements to local pavements, a footpath from Yarnfield to the A34, the re-surfacing of Moss Lane, improvements to Yarnfield Village Hall, the provision of a football pitch at Tittensor, tarmacing of Monument Lane, Tittensor, were all considered.

The Stone Railhead Crisis Group website has details of the group and HS2 progress to date.

17/31 Neighbourhood Plan, Update on progress

Cllr James thanked everyone for their input. A meeting of the nominated committee would be arranged in the next few weeks. Hugh Lufton would be asked to provide an estimate of how long it would take to check and complete the draft, and the cost.

Action: Clerk

17/32 Correspondence and circulars received by the Clerk

A list of correspondence had been circulated. Stone Lions Club had requested financial support for PSA Blood Tests sessions being organised for September 2017. The Clerk would write to explain that the policy of SPC was to support the local communities through the village halls.

Cllr Leeson would attend a meeting of the Lady Katharine and Sir Richard Leveson Charity on 6 March 2017.

17/33 Date of next meeting

The next meeting of Swynnerton Parish Council was scheduled for Thursday 23 March 2017 at 7.15pm in Hanchurch Village Hall. There being no other business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Date

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Cllr R James, Chairman